

Khadija Shah granted bail

LAHORE (INP): A district and sessions court in Lahore on Wednesday granted bail to PTI activist Khadijah Shah in provocative tweets case. Additional Sessions Judge Muhammad Nawaz heard the case and granted bail to Shah against surety bonds worth Rs100,000. The case was registered against Khadijah by the FIA Lahore. However, the designer was yet to be granted bail in another case, which means she will still stay behind bars.

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TASHKENT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meeting with President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of 16th ECO Summit.

Growing numbers of Palestinians flee on foot

Israel says its troops are battling inside Gaza City

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip: Thousands of Palestinians are fleeing south on foot with only what they can carry after running out of food and water in the north, a United Nations agency said Wednesday, as Israel said its troops were battling Hamas militants deep inside Gaza City.

Over 70 percent of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have already fled their homes, but the growing numbers making their way south point to an increasingly desperate situation in and around Gaza's largest city, which has come under heavy Israeli bombardment. The war triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 assault inside Israel has entered its second month, with an increasingly dire humanitarian situation inside the besieged Palestinian enclave and no end in sight.

Israel has said its war to end Hamas' rule and crush its military capabilities will be long and difficult, and that it will maintain some form of control over the coastal enclave indefinitely. Support for the war remains strong inside Israel, where the focus has been on the plight of the more than 240 hostages held by Hamas and other militant groups.

About 15,000 people fled northern Gaza on Tuesday — triple the number that left Monday — according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. They are using Gaza's main north-south highway during a daily four-hour window announced by Israel. Those fleeing include children, older people and people with disabilities, and most walked with minimal belongings, the UN agency said. Some say they had to cross Israeli checkpoints, where they saw people being arrested, while others held their hands in the air and raised white flags while passing Israeli tanks.

Residents reported loud explosions overnight into Wednesday across Gaza City and in its Shati refugee camp, which houses Palestinian families who fled from or were driven out of what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its establishment. "The bombings were heavy and close," said Mohamed Abed, who lives in Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan neighborhood. He said residents panicked when they heard the news late Tuesday that Israeli ground forces were fighting deep inside the city.

The Israeli military said it killed one of Hamas' leading developers of rockets and other weapons, without saying where he was killed. Hamas has denied that Israeli troops have made any significant gains or entered Gaza City. It was not possible to independently confirm battlefield claims from either side. Israel is focusing its operations on Gaza City, which was home to some 650,000 people before the war and where the military says Hamas has its central command and a vast labyrinth of tunnels. Hundreds of thousands have heeded Israeli orders to flee the north in recent weeks, even though Israel also routinely strikes what it says are militant targets in the

G7 nations announce a unified stance on Israel-Hamas war

TOKYO: G7 foreign ministers on Wednesday called for humanitarian pauses in the Israel-Hamas war to allow in aid and help the release of hostages and sought a return to a "broader peace process," as Israeli forces continue to strike the Gaza Strip. Winding up a two-day meeting in Tokyo, the Group of Seven wealthy nations said in a joint statement that Israel had the right to defend itself, while underscoring the need to protect civilians and to comply with international humanitarian law.

"The G7 members are committed to ... prepare sustainable long-term solutions for Gaza and a return to a broader peace process in line with the internationally agreed parameters," the statement said. "... We support humanitarian pauses and corridors to facilitate urgently needed assistance, civilian movement and the release of hostages." The ministers shared the view that "a two-state solution... remains the only path to a just, lasting, and secure peace." It was only the second joint statement from the G7 since gunmen from the Palestinian militant group Hamas sparked the conflict with an Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel, killing 1,400 people and taking some 240 hostages. The Israeli bombardment of Gaza has since killed more than 10,000 Palestinians, around 40 percent of them children, according to counts by health officials in the Hamas-ruled territory. — Arab News

south, often killing civilians.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians remain in the north, many sheltering at hospitals or UN schools. The north has been without running water for weeks, and the UN agency said the last functioning bakeries shut down Tuesday for lack of fuel, water and flour. Hospitals running low on supplies are performing surgeries — including amputations — without anesthesia, it said. Majed Haroun, who lives in Gaza City, said women and children go door to door asking for food, while those in shelters rely on local donations. "They should allow aid for those children," he said.

Ameer Ghalban, who was pushing an older relative in a wheelchair down Gaza's main highway alongside others fleeing to the south, said the two of them had each lived off one piece of bread a day for the past three. "The majority of people have left their land because the siege has become absolute in Gaza. We have no water, no electricity, and no flour," he said. The situation is little better in the south, where hundreds of thousands of displaced people are packed into UN-run schools and other facilities. At one packed shelter, 600 people must share a single toilet, according to the UN office.

A month of relentless bombardment in Gaza since the Hamas attack has killed more than 10,300 Palestinians — two-thirds of them women and minors, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-run territory, whose figures have largely held up under scrutiny after previous wars. More than 2,300 are believed to have been buried by strikes that in some cases have demolished entire city blocks. Hamas militants killed over 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and mostly during the Oct. 7 incursion in which they captured 242, including children and older adults. Israel says 31 of its soldiers have been killed in Gaza since the ground offensive began, and Palestinian militants have continued to fire rockets into Israel on a daily basis.

The death toll on both sides is without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence. Israeli officials say thousands of Palestinian militants have been killed, and blame civilian deaths on Hamas because it operates in residential areas. Gaza's Health Ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its casualty reports.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would maintain "overall security responsibility" in Gaza for an "indefinite period" after defeating Hamas, Israel's main ally, the United States, is opposed to any reoccupation of the territory, from which Israel removed soldiers and settlers in 2005.

The US has suggested that a revitalized Palestinian Authority could govern Gaza. But the internationally recognized PA, whose forces were driven out of Gaza by Hamas 16 years ago, says it would only do so as part of a solution that creates a Palestinian state in Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem — territories Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel's government was staunchly opposed to Palestinian statehood even before the Oct. 7 attack. Along with Egypt, it has maintained a stifling blockade on Gaza since Hamas seized power in 2007.

Hundreds of trucks carrying aid have been allowed to enter Gaza from Egypt since Oct. 21. But humanitarian workers say the aid is far short of mounting needs. Egypt's Rafah crossing has also opened to allow hundreds of foreign passport holders and medical patients to leave Gaza. The war has stoked wider tensions, with Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group trading fire along the border. More than 160 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli-occupied West Bank since the war began, mainly during violent protests and gunbattles with Israeli forces during arrest raids. Some 250,000 Israelis have been forced to evacuate from communities along the borders with Gaza and Lebanon. — Arab News

Two terrorists killed in Chitral

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Ursoon near Pakistan - Afghanistan border, Chitral District.

During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists, resultantly two terrorists were sent to hell, while four terrorists got seriously injured. Sanitization of the surrounding areas is being carried out to neutralize any other terrorist found in the area. Locals of the area appreciated the operation by Security forces of Pakistan, who remain determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country.

Police repels terrorist attack

F.P. Report

KARAK: The terrorist attack on Khurram Mohammadzai police station was repelled by the quick response of the police. According to the details, terrorists threw rockets and opened fire at Khurram police station of Tehsil Banda Dawood Shah.

More personnel of the police stations were also dispatched immediately. While DPO Karak Sajjad Ahmad Khan along with other personnel including DSP Nazer Hussain reached the Khurram Mohammad Zaire police station. The police repelled the terrorist attack by giving quick response. The residents of the area cooperated with the police in a timely manner and proved that the enemies of the country and the nation are equal to the police and the people.

The terrorists took advantage of the darkness of the night to leave, but the police have started a search and clearance operation in the entire area. "There has been no loss of life on the part of the police, but the police building has been partially damaged. In this regard, DPO Karak Sajjad Ahmad Khan has said that terrorists and anti-national elements have demoralized us with such cowardly attacks. "Can't," he said, adding that the Karak Police are fully alert and capable of responding quickly to these elements.

NEPRA jacks up electricity tariff

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In another shock to the already overburdened power consumers, the NEPRA has notified a hike of Rs0.40 per unit in electricity tariff.

According to the notification issued by the power regulatory authority, NEPRA approved hike in electricity in the wake of the monthly fuel adjustment for September. It added that electricity consumers would have to make additional payments in November bills. The increase in the electricity tariff will be applicable to all the consumer categories except lifeline ones and K-Electric users.

Kabul asked to take action against TTP

PM asks Afghan interim setup to handover illegal Pakistanis linked with terrorism

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Wednesday demanded the interim government of Afghanistan to hand over the Pakistani nationals who were illegally residing in Afghanistan and were involved in terrorist activities against their own country.

Addressing a press conference here at the PM House, the prime minister said the government was ready to receive and accept any such illegal Pakistanis. PM Kakar also asked the Afghan government to take action against the hideouts of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its training centres in Afghanistan and ensure that they must not be used against Pakistan."

Since the interim government took to power in Afghanistan in August 2021, he said Pakistan witnessed an increase in terrorist incidents by 60 percent besides a 500 percent surge in suicide blasts. "Pakistan in last two years has lost lives of 2,867 innocent civilians, for which TTP is responsible which is operating from Afghanistan," he said.

He mentioned that 15 Afghan nationals were found involved in suicide bombings in Pakistan, while 64 Afghans got killed during their fight against the Pakistani law enforcement agencies. He said Afghan authorities were cognizant of these facts as Pakistan had been sharing these details with them since February this year through the fort-nightly memorandums of protest.

Kakar warns of transregional spillover of Gaza war

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has called for enhanced engagement with the Western capitals to make Israel realise that the Gaza war could have a spillover effect beyond the region.

"We need to engage with different Western capitals, particularly Washington and London, and they need to make realize the Israeli side that they are contributing to destabilize not just the region, but probably it would have a spillover effect beyond the region," the prime minister said in an interview with Arab News published on Wednesday.

When asked if the Pakistan government had received any requests from the United States to soften its stance against Israel as it continued attacks on Gaza, Kakar said, "I'm not aware of any such request and I don't think so any government would listen to any such request which is in my opinion surreal, it's absurd to even think of requesting someone to be silent on such an account." He called for an immediate "cessation of violence" and labeled Israel's assault on Gaza "genocide, clearly."

He told the interviewer that he would be traveling to Riyadh this weekend for an extraordinary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to discuss Israel's attacks on Palestine. "You can't just kill children and say that you have got the right to defend yourself. It's the license to barbaric retaliation."

Asked if Muslim nations were doing enough for Gaza, Prime Minister Kakar also raised questions about the role of the world's estimated 1.8 billion Muslims, who make up 24 percent of the global population, in "facing the kind of situation which we are in". "We need to ask more deep questions from this entire [Muslim] population, that what kind of contribution globally we are having ... toward science and technology, what kind of defence capabilities these different or 50 or 57 countries are developing for themselves."

The monitoring team of the United Nations in its report released this July clearly highlighted that TTP centres based in Afghanistan were conducting terrorist operations against Pakistan. Asked if Pakistan itself would take action against the TTP hideouts in Afghanistan, Kakar said.

"We are hopeful that they [Afghan government] will take an action them-

selves, which is in their own interest and also in our interest." On the military equipment left behind since the American withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, he said Pakistan had been repeatedly raising concerns with the United States and the Western countries about its implications and its sale in the black market.

(Continued on Back Page)

PPP to win polls with or without level-playing field

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari claimed on Wednesday that his political party would win the general elections with or without level-playing field.

While addressing a press conference in Karachi's Ibrahim Hyderi today, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that Karachites are standing with PPP and they will also form government in the Centre on February 8. "For the first time, mayor, chief minister and prime minister would be jiyalas. I take responsibility for changing the fate of Pakistan including Karachi. We established playgrounds in Ibrahim Hyderi, Gizri and Lyari. We would establish playgrounds in all districts of Karachi."

Bilawal said that Pakistanis are facing the menace of inflation, poverty and unemployment. PPP would provide employments to the youth through vocational training programmes after coming in power.

Regarding PPP's preparations for general elections 2024, he said that candidate names are being shortlisted which would be announced after the unveiling of final delimitations.

"PPP has never gotten level-playing field in any elections. Despite difficulties, PPP won the 2008 general elections. PPP would win general polls with or without level-playing field." Bilawal asked PPP leaders and workers to stop demanding level-playing field.

Commenting on a new electoral alliance, the PPP chairman said that PML-N and Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) alliance would damage their own reputations in the future. Bilawal expressed hope that no one could flee from elections anymore as the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) had also issued orders for general elections on February 8. He said that PPP could not stand with PML-N anymore after its coalition partner changed its narrative of "Vote Ko Izzat Do". He predicted that some Pakistan

candidates would participate in the forthcoming polls except those who left the political party.

No discussion on arms supply

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday said that rejecting the notions of any discussion on arms supply between defence ministers of Pakistan and Ukraine in their telephonic conversation, said the country neither supplied arms to Ukraine, nor it intended to do so.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in a statement clarified that as a matter of policy Pakistan did not supply arms to a region in conflict. "This topic, therefore, was not discussed during the telephone conversation between the Ministers of Defence of Pakistan and Ukraine on 7th November 2023," she remarked. She said that as a matter of policy Pakistan did not supply arms to a region in conflict.

KP Apex committee decides to continue action against illegal spectrum

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Apex Committee has decided to continue crackdown/actions against the illegal spectrum in a more effective and systematic manner and the concerned provincial and federal entities were directed to ensure well-coordinated actions to this end.

The third session of Provincial Apex Committee was held here on Wednesday with caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan in the chair. The forum took stock of the progress on the implementation of its decisions taken in the last session with regard to curb the illegal spectrum.

The meeting also reviewed progress on the repatriation of illegal immigrants to their homelands. Corps. Commander Peshawar Lt.

Gen. Hassan Azhar Hayat, caretaker Provincial Minister Finance Ahmad Rasool Bangash, Chief Secretary, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Inspector General Police, Akhtar Hayat Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Muhammad Abid Majeed, administrative secretaries of concerned departments and other civil and military high ups attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed in detail actions taken by various provincial and federal entities against illegal spectrum including smuggling, extortion, use of illegal SIMS and weapon, Hawala/Hundi, fake documentation, Narcotics and NCP vehicles etc. in the province. Authorities of the relevant provincial and federal departments gave detailed briefings to the forum regarding the achievements/progress of their concerned departments to curb the illegal



spectrum.

Matters related to the profiling of Non Custom Paid (NCP) vehicles and registration of Madaris also came under discussion in the meeting. The forum reiterated its resolve to deal with the issue of illegal spectrum with iron hand specially the issue of extortion, and it was decided to have a special session of the Apex Committee

focusing only on extortion with the aim to devise a comprehensive strategy to effectively deal with issue.

The forum also stressed the need to have special check on the supply of narcotics in educational institutions, and it was decided to initiate crackdown against the big fishes involved in the manufacturing and supply of narcotics whereas Anti-Narcotics

Force Excise Department and Police were directed to devise a joint strategy to curb the menace of narcotics.

The forum paid rich tributes to the sacrifices of security forces and Law Enforcement Agencies in the war against terrorism, offered Fatiha for the martyrs who lost their lives during the recent terrorism activities, and expressed sympathies with the

bereaved families. Talking on this occasion, the Chief Minister remarked that officers and Jawans of security forces and LEAs have offered unprecedented sacrifices for the nation, adding that the government and people of this country hold these sacrifices in highest degree of esteem. Azam Khan maintained that the government, security forces and the entire nation is determined to deal with menace of terrorism, and stressed the need to curb all the illegal activities which are anyway helpful in promoting terrorism. He directed the high ups of all the relevant entities to ensure the implementation of the Apex Committee decisions in letter and spirit, and to further strengthen the coordination mechanism amongst all the stakeholders with the aim to deal with illegal spectrum in the desired manner.

Fire erupts at Karachi factory

KARACHI (INP): Fire erupted at a factory located near Valika Chorangi, SITE Industrial Area of Karachi on Wednesday, rescue sources said.

According to the fire brigade officials, a total of six firefighting vehicles reached the spot and initiated the rescue and firefighting operation, meanwhile, no casualty has been reported yet.

The rescue officials claim that the fire is erupting in the inner parts of the factory, while the intensity of the fire is being measured as 'high'.

After receiving the information about the incident, the police and rangers also reached the spot, while the area was cordoned off.

As per police officials, the cause of the fire erupted was due to an electric short circuit, however, there was no fire-fighting equipment and arrangements found inside the factory.

Meanwhile, the police are investigating the triggering point of the fire from various aspects, however, no casualty has been reported in the incident.

4,369 bikes, 2,446 mobiles snatched

KARACHI (INP): The Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) on Wednesday released a report on street crimes committed in October 2023 in Karachi, ARY News reported. According to statistics compiled by the The Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC), as many as 4,396 motorbikes were stolen in October, while 817 two-wheelers were snatched at gunpoint. The CPLC report further said, 182 vehicles were also snatched during the said period, while 25 vehicles were snatched at gunpoint. The CPLC said 54 snatched or stolen vehicles and 265 motorbikes were recovered.

The cases of kidnapping for ransom and extortion witnessed a surge in Karachi in October as 13 cases were reported during the month. The 9,464 citizens were deprived of their cellphones during the first four months of 2023, out of which only 161 were recovered.

Dr Aliya Imam appointed Advisor to CM Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (R) Maqbool Baqir has appointed Dr Aliya Imam as an Advisor to CM with immediate effect.

According to a notification issued here on Wednesday, Caretaker CM, in exercising powers conferred under section 4(1) of the Sindh Advisors (Appointment, Powers, Functions, Salaries, Privileges) Act, 2019, appointed Dr Aliya Imam as his Advisor on an honorary basis.

Ethiopian envoy calls on Sindh CM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula on Wednesday called on Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar. During the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed full gamut of the relations, including cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels, said a news release.

Ambassador Jemal Beker felicitated the Sindh chief minister on assuming the role of chief executive of the province.

Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar appreciated the support extended by the Government of the FDR Ethiopia to Pakistan during the recent flash floods.

He also lauded the remarkable economic progress made by the FDR Ethiopia in the recent times.

The chief minister said Ethiopia and Pakistan had long-standing bilateral rela-

tions that were improving gradually. However, there was a need to explore the immense potential in multiple areas, including economy, health, education and others, he added.

He hailed the start of the Ethiopian Airlines operations in Pakistan which would contribute to the already flourishing bilateral ties by strengthening trade, business and people-to-people ties.

Ambassador Jemal Beker briefed the chief minister about the reforms carried out by Ethiopian PM Dr. Abiy Ahmed in the economic sector of Ethiopia which became the fastest growing economy in the African region.

He expressed his resolve to take the bilateral relationship between the two countries to the next level. "The Ethiopian Airlines will make it easy for the business community of the two countries to reach out their markets," he remarked.

LESCO detects power theft in Airline, Wagah Sub-divisions

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected wide-scale power thefts during operations against power thieves in its sub-divisions of Airline and Wagah. While, Guldasth Town Sub-Division set up a camp in Phulrawan area to address customers' complaints.

The LESCO spokesman told media here Wednesday that during on-going search operation against power pilferers, an inspection team of Airline Sub-Division found Malik Snooker Club stealing electricity by reversing the electricity meter. The LESCO team imposed a fine of Rs 590,000 on the accused after disconnecting the connection on the spot, besides got arrested one of the accused by the local police.

Similarly, Wagah Road Sub-Division SDO Hamad Tahir Gujjar along with his staff and Elite Force police conducted an operation in Pidda and Qila Jeevan Singh villages. The inspection team detected a tube-well on electricity being stolen from the main transmission line. They disconnected power supply to the tube-well and

also dismantled the respective power transformer, besides charging the accused with 76,000 units in the form of detection bill and registering an FIR against him in the area police station.

Wagah Sub-Division's team removed 22 connections stealing electricity through illegal hooks on the main line, and also seized three heaters in Jeevan Singh Fort. An FIR application against them was submitted in the concerned police station and all these connections have also been fined Rs 1.760 million.

The spokesman said that Guldasth Town Sub-Division of LESCO has set up a camp in Phulrawan area for redressal of consumer complaints. He added that on the direction of LESCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider, such camps are being set up to solve the complaints and problems of the customers.

At the Phulrawan village camp, he mentioned, 15 new power connections were passed, easy installments of bills were received, re-connection requests were received and bills were issued.

Pakistan Learning Festival begins at ACA

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Learning Festival (PLF) 2023 successfully concluded its opening day here on Wednesday and was attended by a large number of students from both public and private schools. Promoting learning and exploration among the youth and children of Pakistan, this extraordinary celebration of education, culture and environmental awareness took place at the Arts Council of Pakistan, the co-host of the event.

The Inaugural event was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, Rana Husain, Minister of School Education and Literacy, College Education & Women Development. The event commenced with the National Anthem performed by Deaf Reach School children and St Joseph's Convent College students, creating a patriotic atmosphere. The event also featured the Pakistan Learning Festival Tarana, titled "Hamain Kitab Chahiye", the lyrics of which were penned by Zehra Nigah, and composed by Rakae Jamil. Baela Jamil, CEO of ITA and Founder of PLF welcomed the audience on behalf of herself and co-host Ahmed Shah, who could not attend as he was indisposed.

A captivating performance was presented by Rose Islamic Academy Lyari, adding to the cultural richness of the event.

This was followed by a segment dedicated to raising awareness about climate change and the need for action, featuring Afia Salam. Tuaha Ahmed Farooqi, Secretary of DEPD, emphasized the importance of inclusive learning in mainstream schools and empowering all.

The event also introduced 15 new children's books, highlighting the collaborative efforts of the Pakistan Literacy Project, Room to Read, and ITA.

A video message by Joel Bacha was shown. The chief guest, Rana Husain, then formally inaugurated the event with a ribbon-cutting ceremony joined by stakeholders. After the resounding opening session, PLF took off with a bang with numerous sessions taking place simultaneously, both in Arts Council's various auditoriums as well as in the open area where inter-active workshops were taking place throughout the day. Participants enjoyed thought-provoking discussions, artistic performances, educational workshops, and interactive learning experiences. It was a unique opportunity for people to come together and explore the many facets of learning, from literature to the environment, and from the arts to technology.

Among the most notable and popular sessions were book launches and storytelling sessions. These included narrations by Attiya Dawood and Shabnum Gul, moderated by Rumana Husain of books published by PLP (Pakistan Literacy Project), Room to Read, and ITA (Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi).

The other very popular session of storytelling was bilingual, conducted by Bina Shah in English and Rumana Husain in Urdu of a book titled Sitti's Bird, Gaza Ki Kahani, written by a Palestinian author, Malak Mattar, about her own experiences, and illustrated by her as well.

"Bringing Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai in our classrooms", conducted by Mahtab Akber Rashdi and moderated by Baela Jamil was another interesting session that enlightened the young audience about the Sufi poet as well as Sindhi folklore.

Tashina Nur was another popular storyteller who enticed the audience with her gripping style of narration.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar presides over a meeting of the health department at CM House.

Lahore continues to be ranked world's most polluted city

LAHORE (INP): Punjab's capital Lahore was once again ranked the most polluted city in the world with hazardous air quality conditions prevailing on Wednesday.

The severity of the situation was evident in the early hours when the Air Quality Index (AQI) reached 451, as reported by www.igair.com, a global air quality monitoring platform. It is important to note that air is considered safe to breathe when the AQI is below 50.

The AQI is calculated on the basis of five categories of pollution: ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.

AQI as high as 151-200 is considered unhealthy, while an AQI rating between 201 to 300 is more harmful and over 300 is extremely toxic.

According to experts, an increase in air pollution used to be witnessed in the winter. A change

in the wind speed, wind direction and sliding minimum temperature increases air pollution. The air becomes heavier in the winter as compared to summer, causing poisonous particles in the atmosphere to move downwards and making the atmosphere polluted. As a result, a layer of polluted particles, including large amounts of carbon and smoke, covers an area.

The smoke produced by burning crop remnants, factories and burning coal, garbage, oil or tyres enters the atmosphere and the impact of this appears at the onset of winter and remains till the season's end, experts added. Smog measures

Amid 'calamitous' levels of smog in Punjab province, the government has announced the closure of schools and officers three days a week.

The schools and offices in Lahore and other smog-hit cities will remain closed for three days —Thursday,

Friday and Saturday — due to the worsening smog situation, announced caretaker chief Mohsin Naqvi in a press conference here.

"November 9 is an official holiday while Saturday and Sunday are weekends," he said, adding that the government has only announced Friday as a public holiday. CM Naqvi said that the step will reduce the smog in affected cities.

CM Naqvi said that markets will remain closed on Saturday while restaurants and cinemas will remain shut from Friday to Sunday.

"All parks will remain closed from Friday till Sunday," he had announced. Smog emergency: Punjab makes key decision for schools, transport "People should wear masks in general, while children and the elderly should make sure that they wear it," the CM added, noting that they were not shutting down factories and public transport.

IGP chairs meeting to boost crime control in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): In a pivotal gathering convened at the Karachi Police Office (KPO), IGP Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja chaired a high-level meeting to address the rising concerns of street crimes, Gutka/Mawa, and various criminal activities on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the attendees comprehensively assessed the police force's performance, focusing on their efforts to combat these offences and discussed strategies to enhance the security of upcoming important events while evaluating the current law and order situation.

IGP Sindh Riffat

Mukhtar Raja, took particular notice of the developments related to street crime and other criminal cases. In response, he issued stringent orders to crack down on street criminals and instructed a more aggressive approach against drug and Gutka/Mawa mafias.

Emphasizing the need for a proactive policing approach, IGP Sindh emphasized that all necessary measures should be taken to curtail the crime rate. He urged authorities to bring individuals and groups involved in criminal activities under the rule of law.

Investigations would directly impact the police's control over accused individuals.

To foster citizens' trust in the police, IGP Sindh encouraged community involvement and the need to set an example of exemplary service to the public.

During the meeting, Additional IGP Karachi Khadim Hussain Rind provided a comprehensive briefing on the city's law and order situation and the ongoing police crackdown against crimes.

NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF MINOR MINERALS LEASE OF DISTRICT MANSEHRA

The District Auction Committee of District Mansehra invites applications from registered contractors of Minor Minerals for participation in auction and grant of Minor Mineral lease of below mentioned blocks/ areas of District Mansehra individually (Block-wise) under provision of section 78 subsection (3) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mines & Mineral Act 2017 for a period of one year on the basis of "As is where is" in the office of Deputy Commissioner Mansehra on 22/11/2023 at 11:00 AM. In case of non-auction due to an reason, next date of auction will be 23/11/2023 at 11:00 AM.

S.No.	Extent & Location of the Area	Reserve Price	Call Deposit	Time Period
1.	129.19 acres near village Souch Balakot Naran.	Rs.52700000/-	Rs.13175000/-	-do-
2.	88.206 acres near village Talhatta Balakot.	Rs. 9100000/-	Rs. 2275000/-	-do-
3.	335.457 acres near village Phuldhar Oghi / Darband.	Rs. 10300000/-	Rs. 2275000/-	-do-
4.	64.05 acres near village Hamsherian / Labarkot.	Rs. 5000000/-	Rs.1250000/-	-do-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Only those persons or firms registered with Directorate General Mines & Minerals Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as Minor Minerals Contractors can participate in auction. Interested parties can register themselves in the Directorate General Mines & Minerals Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- The registered parties / individuals shall submit application form at the cost of Rs. 10000/- (Ten thousand) non-refundable along with 2% Sale Tax under Second Schedule (S.No.16) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sales Tax on Service Act, 2022 on any working day at least three (03) days before the auction. Last date for submission of application form is 15/11/2023.
- Blacklisted/Defaulter persons or those persons who are not registered with Directorate General Mines and Minerals are not allowed to participate in the auction.
- The registered parties/individuals shall submit application for each block/area separately with completed documents/formalities.
- The interested parties can visit and check the advertised areas before auction. The sketches of the areas are available for the interested parties in the office of the undersigned.
- Call deposit shall be deposited under account No. 0066-2008140092 and application fee under account No. 0066-2008209319 in any branch of Bank of Khyber.
- The registered applicants/parties shall also submit attested copies of CNIC, income tax registration certificate (NTN) and partnership deed/article & memorandum of association along with evidence of paid up capital (if applicant is partnership firm/company).
- The successful bidder shall deposit 1/4th of the total bid money as security within three days from the date of auction, otherwise, call deposit shall be forfeited in favour of the Government and the bid of second highest bidder shall be considered as highest bid, subject to condition that the difference between the first and the second highest bids is not more than 10 percent of the highest bid.
- The successful bidder shall demarcate his leased area within fifteen days from the issuance of Allotment Letter on his own expenses.
- The successful bidder shall be bound to pay Excise duty to Commissionerate of Mines or its approved excise duty collection contractor on government notified rates.
- The successful bidder before issuance of allotment letter shall be bound to deposit withholding tax under Rule-236-A of ITO 2011 with Income Tax Department and Professional Tax as per rules to the Excise & Taxation Deptt, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- The successful bidder will be bound to pay surface rent to the land owner under Mineral Sector Governance Act 2017.
- The successful bidder shall be responsible to work in leased area strictly in accordance with the provisions of Mineral Sector Governance Act, 2017.
- The successful bidder shall be bound to use only verified challans for transportation of minor minerals duly verified by the concerned Assistant Director. Transportation without a verified transit challan shall be considered as un-authorized transportation and action under section-56 of the ibid Act shall be initiated against the lessee as well as other offenders.
- The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bid with cogent reason.
- All sections of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mines & Minerals Act 2017, Amended Rules 2019 and thereof shall be applied.
- The successful bidder shall be bound to carry out mining activities in the granted area/block as per the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minor Minerals Riverbed Rules-2022 as directed by Honorable Peshawar High Court Peshawar in its decision dated 15/06/2023.
- Other information in this regards can be obtained from the office of undersigned during office time i.e. 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM on any working day.

INF(P)#2734/23 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (Tech) Mineral Development, Mansehra



OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT CAT-B HOSPITAL CHAKDARA DIR LOWER

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to advertisement published in **Daily Mashriq** No. INF (P) 2654/2023, dated: **28/10/2023**. The following amendment in the tender may be read as:

Sealed bids will be accepted till 10 am on 18/11/2023 in this office and will be opened at 11 am on the same date instead of 2 pm on 17/11/2023. The terms and condition will remain the same.

(Dr. Hammad Khan)

Medical Superintendent Cat-B Hospital Chakdara, Dir Lower
Email Address: thachakdara@gmail.com Phone No. 0945-703371

INF(P): 2741/2023



حتمی شوکان زونوش

ہر گاہ آپ سہمی احمد شہید (یونیورسٹی پشاور) کی پورڈ پشاور مکان نمبر 1590 حتمی شوکان زونوش

عبدالرشید کریم پورہ چنگ پشاور کو بذریعہ زونوش بذللطیف کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ مورخہ 16-06-2023 سے

تا حال مسلسل اپنی ڈیوٹی سے غیر حاضر ہیں آپ کو بذریعہ جواب طلب بحوالہ آفس لیٹر نمبر 31-07-2023/Est/34388 مورخہ 11/25/2023 اور 31-07-2023 مورخہ 31-08-2023 کو آپ کے گھر کے پتہ پر ارسال کیا گیا جس میں لطلیف کیا گیا کہ

آپ 03 دن کے اندر ادرا دانی ڈیوٹی پر حاضر ہو کر اپنی غیر حاضری کی وجہ پر بیان کریں لیکن

آپ ڈیوٹی پر حاضر نہیں ہوئے۔ اور آج تک اپنی ڈیوٹی سے غیر قانونی طور پر مسلسل غیر حاضر ہے۔ لہذا

بذریعہ فٹس بذل آپ کا فوری بار لطلیف کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ اس فٹس کی اشاعت کے (15) یوم کے اندر ادرا

اپنی ڈیوٹی پر حاضر ہو کر اپنی غیر حاضری کی وجہ پر بیان کریں، بصورت دیگر آپ کے خلاف

پاکستان کنٹونمنٹ سرفٹ رولز 1954 کے تحت سخت سے سخت تادیبی کاروائی مکمل میں لائی جائے گی جو کہ

آپ کی نوری سے برخواستگی پر متفق ہوگی۔

ایڈیشنل کنٹونمنٹ ایگزیکٹو فیسر کنٹونمنٹ پورڈ پشاور

PID(P) 419/23



اداہ برائے بحالی جسمانی معذوران

پلاٹ نمبر 6 پیکری 3 حیات آباد پشاور فون نمبر: 091-9217520

گاڑیوں کا نیلام عام

عوام الناس کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ یہ پاس مختلف گاڑیوں جن کی تفصیل منسلک ہے کی نیلامی کرانا چاہتی ہے۔

نیلامی بمورخہ 27 نومبر 2023 بروز جمعہ بوقت 10 بجے کی پاس کے دفتر میں ہوگی۔

نمبر شرا	گاڑی نمبر	انجن نمبر	میکہ انامپ	ماڈل
1	TKZ-371	S07242	MAZDA MINI TRUCK	1995
2	TKA-892	S04841	MAZDA MINI TRUCK	1994
3	AK-8893	48321	MAZDA MINI TRUCK	1987
4	IDT-1811	S07457	MAZDA MINI TRUCK	1995

شرائط نیلامی:

1۔ گاڑیوں کا معائنہ دفتر کی اوقات کار میں کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ 2۔ بولی دہندگان گاڑیوں کی قیمتیں مہیا کرانے کے پابند ہونگے۔ 3۔ بولی میں حصہ لینے والے ایک سادہ کاغذ پر درخواست بمعہ قوی ضمانتی کارڈ زیر تحفظ کی نام دینگے۔ 4۔ بولی دہندگان کی طرف سے ہر گاڑی کی پیشکش کماحقہ 1000 روپے کا بے آرڈر اڈیٹائر ڈرافٹ کی گاڑی فٹس (نا قابل واپسی) بنام "ٹیگنٹ ڈائریکٹریٹ PIPOS" اکاؤنٹ نمبر 11697970301A17590030 میں جمع کرنا اور درخواست کماحقہ منسلک کرنا ہوگا۔ 5۔ خواہشمند حضرات بولی دالے ان اصل قوی ضمانتی کارڈ اور تصدیق شدہ قوی ضمانتی کارڈ کی کاپی ہمیل پدا اور موہاں نمبر ساتھ لائیں۔ 6۔ کامیاب بولی دہندگان کو بولی کی رقم کے علاوہ گورنمنٹ کے تمام الاؤنسز، اضافی بین کرانے گا۔ اس کے علاوہ اگر کسی شرائط وضوابط ہوں گی تو مندرجہ پتہ تادی جائیں گی۔ 7۔ کامیاب بولی دہندہ بولی کی قیمت کا 25% موقع پر بین کرانے گا اور بقیہ قیمتیں اگلے 4 دن میں جمع کرانے گا، بصورت دیگر بنگا 25% جمع شدہ رقم تادی کر لی جائے گی۔ 8۔ تمام برکی ادا نیکیوں کی تکمیل کے بعد گاڑیاں اور دستاویزات کامیاب بولی دہندگان کے حوالے کردی جائیں گی۔ 9۔ گاڑی کے لائیکس کو منظور حاصل کرنے کی تمام تر ذمہ داری خریداری ہوگی اور کامیاب بولی دہندہ 7 دن کے اندر محتاط ایکما تیزانیزیکیشن کے دفتر سے رجسٹریشن پتہ نام کرانے گا۔ 10۔ گاڑی کی منتقلی کی لاگت کامیاب بولی دہندہ کی ذمہ داری ہوگی۔ 11۔ نیلامی تکمیل کا فیصلہ ہوگا۔ مارکیٹ ریت سے کم بولی کی صورت میں ایسی ایلی اجازت دانی کی تمام بولیوں کو مسزدر کرانے کا حق محفوظ رکھتی ہے۔

INF(P) 2725/23

مینجنگ ڈائریکٹر پی پاس



Authorities directed to preserve historical record

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr. Aamer Abdullah has said that Tribal Research Cell is an important heritage for the availability of authentic records related to the historical background of the merged districts and former tribal areas of the province while directed the relevant authorities to preserve the available historical record and other written materials in the cell.

He said that the authorities should submit a reasonable development scheme for approval so that to not only ensure the long-term preservation of records available in the research cell, rather make the availability of these historical materials and literature possible for researchers through online facilitation.

He expressed these

views during a visit to the historical Tribal Research Cell, established under the Home and Tribal Affairs Department in Namak Mandi at Peshawar here on Wednesday.

During the visit, the caretaker minister inspected various parts of the research cell and checked the historical records and official files of the pre-independence and post-independence periods related to the affairs of tribal areas, former states merged into the province and neighboring country Afghanistan.

Speaking on this occasion, he described the cell as a very important asset for the convenience of researchers from a historical and research point of view, and directed to get support from the Archives Directorate to preserve all the old records here, while digitizing all the records of the cell.

He also directed to prepare a PC.1 and submit it

within a week time regarding technological facilitation of digitizing the old record available in the cell.

The caretaker minister asked the authorities to also contact the UN organization UNESCO, in terms of getting assistance for the preservation of such a historical record.

He emphasized on the cataloging of historical files and written collections in the cell and asked that the cell should contact the relevant departments of the University of Peshawar to get the support of researchers in utilization of such historical records.

The minister also stressed to begin digitizing the records of the cell by scanning the old records in a phase-wise manner.

He described the poor condition of the cell's existing building as unsatisfactory and directed that the possibility of shifting the records to the existing government buildings should be evaluated and a report in

this regard be submitted to him to save the records from losing.

It merits mentioning that the Tribal Research Centre was established in 1971 under the supervision of the Home and Tribal Affairs Department, with the aim of preserving the old history and official records of the former tribal areas, the states merged in the province and the former tribal areas under the administration of the province.

Beside, having a vast archive of the history of the tribes of these areas, the cell also has the records of around 5,000 government files, gazetteers and history books onward from the British period, which is a vast collection of literature for researchers in these fields.

189,259 illegal foreigners repatriated

PESHAWAR (APP): The repatriation of illegal foreigners mostly Afghans continued to their home countries as 189,259 illegal foreigners have so far been repatriated till (Tuesday) November 7, this year.

The spokesman of the KP Home Department told APP that these foreigners were transferred through the Torkham border between September 17 and November 6, this year.

The immigrants included women and children who were provided free transport service from Landi Kotal holding camp up to the Torkham border that connects Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Similarly, 2,975 illegal immigrants were repatriated through Angor Ada South Waziristan. He said voluntary repatriation was being encouraged.

Repatriation from Punjab was also continued through the Torkham border where officials of relevant departments were assisting them.

FIA arrest 3 illegal money exchangers

PESHAWAR (APP): The FIA Commercial Banking Circle Peshawar on Wednesday conducted a raid in the renowned area of Chowk Yadgar here and arrested three illegal money exchangers while recovering foreign and local currencies in huge amounts.

According to FIA, the accused were running the business of money exchange without any legal document or license, adding that Rs 3.2 million, 1050 Euros, 900 US Dollars and 5000 Saudi Riyals were recovered from the accused.

The FIA team also recovered receipts of Hundi references. Cases were registered against the accused.

PO among six suspects held

PESHAWAR (APP): The district police on Wednesday one proclaimed offender (PO) and five suspected criminals during various crackdowns in the city.

According to the spokesman, Police Station Umar arrested a PO Shah Salman who killed a person Nabi Gul three-year ago over a dispute of property and managed to escape after the crime and was at large for the last three years.

The police conducted several raids to arrest the murder but failed. A police investigation team acting on a tip-off traced the PO and successfully arrested him.

Meanwhile, Khazana police arrested five suspected criminals during different crackdowns and recovered illegal weapons used by them for aerial firing, drug trafficking and other crimes.

The police recovered one rifle, one kilogram of hashish, four pistols, various magazines and cartridges from the arrested accused.

Police have registered cases and started investigations.



PESHAWAR: Commissioner Peshawar Muhammad Zubair and VC SBBWU Prof. Dr. Safia Ahmed (TI) in a group photo during an art exhibition.

Ending free education facility on quota: High Court dismisses employees' writ plea

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) dismissed writ of Joint Action Council ending of free education under quota for employees children and declared Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) legal between University of Peshawar (UOP) and Islamia College University (ICU).

The petitioners, who are claiming themselves to be the elected representatives of the employees of Islamia College University Peshawar 'ICUP)' or for that matter members of Joint Action Council (JAC) are aggrieved of the impugned MoU whereby both the institutes i.e' UOP and ICP agreed to reserve the quota for admission of each other employees on reciprocal basis and the

candidates admitted on such quota will pay full non-subsidized prescribed fee of the programme in which admission is granted.

Both the universities UOP and ICP filed their respective Para-wise comments wherein they had strongly resisted the issuance of the desired writ on various legal and factual objections' The main objection of UOP is that, the petitioners have not impugned the decision of the Syndicate taken in its 436ft meeting dated 18.6.2021, on the basis of which the impugned MoU was issued.

PHC's divisional bench comprising of Justice Abdul Shakoor and Justice Syed Arshad Ali heard the writ plea while Justice Abdul Shakoor authored the judgement while UOP's

Law Officer Riaz Ali along with Khalid Rehman and Zartaj Anwar advocates appeared before court during hearings.

The MoU was to be implemented with immediate effect for a period of three years, after getting approval from the Syndicate. It is also specifically mentioned in the MoU that any of the university may revoke the same with prior notice well before admission.

The lawyers argued both the universities are competent enough to frame a policy or for that matter signed MoU with each other for running of their financial matters' particularly when they can waive or reserve seats for their employee or children, in the same manner they can withdraw waiver and reservation of

seats'.

The petitioners have enjoyed free education facilities under the notifications of the respondents and wholeheartedly acquiesced their decisions; but, on the other, when both the institutions are facing hardships due to financial crunch, and when they decided to charge fee from their employees or their children by signing the impugned MoU, how come the petitioners are showing reluctance to abide by the same without referring any law or rules.

PHC's divisional bench comprising Justice Abdul Shakoor and Justice Syed Arshad Ali declared UOP and ICU MOU correct and as per law while dismissed JAC writ plea against ending free education facility on quota to employees children.

Diabetes control: Health experts stress importance of awareness, healthy lifestyles

PESHAWAR (APP): Health experts have emphasized the crucial role of widespread awareness, proper education about diabetes, and the adoption of a healthy lifestyle in effectively managing diabetes and improving the overall quality of life.

This important message was conveyed during a Diabetes Awareness activity organized by the Diabetes and Endocrinology Department of Mercy Teaching Hospital at Ruffaia Nursing College (RNC) here.

The session primarily aimed to educate nursing students about diabetes, prevention, care, and management and was graced by the presence of Dr. Mehr Taj, the Director of RNC, Dr. Umar Saeed, and numerous enthusiastic students.

Dr. Faheemullah, the Head of the Diabetes and Endocrinology Department at MTH, inaugurated the session by addressing the causes of diabetes, highlighting the need for a healthy lifestyle to control the disease.

He underscored the adverse effects of consuming carbonated drinks, junk food, and a lack of exercise on health, which can lead to diabetes, emphasizing the necessity of adopting a healthier lifestyle and raising awareness about the dangers of such habits to avoid this debilitating disease.

Dr. Nida Ifitikhar revealed alarming statistics, reporting that 1 in 11 people in Pakistan is affected by diabetes, with 400,000 deaths recorded in 2021

due to the disease. Among those affected, 10% are male, and 9.5% are female.

Notably, up to 95% of diabetes cases are of type 2 diabetes, a figure expected to rise significantly until 2045, making it imperative to focus on prevention and management. Aliya Hayat, a nutritionist, provided valuable insights into maintaining a healthy diet. She recommended a balanced diet that includes vegetables, fruits, and protein in daily meals, emphasizing stress management and physical activity as key factors in diabetes prevention.

Dr. Sajjad underscored the importance of foot care for diabetic patients, stressing the significance of cleanliness, regular check-ups, and the use of safe and comfortable shoes to prevent complications.

Dr. Amir Hamza discussed proper diabetes management to avoid complications and maintain a healthy life.

The event witnessed active participation from the students, who engaged in interactive Q&A sessions and gained a deeper understanding of diabetes and its management. Dr. Mehr Taj, the Director of RNC, recognized the dedication of the students by awarding prizes to the winners of a diabetes quiz.

The Diabetes Awareness session at RNC marked a significant step in promoting knowledge and understanding of diabetes prevention and management, ultimately contributing to a healthier and more diabetes-aware community.

Ph.D thesis defense examination of Engr. Abas successfully held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Ph.D thesis defense examination of Engr. Muhammad Abas, Department of Industrial Engineering, UET Peshawar was successfully held at the Video Conference Hall, UET Peshawar the other day. He presented his research findings through a seminar in public forum session, followed by Viva-Voce examination by the Examination Committee.

The research topic of Engr. Abas was "Optimization of process parameters of fused deposition modeling in the development of assistive devices used in physical rehabilitation of People with Disabilities" supervised by Prof. Dr. Sahar Noor, Dean Faculty of Mechanical, Chemical and Industrial Engineering, UET Peshawar while Dr. Tufail Habib, Department of Industrial Engineering served as his Co-Supervisor.

His Research Evaluation Committee (REC) also included of Mr. Syed Muhammad Ilyas, CEO Paraplegic Center Peshawar (PCP), Dr. Imran Ahmed, Department of Industrial Engineering, UET Peshawar, Dr. Muftooh Ur Rehman, Associate Professor, CECOS University Peshawar. Engr. Abas is serving as lecturer at the Department of industrial Engineering, UET Peshawar and has published four (04) research impact factor papers in international reputed journals.

The research was funded by the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and conducted in a joint collaboration with the industry i.e., Paraplegic Center Peshawar. His research was focused on applying additive manu-



facturing technology to develop assistive devices for individuals with disabilities, playing a pivotal role in physical rehabilitation.

The research was successfully designed and developed assistive devices using emerging technologies to create sustainable solutions for the disabled community. Mr. Syed Muhammad Ilyas, CEO PCP appreciated the efforts and research work carried out by Engr. Muhammad Abas. He hoped that his research will help PCP in developing assistive devices for handicapped.

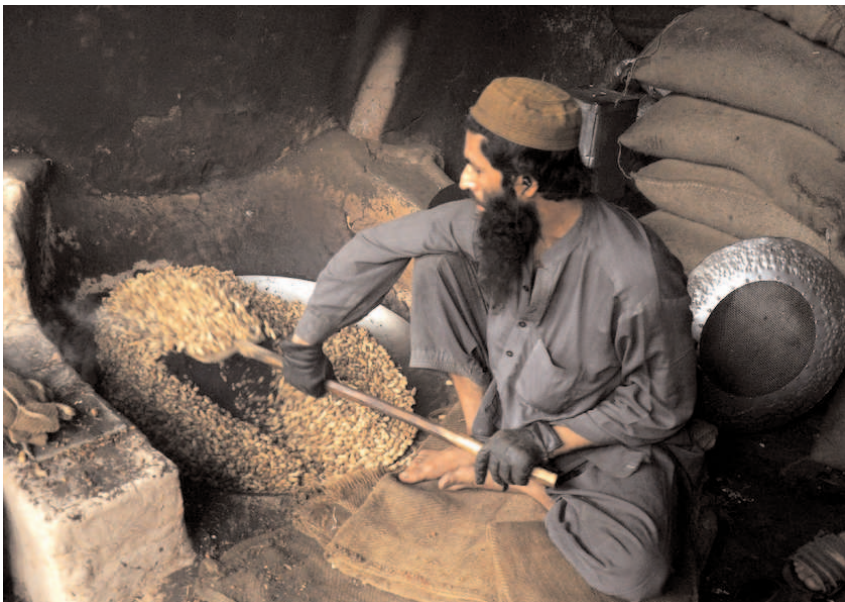
Prof. Dr. Ifitikhar Hussain, Vice Chancellor UET Peshawar, Prof. Dr. Misbah Ullah, Treasurer, Dr. Khizar Azam Khan, Registrar, Prof. Dr. Hamidullah, Director Undergraduate studies, Prof. Dr. Rashid Nawaz, Director Admissions, Prof. Dr. Shahid Maqsood, Coordinator Jalozi Campus, Prof. Dr. Afzal Khan, Provost, Prof. Dr. Abdul Shakoor, Advisor Foreign Students Affairs, other senior faculty members, offi-

cials and a large number of students attended the defense examination.

Govt announced public holiday

PESHAWAR (APP): The provincial caretaker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa announced a public holiday on the occasion of Iqbal Day falling on November 9, 2023, according to a notification issued here on Wednesday. According to the notification, November 9 (Thursday) will be a public holiday in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The provincial government and people from the private sector and Non-Governmental Organization would hold many programs to pay homage to Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

In schools and universities across the country, students recite Iqbal's poems and listen to lectures about his life and work.



PESHAWAR: A vendor roasting peanuts at his workplace.

Sports Gala, Bar Council: City Mayor assures lawyers of assistance

PESHAWAR (APP): The Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali has said the issues confronted by the lawyers' community would be addressed on priority basis.

Talking to a delegation of lawyers here at his office, the mayor said, besides professional activities, lawyers should also take part in sports events as sports help in the creation of a healthy society. The role of lawyers in national progress, he said, was of prime importance.

The lawyers' delegation comprised of President District Bar Peshawar, Ashfaq Ahmad Khali,

General Secretary Samandar Khan, vice president Naveed Farhad Ali, while, Director East Zone, Rehman Khattak, Director West, Riaz Awan, DD Regulation, Zil Hajja Ilyas were also present.

President Peshawar Bar Association apprised the mayor regarding the sports gala, to be held next month and other issues of the lawyers' community.

He told the mayor that lawyers would actively participate in the sports gala. He urged the mayor that his supervision and assistance was needed for the sports gala event.

The mayor on this occasion assured the lawyers' delegation that complete support would be provided to them for successful arrangement of the sports gala and all necessary tools will be provided for the event.

The mayor said that a team of WSSP would be sent for cleanliness of the bar council, besides, 100 flowerpots would also be provided to the bar council.

Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali further told the lawyers that a water filtration machine, water cooler and solar system for the mosque of the bar council building would also be provided.

Parents of 26,411 children refused polio vaccination

PESHAWAR (APP): During the seven-day anti-polio vaccination in two specific districts of the province, the parents of 26,411 children in districts Peshawar and Khyber refused to vaccinate their children on one pretext or the other.

According to the Emergency Operation Centre, a population of 1,130,820 children under the age of five in districts Peshawar and Khyber were to be immunized against

the crippling polio disease under the campaign, adding that there were 901,985 children in Peshawar and 228,835 children.

It said that 14,856 children in Peshawar were not present at home at the time of polio vaccination, despite repeated visits by polio teams, while parents of 8471 children rejected immunization of their children.

Similarly, in Khyber 2823 children were missed during the campaign due to

the non-cooperation of the parents while 261 parents refused polio drops.

However, the Emergency Operation Centre reported that the overall polio vaccination drive remained successful as almost 100 percent of children were vaccinated in Peshawar and 97 percent in Khyber.

The provincial Health department has submitted a report to the concerned department regarding the refusal cases.

Judicial Academy hosts GBV training for court staff

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy hosted a two-day orientation session for court staff on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) here on Wednesday.

The Activity was conducted by UNDP Pakistan under the 'Deliver Justice Project' which is supported by the European Union and by UNDP, UN Women, and UNODC. Twenty- Five participants from the district of Peshawar attended the training.

Muhammad Shoaib, Director General (Acting) welcomed the participants

in the inaugural session. He emphasized the important role played by court staff in the administration of justice. Ms. Caitlin Chittenden, Senior Rule of Law & Justice Reform Specialist, UNDP Pakistan highlighted the objectives of the training in her welcome note and thanked the Academy for support.

The objective of the training was to increase court staff's awareness and knowledge of GBV, understanding of the challenges faced by GBV victims/survivors in access to justice, and to provide skills and tools to better support

GBV victims and survivors.

The concluding ceremony was held on 7th November 2023. Mr. Faizanullah, class representative appreciated the efforts of the UNDP and the Academy for arranging the training on the subject. He recommended that training of court staff be conducted frequently.

The Director General thanked participants for their keen interest and enthusiasm in training. Later, participation certificates were distributed by Caitlin Chittenden, amongst the participants.



In brief

Commissioner chairs meeting Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Commissioner Malakand Saqib Raza Aslam called on by a delegation of welfare organizations consisting of the Relief Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, UNICEF, UNOCHA, UNIO, and Islamic Relief in his office at Saidu Sharif, on Wednesday. During the meeting distribution of winterization kits/relief packages in the most prone weather hit areas of Swat, Dir Upper, Chitral Lower & Chitral Upper. The participants were briefed about the distribution of winterization kits and relief packages to deserving families. Commissioner Malakand Division appreciated the role of donors and thanked the delegation for their constant support to the people of Malakand Division.

ADP holds demo in Buner F.P. Report

BUNER: The Awami Democratic Party Pakistan on Wednesday staged demo in support of Palestine at Buner Press Club. The ADP central vice chief Umar Khatib district president Fazal Karim and district vice president Mohamad Jan were leading the demonstration. The participants were carried banners and play cards inscribed slogans in support of Palestine and against the Israel. The participants were also raised full throat slogans demanding from OIC and Pakistan to rescue injured Palestine make sure food stuffs for them and also demanded the UN to immediately stop the ongoing wars so as to protect the innocent Palestine from what they called Israel aggression. The ADP leaders Umer Khatib Fazal Karim and Mohamad Jan addressed. They bitterly condemned Israel its allies for waging war against Palestine while protected Palestine for fighting their due right of self-determination and freedom on own land of Palestine, they concluded.

Crackdown on illegal mining F.P. Report

SWABI: The district administration of Swabi has arrested six people and seized heavy machinery during a crackdown on illegal mining in Tehsil Topi. According to the officials on Wednesday, acting on the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner Swabi Gohar Ali Khan, Assistant Commissioners Adnan Khattak, Allah Nawaz Khan, Shah Zeeshan Najeeb raided the Pontia area of Tehsil Topi and apprehended six individuals involved in illegal mining activities. The raiding team also confiscated excavators, tractors, and dumpers used in the illegal operation. Cases have been registered against the arrested individuals, identified as Azeem Khan, Aamir, Irfanullah, Zahoor Khan, Shah Fahad, and Rasar Jalal Khan. The district administration has vowed to continue its crackdown on illegal mining, which is a major environmental hazard and causes significant damage to the region's natural resources.

Six injured in road mishaps

MURIDKE (INP): As many as six people were critically injured in separate road mishaps in different localities, rescue sources said on Wednesday. The first accident took place in Mannoo Abad of Muridke where a reckless driven truck knocked down two motorcycles seriously injuring both bike riders. Four people were critically injured when an over speeding car hit a motorcycle at Narowal road.



HYDERABAD: Patients and relatives standing outside hospital after fire caught in store room of kidney ward at Civil Hospital.

Voters back delimitation of PA constituencies

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Residents of Kambat in Samarbagh tehsil on Wednesday rejected the stance of political parties on the preliminary delimitation and threatened to launch a protest movement if the union councils of Kambat, Darangal and Miskini were again included in PK 14.

Talking to local journalists at Samarbagh, workers of different political parties said that the union councils of Kambat, Darangal and Miskini were included in PK-18 according to wishes of its residents. They said that earlier these union councils were part of PK-14 which was not acceptable to local residents. The activists said that some of the political parties wanted to exclude these union councils from PK 18. They demanded the election commission of Pakistan to maintain the proposed delimitation.

The residents of Maidan have also expressed satisfaction on the current delimitation plan and demanded of the ECP to make no changes in the preliminary delimitation regarding the provincial assembly's constituencies in Lower Dir. Talking to local journalists at Timergara, workers of different political parties said that they were happy with the proposed delimitation though some political parties were opposing it.

According to the preliminary delimitation, the Lower Dir district has five provincial assembly seats which are PK 14, PK 15, PK 16, PK 17 and PK 18. The PK-14 Lower Dir-1 has the Lal Qila tehsil and three union councils of Balambat tehsil including Lajbok, Hayaserai and Balambat. Similarly PK-15 Lower Dir-11 has the Khall tehsil, Balambat tehsil excluding its three UCs and Kotigram union council of Adenzai tehsil. The rest of Adenzai tehsil has been made PK-16 Lower Dir III. Timergara tehsil and Munda tehsil excluding UC Mian Kalay has been declared PK-17 Lower Dir IV while Samarbagh tehsil and UC Mian Kalay of

Munda has been declared PK-18 Lower Dir V.

JI youth protest: The JI Youth wing on Wednesday held a protest rally at Timergara against the proposed transfer of about 350 employees of the Abdul Wali Khan University (AWKU) Mardan to its Timergara campus. Speaking on the occasion the JI Youth wing district president Ateequr Rehman and others announced that they would strongly resist if the employees were transferred to the Timergara campus of AWKU Mardan.

The speakers said the AWKU Mardan vice chancellor was retiring from services after six months and he was unauthorized to convene a syndicate meeting. They alleged the VC wanted to get extension from the incumbent Governor Haji Ghulam Ali by taking the latter into confidence but the people of Lower Dir would foil his attempt. They said the varsity should appoint local educated and eligible youths if it needed fresh staff.

Universal salt iodization: The provincial nutrition cell in collaboration with the Unicef and Nutrition International (NI) arranged an awareness walk and a function regarding the importance of iodized salt at Balambat here on Wednesday. Deputy district health officer Dr Wali Khan led the walk. The participants were carrying banners inscribed with slogans about the importance of iodine for human health.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Wali Khan, Unicef information management officer Muhammad Haris, MS Category D hospital Talash Dr Arshad Ali, nutrition programme focal person Zarin Bakht and others highlighted the importance of iodized salt. They said that iodine deficiency always led to health hazards and affected hormones' actions in human bodies. The speakers said that iodine deficiency caused not only physical disorder but also led to severe mental health problems. They termed iodine essential for children's smooth development and said that its deficiency affected child intelligence as well.

BAP to mobilize public for upcoming elections

F.P. Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Awami Party believes in democratic values. Khalid Magsi's success is a democracy's success. These views were expressed by Central Vice President Balochistan Awami Party Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri in a congratulatory statement while congratulating the newly elected President of Balochistan Awami Party Khalid Magsi on his success.

Senator Samina Zehri said that the election of Khalid Magsi as the party president is in the wider interests of the party and the province. She also said that with the new leadership of Balochistan Awami Party, the party will play an important and key role in the politics and development of

Balochistan and will lead Balochistan on a new path of development by winning the upcoming elections with a huge majority. She said that the political situation in Balochistan was deteriorating for a long time, but the manner in which the BAP leadership and colleagues handled the crisis is commendable and this is the beauty of democracy.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri further said that the newly elected party president is the pride and assets of Balochistan Awami Party and under his leadership, the party will play its best and key role in the development and prosperity of Balochistan province and for this, all the party leaders and workers should be strengthened.

Senator Samina

Mumtaz Zehri said that Khalid Magsi has excellent leadership skills and will play an important role in making Balochistan Awami Party more active by utilizing his skills. She said that providing health education and other basic facilities to the people and making the province equal to other provinces in the race of development is the first priority of Balochistan Awami Party and very soon Balochistan will be equal to other provinces in the race of development and prosperity.

She said that in the upcoming elections too, Balochistan Awami Party will knock out the opponents on the basis of its performance and support and power of peoples and will form the government in Balochistan.

Criminal Justice Committee commits for Rule of Law

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: A meeting of Criminal Justice Committee Hafizabad held. District and Session Judge Hafizabad Malik Ali Raza Awan presided over the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Sundas Irshad, District Police Officer Faisal Gulzar, president District Bar Association Malik Waqas Rana Awan and district heads of different departments attended the meeting.

The meeting was discussed provision of timely justice and other welfare

related affairs. District and Session Judge was directed the police to submit Chelan of cases for providing justice to people at the earliest. D&SJ determined that he would utilize all available resources and his abilities to ensure provision of timely justice and relief to the people.

As many as 198 POs held: District police Hafizabad have arrested 198 proclaimed offenders involve in heinous crimes during a crackdown launched under the leadership of DPO Faisal Gulzar.

During the crackdown police recovered booty from 445 accuse whereas police also recovered 52 illegal pistols, 8 Kalashnikovs and 8 raffles from 92 accused during a month. DPO said that during crackdown 155 drugs peddlers were arrested and seized 1195 gram heroin, 103427 gram chars and 393 liters liqueur from accused.

He added that crackdown on drugs peddlers would continue till elimination of menace of drugs trafficking in the district.

JI youth announces strike against transfer of employees F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: Jamat Islami (JI) youth announced protest against the transfer of hundreds of employees of Mardan to Abdul Wali Khan University Timergara campus by protesting against the decision to transfer hundreds of employees to Timergara campus.

Atiqur Rehman, president of Jamaat-e-Islami Youth Lower Dir, expressed these views while addressing a press conference and protest demonstration along with other leaders. In a strong protest, he said that the vice chancellor of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan is retiring after six months and since the tenure of any vice chancellor is six months, he does not have the authority to call a meeting of the syndicate and make decisions.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University is reportedly colluding with Governor Haji Ghulam Ali for his extension and shifting hundreds of employees to Timergara campus and wants to recruit Governor Haji Ghulam Ali's favorite people for new posts in Mardan Abdul Wali Khan University, he said.

If hundreds of employees are being transferred from University of Mardan to Timergara campus, then why are they not being transferred to other campuses and universities of the province and is the quality of hundreds of employees in Timergara campus, he said that in Lower Dir Thousands of highly educated youths are also unemployed, so the first right belongs to the people of Lower Dir.

PTIP to nominate ideological activists Syed Waliullah Shah

NEWSHERA: Former Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Defense Minister Pervaiz Khattak claimed that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian will secure maximum seats across the province, on Wednesday.

This he claimed while addressing party workers and joining of newcomer political activists at Pabbi while adding all political parties had neglected public after taking power despite their narrative for welfare of society. He also condemned political opponents including Maulana Fazal Rehman and claimed that they are securing their political dynasties at sake public deprivations.

Former Defense Minister said PTI chairman Imran Khan had ignored public and party activists after grabbing power corridors. He added that Imran Khan was controlled unelected elite which had face PTI with failure and claimed that the seasonal bird had already fly their nest (gone aboard).

AWKUM employees protest continues on second day

F.P. Report

MARDAN: A protest was held by All Employees Association of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan (AWKUM), which was addressed by Chairman of All Employees Association Muzamil Khan, President Adnan Saeed, General Secretary Jawad Singer, Focal Person Umair Ali Shah, Media Incharge Ali Khan and others.

The speakers said that exploitation and economic killing of university employees should be stopped. In the syndicate meeting, the scale reduction should be withdrawn from seven hundred employees immediately. Adhak relief and salary increase should be paid and the decision to transfer 350 employees to Taimergara campus should be terminated instead of being postponed.

They added due to the lack of service structure, the employees are deprived for fifteen years. Many points in the service structure fall under the category of violation and exploitation of the rights of the employees. Vice Chancellor Abdul Wali Khan University of Mardan has less than a month left in his tenure and legally and morally he does not have the authority to call the meeting of the syndicate and make decisions. There has been a lot of corruption, which should be investigated by Anti-Corruption and FIA.

Addressing the meeting attended by the university employees in large numbers in the protest of the All Employees Association, the speakers said that the employees have the main role in the development of Jamia Abdul Wali Khan, but unfortunately the employees are facing various problems which are not on the ears of the university administration. Rengati said that in the period of inflation, the salaries of the employees are very low and still the university employees are still deprived of salary increase.

In the general body meeting, legal action and strike was announced from yesterday. On this occasion, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court were also demanded to take notice against the illegal and unconstitutional actions and decisions of Vice Chancellor Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan. The speakers expressed their special thanks to ASP Sheikh Multoon circle Resham Jahangir and Mardan Police for their full cooperation with the employees during the peaceful protest.

Residents flayed gas load shedding & low pressure: Low pressure needle gas and unscheduled load shedding continues in different areas of Mardan. The winter season has started in which the load shedding of needle gas becomes a headache for the citizens, the gas pressure is negligible in the morning and especially at night which is affecting the household affairs badly.

While children go to school without breakfast. The citizens told the "Daily The Frontier Post" that load shedding has increased the problems of the citizens, people have suffered due to lack of needle gas. The authorities should take note and save the people from the troubles. The price of LPG has been increased immensely which is beyond the purchasing power of the people. In this regard, citizens have demanded to take notice from Commissioner Mardan, Deputy Commissioner Mardan, Mayor Mardan to ensure uniform supply of gas in all areas. Meanwhile, Commissioner Mardan

Division Shaukat Ali Yousafzai has directed the concerned authorities to speed up the campaign against electricity theft and kanda culture in Swabi to make Swabi city a load-shedding free city after Mardan city. He hailed the recovery of electricity arrears and reduction in line losses in Mardan division and appreciated the better coordination of administration police and PESCO authorities in this regard.

He was addressing a high-level meeting held at his office to review the ongoing campaign against power theft and kanda culture. The meeting was attended by Regional Police Officer Mardan Muhammad Sulaiman, Deputy Commissioner Mardan Captain (R) Abdur Rahman, DC Swabi Gohar Ali PESCO Chief Engineer, Superintendent Engineers of Mardan and Swabi Circles and other concerned officials. The Deputy Commissioners of Mardan and Swabi, while giving a detailed briefing to the meeting regarding the campaign against electricity theft in their respective districts, said that the Mardan district has been conducting raids against electricity theft and registration of FIRs and arrests.

It ranks first in the province. In the meeting, the electricity problems of Industrial Estate Mardan and Gadun Amazi Industrial Estate Swabi were also considered. In this regard, President of Industrial State Mardan Sajjad Khan and representatives of Gadwin Chamber briefed the meeting. Commissioner Mardan directed the PESCO officials to solve the problems of both the districts within a week. Addressing the meeting, Commissioner Shaukat Ali Yousafzai also directed to expand the scope of the campaign against electricity theft to rural areas along with Mardan urban area.

Commissioner said that like Mardan, there has been a lot of improvement in line losses including campaign against electricity theft and recovery from defaulters in Swabi. Now our goal is to declare Swabi city as the second load-shedding free city in the country after Mardan. He also directed the Deputy Commissioner Swabi and the concerned authorities of PESCO to take steps to achieve this goal soon. DIG Mardan Muhammad Sulaiman assured the meeting that the police is fully supporting this national campaign and will work more diligently in this regard.

Voter awareness seminar held: A seminar was organized in connection with voter awareness campaign at Government Girls Degree College Rustam organized by District Election Commissioner Mardan in which District Election Commissioner Zia-ul-Rahim, Principal of Girls Degree College Rustam Tahira Syed, Assistant Professor Rohi Umar and Focal Person Assistant Professor Nazia Malik participated in the college.

The speakers informed the students about the responsibilities of the Election Commission and the steps taken by the Election Commission to increase the number of youth in the electoral rolls and voter turnout. Students were emphasized on the importance of voting, its usefulness and full participation in the electoral process.

In the seminar, there was also a question and answer session regarding the electoral process in which the students actively participated. In the end, prizes were also given to the students. The participants appreciated the efforts of the Election Commission of Pakistan and thanked the Election Commission that such events will highlight the importance of voting among the youth, especially female students.

Police crackdowns against illegal Afghans for repatriation

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: The local police officials began a crackdown against illegal Afghan families, residing in various villages of Landi Kotal to leave the country or they would be forcibly repatriated and their moveable and immovable properties will be confiscated as per law.

It is to be mentioned here that approximately 340 ille-

gal Afghan families live in different localities of Landi Kotal. The police official said that following expiring of deadline in the light of direction of high-up, they comprised police teams who were assigned task to visit different village of Landi Kotal and warned the unlawful Afghans to return back to their country.

"Those who would not follow their warning will be forcibly sent back to

Afghanistan," he added. He went on that they would be taken to the Holding Center, Landi Kotal where from they would be deported via Torkham crossing after necessary documentation. According to available sources for the last One month (01 October to 07 November) 0.189259 million illegal Afghan families went back to their country, Afghanistan through the Torkham border.



QUETTA: A view of rain in the provincial capital.



GAZA: Palestinians with foreign passports waiting for permission to leave Gaza at the Rafah border crossing with Egypt.

NK threatens to respond to anti-Pyongyang propaganda

SEOUL (AP): North Korea on Wednesday criticized rival South Korea for removing a law that banned private activists from sending anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets to the North, insisting that such activities amount to psychological warfare and threatening to respond with a "shower of shells." The statement published by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency was the first time state media commented on the decision by South Korea's Constitutional Court in September to invalidate a 2020 law that criminalized leafletting. The decision was based on concerns that it excessively restricted free speech.

The ruling came in response to a complaint filed by North Korean defector-activists in the South. They included Park Sang-hak, who has been a frequent target of North Korean government anger for his yearslong campaign of flying leaflets across the border with giant balloons. North Korea is extremely sensitive about any outside attempt to undermine leadership of authoritarian ruler Kim Jong Un as he maintains tight control over the country's 26 million people while severely restricting their access to foreign news. The law, crafted by the previous liberal gov-

ernment in Seoul that pursued inter-Korean engagement, was passed six months after the North expressed its frustration over the leaflets by blowing up an inter-Korean liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong in June 2020.

Tensions between the Koreas are at their highest point years as the pace of both Kim's weapons tests and the South Korea's combined military exercises with the United States have intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle. In comments attributed to a political commentator, the KCNA warned that the North in the current state of tensions would consider leafletting as a "high-level psychological warfare" and even a "pre-emptive attack conducted before a start of war." "Under the present situation where a spark may lead to explosion, there is no guarantee that such military conflicts as in Europe and the Middle East would not break out on the Korean Peninsula," the KCNA said, apparently referring to Russia's war on Ukraine and the violence in Israel and Gaza.

The agency claimed that future leafletting campaigns could trigger an unprecedented response from North Korea's military, which stands ready to "pour a shower of shells" toward

the sites where the leaflets are launched as well as the "bulwark of the region of (south) Korean puppets." While North Korea often makes bizarre threats that aren't carried out, the comments still reflected the animosity between the rival Koreas amid a prolonged freeze in diplomacy. Aside from blowing up the liaison office, the North in 2022 blamed its COVID-19 outbreak on balloons flown from South Korea, a highly questionable claim that appeared to be an attempt to hold its rival responsible amid growing tensions over its nuclear weapons program. In 2014, North Korea also fired at propaganda balloons flying toward its territory. South Korea then returned fire, but there were no casualties.

Park and other defectors from the North for years have used huge helium-filled balloons to launch leaflets as part of Kim's leadership, his nuclear weapons ambitions and the country's dismal human rights record. The leaflets are often packaged with US dollar bills, and USB sticks containing information about world news. In his latest launch on Sept. 20, Park said he flew 20 balloons carrying 200,000 leaflets and 1,000 USB sticks from the South Korean border island of Ganghwa.

Green 'Marianne' brings climate crisis

PARIS (AFP): A green version of national symbol Marianne will adorn French envelopes from this month, after President Emmanuel Macron unveiled a new standard postage stamp highlighting environmental themes. The "Marianne of the future" represents the feminine symbol -- whose image can be seen in public buildings such as town halls across France, or as a monumental statue on Paris' Place de la Republique -- in profile, with her hair merging into a verdant background.

Graphic designer Olivier Balez said he wanted to "share in the narrative about the climate emergency, without falling into stoking anxiety". "It's a Marianne of the green transition, with her long neck along the diagonal symbolising momentum towards the future," he told AFP. Macron was present at the French postal service's printing works in the Dordogne region of southwest France to unveil the new stamp. But he also hailed the post office's "transformation" in the face of "immense challenges with all the changes in habits in our time". The publicly-owned postal service made 70 percent of its revenue from letters just 15 years ago, a figure that has collapsed to just 16 percent today, chief executive Philippe Wahl said. Around 400 staff at France's postal print works in Bouzillac, 110 kilometres (70 miles) east of Bordeaux, still turn out almost a billion stamps a year. Many are manufactured for other countries such as Japan. By tradition, each five-year French presidential term sees the head of state pick a new standard stamp. The new one will be available from November 13.

Australians cut off from mobile phone

SYDNEY: More than 10 million Australians have been cut off from internet and phone services after a nationwide outage hit Optus, the country's second-biggest network operator. The outage began just after 4am on Wednesday (17:00 GMT), crippling payment systems and online operations and disrupting train services during the morning rush hour in cities including Melbourne.

The Australian government said mobile phones, landlines and broadband internet had all been affected. Optus CEO Kelly Bayer Rosmarin ruled out a cyber-attack but in an interview on ABC Radio did not give a reason for the hours-long outage. "It is highly unlikely [that the problem started within software in Optus networks], our systems are actually very stable ... This is a very, very rare occurrence," she said. "We are working really hard to get it up and running as soon as we possibly can." As a result of the outage, dozens of hospitals were unable to receive phone calls and it was not possible to make emergency calls from landlines on the Optus network. The poisons hotline in the state of New South Wales said it had also been affected. About six hours after the disruption began, Optus said some services had started to be restored but it would take some time before the network was fully up and running. Australia's Communication Workers Union said the outage was an "absolute disgrace", suggesting it was linked to recent job losses at the company, which is a unit of Singapore Telecommunications. Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology researcher Mark Gregory said the incident showed there were fundamental problems in Australia's communications networks. "Single point of failure related outages have occurred too often over the past decades and it is time that the government steps in to force the telecommunications industry to build redundancy into the networks and systems." The outage comes just more than a year after more than 9 million Optus customers had their personal data stolen during a cyber attack. — Aljazeera

Is Israel's Gaza war deadliest conflict for children?

GAZA: In late October, the international nonprofit Save the Children reported that the number of children killed in the Gaza Strip over three weeks of Israel's bombardment had surpassed the annual number of children killed in global conflict zones every year since 2019. Since then, the number of tiny bodies wrapped in white shrouds and surrounded by grieving family members has only grown as Israel has also launched a ground offensive, adding artillery fire to the destruction unleashed by its missiles.

Yet as the war rages on a month after it started, even the numbers don't fully reveal the scale at which Gaza's children have been killed. Here is how the deaths compare with some other major conflicts in recent years. All have been horrific and devastating for children. Still, Gaza stands out. Starkly. Meanwhile, over the past month, the world's attention has been almost exclusively focused on what is often described as the Israel-Hamas war. More than 10,000 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli army in the besieged Gaza Strip since October 7 by heavy aerial and artillery bombardments - more than 4,000 children and 2,550 women. Some 24,800 others, including 10,000 children, have been injured, and 1.5 million people - some 60 percent of the population - have been forcibly displaced from their homes hoping to escape death, with many of them killed while sheltering in hospitals, schools and refugee camps. But aside from attacks on the Gaza Strip, Israel and Israeli settlers have simultaneously intensified attacks against Palestinians beyond the enclave.

Here's what to know about that: Under Israel's 56-year military occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Israeli forces have regularly opened fire at unarmed Palestinians during daily raids and confrontations. Matters on the ground were already tense in those areas well before October 7. In fact, the United Nations had declared 2022 the "deadliest" year for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem since 2006. Israeli forces had killed 170 Palestinians in those areas in 2022, including more than 30 children, while more than 9,000 others were injured. The number of Palestinians killed in 2023 has already significantly surpassed last year's death toll.

Since January 1, Israeli forces and settlers have killed at least 371 people in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. Nearly half of those - 163 people - were killed just in the past month. At least 43 of

them were children. More than 2,300 others have been wounded over the past month, including at least 244 children, with more than half of them injured in protests against the bombardment of Gaza. Deadly attacks by Israeli citizens living in hundreds of fortified illegal settlements and outposts in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem have severely increased since October 7. Some 700,000 settlers live in the midst of and around Palestinian neighbourhoods and cities under heavy protection. The vast majority of illegal Israeli settlements have been built either fully or partially on private Palestinian land. Settlers, many of whom are armed, have shot and killed at least eight Palestinians in those areas over the past month. They have been raiding Palestinian villages on a daily basis, assaulting residents and their properties, and have injured at least 64 people in the same period. Since October 7, the UN has recorded 202 settler attacks against Palestinians, with 28 incidents resulting in Palestinian casualties, 141 incidents resulting in damage to property, and 33 incidents leading to both casualties and property damage. "This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year," the UN said. "Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings". The UN noted that "in nearly half of all incidents, Israeli forces were either accompanying or actively supporting the attackers." The increase in settler violence since October 7 has directly led to the forced displacement of at least 905 Palestinians from their homes such as in the South Hebron Hills, and in Wadi al-Seeq near Ramallah. According to the UN, that figure comprises 111 households, and includes 356 children.

On October 13, several days after Hamas's attack, Israel's Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir began to distribute thousands of assault rifles to Israelis, with priority to settlers in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, and to Israelis living alongside Palestinians in "mixed cities" inside Israel such as Lydda and Ramle. The latest settler killing of a Palestinian took place on October 29, when settlers shot dead 40-year-old Bilal Saleh while he was harvesting the olive trees on his land in the village of al-Sawiya south of Nablus city. Earlier in October, settlers attacked the village of Qusra, also in Nablus, killing three residents. — Aljazeera

Germany agrees to consider UK-style plan

BERLIN (BBC): German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has pledged to "examine" whether asylum applications could be processed abroad. It marks a further hardening of the government's position on illegal migration, as parties seek to counter electoral gains by the far right. The idea sounds reminiscent of the UK's deal with Rwanda, where migrants in Britain may be sent to claim asylum.

But the chancellor is openly sceptical having only agreed to the proposal after a late-night meeting. It was at nearly 03:00 (2:00 GMT) that Olaf Scholz emerged from the marathon session with regional leaders. In the agreement cut with the leaders of Germany's 16 states, there is a short passage on third-country deals that appears almost begrudgingly inserted into the 17-page document. "The Federal Government will examine whether the protection status of refugees can also be determined in transit or third countries in the future, in compliance with the Geneva Convention on Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights." It's vague and non-committal, as was Chancellor Scholz during the press conference. "There

are also a whole series of legal questions," he cautioned. There are many practical questions about how such a scheme would be put into effect, but the prospect of processing asylum claims abroad is now being more openly discussed in Germany. Neighbouring Austria recently expressed interest in a similar scheme. Hendrik Wüst, the Christian Democratic (CDU) premier of North Rhine-Westphalia, warned against dismissing Rwanda-style schemes as "sinister neo-colonialism." "If you do that, we will not meet the challenges of a global migration crisis," he said. Proposals have also emerged from within the ranks of the governing Social Democratic Party (SPD) and Free Democratic Party (FDP).

They range from reviving the 2016 EU-Turkey deal, which stemmed the influx of migrants into Greece, to setting up new agreements with Senegal, Morocco or Rwanda. It is unclear whether successful applicants could then proceed to Germany or would have to stay in the third country in which their claim was processed. The UK's Rwanda deal, which is being contested in the courts, would see some asylum seekers sent to the East African state where they

may be granted the right to remain. No asylum seekers have been sent from the UK to Rwanda since the deal was agreed in 2022. In Germany, government and opposition parties are striking an increasingly tough tone on migration. The hard-line is widely seen as a response to the increasing popularity of the far-right, anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD). After his meeting with regional leaders, Mr Scholz also promised to provide extra cash for local authorities and cut benefits for asylum seekers.

He described the migration agreement as a "historic moment". In the first nine months of this year, 230,000 people requested asylum in Germany - more than in the whole of 2022. Across Europe, leaders are trying to show their electorates they are getting a grip on irregular migration. Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced plans to host illegal migrants in two centres in Albania. The nationalist leader is at home delivering a fiery, anti-immigration message. For Germany's centre-left chancellor, this conversation is far less comfortable. Many within his own party and his Green coalition partners are highly critical of any move to outsource asylum claims.

Netherlands sends five F-16s to Romania

PARIS (Yahoo News): The Netherlands has stationed five F-16 jets in Romania to start training Ukrainian pilots, the Dutch Defence Ministry said. Romanian and Ukrainian pilots will use the aircraft, which arrived at Fetesti Air Base in southeast Romania, at the European F-16 training center, the ministry explained. The training center will be officially opened "in the near future," the ministry added.

The Netherlands and Denmark are in charge of coordinating European efforts to provide Ukraine with F-16 capabilities, and the US defense company Lockheed Martin will provide training support and help maintain the aircraft.

The Dutch government has said it will make 12-18 F-16s available for training purposes, with the aircraft remaining the property of the Netherlands and solely flying in NATO airspace. F-16 instructors will use those jets in a refresher course. They will then train Romanian and Ukrainian pilots. The Netherlands has also set a goal of teaching Ukrainian personnel how to maintain F-16s. The Dutch government said in August that training had already begun in the U.K. and Denmark. The US confirmed it started training Ukrainian military pilots on the F-16 in October. The Dutch government in August also promised to provide Ukraine with F-16s, but

insisted a number of conditions are met, including that enough Ukrainians are trained to operate the jet and that infrastructure at Ukrainian airfields is made suitable to operate the fighter.

The Netherlands is buying a total of 52 F-35 jets to replace its fleet of F-16s, with the planned last flight of the latter in 2024. The Netherlands in June 2022 ordered an additional six F-35s, with 33 of the aircraft delivered and operational as of September 2023. The Netherlands said that, as of Nov. 3, it has supplied 2.1 billion (US \$2.3 billion) in military aid to Ukraine amid its fight against a Russian invasion.

Schools closed as the annual layer of smog returns to choke Delhi

NEW DELHI (CBS News): Schools in the Indian capital have been ordered to close and vehicle use will be restricted from next week in a bid to curb toxic air pollution that has left Delhi blanketed in a thick layer of smog. The local government in the Delhi capital region has ordered all primary schools to remain shuttered or hold classes online until November 10. The administration also said it would keep half of all vehicles off the region's roads between Nov. 13 and 20 by imposing the "odd-even" rule, which allows vehicles with license plates ending in odd numbers on the road on odd numbered dates and vehicles with even numbers on even dates.

Pollution levels are expected to rise even further after the Hindu Diwali religious festival on Nov. 12, when fireworks are typically set off in huge volumes despite a ban aimed at

mitigating the impact of the smoky celebrations. Authorities have also ordered a ban on construction work in the city along with restrictions on entry of trucks and heavy vehicles. Delhi's air quality remained "severe" for a fourth consecutive day, making it the second most polluted city in the world behind Lahore in neighboring Pakistan, according to a real-time compilation by the Swiss monitoring group IQAir. Earlier this week, the concentration of dangerous PM 2.5 particles - very fine pollutants which are easily inhaled and can settle deep in the lungs - was nearly 80 times the World Health Organization's safe limit, making breathing for the city of 20 million people a struggle. "It really feels like living in a gas chamber," Delhi resident Manish Kumar told CBS News. "I am so scared of going out to run errands or take my kids out for a sport." An air

quality index (AQI) reading of 300 or above is deemed "hazardous" on the international rating system, while at "severe" levels, air pollution "affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing diseases." One of the air quality monitors in Delhi recorded an AQI of 588. A 2022 study by the US research group Energy Policy Institute (EPIC) at the University of Chicago said air pollution in major South Asian cities had shortened the life expectancy of inhabitants by up to 10 years.

What's poisoning Delhi's air? Delhi's air pollution goes off the charts every winter as farmers burn off the remains of their harvested crops in neighboring states, sending acrid smoke drifting over the capital region which is trapped at ground level by the cooler air temperatures. Despite a ban by the country's Supreme Court, many farmers in Punjab,

Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh states continue to set their crop stubble on fire to prepare the land for replanting. The government has faced criticism for failing to give farmers viable and large-scale alternatives to burning to remove their crop waste. India's Supreme Court ordered the three states around Delhi to put a stop to the farm fires. "We want it stopped. We don't know how you do it, it's your job. But it must be stopped. Something has to be done immediately," the court said. "While farm fires and festivities are often the trigger for high air pollution in Delhi during October-November, year-round polluting sources, of power plants, industries, traffic and construction have to be managed to find any meaningful results," Aarti Khosla, Director of the India-based climate research and consulting agency Climate Trends, told CBS News.

Tea pickers' Scottish compensation case on hold

NAIROBI (BBC): Appeal judges have halted a compensation case brought by Kenyan tea pickers against their employer in Scotland's highest civil court. James Finlay Kenya Ltd (JFK) is fighting the multi-million pound damages claim at the Court of Session. In a major setback to their case, the workers have been told they should seek redress in Kenya before the Scottish action can go any further.

Their lawyers say 3,700 Kenyans are now involved. They are considering an appeal to the UK Supreme Court. Aberdeen-registered JFK is one of the world's biggest suppliers of tea. When the action began, it was part of a multi-national operation which can trace its roots back to a company founded in 1750 by Glasgow textile merchant James Finlay. The workers claim they suffered musculoskeletal injuries because of working conditions on tea farms in the Kenya's Kericho

region. They launched what is known in the Scottish legal system as group proceedings, a class action lawsuit seeking compensation. Throughout the action, JFK has argued it has no connection to Scotland, other than its registered historical address, and that the claims should be dealt with in Kenya. Earlier this year Court of Session judge Lord Weir ruled that the case should be allowed to proceed in Scotland. That was challenged by JFK's lawyers in the Inner House of the Court of Session, the country's highest civil appeal court. The Inner House has now ruled that the cause should be "sisted," meaning it's been stopped from going any further for now. The three judges concluded that the workers could not show at this stage whether or not they could get redress through Kenya's Work Injury Benefits Act (WIBA), a no-fault compensation

scheme. They also ruled that the Kenyan workers had the right to appeal to the country's Employment and Labour Relations Court. In a written judgement, Lord Carloway, who sat with Lords Pentland and Lord Doherty, said if they were presented with evidence that WIBA was not giving the workers justice, the Scottish case could be allowed to resume. Solicitor Patrick McGuire, who's representing the tea workers involved in the case, said he was surprised and disappointed by the judgement. "We are now actively considering whether to appeal to the UK Supreme Court," he said. "We're also considering how, if at all, we can encourage 3,700 claimants to try to progress their claims through WIBA, which we think would be a feat of impossibility." Mr McGuire said the case which had been sistred involved 2,700 workers. Another 1,000 are taking part in an associated case which was

brought to a temporary halt by the courts in Kenya. The tea pickers have claimed they were routinely asked to work up to 12 hours a day without a break, for six days a week, earning in 2017 an average monthly wage of £100. The court also heard evidence that pickers had to harvest a minimum of 30kg (4st 10lb) of tea to be paid anything at all.

The workers asked for compensation from the business, claiming their bosses did not do enough to prevent them from suffering debilitating workplace injuries. At a hearing in March, JFK's managing director Simeon Hutchinson suggested the workers may have damaged their backs while carrying water as children. Mr Hutchinson argued that a UK-based court would have difficulty comprehending how people live their lives in the African country and Kenyan workers could struggle to understand lawyers' Scottish accents.

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Ill-advised legislation of unelected leaders

A debate in the Parliamentary forums, Scholarly circles and media is in full swing regarding the reasons and motives leading to the establishment of the Cabinet Committee for the Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) by the caretaker government in recent days. During a parliamentary discussion, the caretaker Minister for Parliamentary affairs told the lawmakers that the committee had been formed as per section 17 (2) of the Rules of Business 1973, and the government had no ill motives behind it. According to him, the CCLC's purpose did not involve making the bills or primary legislation. Instead, it was established for subsidiary rule-making and the facilitation of extreme and emergency government-required legislation as authorized by the law. The interim leader claimed that neither the Constitution nor the law prohibits the issuance of ordinances, citing Article 89 of the Constitution, which permits emergency legislation.

The state of Pakistan is currently ruled by unelected and temporary leaders who have been chosen by the previous ruling coalition government and then the opposition leader in the National Assembly. The current interim rulers do not owe a public mandate and their sole responsibility lies only and up to free and fair arrangements for the forthcoming election in this nation. Constitutionally, no unelected leader ever has the authority to speak or legislate on behalf of the public in any pretext as the caretaker set-up always forms under the election act, for a limited period, with clearly defined a narrow role and task as compared to the elected public representatives.

Historically, the hand-picked lot of the previous rulers are currently administering the ruins of the government and they have expanded their mandate well beyond their constitutional prerogative. The incumbent leaders are recklessly batting out of their crease, making long-term decisions pertaining to sensitive matters regarding national security, constitutional affairs and economic sovereignty in a vague reference to certain multi-purpose legislation. Such dogma might fulfil their political goals but it would have long-lasting effects on the country. There are wide-ranging apprehensions regarding the recent cabinet committee constituted by the incumbent government for the stated purpose of reviewing subsidiary laws and regulations instead of altering the primary/ main legislation for the government's needs. Realistically, reframing or altering any part of the law whether it's a section, subsection, clause or a part of it can surely change the whole theme and destroy every purpose of that legislation. Any alteration/amendment to a specific law certainly amounts to new legislation. Such legislative work does not fall under the mandate of any unelected government or unmandated individual in this country. Several honourable members of the upper House including the Chairman Senate have condemned the attempts by the caretaker Minister for Parliamentary Affairs to move a legislative bill in the house, while House leaders sought comments from the Attorney General and the legal branch regarding the matter. According to legal experts, the caretaker government could not do legislation as it was only the job of the elected representatives under section 230 of the Election Act 2017.

Historically, state affairs and governance merit transparency, the rule of the law and sagacity in public, national as well and global affairs. The Ministry of Law and the Attorney General are duty-bound to provide expert opinion in line with the constitution to the political leadership to steer the country. Meanwhile, the rulers must resist the unjudicial use of constitutional provisions through biased interpretation and blatant misdeclaration to satisfy their political goals that might cost a heavy price to the nation. Presently, the ruling cabal is chasing an undefined agenda whereas the prevailing political, economic and security situation demands constitutional conduct from the interim rulers so the nation passes through the election/transition period safely and smoothly.

Gaza crisis and Kias' legacy

THE global media has reported an interesting story that the war on Gaza has granted Tunisia a rare moment of political unity, fuelling leaders' appetite for new legislation that risks fracturing civil society groups, potentially isolating the country on the international scene. According to details, Israel's relentless bombing of the Gaza Strip in the aftermath of Hamas action on October 7, has tugged at deep historical threads within Tunisian society, drawing all factions together in a way that nothing else could have done so, including the 2011 revolution in the North African Mediterranean nation. The deep public anger against Israel and its Western backers have given new momentum to existing proposals of the ruling Kias regime to curtail the work of the NGOs in its country.

A group of Tunisian parliamentarians put forward the proposals to rewrite the post-revolutionary Decree 88, the legislation that deals with the registration and operation of free associations, non-governmental and charity organizations. Apparently, the ruling elite considers the prevailing anti-west sentiments conducive to stricken the free space for civil society, the INGOs, Political and human rights activists that was otherwise difficult for the authoritarian regime.

Tunisia, a lone democracy of the Arab world, has been in the global radar after President Kais Saeed ousted the elected government of Prime Minister Najila Romdhane, suspended parliament, and assumed executive authority in July 2021. President Kais took multiple controversial steps including terminating the Supreme Judicial Council, ousting judges, and putting his political opponents behind the bars on the charges of treason/ sedition in an attempt to consolidate his rule in the country. President Kais organized a nationwide referendum on July 25th to get a stamp from the public on his unconstitutional and undemocratic actions, but the totalitarian rulers faced stern opposition from the civil society, political opponents, and western bloc. Due to reasons, the Despot and his aides started considering the INGOs, a symbol of western influence and the real reason behind anti-government activities in their nation. Although, the Kais regime did nothing in support of poor Palestinians amid the ongoing war and serious humanitarian crisis in Gaza but moved to avail this opportunity to accomplish its long held manifesto against the INGOs and Civil Society. In fact, such legacies are not uncommon, as the leaders' neither have a religion, nor they owe a relation, emotions, or belief; the government, power and rule are the only ritual, and relatives, that only matter to them.

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Gaza war must drive world to find long-term solutions

Chris Doyle

WHERE does all this horror end up? Will there be a Gaza Strip when all is finished? Ever since Oct. 7, nobody has a clue - including, it seems, the Israeli Cabinet - what defines a victory? All the focus is on the short-term mass bombardment of Gaza with zero consideration for the long term. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu talks about a long war, not least because his only avenue for political survival is as a war leader.

Without a clear endgame, Israel will lose again in Gaza. It might defeat Hamas, but it cannot eradicate it. Militarily, Israel will pulverize Gaza, but where does that leave the situation? This has been the result of each of Israel's six wars against Gaza and also its wars against Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israel has demonstrated its destructive military capabilities, which were never in doubt. Yet it has also highlighted massive political vulnerabilities that its opponents feed off. It wins the military battle but loses the political war. This is why Gaza has been occupied for 56 years and under blockade for 16, as well as why Israel has never got close to achieving any degree of security. If you foment hatred, bitterness and despair, Hamas and other groups will feed off that as they always have done. Hamas may grow more powerful in the West Bank. Is Israel going to turn that into Gaza too? The reality is that, when Palestinians enjoy real freedom, security and prosperity, they will be far more attracted to other political forces.

Even the US in Iraq understood the need to try to win over the civilian population. That its attempts were inept, lacked any real conviction, were backed with few resources and lacked a proper so-called hearts and minds strategy was a key part of why America failed so dismally. It too won militarily but it has yet to recover from the political humiliation. Hamas believes that somehow surviving the Israeli onslaught would be a victory; that if its leaders can peek out from beneath the mountains of rubble - the only mountains in Gaza - this would constitute a success. Hamas also has no credible endgame, but that

should surprise nobody. That it should play no future political or military role in Gaza is widely agreed internationally, but how that might be achieved is simply not laid out. An agreed Hamas withdrawal from Gaza may be desirable but unlikely.

This is one reason why an immediate ceasefire matters. It is why US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was wrong to reject it once again last

community needs to shape the outcome and that starts now. Let us imagine that Hamas is no longer in power in Gaza. What sort of interim authority could be established? Which states might be willing to contribute to a peacekeeping force? The option of direct Israeli military occupation, where the jailers move from the perimeter of the Strip to inside, would be hugely costly. If an interim authority is established,

an opportunity to address one of the significant barriers to a political process. Negotiations have to be shown to deliver proper results for Palestinians in a way they never did in the Oslo years. This is what Hamas traded off: mocking Fatah for having got nothing in return for years of talking.

Will Israel allow elections? It will demand that Hamas does not participate, but reasonable stipulations could be made ruling out any candidates that call for attacks on civilians. This is where the international community has to be firm. Israel must not get in the way of credible Palestinian elections - and these must also, as the Oslo Accords stipulated, take place in East Jerusalem. Without a normal economic life and without freedom, Gaza will remain a hellhole and will never be quiet. It will have to be rebuilt, the rubble cleared and the unexploded ordnance removed. A fund should be established immediately and Israel should contribute. This must also be contingent on ending the Israeli siege and allowing all materials in, not least to build a proper water and sewage system. It must mean permitting Palestinians in Gaza to travel freely after the conflict, not least to the West Bank. It must finally mean the establishment of safe passage to the West Bank as agreed under the Oslo

week, as he disagreed in public with senior Arab counterparts. The longer Israel continues to obliterate Gaza, the harder any political solution becomes. Regional powers will also be less willing to contribute to reconstruction in Gaza. Why should regional powers risk any of their citizens in any future peacekeeping force when the Israeli onslaught makes such a mission harder and harder? The longer the carpet bombing continues, the greater the trauma each and every Palestinian in Gaza suffers. Just how difficult does Israel want to make it to govern Gaza? Israelis will still have to live with 5 million to 6 million Palestinians, either as Palestinian citizens of Israel or Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, including Gaza. Israel will still have Arab states as neighbors, whose populations are watching in horror at the unfolding slaughter.

The international community needs to shape the outcome and that starts now. Let us imagine that Hamas is no longer in power in Gaza. What sort of interim authority could be established? Which states might be willing to contribute to a peacekeeping force? The option of direct Israeli military occupation, where the jailers move from the perimeter of the Strip to inside, would be hugely costly.

Accords, which also provided for a port and airport for Gaza. Gazan fishermen must be allowed to fish freely.

The West Bank also cannot be ignored as it has been. The Israeli settlement enterprise needs tackling. For too long, the international community has ignored this issue, copy and pasting the same old press releases telling of its concern. Settlements are illegal and this whole program must be ended. In the short term, Palestinian communities forced out by settler violence must be allowed to return to their villages and live in peace and security. Ignore this and there can be no peace. International statesmen are only now beginning to discuss the long-term solutions needed to address the underlying issues. After previous wars, these never materialized. They must this time and the sooner this starts in earnest the better.

Arab News

The moral failure of Western institutions on Gaza is unparalleled

Ramzy Baroud

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last month stood on the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing between Egypt and besieged Gaza. Guterres was not the only international figure to travel to the Gaza border in the hope of mobilizing the international community in the face of the ongoing genocide in an already impoverished and besieged Strip. "Behind these walls, we have 2 million people that are suffering enormously," Guterres said. These efforts, however, paid little dividends.

Gaza Health Ministry spokesman Ashraf Al-Qudra said in a statement on Oct. 24 that the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza was "too slow (for it to) change the reality" on the ground. This means that the seemingly endless UN Security Council debates and General Assembly resolutions and calls for action have done little to alter the tragic situation in Gaza in any meaningful way. So, what is the use of the elaborate international political, humanitarian and legal systems if they are unable to stop or even slow down a genocide that is being aired live on TV screens all across the world?

During previous genocides, such as those accompanying the world wars or that of Rwanda in 1994, various justifications were offered to explain the lack of immediate action. In some cases, no Geneva Conventions existed or, as in Rwanda, many pleaded ignorance. But in Gaza, no excuse is acceptable. Every international news company has correspondents or some other presence in the Strip. Hundreds of journalists, reporters, bloggers, photographers and cameramen are documenting every event, every massacre and every bomb dropped on civilian homes. It is important to note here that scores of journalists have already been killed in Israeli attacks.

Scientific approximations tell us, for example, that nearly 25,000 tons of explosives were dropped on Gaza by Israel in the first 27 days of war. That is equivalent to two atomic bombs like those dropped by the US on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. When US President Joe Biden callously tried to question the numbers of Palestinian dead, the Gaza Health Ministry took the time to prove him wrong. It produced a list containing the names of 6,747 Palestinians who were killed in the first 19 days of war. Thousands have been killed and wounded since then, yet Washington and its Western allies still insist that "Israel has the right to defend itself," even if this comes at the expense of a whole nation.

The Israelis are not masking their language in any way. The New York Times reported on Oct. 30 that, "in private conversations with American counterparts, Israeli officials referred to how the United States and other allied powers resorted to devastating bombings in Germany and Japan during World War II ... to try to defeat those countries." On Sunday, Israeli Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu openly declared that nuking Gaza was an option in his country's genocidal war on the Palestinian people. On the day The New York Times report was published, Karim Khan, the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, arrived at the

Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing. He used guarded language, as if hoping not to offend the sensibilities of Israel and its Western allies. "Crimes allegedly committed in both places have to be looked into," he said, referring to both Israel and Gaza.

One could excuse Khan by arguing that legal jargon must be restrained until a thorough investigation is conducted. But thorough investigations are rarely conducted when it comes to Israeli crimes in Gaza or anywhere else in the Occupied Territories. When an investigation is carried out, international judges frequently find themselves accused by the US and Israel of bias or, worse, anti-semitism. In the case of the investigation spearheaded by respected South African judge Richard Goldstone in 2009, he was ultimately forced to retract part of his report.

Khan knows this well because he is currently sitting on a large and growing file of Israeli war crimes. Obviously, the US does not favorably view ICC judges who advance war crime cases against Israel. The anti-ICC sanctions imposed by the Trump administration in 2020 are an example. Many officials in Western institutions are becoming aware of this hypocrisy. For example, Craig Mokhiber last month resigned from his position as director of the New York office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in protest at the UN's failure to stop "a genocide unfolding before our eyes in Gaza." And about 850 members of EU staff signed a letter to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen that criticized her "unconditional support" for Israel.

The letter was polite and diplomatic, considering the horrendous moral failure of Von der Leyen, especially when her gung-ho approach to the Russian war in Ukraine is compared to her blind support of Israeli crimes in Gaza. "Only if we acknowledge Israel's pain, and its right to defend itself, will we have the credibility to say that Israel should react ... in line with international humanitarian law," she said. Even the International Olympic Committee, which insists on separating politics and sports, has no problem meddling in politics when the enemy is a Palestinian. The IOC last week issued a statement warning any participant in the Paris Olympics, scheduled for 2024, from engaging in any "discriminatory behavior" against Israeli athletes, because "athletes cannot be held responsible for the actions of their governments."

The word "hypocrisy" here does not even begin to describe what is taking place and the repercussions of this moral failure will be felt around the world for years to come. Never again should the West be allowed to play the role of the mediator, the impartial politician, the judge or even the humanitarian. This is not a difficult conclusion to reach. Gaza has been turned into a Hiroshima as a result of Western bombs and the blank political check handed to Israel by Western governments and leaders ever since the onset of the war and, in fact, 75 years prior. Nothing will ever alter this fact and no "strongly worded" future statements will help the West redeem its collective moral failure.

Falling shekels, rising uncertainties: Israel's economy in turmoil as Gaza war intensifies

Sadiq Shaban

THE recent surge in conflict in Israel has rippled through the nation's economy, unleashing a chain of disruptions across various sectors. With the call-up of 360,000 reservists and the evacuation of 250,000 individuals, a significant workforce void has emerged, compounded by disrupted supply chains extending from seaports to local markets.

These challenges have confronted businesses across Israel, forcing some retailers to resort to employee furloughs, magnifying the economic strain. Israel, recognised for its nearly \$500 billion economy, had been enjoying stability for a considerable part of 2023. The year was expected to witness a growth rate of 3%, with a

low unemployment rate. However, the ground invasion of Gaza and the looming threat of a broader regional conflict abruptly altered this promising economic course. Israelis swiftly adapted by tightening their spending habits, focusing primarily on essential purchases, which in turn led to significant economic repercussions. This shift in consumer behaviour has caused a decline in the shekel's value and resulted in setbacks across diverse industries.

Per Reuters ratings agencies have sounded alarm bells regarding a potential downgrade in the country's creditworthiness due to the current economic uncertainties. Many Israeli cities bear witness to empty restaurants and shops, with significant flight cancellations to Israel and a decline in tourist visits. Simultaneously, the closure of a pivotal natural gas field, along with setbacks in agriculture due to a labour shortage, has forced tens of thousands of employees into furlough. Israel's Central Bank - Bank of Israel - moved swiftly to revise its economic growth forecast downward from the previously anticipated 3% to 2.3%, under the assumption that the conflict remains contained within the country's southern region. While historical data has indicated Israel's ability to display resilience post-conflicts with groups like Hamas, the current multifaceted conflict, potentially engaging multiple fronts like

Lebanon, the West Bank, and Syria, poses an enduring challenge that may impede Israel's economic recovery. Even before the outbreak of the conflict, the Israeli economy was grappling with the repercussions of controversial governmental proposals, particularly those seeking to alter the powers of the judiciary.

Historical evidence suggests that past conflicts, such as the 2014 Gaza war and the 2006 Lebanon conflict, have significantly impacted the country's gross domestic product. In an attempt to address ongoing economic challenges, Israel's Finance Ministry introduced an economic aid plan that includes grants for businesses affected by the conflict. However,

critics argue that these measures might fall short, urging a redirection of funds from specific political agendas to support the broader economy. The economic impact reaches far beyond monetary figures, depicting the depth and complexity of the challenges faced. Israel is contending with a significantly reduced workforce, persistent security concerns, and a lingering sense of shock following the unexpected Oct. 7 attack. Reports indicate a discernible decline in various sectors, notably a 12% decrease in credit card transactions, with substantial drops across nearly all categories, except for a surge in supermarket purchases.

The high-tech industry, a pivotal element of Israel's GDP and exports, is also experiencing strain, compounded by the halting of

construction in Tel Aviv. These pauses have led to significant daily losses, raising concerns about the immediate and long-term economic rehabilitation required post-conflict. Moreover, the country's currency and stock index have both witnessed declines. Seeking international aid has become imperative, considering the prolonged impact on Israel's economic trajectory, necessitating a fundamental re-evaluation of national priorities and substantial financial reallocation to address the aftermath of the conflict and rebuild the economy. In the face of its wartime challenges and ongoing economic obstacles, Israel's journey toward recovery appears arduous.

Russia’s newfound economic reliance on ‘friendly’ states

Dr. Diana Galeeva

DURING a meeting on economic issues, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin on Friday stated that economic growth in the country amounted to 2.8 percent in the first nine months of this year. For September, this figure was almost doubled - more than 5 percent in comparison to the previous year. Among the key sectors for economic growth, he listed an increase in non-oil and gas revenues, which were up by 30 percent compared to 2022. In addition, the production of industrial goods had risen by more than 3 percent between January and September.

As a keen observer of the Ukraine war and its impact on the changing geopolitical landscape, for me the most interesting figure among these results was the ongoing trend toward deepening cooperation with "friendly" states, which is both despise and in reaction to the economic pressure from the West. For January to August, trade turnover with these states increased by 22 percent, according to the Ministry of Economic Development. I thought about what this means in terms of Russia's economic statecraft in a time of geopolitical sanctions, which the country has been facing since February 2022. Who are the so-called friendly countries in the current Russian geopolitical context? What steps and strategies has Russia adopted to boost its dealings with them? And what are the current realities and challenges affecting these relations?

The terms "friendly" and "unfriendly" emerged as part of Russia's response to states that supported, or did not support, Western-led economic sanctions against Moscow following the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis. "Friendly" generally covers those who showed diplomatic support to Moscow or at least

took a neutral position over Russia's actions in February 2022. Among these can be listed about 25 countries, including China, India, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Turkiye, Kazakhstan and Belarus. While Russia has honored these countries with diplomatic "friendly" status, it also realizes their importance to it overcoming the Western economic sanctions. Perhaps the clearest impact has been Russia's strategy of replacing "unfriendly" countries with "friendly" ones in its economic deals. For example, in October 2022, President Vladimir Putin shared Russia's intention to allow companies from friendly countries to enter into mining projects within the territory of the Russian Federation. "We will provide our friends and partners with access to our energy resources. Why not? We did the same thing with the Europeans and the Americans, but they chose to leave our market," he said.

This strategy has been supported by mechanisms created by Russia's key financial institutions that target the friendly states. In October, the central bank announced it was considering the possibility of gradually admitting friendly foreigners into the Russian market. After the start of the Ukraine crisis and the consequent sanctions, the Bank of Russia froze nonresident investments in the Russian market, but investors from friendly countries now have renewed access. Another development has been the efforts to overcome Western sanctions via Islamic banking and financing, which are designed to appeal to the several friendly states from the Muslim world. After lengthy discussions, Russia in September finally launched Islamic banking for the first time as part of a two-year pilot program. It has been implemented in Russia's Muslim-majority republics: Tatarstan,

Bashkortostan, Dagestan and Chechnya. Should the program prove successful, the plan is to introduce the new regulations throughout Russia.

Finally, there have been separate announcements that measures are being taken to simplify investment processes for friendly countries. Although there have been marked gains through these efforts to enhance links, Russia's reliance on friendly states has hit the country in a few ways. This includes Russian investors being lured away by banks and brokers from countries that the authorities call friendly. So, not only has "Western money" left the Russian market, but the money of Russian investors has also partially left or is leaving, according to Ivan Chebeskov, director of the Financial Policy Department at the Ministry of Finance. Some of the money, he said, was lost due to the loss of access to foreign instruments. The Russian market is too narrow, some industries are simply not represented in it and investors have instead looked to Western companies. These instruments can sometimes only be offered to Russians by banks and brokers from other countries.

The war has long signaled the risk of private investment emigration. "If private investors' confidence in the Russian stock market decreases, there are risks of an increase in citizens' savings in foreign instruments and an outflow of funds from the Russian banking system, as well as a decrease in the ability of companies to attract long-term financing," Chebeskov said. Another concerning reality emerged at the end of July, when the main net sellers of Russian shares were investors from friendly countries. In total, they sold securities worth 10.4 billion rubles (\$113 million), which was a record value over the past year and a half, accord-

ing to Kommersant. Net sales from friendly residents had been observed earlier, but the volumes were noticeably smaller. Independent financial analyst Andrei Barthota suggested that the situation was influenced, among other things, by the behavior of Russian investors, who changed their registration to reduce sanctions risks.

Also in July, individuals reduced their investment activity. Net purchases amounted to 2.9 billion rubles - much less than in the preceding months, which usually hit between 13 billion rubles and 29 billion rubles. The main participants in stock exchange trading were individuals, accounting for more than 80 percent of the total volume of transactions. Arikapital strategist Sergei Suverov pointed out that the dynamics were affected by both market overheating and the depreciation of the ruble, with high volatility forcing investors to pay attention to the foreign exchange market. In conclusion, the developing Russian strategy to deal with so-called friendly states to overcome the limitations caused by sanctions is active and observable. Along with opportunities to enter different projects and easier investment opportunities, Islamic banking is being offered as a genuine alternative to Western markets. However, the policies are not without cost or uncertainty. Risks include private investment emigration, sales by friendly residents and friendly countries luring Russian investors away. Challenges remain and it is likely that further integration with the friendly states will need to be negotiated to gain full and sustainable benefits. In the short run, however, friendly states are playing an essential role in preserving Russia's gross domestic product, serving as key partners in energy deals and trade increases and as drivers and advisers in creating alternative financial systems.

PRIME Minister Fumio Kishida on Sunday wrapped up a three-day trip to Southeast Asia, where he sought to strengthen Japan's security and defense ties with Malaysia and the Philippines, both of which are expected to benefit from Tokyo's recently launched military aid program.

The visits, Kishida's first to each country as prime minister, are part of Tokyo's efforts to expand and bolster its network of security partners amid growing concerns that its defense alliance with the United States won't be enough to counterbalance China's growing military might. At a joint news conference near Kuala Lumpur alongside Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Sunday, Kishida said the two leaders had discussed "accelerating coordination to implement" Tokyo's new Official Security Assistance program - though it was not immediately clear how much progress the two sides had made.

The OSA framework, first announced in last December's revised National Security Strategy, will initially provide equipment, supplies and infrastructure development assistance to partner countries, mostly in the Asia-Pacific region, in the form of grants, rather than loans. The aim is to strengthen these nations' security and deterrence capabilities to "reinforce the comprehensive defense architecture," help deter Chinese aggression against Taiwan and in the South China Sea and create a more favorable balance of power. To deepen security cooperation, Kishida said that the two sides will also work closer together in the maritime domain, including through joint coast guard exercises.

Stronger defense-industrial ties also featured in the talks, Anwar said, adding that the two countries plan to have deeper discussions on these and other security issues by the time the two leaders meet in Tokyo during a summit next month marking 50 years of ties between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Japan. While heightened regional tensions, territorial disputes and concerns over Chinese assertiveness are driving military modernization programs in most of Southeast Asia, Malaysia has been less focused on acquiring capabilities to confront China on the high seas and more on those that can help it tackle defense and security issues closer to home. Key reasons behind this are presumably funding constraints as well as Malaysia's view that territorial disputes with other countries in the region, particularly China, should be solved diplomatically. While Malaysia has traditionally emphasized cooperation with China, it has not been neutral, said Zachary Abuza, a Southeast Asia expert and professor at the US National War College.

However, it is a claimant country with very limited naval and air capabilities to stand up to Beijing, so it has had to rely on lawfare - such as legal filings over its continental shelf claims at the United Nations - to counter bullying by China, he said.

For instance, Beijing has maintained a near-constant coast guard presence for several years in the Malaysia-claimed waters near Luconia Shoals, where Malaysia's state-owned Petronas has been exploring gas fields. Both Kishida and Anwar confirmed at their meeting that they will not tolerate any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force, pledging to work closely to deal with the situations in the East and South China seas. "Malaysia has a good relationship with Japan, but Tokyo perceives that Kuala Lumpur sometimes excessively tilts toward China - be it under the Najib (Razak) government or the current Anwar administration," said Kei Koga, an associate professor at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University.

As a result, Tokyo is looking to strengthen security ties with Kuala Lumpur to prevent it from tilting too much toward Beijing and thus enabling it to become less vulnerable to China's maritime encroachment in

Gabriel Dominguez

the South China Sea, he added.

One country that has taken a much tougher stance on China's territorial ambitions has been the Philippines, which Kishida visited Friday and Saturday. Building on a February meeting in Tokyo, Kishida and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced Saturday that they would begin talks on what is known as a reciprocal access agreement (RAA) - a pact that provides the legal framework for greater bilateral security cooperation - while expanding trilateral ties with their common defense ally, the United States. "We are cognizant of the benefits of having this arrangement both to our defense and military personnel and to maintaining peace and stability in our region," Marcos told a joint news conference. Tokyo has signed two similar agreements in recent years, one with Australia and another

capabilities through port infrastructure development, technology cooperation - including the transfer of more defense equipment such as warning and control radars - and the provision of additional patrol vessels. During his visit, Kishida also became the first Japanese prime minister to address the Philippine Congress. In a speech Saturday, he referred to bilateral relations as "stronger than ever."

At the same time, he warned that the rules-based international order is "under serious threat," stressing the importance of multilayered cooperation among allies and like-minded countries, including the United States, to maintain this order. "In the South China Sea, trilateral cooperation to protect the freedom of the seas is underway," Kishida said. Under its so-called nine-dash line, China claims some 90% of the strategic waterway, despite claims by several other countries. While Tokyo does not have a claim to the waterway, it

Both Kishida and Anwar confirmed at their meeting that they will not tolerate any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force, pledging to work closely to deal with the situations in the East and South China seas. "Malaysia has a good relationship with Japan, but Tokyo perceives that Kuala Lumpur sometimes excessively tilts toward China - be it under the Najib (Razak) government or the current Anwar administration," said Kei Koga, an associate professor at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University. As a result, Tokyo is looking to strengthen security ties with Kuala Lumpur to prevent it from tilting too much toward Beijing and thus enabling it to become less vulnerable to China's maritime encroachment in the South China Sea, he added. One country that has taken a much tougher stance on China's territorial ambitions has been the Philippines, which Kishida visited Friday and Saturday. Building on a February meeting in Tokyo, Kishida and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced Saturday that they would begin talks on what is known as a reciprocal access agreement (RAA) - a pact that provides the legal framework for greater bilateral security cooperation - while expanding trilateral ties with their common defense ally, the United States.

with Britain, both of which came into effect this year. The new deal would mark Japan's first with a member of ASEAN. Located relatively close to Taiwan and astride key maritime trade routes, the Philippines is considered crucial to maintaining regional security and stability amid concerns that a crisis akin to Russia's invasion of Ukraine could erupt in the region.

An RAA between Japan and the Philippines would allow the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) greater access to Philippine bases, potentially even rotational deployments, and facilitate joint exercises, said Koga. "If the RAA is concluded, it will become much easier for Japan and the Philippines to cooperate militarily and boost the deterrence effect against China," Koga said, noting the deal would provide Manila with more strategic options to counter Beijing's growing assertiveness. Such a pact would also make it much easier for the SDF to be deployed to the Philippines in times of emergencies, including natural disasters. At the same time, the deal would help strengthen trilateral cooperation with US forces. Earlier this year, Washington and Manila reached a deal that granted access to four additional military sites in the Philippines, allowing the US to substantially boost its defense posture in the disputed South China Sea and near Taiwan.

Meanwhile, Kishida revealed that Tokyo would provide coastal surveillance radars via a grant worth ¥600 million (\$4 million), making Manila the first beneficiary of the OSA program. The announcement came just a day after Tokyo said it had delivered the first air surveillance radar system that Manila bought from Japan under a 2020 contract. The prime minister also pledged to help improve Manila's maritime law enforcement

is a crucial trade artery for Japan. "Japan sees in the Philippines a state with very limited capacity but an increasingly strong will to stand up to Chinese bullying," said Abuza. Since his election in May last year, Marcos has taken a more assertive stance on territorial disputes with Beijing. He has broken with his predecessor's staunch pro-China policies, vowing not to lose "an inch" of territory in the South China Sea and regularly spotlighting Beijing's behavior in the waterway. This year alone has seen several incidents, including last month's collision between a China Coast Guard vessel and a Philippine resupply ship near the Spratly Island chain.

These series of dangerous and aggressive actions are not only worsening Sino-Philippine ties but could also threaten to escalate into a larger crisis, including one that draws in the United States, Manila's treaty ally. Sino-Philippine ties have deteriorated so much recently that the Marcos government has suspended a military exchange program with China and canceled a series of development projects under Beijing's Belt and Road initiative. The recently announced deals have been heavily criticized in China, with the state-run Global Times newspaper warning in an opinion piece that OSA implementation will only further escalate tensions as Japan "seeks various opportunities to break through" its self-imposed restrictions on exporting weapons. "Japan's actions do not adhere to the 'positive pacifism' it claims," the editorial said. On the contrary, by providing defense equipment to Southeast Asian countries, especially those involved in the South China Sea issue, Japan is "creating a tense situation in the region, which is anti-peace."

The Japan Times

Why Democrats shouldn’t despair over concerning new polls about Biden

Dean Obeidallah

THERE'S no other way to put this: New poll results from The New York Times and Siena College that show President Joe Biden trailing former President Donald Trump in most of six battleground states tested are bad. In fact, these polls about a hypothetical matchup between the two are alarming and a bit distressing. But they should not cause panic.

Let's start with the Times/Siena polling that is likely causing many in Biden world to reach for a handful of antacids. It's not just the top-line finding that the president is trailing in key battleground states including Nevada, Arizona and even Michigan, where Biden is down by 5 percentage points to Trump in a state he won by nearly 3 points in 2020. According to the Times, the multiracial coalition that powered Biden to victory is "fraying," with support falling among Black and Hispanic voters. Biden also is seeing a drop in support among voters under 30.

And on the economy - an issue that is often the key metric in determining a president's reelection prospects - the polling finds "the largest gap of any issue," with 59% of voters to 37% saying they trust Trump over Biden to handle economic matters. You might be asking then: Why not panic? There are a few reasons. First, President Barack Obama faced high disapproval ratings the year before the 2012 election (although not as high as Biden's). And a number of early

national polls suggested a close race between Obama and Mitt Romney, who would go on to be the GOP's presidential nominee. While Obama led in some surveys at the time, a CNN/ORC poll in November 2011 found Romney with a 4-point edge.

Articles at the time suggested possible doom for Obama, including The New York Times analysis "Is Obama Toast?," PBS' "Poll Finds Young People Skeptical of Obama's Re-election Prospects" and the left-leaning Brookings Institution's "One Year to Go: President Barack Obama's Uphill Battle for Reelection in 2012." There was even a Wall Street Journal op-ed by two well-known Democratic pollsters calling on Obama to step aside to allow Hillary Clinton to become the 2012 Democratic nominee because they believed she was better suited to win. What happened? Obama won in 2012 by nearly 5 million votes and dominated the Electoral College 332 to 206 votes. And he did so by winning many of the key battleground states that are the focus of The New York Times/Siena College surveys.

We all get that Obama and Biden are not the same candidates. But what is instructive is that Obama won in large part by way of a superior ground game in terms of ensuring that voters who supported him actually did cast a ballot. Biden - who was Obama's vice

president - is obviously well aware of this. And given Biden's ability so far to outraise Trump in terms of campaign donations, his campaign has more resources to invest robustly in this key part of the campaign. But there is something else in Biden's favor. Despite the concerning top-line numbers, the Times/Siena College polls do offer some hope and a road map to Biden's victory. For starters, a Times analysis finds, "The poll suggests that it shouldn't necessarily be difficult for Mr. Biden to reassemble his winning coalition - at least on paper." To do so, Biden needs "to reinvigorate voters from traditional Democratic constituencies," who per the Times analysis "remain quite open to Democrats in a matchup against Mr. Trump."

What issues can inspire those in that coalition? The Times/Siena College polling offers some guidance there as well. Voters trust Biden by 9 percentage points on abortion, an issue that has caused unexpected voter turnout even in red states to defend reproductive freedom. And some experts cited those "abortion first" voters as a big part of why there was no "red wave" in the 2022 midterm elections.

The issue bodes well for Biden in a potential matchup with Trump, given that the former president has bragged, "I was able to terminate Roe v. Wade" and was "honored" to do so. If Trump is the

Republican nominee, you can expect to see that Trump quote in ads repeatedly run by the Biden campaign in battleground states next fall, as Democrats blame the former president for women losing their right to reproductive freedom. The other issue Biden wins more trust than Trump on is the handling of "democracy," according to the new polls. Biden made democracy a key issue in the closing weeks of the 2022 midterms. In a speech in September 2022, he warned, "Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans represent an extremism that threatens the very foundations of our republic." Some viewed Biden's defense of democracy as one reason why Democrats overperformed in 2022. The good news is that Biden has already made it clear that protecting our democracy will be a cornerstone of his 2024 campaign. In a September speech in Arizona, he reminded the nation, "There is an extremist movement that does not share the basic beliefs in our democracy: the MAGA movement." With that said, it's going to be a challenging reelection campaign for Biden, given how polarized our nation is. For those who want Biden to win in 2024, you can't ignore the polls but shouldn't be panicked by them. The Biden campaign needs to do its part in terms of campaigning on the key issues and building an effective ground game. The rest is up to the voters.

CNN

This king’s speech will deliver the final blows from a Tory party facing oblivion

Polly Toynbee

THE silk bag holds the government's plans not just for a year but for "the next 70", says the prime minister, whose sands of time are fast running out. Improbably he promises to "address the challenges this country faces" with no "short-term gimmicks"; yet we expect a king's speech short on the long-term and scattered with infantile banana skins that Labour will skip over lightly.

Little that is announced on Tuesday or in the autumn statement will even touch the edges of what troubles everyone most: the cost of living, rising NHS waiting lists, the climate crisis, declining public services, deepening hardship, regional inequality and immigration. Watch out for announcements that ignore all that matters, or make things worse. A country teetering in a permacrisis - part accidental, but mostly of the government's own making - suffers from austerity, Brexit and maladministration. Four prime ministers and five chancellors in five years, with inadequate ministers in a fast-spin cycle, have brought us to this.

Paying bills tops public anxiety, but inflation won't drop to the "normal level" of 2% until the end of 2025, says the Bank of England, which expects food price inflation to still be around 10% at Christmas, with the UK's inflation the highest in the G7. Despite an almost identical growth rate, France is unhindered by a tax-to-GDP ratio of 48%, compared with the UK's tax take of 33.5%. And it shows. You get what you pay for,

and the Institute for Government's survey of UK public services reveals that almost all of them are declining, crippled by underinvestment since 2010. Councils' services, such as social care, care of children, homeless accommodation, libraries and leisure centres are collapsing, as they tumble into bankruptcy. Spending plans for after 2025 make the outlook even worse for all services, yet Tories clamour to use the £13bn the Treasury gains from extra tax receipts owing to inflation for tax cuts. That's a "fiscal illusion", says the Resolution Foundation, since it's needed to cover inflation in all departments; or else yet deeper spending cuts will have to be made.

Expect some sensible measures: reform of feudal leaseholds (watered down) and a renters bill to end no-fault evictions (but not solving an impossible court case backlog). A for ever smoking ban, in which the legal age will be raised by a year, every year, is the one policy Sunak can genuinely call "long-term" for the next 70 years. Anti-terror security for venues may come with the draconian banning of speech that "undermines" British values, one of which is free speech. A crime and justice bill extending whole-life sentences and jailing shoplifters will add to overflowing prisons. The Mail on Sunday got a tasty morsel with a "new law to crack down on airlines' sneaky add-on charges", while the Sun got "cops to be handed powers to bust into

phone thieves' homes without a search warrant".

The rest will be "traps" for Labour, notably increasing North Sea oil drilling. Is Rishi Sunak's anti-green, anti-rail, anti-Ulez, pro-car, pro-oil posturing a winner? Planet-boiling indifference is not "long-termism", while voters will see weaponising the climate as political cynicism: drivers also worry about fires and floods. A bill banning councils from boycotting other countries, actions often targeted at Israel, may taunt Labour, as may Michael Gove's ban on four-day weeks for council workers regardless of staff retention. His threats to council CEOs earning £100,000 are a useless decoy to explain council bankruptcies. These aren't even "sticking plaster" policies for any of the country's critical injuries. Sunak licenses Suella Braverman as his outsider from hell to propose random cruelties. But are there really enough people who want to rip the tents off homeless people to force them to change their "lifestyle choices"? Enough who want even harsher disability tests to drive people into jobs, when the UK has the longest working hours in Europe, according to a Fabian report this week? Or enough who want to put benefits yet again, despite rising poverty?

Showing the "true Tory Rishi" is reportedly No 10's plan. But that's the true Tory chuckling along with Elon Musk about AI killing off everyone's jobs. Focus groups discussing that event last week were

shocked, say Labour researchers: people saw mega-rich Sunak on another planet from those struggling to pay bills, as he told Musk he wanted people to be risk-takers "unafraid to give up the security of a regular pay cheque". Sunak has sunk too far for any revival, when everything he does only confirms a settled public opinion. Watch Labour sidestep this ragbag of gestures as it enters its third stage on Keir Starmer's long march. Stage one was remaking the party. Stage two confronted a flailing government with a trustworthy shadow cabinet. Now is the stage for laying out Labour's own programme. His own and his frontbenchers' conference speeches were policy-rich compared with the government's thin offerings: doubters should peruse Labour's growing menu. Housing and building, new towns and green investment are centre-pieces, with insourcing public services and employment rights in the first 100 days to end the Dickensian gig era.

No 10's "red meat" to entice undecideds looks pretty rancid. Everyone sees where the Tory party is heading, with 70% of its members telling Conservative Home they want Nigel Farage let in. It will be no surprise if those who elected Boris Johnson and Liz Truss choose Farage next. Nothing in Sunak's leadership nor in his meagre prospectus leads his party away from this abyss; nothing to compare with Starmer leading his party out of its own electoral no man's land.

The Guardian



Withdrawal of gas and electricity prices demanded

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Industrialists have termed the recent increase in gas and electricity prices, including collection of fixed charges as unconstitutional and unfair and urged the government to withdraw its decision to safe industries of KP from further destruction, which had adversely affected by the terrorism and coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

The manufacturers demanded the property tax exemption should be extended till the formation of the next government while keeping in view the current economic, business and industrial slowed down.

The industrialists also emphasized to ensure timely provision of all financial resources from the approved a dedicated police station in Hayatabad Industrial Estate Peshawar.

According to a press release issued here on Wednesday, a high-level delegation of industrialists headed by the president of

Industrialists Association Peshawar, Ayub Zakori held a meeting with the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, at the Governor House.

During the meeting, the president of the association explained in detail the concerns of the factory owners regarding these above mentioned matters and issues.

The delegation consisted of former Presidents Riaz Arshad, Malik Niaz Ahmed, and Secretary General Muqtasid Ahsan, Executive members Farhad Asfandiyar, Junaid Altaf, Secretary Wasiullah and member Faisal Shah and others.

Ayub Zakori, the association president while speaking during the meeting said that KP has first right to utilize its gas, electricity and other natural resources under Article 158-A of the constitution of the country.

However, he said gas and electricity were provided to people and business community of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on exorbitant rates, besides electricity

fixed charges are also collected from them, which is completely contrary to the above mentioned article of the constitution and tantamount to usurping constitutional rights of the province, which is unbearable and unacceptable.

The IAP chief urged the government to withdraw the recent massive increase in gas and electricity prices immediately so that businesses and industries in the province flourished that would also generate further employment opportunities in the province.

Former Vice President SCCI Junaid Altaf raised the issue and hurdles faced by local pharmaceutical industries in getting registration from the Afghan government for exports of medicine to Afghanistan.

He also requested the governor to honour KPK pharmaceutical association in award distribution ceremony among pharmaceutical industries and health department officials for their services to the sector.

Ayub Zakori also

demanding to extend the exemption of property tax till the formation of the next government.

On the occasion, IAP chief also conveyed reservations of business community, especially industrialists regarding issuance of challans as per section 9 of EOBI despite the stay order and the direction of the superior court.

After a detailed discussion, the Governor Haji Ghulam Ali fully said resolution of the problems of the business community and industrialists was essential for the promotion of continuous economic activities.

The Governor assured that efforts would be made to solve problems on priority basis.

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali on this occasion agreed to make joint efforts for the immediate solution of the problems of the business community, however, he emphasized the need for forging unity among the traders community in this regard.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad presiding over a meeting of SIFC Working Group.

Rupee sheds 50 Paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday witnessed 50 paise depreciation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 286.89 against the previous day's closing at Rs 286.39.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 286.5 and Rs 289 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 21 paise to close at Rs 306.00 against the last day's closing of Rs 306.21, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged as it closed at Rs 1.90; whereas a decrease of Rs1.06 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs351.47 as compared to the last closing of Rs352.53.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 14 and 13 paise to close at Rs78.11 and Rs76.47 respectively.

SIFC Working Group: Fawad chairs first meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad on Wednesday chaired the first meeting of SIFC Working Group to discuss impediments in the development of special economic zones (SEZs) with the objective of fast-tracking industrialization. The meeting was attended by all stakeholders in the provincial governments and their industrial zone authorities, an official press release said.

The Additional Secretary of Board of Investment and Director General of Special Economic Zones highlighted the major impediments faced by existing ones and the framework requirements of future SEZs, including the development of a 'One Stop Shop' facilitation.

The forum discussed the limitations of the concept of 'One Stop Shop' and pointed out the need of a mutual agreement between the federal and provincial governments for a development framework based on international best practices and standards, with a legal mandate in the constitutional scheme.

The issues of identification and allotment of land, cost competitiveness, provision of utilities, human resource constraints and consistency of policies were also discussed.

It was agreed that based on the key takeouts of the meeting a working paper containing solutions and a clear roadmap for future would be circulated for the second and final meeting of the Working Group to be held next week.

SNGPL disconnected 97 connections, fine imposed

F.P. Report

LAHORE: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 97 connections while 286 under billing cases processed and imposed fine Rs 8.07 million.

In Lahore, the regional team disconnected 12 connections on illegal use of gas and another 5 on use of compressor and 58 under billing cases have been processed. The team also imposed fine of Rs 2.45 million against gas theft and under billing cases.

In Bahawalpur the company disconnected 3 connections on the use of compressor.

The regional team in Multan disconnected 1 connection on illegal use of gas while another two on the use of compressor, 105 under billing cases have

been processed. The team imposed fine of Rs 0.18 million against gas pilfers.

In Peshawar and Karak, the company disconnected 37 connections on account of direct use of gas and illegal use of gas and amount of Rs 1.18 million against gas theft and lodged 1FIR against gas thief.

In Rawalpindi the regional team disconnected 2 gas connections on illegal use.

In Mardan 30 under billing cases have been processed while 0.05 million amount booked against under billing cases.

The regional team in Islamabad disconnected 6 connections on illegal use of gas.

The team in Gujranwala 2 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas while, another one on the use of compressor. The team also imposed fine of Rs 0.42 million against gas pilfers.

In Sahiwal, three con-

nections were disconnected on illegal use of gas and one on compressor use and Rs 0.08 million have been booked against gas theft.

In Faisalabad 8 under billing cases processed and 2 connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas and amount of Rs 0.16 booked against gas pilfers.

In Sheikhpura disconnected 20 connections on illegal use of gas while 41 under billing cases processed.

The team booked amount of Rs 2.97 as against gas theft and under billing cases.

The regional team in Sargodha 36 under billing cases have been processed while Rs 0.10 fine imposed against under billing cases.

The team in Sialkot imposed fine of Rs 0.03 against gas pilfers.

In Gujarat 8 under billing cases have been processed and Rs 0.45 booked against under billing cases.

Chairman TEVTA visited SCCI

SIALKOT (APP): Chairman Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Brigadier (Retd) Muhammad Sajid Khokhar visited Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Abdul Ghafoor Malik, SVP SCCI Wahab Jahangir and VP SCCI Amer Majeed Sheikh welcomed the distinguished guests.

During an important meeting held here the promotion of technical and vocational education was discussed.

On this occasion, the President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik paid tribute to the Provincial Secretary Industry Ehsan Bhatta for the successful organization of the TEVTA Jobs Affair organized by TEVTA in 2023 and said that he played an important role in meeting the shortage of skilled manpower in the industry by conducting technical and vocational education.

President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik said that the non-availability of workers in industrial fields was having a very negative impact on the country's economy.

In such a situation, the TEVTA Authority should introduce specific technical courses so that the graduating students can prove useful for the local industry.

President SCCI further said that for the development of the country's economy, there was a dire need of strong communication, skilled worker, computer literate, sports and fashion wear, skilled people in sewing and embroidery, pattern master, leather polishers in field for leather industry.

He said that in reality, many workers who come to the industries to get jobs are lacking the ability to work in factories and factories with modern technology and high skills.

The Chairman appreciated Director TEVTA Tahir Mehmood for his services to the business community of Sialkot and Narowal and thanked him for his close association with Sialkot Chamber.

PSX witnesses bullish trend with gain of 525 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 525.70 points, a positive change of 0.98 percent, closing at 54,261.43 points against 53,735.73 points the previous day.

A total of 482,744,893 shares valuing Rs20.129 billion were traded during the day as compared to 506,075,439 shares valuing Rs18.259 billion the previous day.

As many as 374 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 234 of them recorded gains and 118 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 22 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading

companies were Pak Refinery with 40,299,656 shares at Rs.22.68 per share, Cnergyco PK with 38,445,342 shares at Rs.4.31 per share and Hum Network with 31,180,500 shares at Rs.6.72 per share.

Unilever Foods witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.1,179.00 per share price, closing at Rs.23,400.00, whereas the runner-up was Pak Suzuki with a Rs.30.46 rise in its per share price to Rs436.53.

Sapphire Tex witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.88.49 per share closing at Rs1,101.01, followed by Indus Motor CoXD with a Rs.56.63 decline to close at Rs1,022.58.

Gold rates up by Rs.200 to Rs.214,200 per

tola: The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.200 and was sold at Rs.214,200 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 214,000 on the last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.172 to Rs.183,642 from Rs.183,470 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.168,338 from Rs168,181, 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 remained constant at \$1,988, the Association reported.

Regional exports increased

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's exports to the seven regional countries witnessed an increase of 3 percent in the first quarter of the fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding months of last year. The country's exports to the regional countries including Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and the Maldives account for a small amount of \$981.410 million, which is 13.98 percent of Pakistan's overall exports of \$7018.956 million during July-September (2023-24), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

China tops the list of countries in terms of Pakistan's exports to its neighbouring, leaving behind other countries such as Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Discovery Garden project: Falaknaz Group initiates construction work



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Falaknaz Group has been associated with the real estate industry since 1975. The purpose of Falaknaz Group is to enhance the quality of life

and equip projects with modern amenities.

The Discovery Garden holds great importance in Falaknaz projects.

Falaknaz Group has initiated the construction work for their Discovery Garden

project.

This initiative is reinforced by the recent inauguration of Falaknaz Group's new office in Karachi, strategically designed to furnish comprehensive project information.

European stocks drift as traders weigh earnings, rates outlook

LONDON (AFP/APP): Asian and European stocks struggled Wednesday as investors digested a barrage of company results and assessed the US Federal Reserve's interest rate plans, while oil plummeted more multi-month lows on energy demand worries.

London stocks edged higher, aided partly by a ten-percent surge in retail stalwart M&S after it announced bumper profits and a return to the first shareholder dividend in four years.

Paris also rose with lender Credit Agricole jumping two percent after logging a solid third-quarter performance, but Frankfurt flatlined with

Commerzbank falling 2.5 percent despite lifting its annual guidance and posting rising quarterly profit.

"European markets are hovering around the flatline as investors digest a slew of earnings reports," said Victoria Scholar, head of investment at trading firm Interactive Investor.

Oil prices sank to levels last seen in July on heightened demand fears arising from the weak global economy.

Crude had already plunged about four percent the previous day on news that China's exports fell at a faster pace than predicted in October. That stoked fresh concern over its appetite for energy.

"Oil prices tumbled head over heels," noted analyst Stephen Innes at SPI Asset Management.

"This sharp decline was primarily driven by concerns about the outlook of global demand due to weak data points from China and other economies."

Asian stock markets meanwhile wobbled Wednesday with US monetary policy is in focus after the US central bank hinted last week at no more tightening.

However, Fed officials refuse to commit one way or the other for now, instead saying they want to see more evidence that inflation is on a true downward slope and the labour market

has softened enough.

Data on Friday that showed jobs creation was slowing -- but not too much to cause worry about the economy -- instilled confidence the Fed was on course to deliver a soft landing for the economy and avoid a recession.

Chicago Fed boss

Austan Goolsbee gave little

away Tuesday, saying he

was lasing in on getting

control of prices.

"We've got to get inflation

down -- that's the number-one thing," he told

CNBC. "I'm absolutely

hammering that's what we

should be watching." He

added that it was looking

possible to do that without

hurting the economy.

Loss-making SOEs: ICCI demands privatization

ISLAMABAD (APP): President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Wednesday leading a delegation, met with the Irfan Siddiqui, Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training and discussed with him the contours of a future economic policy for the country.

Senior Vice President, Faad Waheed, Engineer Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari Former President and Secretary General UBG Pakistan and Rizwan Chheena Executive Member ICCI included in the delegation.

Addressing the delegation, the Senator that the business community was the major stakeholder in the development of the economy and he would raise their key issues at every relevant forum for their redressal.

He welcomed the proposals of the delegation for future economic policy, promoting entrepreneurship among the youth to make them skilled and professional and assured that the proposals would be discussed in the committee meetings so that they could be considered for implementation.

He also appreciated the

suggestions of the delegation

to make the manifesto of PML-N business friendly

and assured that if PML-N

comes to power, it will take

measures to facilitate them

in business development.

Speaking on the occasion,

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari urged the govern-

ment to urgently privatize

all loss-making SOEs

including PIA, Pakistan Steel Mills and Pakistan Railways to reduce its fiscal deficit. He proposed that the government should work for the establishment of a common market of OIC, SAARC and Shanghai Cooperation Organization to promote regional trade.

He said that youth were the future of Pakistan, so it was necessary to adapt the educational curriculum according to the needs of the current age to prepare skilled and professional youth. It would improve their employ ability, promote business activities and put the economy on the path of sustainable development.

He said that the students joining organizations were found deficient in practical work, so he suggested that the university students should be bound to work as interns in the industries in the last year of their education program to gain practical experience and play an active role in the development of industrial sector.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI, said that the current tax system was quite complex due to which new taxpayers were not motivated, so he emphasized the need to bring necessary reforms in the tax system to expand the tax net.

Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI highlighted the importance of the construction industry in the development of the economy, which was currently facing many problems. He shared useful suggestions to provide better incentives to the construction sector for its better growth.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, MSC Jemima, Sun Flower, Hoanh Son Planet and SG Pigasus, scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Canola Seed and Palm oil, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Grain Terminal and Liquid Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile another bulk carrier 'Pacific Pride' also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port on same day.

A total of seven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a gas carrier 'Hania Prestige' left the Port on today morning, while three more ships, Discovery, MSC Jemima and Wide Alpha are expected to sail on today afternoon.

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SANA AFZAL C.J-V KOHAT, Suit no.267/1, Date of hearing, 05-12-2023, Titled:- Khayat Noor Vs Islam Muhammad Notice against- (3)Noor Das Son of Ali Badshah (14)Rayat Shah Son of Muhammad Shah R/o Darshah Khel District Kohat presently R/o(Now in Abroad) (Defendants) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a civil suit against you Defendants in which date of hearing 05-12-2023 is fixed for your appearance Since your intimation/ service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you Defendants is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 05-12-2023 otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law order Issued on 03-11-2023 (Court of C.J-V Kohat)

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF JUDGE FAMILY COURT KOHAT, Suit no 98/FC, Date of hearing 16-11-2023, Titled:- Maryam Bibi Vs Muhammad Waqas (etc) Notice against- (2)Fahad Son of Samiullah Khan R/o Babri Banda District Kohat presently R/o (now in Abroad Saudi Arabia) (Defendant) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a family suit of Dower(etc) against you defendant in which date of hearing 16-11-2023 is fixed for your appearance Since your intimation/ service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you defendant is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 16-11-2023 otherwise court shall be proceeded

in accordance with law order Issued on 17-10-2023 (Court of J.F.C Kohat)

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SADIA ALI CIVIL JUDGE -IV, BANNU, Suit No.184/1 institution 04.07.2023 Next date of hearing is 11.11.2023. Case title: Shakir Ullah Khan etc vs Banaras etc TO: Defendant No.02 Mr. Fazal Mamor Khan Son of Ghulam Sher Khan R/O Mumbai Barakzai Bannu presently abroad. The defendants are informed through this notice to appear in this court on 11.11.2023. After this no excuse would be accepted and ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. Given under my hand and seal of this court.

COURT NOTICE

IN the Court of Saima Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.18/1. Institution. 21/11/2023 Date of hearing. 28/11/2023.Mst Razia Begum VS Ehsan Ghani. Notice to no.1. Ehsan Ghani. 3.Imam Ghani. 4.Imran Ghani. 5.Ghufuran Ghani sons of Mohamad Ghani. 7.Mst Rokhla. 8.Mst. Zahida daughters of Mohamad Ghani residents of Hisar tehsel Daggar Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 28/11/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.



In brief

Otis to represent Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) on Wednesday said Otis Khan has received an official approval from FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for eligibility to represent Pakistan. This exciting development paves the way for Otis Khan a pivotal player within our national team, to be an integral part of our squad as he gears up to represent Pakistan in the forthcoming FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers, Round 2. Previously, the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) had already cleared Otis Khan for eligibility to represent Pakistan. The Pakistan Football Federation extends its gratitude to Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for their support in this matter.

PPC Markhor qualified F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: PPC Markhor defeated PPC Zalmi by eight wickets and qualified for the final of RMI Media Cricket League under the auspices of Peshawar Press Club. The final will be played on November 12 in which Markhor The competition will be with PPC fighters. Playing first in the second semi-final, Zalmi scored 117 runs for the loss of seven wickets in the allotted overs. Hamidne scored 16, Zowar scored 27, Sheikh and Iftikhar scored 13 and 13 respectively. On behalf of Makhoor, Irshad and Qari Gul Rehman scored two each while Shehzad, Arshad and Rizwan dismissed one player each. In response, Makhoor achieved the desired target at the loss of two wickets. Ajmal scored 56 runs and Yasir scored 31 runs. On behalf of Zalmi, Zowar and Asmat dismissed one player each. On this occasion, Tasyab Usman Awan, Giant Secretary of Peshawar Press Club, attended as a special guest. He was accompanied by other senior journalists, including Sports Committee Chairman Zafar Iqbal. PPC Markhor and PPC Fighters will be played on Sunday, November 12.

Pakistan Teq ball team F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan's Teq Ball team will participate in Teq Ball Championship to be held in Thailand from November 29 to December 4, 2023. Jalaluddin as captain and Hidayat-ur-Rehman as player and Shal Akbar reserve player will represent the country. Akhtar Rasool and Abu Bakkar would perform as Manager and Coach respectively. Teq ball game founder in Pakistan Mian Absar Ali, and Teq ball federation executive member from Sindh Nawaz Gazdar would also accompany the team. Pakistan team will participate in singles and doubles events, more than one hundred countries from all over the world would compete in the championship, an official of Pakistan Teq ball federation said. He informed that for the first an Asian country will host the teq ball event. Meanwhile, Senior Vice President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Teq ball Association, Zia Ul Haq, has lauded the squad and said that soon after the world championship, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa teq ball championship will be organized.



PUNE: Ben Stokes and Chris Woakes put on 129 runs for the seventh wicket, England vs Netherlands Mens ODI World Cup.

After Pakistan loss, New Zealand wary of World Cup dreams being washed away

BEGALURU (Agencies): New Zealand captain Kane Williamson insisted Wednesday his team will "focus on cricket" when they face a potentially make-or-break clash with Sri Lanka, struggling off fears that rain may return to wash away their World Cup dreams.

Williamson's team lost a rain-hit match at the same Bengaluru venue last weekend against Pakistan despite posting a mammoth 401. Pakistan won by 21 runs via the DLS method after scoring 200-1 in 25.3 overs, edging ahead on the required run rate when the game was halted due to the weather.

The defeat was a fourth successive loss for the Kiwis who had won their opening four games. New Zealand, runners-up in the last two editions of the

World Cup, are fourth in the table and need a win on Thursday to push their bid to secure a semifinal spot. A washout could open the door for either Pakistan or Afghanistan to leapfrog them and grab the remaining last-four place.

"There's lots of things that we can't control and the weather is one of those," Williamson told reporters on the eve of the game against 1996 champions Sri Lanka. "You mentioned that there might be some of it, there may be a thought in the back of your mind, but at the end of the day, our focus will be on the cricket that we want to play and trying to put all our focus and energy into that."

Afghanistan and Pakistan have the same number of points as New

Zealand while India, South Africa and Australia have already sealed semifinal places.

Williamson returned in the previous match after recovering from a broken thumb to make a valiant 95 in a 180-run stand with Rachin Ravindra, who hit 108.

Lockie Ferguson, who has claimed eight wickets in five matches, missed the previous two games with an Achilles injury has now recovered to be available for selection. Williamson said Ferguson "balances out our attack nicely" but did not reveal the team for the all-important match.

Fast bowler Matt Henry was ruled out of the rest of the tournament last week with a torn hamstring and Kyle Jamieson has taken his place in the squad.

16th CNS Amateur Golf C'ship kicked off

ISLAMABAD (APP): The opening ceremony of the 16th Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Amateur Golf Cup 2023 was held at Margalla Greens Golf Club (MGGC) Islamabad on Wednesday.

The ceremony was attended by civil and military dignitaries, sponsors, golf players and media representatives. Commander North and Patron Pakistan Navy Golf (North) Commodore Khan Mahmood Asif, who graced the occasion as the chief guest, inaugurated the event. Briefing the media, he

said that the four-day event, taking place from November 9 to 12 would be conducted in various categories.

"The matches will be played in four major categories which include men amateurs (54 holes), women amateur (36 holes), seniors match (36 holes) and juniors match (18 holes)," he said. "In addition to main categories, an invitational match (09 holes) for the invited guests and sponsors will also be played," he added.

In 2007, Pakistan Navy instituted Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf

Cup at Islamabad to add a national level golf event in the calendar of Pakistan Golf Federation. Ever since, it has become a regular and major event of national golf circuit.

Such events provide a unique opportunity to showcase Pakistan's positive image to the world as a peace and sports loving nation. This also helps to generate healthy activities in the society. Regular conduct of this event is the manifestation of PN's commitment towards the promotion of golf at the national and international levels.

Pakistani Taekwondo athletes win medals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani players believe winning medals in the 5th Asian Open Taekwondo Championship at home was a very proud moment for them, saying more excellent results would be achieved in the future.

Shahzeb Khan, who won the gold medal for Pakistan in the Khyurogi event of the Asian Open Taekwondo Championship, said he has always fought in the field for the glory of Pakistan. My country is my identity, and winning the gold medal in the Asian Championship is a reason for me to be proud. It is an honour, and I have a new spirit after this win, he said.

"I had made special preparations for the biggest taekwondo event in Asia. My head coach, Master

Yusuf Karami from Iran, played an important role in my success," he added. Shahzeb Khan won the gold medal for Pakistan by defeating Riyad Hamidi of Saudi Arabia.

Naila Ali, the national gold medalist in the freestyle category of the Poomsae event, said the government and private institutions should encourage the athletes who win medals for Pakistan in international events.

If encouraged by them, more excellent results can be achieved in the future. I wish to increase the soft image of Pakistan as a Taekwondo player in the whole world, she said.

Gold medalist Ikhtshamul Haq, who defeated World No. 13

Michael Rodriguez of America in the 87kg final, said the experience of competing with international players in the event was wonderful.

In the future, I will play with the same zeal to win more medals and laurels for my country, he said.

Hamza Saeed, a silver medalist in the +87kg category, said winning medals in international events was very helpful in the development and promotion of sports in the country.

I am grateful to the Pakistan Taekwondo Federation for providing us with all the necessary facilities for the preparation of the championship, which is very helpful for the youth to achieve more success in the future, he said.

World Cup: Ben Stokes hits 108 to set up England win over Netherlands

PUNE (Agencies): Ben Stokes hit a superb century as England boosted their beleaguered World Cup campaign with a 160-run victory over the Netherlands in Pune.

The defending champions' hopes of progressing were already over but the result does improve their chances of qualifying for the 2025 Champions Trophy. Stokes hit 108 from 84 balls, his fifth one-day international century but first at a World Cup, to rescue England's batting line-up from more misery and drag them to 339-9.

Dawid Malan's 87 gave England a platform at 133-1 before a collapse - Malan, Joe Root, Jos Buttler, Harry Brook and Moeen Ali were all out in quick succession - had them teetering at 192-6 in the 36th over.

But Stokes, crucially dropped at fine leg on 42, powered on from a steady start in a partnership of 129 from 81 balls with Chris Woakes, who made an important 51.

The Netherlands' chase never got going after early blows by Woakes and David Willey. They were dismissed for 179 in 37.2 overs, with Willey taking 2-19, Moeen Ali 3-42 and Adil Rashid 3-54. England's second win in eight games lifts them from bottom of the table to seventh with one match to play - a meeting with Pakistan on Saturday.

They must finish in the top eight to make the Champions Trophy and, while victory in Kolkata would all but guarantee qualification, they could already have enough if other results go their way. Defeat here mathematically ended the Netherlands' chances of finishing in

the top four and they face leaders India in their final game on Sunday.

Stokes steps up yet again
Stokes will wonder why this innings, which included six fours and six sixes, could not have come sooner. England's hopes of reaching the semi-finals were effectively over long before Saturday's defeat by Australia confirmed their elimination.

Their talisman Stokes is also set to have surgery on his long-standing knee problem next week and England will be desperately grateful he resisted calls to return home early. They had never lost an ODI to the Netherlands but a shock looked not beyond possibility as wickets tumbled.

After reaching 50 in 58 balls, Stokes took just 20 balls to get to three figures in another display of power-hitting, as the Test captain targeted the leg side and the Netherlands lost their discipline, conceding 21 extras in total.

Having survived a close lbw review where he was deemed to have got a faint inside edge, Stokes took 23 from the 45th over bowled by spinner Aryan Dutt, including a head-high full toss that was flicked for six before banging the subsequent free hit over long-on. Stokes was eventually caught trying to hit out in the final over. The Netherlands are not the first team to struggle as he attacked and will not be the last.

More batting struggles elsewhere
England's misery in India has, on the whole, been caused by collapses with the bat. Stokes ensured their latest was not as damaging.

Malan capitalised on Dutch generosity with the new ball, driving

when the bowling regularly drifted too full, but fellow opener Jonny Bairstow failed again when he tried to flog off-spinner Dutt and was caught at deep square leg.

Root battled to 28, his highest score in six matches, before he was comically bowled through his legs trying to play a trademark reverse scoop to seamer Logan van Beek, who then ran out Malan an over later.

Brook, recalled for Liam Livingstone, made 11 before he skied a catch to deep mid-wicket, while Buttler's miserable spell continued as he chipped seamer Paul van Meekeren to mid-off for five. The England captain is averaging 13.87 in the tournament with a high score of 43.

Willey & Woakes impress

While the batting has struggled, England's bowling has at least improved in the past three games. Here, seamers Woakes and Willey found movement under the lights while the Netherlands were curiously tentative.

After opener Max O'Dowd hit Woakes into the hands of Moeen at mid-on and Colin Ackermann was caught behind for a duck off Willey, there was a run of 13 consecutive dot balls. The Dutch managed just 23 runs from the powerplay - the lowest return in the tournament so far.

Opener Wesley Barresi took 62 balls to make 37 and Sybrand Engelbrecht 49 for his 33. Captain Scott Edwards, who made 38, and Teja Nidamanuru, who finished unbeaten on 41, briefly held up England before spinners Moeen and Rashid ran through the rest of the order to complete the win.

Shubman Gill dethrones Babar to top ICC ODI Batting rankings

DUBAI (Monitoring Desk): Indian opening batter Shubman Gill has replaced Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam, ending his more than two-year reign at the top of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's ODI Batting Rankings.

Shubman Gill became the fourth Indian player to become the No. 1 ODI batter after Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli, on the back of his solid performance in the ongoing ICC World Cup 2023.

Meanwhile, Babar Azam has scored 282 runs from eight outings in the mega event and lost six rating points, hence slipping to the second position for the first time after occupying the top spot for more than two years. Shubman Gill has accumulated a total of 219 runs from six innings at the tournament including a 92 against Sri Lanka.

Overall, Indian players gained substantial rewards in the latest ICC Men's ODI Rankings, owing to India's undefeated run in the ICC World Cup 2023.

India's star batter Virat Kohli jumped three places to reach the fourth spot, with a difference of a mere one rating point from South African Quinton de Kock, who is ranked third.

Kohli is currently the second-highest run-getter in the ICC World Cup 2023 with 543 runs from eight innings, only behind De Kock, who has scored 550 runs in as many innings with four centuries.

India's Shreyas Iyer also made a big leap of 17 places to reach 18th position after amassing 293 runs from eight innings, while Pakistan opener Fakhar Zaman jumped three spots to 11th and Afghanistan's opener Ibrahim Zadran reached 12th after jumping six spots. Shubman Gill's opening partner and India's captain Rohit Sharma is placed at the sixth spot with 739 rating points.

On the other hand, the Indian bowlers also earned a place in the top ten of the ICC ODI Bowling Rankings, after wreaking havoc throughout the ICC World Cup 2023. Pace bowler Mohammed Siraj regained his top spot in the ICC ODI Bowling Rankings after jumping two spots, whereas fellow pacer Mohammed Shami climbed seven spots to tenth, after picking 16 wickets in four games in the tournament. Meanwhile, Kuldeep Yadav and Jasprit Bumrah gained three places to reach the fourth and eighth positions respectively. Pakistan's pace bowler, Shaheen Afridi, who became the number one ODI bowler last week, lost his place and slipped four places down to fifth position, equalling Australia's Josh Hazlewood with 658 rating points.

Humayun upset 4th seed Huzaima in ITF Pakistan Jrs Tennis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Unseeded Ahtesham Humayun upset fourth seed Huzaima Abdul Rehman in the boys Singles 2nd round of ITF Pakistan Juniors Leg-1 Tennis Championships 2023 in straight sets 6-2, 6-0 here at PTF-SDA Tennis Complex on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, in Girl's quarterfinals, unseeded Hinata Wada of Japan upset fourth seed Anastasia Melnikova of Russia in straight sets 7-5, 6-2.

In Boys Singles 2nd Round, Yoshito Oda (JPN) beat Zaidh Zihar (SRI) 6-3, 6-2; Ahtesham Humayun (PAK) beat Huzaima Abdul Rehman (PAK) 6-2, 6-0; Hamid Israr (PAK) beat Thanathip Poti (THA) 6-3, 6-2; Toki Adachi (JPN) beat Kashan Tariq (PAK) 6-1, 6-1.

In Girls Singles quarterfinals, Viktoriia Sedova (RUS) beat Senari Jayasinghe (SRI) 6-0, 6-0; Hinata Wada (JPN) beat Anastasia Melnikova (RUS) 7-5, 6-2; Saajida Razick (SRI) beat Saina Jayesh Vaidia (SGP) 6-1, 6-3; Phitchayapak Srimuk (THA) beat Aashnika Kasturi (AUS) 6-1, 6-1.

In Boys Doubles quarterfinals, Bilal Asim, Hamza Roman (PAK) beat M.Hamza Aasim, Muhammad Salar (PAK) 6-2, 6-3; Ahtesham Humayun, M. Haider Ali Rizwan (PAK) beat Shehryar Anees, Asad Zaman (PAK) 6-2, 6-4; Ahmed Nael Qureshi, Huzaima Abdul Rehman (PAK) beat Yoshito Oda (JPN), K a m o n p a n y a k o r n Thadapong (THA) 6-3, 7-

6(5); Toki Adachi (JPN), Thanathip Poti (THA) beat Abdul Basith Cader (SRI), Zaidh Zihar (SRI) 6-2, 7-5.

In Girls Doubles quarterfinals, Viktoriia Sedova (RUS), Hinata Wada (JPN) beat Soha Ali, Sheeza Sajid (PAK) 6-2, 6-3; Anna Ali Qayum (PAK), Saina Jayesh (SGP) beat Zainab Ali Raja, Fatima Ali Raja (PAK) 6-2, 6-0; Saajida Razick (SRI), Venuli Senari (SRI) beat Phitchayapak Srimuk (THA), Aashnika Kasturi (AUS) 6-4, 2-6(10-5).

A Large number of junior tennis players boys and girls from, Pakistan, Turkey, South Korea, Singapore, Australia, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Japan, Russia, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka were participating in the championships.

Pakistan Women A win the final of T20 tri-series by eight wickets



F.P. Report

LAHORE : Pakistan Women A defeated West Indies Women A by eight wickets to win the final of the T20 tri-series held on 8 November at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. Opening batter Shawaal Zulfiqar, who remained unbeaten on 39, was crucial to Pakistan Women A's chase after they restricted the visitors for 97 in the first innings.

Pakistan Women A won the toss and invited West Indies Women A to bat first. The visitors scored 97-6 in the allotted 20 overs. Opening batter Qiana Joseph (35, 39b, 5x4s) was the top run-getter for the side. Skipper Rashada Williams also chipped in with 18 from 26 deliveries, including one boundary.

Qiana and Rashada's partnership was broken by Omaima Sohail, who dismissed the former. Shabika Gajani (10, 12b, 2x4s), who had retired hurt earlier in the innings, returned to the

crease after the first wicket fell. Zaida James also contributed 12 from 18 including two boundaries, at the back-end of their innings.

The Rameen Shamim-led spin attack was responsible for restricting the visitors to a low total despite a solid start to their innings. Rameen and fellow off-spinner Omaima both took two wickets at the expense of 17 runs each. Left-arm spinners Saima Malik and Anosha Nasir also returned with a wicket apiece.

The home side cruised to the target in just 15.5 overs, losing only two wickets in the process. Although Shawaal lost her partner Eymaan Fatima (5, 11b, 1x4) early in the innings, the right-handed batter carried the innings to take her team over the line. She hit 39 from 38 deliveries, including four boundaries.

She was supported by Gull Feroza, who produced a run-a-ball 23 including three fours, and Omaima, who remained undefeated

at 20 from 23, including a boundary. Cherry-Ann Fraser and Qiana were the only two wicket-takers for West Indies Women A, getting one each.

Pakistan Women A will now play two T20 matches against Thailand Women Emerging, scheduled for 10 and 11 November.

Scores in brief

Pakistan Women A beat West Indies Women A by eight wickets

West Indies Women A 97-6, 20 overs (Qiana Joseph 35, Rashada Williams 18; Omaima Sohail 2-17, Rameen Shamim 2-17, Saima Malik 1-15, Anosha Nasir 1-21) Pakistan Women A 99-2, 15.5 overs (Shawaal Zulfiqar 39 not out, Gull Feroza 23, Omaima Sohail 20 not out; Cherry-Ann Fraser 1-14, Qiana Joseph 1-19)

Player of the match - Omaima Sohail (Pakistan Women A)

Player of the series - Shawaal Zulfiqar (Pakistan Women A)



In brief

IRSA releases 112,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) released 112,500 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 53,300 cusecs on Wednesday. The data released by IRSA stated that the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1516.94 feet and was 118.94 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 27,600 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1195.25 feet, which was 145.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 8,200 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 70,400, 39,000, 37,600 and 7,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Six new Covid cases across country reported

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health officials on Wednesday said that six new coronavirus cases were reported during the last week across the country. As per data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.16 percent while no patient was in critical condition. No death was reported from the coronavirus while 3,674 Covid-19 tests were conducted. Meanwhile, the official of the Ministry for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination said that the government had strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19. He said there was a surveillance system at all entry points of the country, including airports. There would be rapid tests and screening of passengers at all airports. He added 90 percent of the country's population already got the Covid-19 vaccine.

Painting Competition

RAWALPINDI (APP): Punjab Arts Council (PAC) on Wednesday organized a painting competition on the occasion of Iqbal Day under the title of "Mojza-e-Fun". Naheed Manzoor and Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed were the chief guests at the prize distribution ceremony. Students from Rawalpindi Women's University, Fatima Jinnah University, Iqra University, University of Wah and Arts Council participated in the painting competition. Faiqa Saeed, Ayesha Aslam, Nimra Zia, and Umm Ayman respectively won first, second, third and fourth prizes in the competition respectively. Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Naheed Manzoor said that Allama Iqbal's message was not only for the Muslims of the subcontinent but for the whole Islamic world. He was well aware of the key role of the youth in Islam and through poetry he encouraged the young generation to be open-minded, eloquent and kind. She said that the youth's role was key in dealing with the current challenges faced by the Islamic world and they should play their primary role in taking the nation to new heights by becoming "Shaheen of Iqbal". Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that studying Iqbal's personality requires intellectual thought.



ISLAMABAD: A group of students and faculty members of Government boys school Bhunat Islam Nagar, Bagh Azad Kashmir visiting senate museum at Parliament House.

'Iqbal's doctrine of self-reliance, self determination for progress'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Raja Pervez Ashraf Wednesday said that Pakistan can achieve sustainable progress by embracing Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal's doctrine of self-reliance and self-determination.

He said this while paying deep respect to Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal on the eve of his 146th birth anniversary through a message. The Speaker noted that Iqbal not only envisioned a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent but also provided a blueprint for the nation's enduring growth and development through his philosophy of "Self" (khudi).

He was a visionary leader with the ability to see beyond surface-level phenomena and discern underlying events as they unfolded. Raja Pervez also recalled Iqbal's staunch support for the Palestinian cause. He vigorously rejected Zionist claims to Palestinian territory and emphatically opposed the establishment of a Jewish homeland at the expense of the Palestinians.

Iqbal also posed the question, "If Jews have a right to the land of Palestine, why do Arabs not have a claim to Spain"? He urged the Muslim Ummah to unite and exert every

effort to safeguard Islam and Muslims worldwide.

The Speaker emphasized that the eminent philosopher and thinker, through his poetry and speeches, stirred the conscience of Muslims. He motivated them to reclaim their lost glory through dedication, commitment and unity.

Iqbal placed special emphasis on the youth and placed his hopes in them to instigate positive change within society.

"Iqbal's message of love, hope, and unity was universal. Let us adhere to his principles both in words and deeds to tackle the challenges confronting our nation", he said.

Chinese Ambassador calls on Jamal Shah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong met with the Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah and discussed mutual interest issues particularly cultural relations between Pakistan and China.

In a meeting with Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of China, Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah discussed exchange and cooperation in Heritage, Art, Culture, Education, capacity building of our Museums and the promotion of the game of football in Pakistan particularly focus in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During the meeting, they also discussed the second China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Cultural Caravan 2024, digitizing and 3D scanning of Archeological sites and artifacts, and innovation in the IT sector remained the main focus of the meeting.

The Federal Minister said that Pakistan and China should collaborate in all fields of art and cultural heritage as there lies huge scope, adding that it will further strengthen people-to-people ties between the two friendly nations. The minister also discussed his China recent Tour and meetings with the officials of cultural departments and Museums of China.

CPO chairs meeting to review crime situation

RAWALPINDI (APP): A meeting here on Thursday was held here under the chair of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani to review the crime situation in the city.

SSP Operations Faisal Saleem, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan, Divisional SPs, Senior Traffic Officers, SDPOs, SHOs, and other officers attended the meeting. During the meeting, the CPO reviewed the performance of concerned officers in preventing motorcycle theft and their efforts in combating drug abuse.

He instructed the Divisional SPs to identify crime hotspots and develop a coordinated strategy for crime prevention. While commending the police teams for reducing vehicle theft incidents, he emphasized the need to further improve the performance and launch of effective search operations against the criminal elements.

Gaza, not an issue of Palestinians, Arabs but humanity: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Representative to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi Wednesday said Gaza was not an issue of Palestine or Arab nations but it was pertaining to the entire humanity. Addressing a conference on Palestine organized by Human Rights Council of Pakistan here at Allama Iqbal Open University, he asked the world what was done by the innocent children of Gaza as more than 3,500 children had been murdered in Israeli aggression since October 7. Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council said Israeli brutalities had taken the lives of more than 11,000 people in Palestine and Gaza.

He unveiled the Israeli sinister design of expansion being executed to forcefully evacuate Palestinian people from the Gaza Strip and translate their dream into reality.

He urged the people to raise their voices against this brutal act of Israel with all possible resources being within the constitutional domain.

He said, "We must expose the real face of those who used to highlight the rights of pet animals, now they were giving logic on the massacre of innocent children."

He said those who used to express pain for the rights of women in Pakistan, were expressing happiness on the sad demise of a Palestinian girl who was laid to rest without a coffin.

He put a big question mark on the double standard of the international human rights organizations treating the Zionist-Jews as the only human beings and considering Palestinians as inhuman species.

Ashrafi said the anti-Muslim forces had designed a greater plan to create a division among the Muslim Ummah by fueling certain movements created in Libya, Iraq, Yemen and Syria so that nobody could speak up against this racism.

He said the entire Muslim Ummah was united on this stance that Palestine should be an independent and a sovereign state with its capital Al-Qudus.

He, giving food of thought, urged the audience to take the recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan in a broader perspective alleging that the latest weapons left by the United States in Afghanistan was being used in Mianwali, Peshawar, Mustang, and Gwadar. He categorically stated that it was not the matter of Shia and Sunni as Al-Aqsa belonged to Muslims and remained so. He mentioned that a certain picture was going viral on social media showcasing the territory of Palestine, Israel and other Arab countries making it clear that "every inch of Palestine belongs to Muslim."

He said all nefarious designs to dehousing the innocent people of Palestine would be countered accordingly and nobody could force them to flee from their territories. Ashrafi said Pakistan had a clear stance on Palestine as per the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the entire nation was standing by Palestinian people and committed to go with their decision whatsoever it could be taken in their larger interest.

He said Palestine and Kashmir were not issues of a nation, and a country but the entire Muslim Ummah expressing hope that their fate would be decided by them.

He said the important countries of Muslim world including Turkiye, Iran, Saudi Arab, Pakistan, Qatar, Kuwait, and Egypt were united at one page on the issue of Palestine.

He said such a unity on the issue of Palestine had never been witnessed in the past. He said on the issue of Gaza, the non-state actors tried their hardest to create a division among the Muslim Ummah through certain social media accounts being operated from India and Israel but their futile exercise went in vein. Ashrafi, extending a warm welcome to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) conference scheduled for November 11 to 12, underlined Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with the decisions made in these international forums. He said Pakistan's leadership would actively engage in the OIC conference, firmly expressing their support for the Palestinian cause.

E-bikes roll out slow as 2.6m fuel-based motorbikes entering market per year

ISLAMABAD (APP): The electric bikes that are eco-friendly and cost-efficient in terms of fuel efficiency and maintenance are facing resistance in the general public as fuel-based motorbikes are entering at a whopping number of 2.6 million a year.

A senior official of the Ministry of Climate Change told the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change here meeting told the forum that out of the total 2.6 million fuel-based bikes only 25,000 e-bikes were rolled out in the market. He added that the banking sector was also not cooperating in terms of issuing easy loans for buying e-bikes to public as they were autonomous and not bound to follow the recommendations of the Ministry.

He added that the masses had resistance to e-bikes because they had no sound and less seating capacity whereas an average household is accustomed to carry his or her five children and a bag flour simultaneously.

The official mentioned that almost 30 million motorbikes are registered in the country's transport sector which means that it caters some 150 million

keeping in view the average household size of five people.

Despite, these problems, he said the ministry was mulling over easy bankable solutions to switch to EV bikes. The Ministry of Climate Change official noted that a leading automobile manufacturing company equally famous for two and four wheelers is going launch its e-bikes that might help in achieving a major breakthrough.

He mentioned that for the success of EV transition elaborate charging infrastructure was necessary.

Islamabad admin intensifies crackdown on tinted glasses and fancy number plates

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Wednesday directed the magistrates and Excise & Taxation officers to take strict action against vehicles with tinted glasses and fancy number plates.

The ICT administration urged the citizens to remove illegal accessories to avoid penalties, ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said.

The crackdown is part of a broader effort to improve the city's aesthetics and ensure that all vehicles adhere to traffic rules and regulations.

"We will not tolerate vehicles with

illegal accessories," said Deputy Commissioner Islamabad. "We urge all citizens to remove these accessories from their vehicles to avoid penalties."

The joint operation of the Excise and Taxation Department and the Islamabad Transport Authority is continuing on a daily basis.

The crackdown has already resulted in the impoundment of several vehicles. "We are committed to making Islamabad a cleaner and more beautiful city," said Deputy Commissioner Islamabad. "We will continue to take strict action against those who disregard traffic rules and regulations."

ANF seizes over 286 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations across the country managed to recover over 286 kg of drugs and arrested nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that in an operation, 22.8 kg hashish and 9.6 kg opium were recovered from a truck near Sangiani Toll Plaza Islamabad.

Two accused residents

of Nowshera who were trying to smuggle drugs were arrested during the operation. In another operation, 202.8 kg hashish concealed in fuel tank of a truck was recovered near Sher Shah Toll Plaza Multan. Two accused residents of Sora Khyber were arrested on the spot. In third operation, 16.8 kg hashish and 31.2 kg opium were recovered from a car intercepted near Millat Chowk, Faisalabad. During the operation, two

accused residents of Jhang and Faisalabad were rounded up. In the fourth operation, three suspects who were going on a motorcycle were arrested from the Sadaqat Hotel area on GT Road, Nowshera. 3.6 kg of hashish was recovered from their possession. Separate cases have been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act while further investigations are under process.

Famous film actor Darpan remembered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned film actor Syed Ishrat Abbas popularly known as Darpan was remembered on the occasion of his death anniversary here on Thursday. Born in 1928 in the United Provinces of India he was considered as one of the original romantic heroes of the "Golden Age" of Pakistan's film industry.

His elder brother, Santosh Kumar, was also a film actor whereas his younger brother, S. Suleman, was a film director.

Darpan was introduced in the film "Amanat" in 1950 and went on to feature

in the Pakistani Punjabi film "Billo" in 1951. After a few years, he acted in "Baap Ka Gunah" (1957). He had a breakthrough with his self-produced film "Sathi".

"Raat Ke Rahi" (1960), "Saheli", "Gulfam", "Qaidi", "Anchal", "Baji", "Shikwa", "Ik Tera Sahara" and "Naela" (1965) were some big films in which he played vital roles. Critics applauded his lead role performance back in Pakistan's film "Saheli" (1960) in which he starred alongside Nayyar Sultana and Shamim Ara.



ISLAMABAD: Artists performing traditional dance during "Folk Festival Lok Mela" at Lok Virsa.

ARCS to treat 72 patients

KABUL (BNA): The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) has introduced 72 ailing children to the German Peace Village charity for treatment. The ARCS office, the organization is committed to providing access to humanitarian services, including medical services, to the public through all possible means. In a separate initiative, the ARCS also introduced 74 children suffering from severe burn and bone diseases to the German Peace Village Charity for treatment.

University offers scholarships

KABUL (BNA): Mirwais Nika Private University in Kandahar offering scholarships to Afghan youths returning from Pakistan, according to a report from the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriates. The ministry has signed MoU with the university to provide educational opportunities for these returnees. The university will offer 70 full scholarships in medicine, economics, and law to young returnees, and an 80% discount on tuition fees for all other returning applicants.

IEA hoping to top \$10b in trade volume



TEHRAN (Ariana News): Acting Minister of Commerce and Industry says that they are trying to increase the volume of trade between Afghanistan and Iran to the value of \$10 billion dollars in the next few years.

Nuruddin Azizi, who is part of the Afghanistan delegation in Iran, emphasized in a conversation with the Iranian media that both countries have the capacity to expand their economic relations and increase the volume of trade.

"Of course, the capacities that Afghanistan has and the capacities that are available in both countries, we want to increase Afghanistan's trade up to \$10 billion dollars in the next few years, as I said in my previous interviews,

there is capacity on both sides, especially mineral resources, agriculture and industrial programs that we have in Afghanistan. Afghanistan has the ability to trade with Iran up to 10 billion dollars," said Azizi.

At the same time, Mohammad Mehdi Jawanmard, an advisor to the Iranian president's special envoy for Afghanistan, says that Iran wants to expand economic ties with Afghanistan. He also said that the culmination of the delegation's visit to Iran will see both sides signing a number of memorandums of understanding to expand commercial and economic relations.

"Iran does not want to import raw natural resources from Afghanistan to Iran. We made this under-

standing with the Afghan side to the extent that it can be processed in Afghanistan and the final product transferred. We want to expand our commonalities and economic infrastructure, and they will visit different places during this trip, and finally the memorandums of understanding will be signed by Mr. Mullah Baradar (the IEA's deputy prime minister of economic affairs) and Mr. Kazemi Qomi (Iran's special envoy to Afghanistan)," said Mohammad Mehdi Jawanmard, an advisor to the Iranian president's special envoy for Afghanistan.

Azizi meanwhile also emphasized the expansion of border cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan and added that in future they will try to establish a common border market between both countries so that the people of both sides can benefit from each other's industry and skills without obtaining a visa.

On the other hand, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and his accompanying delegation met with a number of Afghan businessmen and investors residing in Iran and assured them that the necessary facilities are available for them to come to Afghanistan and invest.

Deputy PM visits Afghan embassy

KABUL (BNA): Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, recently visited the Afghan Embassy in Tehran during his official visit to Iran.

According to a statement from the embassy, Baradar met with the leadership of the diplomatic mission.

The acting ministers of finance, industry and trade, transportation and aviation, who are accompanying the deputy prime minister, were also present at the meeting. Diplomats and officials from various departments of the embassy shared updates about their activities.

Mullah Baradar Akhund expressed satisfaction with the embassy's performance and emphasized the need for diplomats to diligently address the challenges faced by the large Afghan immigrant population in Iran.

In a separate event, the Deputy Prime Minister addressed a conference organized by Afghan investors residing in Iran. He urged all Afghan professionals, national businessmen, industrialists, and investors living abroad to return and invest in their home country.

UN's support for Afghans reiterated

KABUL (TOLOnews): The UN Deputy Secretary-General has asked for attention to and an assessment of the restrictions on women and girls in Afghanistan. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the International Conference on Women in Islam, Amina Mohammed said that investment in girls' education can ensure a bright future not only for girls but also for their respective families and neighborhoods.

"The Taliban's harsh restrictions and denial of divinely granted rights must be addressed as a matter of urgency. By investing in the education of our girls, we are not just uplifting individuals; we are securing a brighter future for our families, our sisters, communities, and neighborhood," said Amina Mohammed, the United Nations deputy chief.

Saudi Arabia's capital, Jeddah, is hosting the International Conference on Women in Islam and Indonesia's foreign minister, who is also taking part in the conference, said that the Asian Group asks the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to suspend engagement with Afghanistan as the country imposes restrictions on women and girls.

"The Asian Group calls on OIC ... to suspend the engagement in Afghanistan spearheaded by ulama's mission. We want access of women to education and all aspects of Afghan society. This will result in tremendous result for Afghanistan's recovery programs," said Retno Marsudi, Foreign Minister of Indonesia.

"The issue of human rights particularly, the rights of women, have been resolved. The rights that have been given to sisters in Islam and Sharia, are the best rights which have never been seen elsewhere. We do have some problems in some areas which have not been addressed but these are exceptions," said Zabiullah Mujahid, spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate.

Afghanistan is solely channeled through humanitarian partners on the ground.

Janez Lenarcic, Commissioner for Crisis Management, said: "The humanitarian needs of Afghan people remain very worrying, even more following the devastating earthquakes. The EU acted immediately after the disaster with a first emergency aid package, and now we add a substantial increase in funding to help the Afghan population still struggling in the affected areas but also across the country, as well as those that are still in Pakistan or returning."

EU releases 61m in aid for Afghanistan

KABUL (Ariana News): The EU has released 61 million (\$64 million) in humanitarian aid to address the needs of vulnerable people in Afghanistan, as well as refugees in neighboring Pakistan. A total of 60 million are allocated for humanitarian organizations working in Afghanistan and another 1 million, for those in Pakistan.

The new funding will help address the food crisis in Afghanistan, where nearly half of the population is acutely food insecure. It will also serve to cover other needs such as shelter, protection, health care,

nutrition and water and sanitation, notably for the population affected by the string of earthquakes that hit the west of the country in October.

Part of the funding will also support Afghan refugees returning to Afghanistan, prioritizing protection monitoring, and immediate support in host communities. This new assistance comes in addition to the nearly 94 million in humanitarian aid already allocated this year for Afghanistan, including the 4.5 million package approved following the recent earthquakes. EU humanitarian aid in

Female students sustain calls for access to schools



KABUL (TOLOnews): Female students above the 6th grade have once again expressed concerns about the lack of reopened schools in the country and asked the Islamic Emirate to reopen schools and universities for them as soon as possible.

The 19-year-old, who had dreamed of becoming a doctor for years, said that she was a 10th-grade student eight hundred days ago, and now, due to the continued closure of schools, she has turned to sewing.

"As I left school, all the dreams we had were destroyed, and now we don't dream of anything at all," said Malika, a student.

"My request to the Islamic Emirate is to give back the women's rights because men and women have equal rights to education," said Marwa, a student.

"We don't like the world to be just slogans, we want them to be with the people of Afghanistan and to pay attention to the demands of the government of the Islamic Emirate today so

that the doors that are closed to women today will be opened," said Tafseer Siyahposh, a women's rights activist.

But the Islamic Emirate said it will provide education and work for women.

"Nobody denies the education and work rights of females, but we need time and capacity building and opportunities," said Zabiullah Mujahid, spokesman of the Islamic Emirate.

Meanwhile, a senior United Nations official criticized the situation of girls and women, as well as their lack of right to work and go to school.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the American Embassy in Kabul emphasized the creation of educational and educational fields around the world and said that now is the opportunity to take a step towards a more educated world.

Majority of Afghan migrants expelled from Pakistan are children: UN Report

KABUL (Khaama Press): The United Nations Coordination Office for Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) has reported that over 20,000 Afghan migrants have returned to Afghanistan from the Turkham and Spin Boldak borders within just three days. According to OCHA, more than 60% of these returnees are children.

This organization, which is associated with the United Nations, has characterized the condition of the

migrants expelled from Pakistan as "heartbreaking" according to its recent evaluation.

The institution shared on the X social media platform that numerous Afghan migrants have been journeying during daylight hours and are uncertain about their return destinations.

The organization states that an urgent budget is required to assist migrants stranded at the border. Pakistan has been hosting millions of Afghan migr-

ants for several decades.

However, Pakistani authorities announced last month that due to increasing insecurity and the involvement of some Afghan nationals in cooperation with non-state armed groups and organizing attacks, undocumented migrants must return to their country.

It is estimated that around 1.7 million Afghans without valid residence documents live in Pakistan, and they are now at risk of

harassment, detention, and forced deportation to Afghanistan.

Despite the persistent calls from international organizations and human rights bodies to halt the mass deportation of Afghan refugees, Pakistan has intensified its efforts to apprehend and expel them.

Recent reports indicate that around 200,000 undocumented Afghan residents have already been sent back to their homeland from Pakistan.

Baradar urges Afghan refugees to return home



TEHRAN (Ariana News): Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the deputy prime minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), met with a number of Afghan investors based in Tehran and assured them of the Islamic Emirate's support.

He also called on them to return home. Baradar highlighted the improvement in security for Afghan citizens and businessmen since the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, which he said now allows them to conduct business safely.

Mullah Baradar also discussed the stabilization of the economic situation, citing the reduction of corruption and bureaucracy to facilitate investment.

He mentioned efforts to provide adequate electricity for industry, develop industrial parks, lower taxes on raw materials, and initiate highway reconstruction for improved trade, the support for domestic products through increased import taxes on items Afghanistan

produces and the promotion of Afghan products at exhibitions.

Baradar noted that foreign investors, such as Turkish, Iranian, Arab, and British companies, are engaging in mining contracts and that a dedicated committee involving relevant ministries and agencies was formed under the deputy prime minister's office so as to streamline the investment process and minimize bureaucracy.

"Security threats, corruption, and drug-related issues have been addressed, and the focus is on cultivating wheat, cotton, and other agricultural products," Baradar told investors.

He also stressed the importance of investing in essential sectors like food production, medicine, energy, mining, agriculture, transportation, infrastructure, communication, and health.

He called upon all Afghans, regardless of ethnicity or language, to contribute to the country's development, urging

Afghan experts, national businessmen, industrialists, and investors worldwide to invest in various sectors.

He reminded them of their responsibility to help their homeland thrive, emphasizing the rich potential of Afghanistan. He encouraged Afghan investors living abroad to seize the current opportunity to contribute to their country's recovery after four decades of hardship and conflict.

At the end of the meeting, Baradar said that honor and respect is given at home and raised the issue of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and how they are being treated.

He told the investors at the meeting that it would be better if they returned to their homeland with honor and dignity. Baradar also toured a technology exhibition. Joining him were Ruhollah Dehghani Firouz Abadi, Iran's Vice President for Science and Technology, and several other officials

from both nations.

In his address at the exhibition, Baradar acknowledged Iran's historical cooperation with Afghanistan and praised its remarkable technological progress even in challenging circumstances.

He expressed the desire for Iran to offer educational opportunities in technology and engineering to Afghan students, a step toward resolving issues in this field.

He also noted Afghanistan's past potential for technical education, which has been hindered by the four-decade-long conflict but now stands as a focus for the Islamic Emirate's leadership, working to provide educational and developmental opportunities for Afghan youth in technology and engineering.

Vice President Ruhollah Dehghani Firouz Abadi, responsible for technology in Iran, assured Baradar of Iran's readiness to collaborate with Afghanistan in the realm of technology.

Kabul factory owners announce support for returning refugees

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Kabul Pul-e-Charkhi Industry Association has announced its support for the Afghan migrants deported from Pakistan.

The general head of the association said that for the return of immigrants, all the unions of manufacturing factories in the country are ready to recruit workers from among the immigrants.

"It's not the responsibility of the Islamic Emirate, it is also our responsibility to help our people and provide work for them and solve their challenges," said the head of the association, Abdul Jabbar Safai.

"The big challenge that we -- the government and refugees face -- is lack of work," said Shaber Bashiri, an official of the association. Some officials of the Association of Industrialists still want the Islamic Emirate to provide the necessary facilities inside the country for the immigrants who have manufacturing factories in Pakistan.



"Those of our businessmen and industrialists who have now invested in Pakistan and have Pakistani citizenship, their process will continue, it is time for them to transfer their investment to the country," said Abdul Baseer Turki, an official of the association.

"For those of our brothers

who suffered and worked in the neighboring countries until today, and their properties and money were taken from them today, and they are forcibly sent to Afghanistan empty-handed, we call on our industrialists to help them," said Najibullah Sediqi, deputy of the association.

While the Islamic Emirate talked about the efforts to help and settle the emigrants deported from Pakistan in their own areas, according to published statistics, nearly 200,000 emigrants have been deported from Pakistan and many of them complain about their difficult living conditions.

Farzaneh breaks barriers with online education initiative

KABUL (Khaama Press): Farzaneh Motamedi, a resilient teenager, has refused to succumb to the prohibition of girls' education. In defiance of this exclusion, she has pioneered online English language classes. Currently, she teaches English to over 50 underprivileged girls deprived of formal education.

Farzaneh was in the eighth grade when the Taliban administration came to power and declared the presence of girls beyond the sixth grade in schools prohibited.

It has been over two years since schools were closed to girls. However, Farzaneh insists that she didn't have "reasonable" expectations of schools reopening; that's why she decided to create online English language classes as an educational alternative, teaching English to girls deprived of formal education.

In a conversation with Khaama Press News Agency, she said, "Like other girls deprived of education, I

spent a long time feeling hopeless and uncertain. However, after a while, I realized that expecting schools to reopen was not logical. That's why I designed online English language classes."

"I, like many other girls deprived of education, spent a long time in despair and uncertainty. However, after a while, I realized that expecting schools to reopen was not logical. That's why I designed online English language classes."

According to this student, more than 50 girls who have been deprived of education have completed one round of English language learning, and there are ongoing classes as well. She added, "I made the online English language education program public on my Facebook page, but I didn't expect girls to embrace it with such enthusiasm."

Farzaneh describes the consequences of the halt in education for girls as follows: "If the prohibition of



education continues in this manner, Afghanistan cannot witness growth and progress without the role of women.

The outcome of raising children by an educated mother is vastly different from an illiterate mother, and the continued denial of education for girls will be irreversible."



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Ambassador of Indonesia, Adam Mulawarman Tugio, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Court send Fawad to jail

ISLAMABAD (PPI): A sessions court in Islamabad on Wednesday sent former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry to jail on judicial remand in an alleged fraud case. The former federal minister, Fawad, who recently left PTI over May 9 violence, was arrested from his home in Islamabad, his wife said. Fawad Chaudhry, former PTI leader, was produced before Judicial Magistrate Yasir Mehmood's court upon completion of his one-day physical remand in a case pertaining to financial fraud. During the hearing today, the police sought an extension in physical remand for the PTI leader for more investigation which was rejected by court. Subsequently, the court sent him to jail on judicial remand.

According to a first information report, Fawad was arrested in a case registered at the Aabpara police station on August 22, 2022, under sections 109 (punishment of abetment if the Act abetted committed in consequence and where no express provision is made for its punishment), 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 341 (punishment for wrongful restraint), and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The fraud FIR was filed against the ex-PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry by the complainant Zaheer Ahmed on November 4. In the FIR, Zaheer Ahmed claimed to handed over a sum of Rs50 million to Fawad Chaudhry and when he asked to return the amount, Fawad allegedly offered him two government jobs in exchange, and later Fawad threatened him along with his two-armed guards.

Deportation plea: SHC seeks arguments

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Wednesday denied issuing notice to federal and Sindh governments over repatriation of illegally staying foreign nationals in country.

A division bench of the high court comprised of Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto and Justice Amjad Ali Sehto while hearing plea said that deportation of illegal immigrants is a state policy, and the court could not intervene in it. The bench sought arguments on maintainability of the petition, "How petitioner has been affected by this decision of the government," Justice Phulpoto questioned.

"How could the court interfere in the state's policy and decision," Justice Sehto asked. "We could not intervene in the state policy," Justice Phulpoto remarked. "People staying illegally in Pakistan are being deported," the bench remarked. "If any Pakistani could stay in Saudi Arabia or any other country after expiry of visa," bench questioned.

"You could not stay in a foreign country for single day after expiry of visa," court maintained. "How could a person stay illegally in Pakistan," bench questioned. Petitioner's counsel said that the Pakistan's law protects rights of everyone. "The articles you are quoting as reference, only related to Pakistani nationals. Pakistan's law only protects its nationals," Justice Phulpoto remarked. The court asked petitioner's lawyer to convince the court over maintainability of the petition.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia to expand cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday agreed to further expand cooperation between the two brotherly countries in media, drama, and other related fields.

The decision was made during a meeting between Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Malki here.

Special Representative of the Prime Minister for Interfaith Harmony Allama Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi was also present in the meeting.

In the meeting, it was agreed to speed up the implementation of agreements between Pakistan

and Saudi Arabia in the field of media and communications. In the meeting, discussions were also held regarding cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the field of communication.

The minister and the ambassador also discussed the upcoming meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on November 12. Welcoming the convening of the OIC summit by Saudi Arabia, Murtaza Solangi said as a founding member, Pakistan will continue to play its role in the objectives of the establishment of the OIC and further strengthening of the organization.

Murtaza Solangi appreciated the strengthening of

the OIC's role in protecting the interests of the Muslim Ummah and the role of Saudi Arabia in this regard. Besides, bilateral issues of mutual interest were also discussed in the meeting. He expressed good wishes for Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman.

The Caretaker Federal Minister of Information also expressed his best wishes for the Saudi Ambassador. The Saudi ambassador also invited the caretaker information minister to visit Saudi Arabia. Murtaza Solangi thanked Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Saeed Al-Malki for inviting him to visit Saudi Arabia.

PHC stops arrest of Sher Afzal Marwat till 11th

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprised Justice Abdul Shakoor and Justice Syed Arshad Ali stopped police from arrest of Sher Afzal Marwat advocate till 11th November while ordered Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for provision of regard.

PHC orders provision of health benefit: PHC's divisional bench comprising of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Shakeel Ahmad ordered provision of Rs4 lac to Pump Operator named Musawir Gul at Public Health Engineering Department as health benefits for treatment.

The counsel Ayesha Malak advocate argued that Musawir Gul is public servant while attack by cardiac arrest at Hayatabad and treated at Rehman Medical Institute which has cost Rs4 lac but department had denied provision of medical

benefits. The counsel further argued that obtaining medical benefit is constitutional and legal right of the petitioner.

PHC divisional bench comprised Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Shakeel Ahmad ordered provision of health benefits immediately to Musawir Gul a pump operator at Public Health Engineering.

Meanwhile, Additional Session Judge Peshawar Syed Badshah rejected bail plea of the alleged Ice-Drug smuggler and ordered to be put behind bars. According to prosecution, Ahmad was arrested along 515 grams of Ice-drug in the premises of Shahpur police station and registered First Information Report under Anti-narcotics Act. The alleged smuggler Ahmad approached Session Court for bail while ASJ rejected the plea and ordered to put him behind bars after conclusion of arguments.

CM unveils e-office software system in KMU

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on Wednesday unveiled E-office software system in Khyber

Medical University (KMU). Khyber Medical University has achieved an important technological milestone by officially launching the e-office software developed under its support that was formally unveiled by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan in a meeting held at Chief Minister House.

He said that the unveiling of the e-office is an important moment in the history of KMU. Apart from VC KMU Prof Dr. Zia Ul Haq, advisor Health Prof Dr. Riaz Anwar, chief secretary KP Nadeem

Aslam Chaudhary, Secretary HED Muhammad Arshad Khan and Special Secretary Health Habib Ullah were also present on this occasion.

In the meeting, the Chief Minister publicly appreciated the tireless efforts and achievements of Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Zia ul Haq and his team. On this occasion, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa advised that if efforts are made, this e-office system can be adopted in other universities and other organizations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

VC KMU Prof Dr. Zia ul Haq also gave a detailed briefing to the participants about e-office and explained the features and benefits, and how to run official affairs efficiently. He said that the introduc-

tion of e-office promises to revolutionize administrative and educational processes, increase transparency, accessibility and efficiency.

The software can also be used as a comprehensive solution to manage various tasks and processes and this e-office system is expected to significantly enhance the university's capabilities. VC KMU appreciated the efforts of Mohammad Sohail Additional Director IT, Shahzad Khan Deputy Director IT and the entire IT team of KMU who played a vital role in the development of this innovative software. The e-office software developed internally at KMU is a testament to the university's dedication, commitment to harnessing the potential of its own IT resources.

Pakistan unveils plan to bridge external financing gap with IMF

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has shared a plan with the IMF on bridging the external financing gap by attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in various sectors, including energy, aviation, minerals, and agriculture.

According to media reports on Wednesday, the caretaker government expects a significant increase in FDI inflows during the current financial year to help meet the external financing gap. Sources within the Finance Ministry indicate that Saudi Arabia, the United

Arab Emirates, and Qatar have expressed strong interest in investing in Pakistan's economy.

Arab countries are particularly keen on investing in energy, aviation, minerals, and agriculture. They are also expected to invest heavily in upgrading Pakistan's airport infrastructure, with the potential outsourcing of Islamabad Airport this month.

In addition to attracting FDI, Pakistan has also signed a free trade agreement with the GCC and is currently working on a mutual invest-

ment agreement. The IMF has requested a briefing from the Finance Ministry on the Special Investment Facilitation Council and its potential impact on tax collection and subsidies.

France, Germany, and South Korea have shown interest in long-term contracts with management control of distribution companies (DISCOs). Consultations are also underway on handing over the management control of the International Finance Corporation DISCOS to the private sector.

Imran moves SC against indictment

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan on Wednesday moved Supreme Court, challenging his indictment by a special court in the cipher case.

The deposed premier filed a petition in the Supreme Court through his lawyer Hamid Khan, urging it to declare the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) decision to withhold the indictment illegal.

In his petition, Imran Khan also requested the court that the framing of a charge against him by a special court formed under the Official Secrets Act, 1923 on October 23, 2023 should be declared "illegal, unlawful and violative of the Code of Criminal Procedure". "The special court has undeniably framed a charge that is flawed and inaccurate, and such errors will undoubtedly have severe repercussions. These defects are not correctable and have caused substantial prejudice to the petitioner [Imran Khan]," the petition stated.

The PTI chief in his plea contended that he was being politically victimised in the case. "The state machinery is being used to create fake cases against the petitioner [Imran]," it added. "The petitioner and the co-accused [Shah Mahmood Qureshi], who has served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs twice, have been provided the immunity under Article 248 of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973. Therefore, the exercise of persecuting the petitioner and the co-accused through commencing the trial under the Official Secrets Act, 1923 is unquestionably null and void in the eyes of law," the plea added. It is pertinent to mention here that Islamabad High Court (IHC) had rejected the bail plea of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman in the cipher case.

Alvi for boosting trade with Indonesia

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for further promoting trade, investment, economic, cultural and political relations with Indonesia to bring the two countries further closer. He said Pakistan cherished its close, friendly, and fraternal relations with Indonesia, which were marked by religious and cultural affinities and commonality of views on different issues.

The President expressed these views while talking to the outgoing Ambassador of Indonesia, Mr Adam Mulawarman Tugio, who called on him, here at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Wednesday. Talking to the outgoing envoy, the President stressed that expanded trade, investment, and economic cooperation was a vital element of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Indonesia.

He said Pakistan was keen to further deepen its cooperation in the fields of commerce, culture, tourism, and people-to-people contacts. He said Indonesian businessmen should explore investment opportunities in Pakistan and benefit from its investment-friendly policies. The President further stated that increased mutual political and cultural exchanges were imperative to further improve the brotherly ties between Pakistan and Indonesia.

The outgoing Indonesia Ambassador, Mr Adam Mulawarman Tugio, said that Pakistan and Indonesia should diversify trade and investment cooperation to further boost bilateral relations. He informed that they were planning to open direct flights between the two countries that would bring the two brotherly countries further closer. He apprised that Pakistani students were among the major recipients of academic scholarships in Indonesia. The President thanked the Ambassador for his valuable support and cooperation during his tenure and expressed the hope that the momentum of growth in bilateral relations between the two countries would be maintained. He also expressed his best wishes for the Ambassador for his future endeavours.

Faiz Hameed land grab case SC suggests option to approach Defense Ministry

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court has disposed of a petition against former Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt Gen (retd) Faiz Hameed over allegations of possession of land.

Earlier, the court was requested to allow the presentation of evidence against the former Inter-Services Intelligence chief over allegations of possession of land. The plea was made during the hearing of a human rights case against the former ISI director general in the Supreme Court. A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa heard the petition.

The court said relevant forums were available to the petitioner for action, and disposed of the plea without touching the merits of the case. The petitioner has made allegations against the government and some other personalities, the CJP remarked. Does this constitute a case under Article 184(3)? CJP Isa asked. Justice Athar Minallah asked to try to understand the difference between the human rights cell and the Supreme Court, adding that the cell has no legal authority or status.

"The human rights cell is a great source of injustice," he commented. No chief justice can take any action that is not of judicial nature, he said further. "Where does the present case fit according to Supreme Court rules?" Justice Aminuddin Khan questioned. According to the Constitution and the law, no chief justice or judge can proceed in chambers, CJP Isa remarked. According to the rules, chamber hearing is possible only on appeals against the registrar's objections, he said.

During former CJP Saqib Nisar's era, the hearing of human rights cases in chambers was declared illegal. In a chamber, any case can be fixed for hearing only, the CJP remarked, adding that no chief justice cannot issue any order in any case in chamber. The SC directed petitioner Moez Khan to approach other forums. It added that there was an option to approach

the Defense Ministry against a retired army officer.

The petitioner had argued in the petition that the purpose of the illegal action by the former spy chief was to gain control of a housing project. He then asked the apex court to allow him to present the evidence against Lt Gen (retd) Faiz Hameed. The court gave some time to the lawyer of petitioner, Moez Ahmed Khan - the chief executive officer of Topcity Housing Scheme, to prepare his arguments.

The petitioner maintained that on May 12, 2017 a raid was conducted at his house and office on the orders of Faiz Hameed. The purpose of the illegal action was to gain control of Topcity housing project, the petitioner claimed. He alleged that during the raid, valuable items from the house and records of the housing society were stolen. According to the petitioner, "After this raid, my five associates and I were arrested and kept in illegal custody."

His lawyer told the court that Moez Khan and his family were kidnapped on May 12, 2017. The petitioner requested that the federal government take action against Lt Gen (retd) Faiz Hameed, his brother revenue officer Najaf Hameed and other associates, and requested the court to allow him to present evidence for his arguments. CJP Isa told the petitioner he has made serious allegations in the petition. "Will you appear in the case yourself or through a lawyer?" he asked. The petitioner said he had engaged a lawyer just yesterday, and asked to adjourn the proceedings for some time. The CJP inquired if the court had previously taken any notice of this matter in the past.

The petitioner's lawyer said the apex court had not taken any direct action. According to him, the Ministry of Defence was authorized to conduct an inquiry into this matter. CJP Isa remarked that the court will not order an adjournment, and the counsel should prepare now. The Supreme Court then announced a short break in the hearing.

Martyrs' families plead for speedy justice thru mily courts

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The families of Shuhda-e-Pakistan (Martyrs of Pakistan) on Wednesday urged the quarters concerned to restore the military courts to ensure speedy justice to the victims of terrorism as their abolition had further added to their pain.

Addressing a presser-conference at the National Press Club, the martyrs' families appealed to the Supreme Court to review its decision against the military courts. Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, Haji Sanaullah Khan, Rahimullah, Wazir Farman Elahi, Anwar Zeib, Fawzia, Muhammad Jamshed and others were among the heirs of martyrs, who addressed

the presser.

They said that the military courts were all the more important to provide justice to the victims of terrorism and rioting as, otherwise, it might lead to higher terror incidents. It might also embolden enemy secret agency to go for any misadventure like Kulbushan Yadav. The families said: "The martyrs are the nation's pride and the apex court is requested to have a thorough review of underlying factors in order to effectively curb anti-state activities and terror acts while delivering verdicts through military courts."

They indicated that they would formally file a petition in that regard in the apex court on Monday (November 13). The mar-

tyrs' heirs said that they had gathered at this point to demonstrate their unity to carry forward a movement for the restoration of military courts. They said that they were just trying to uphold the sanctity of the martyrs' blood and added that the military courts would surely take the elements involved in terrorist activities to task and give solace to their heirs.

The families stressed for quick disposal of Kulbushan's case at the the International Court of Justice so that spy networks should be discouraged. The families pointed out that the real issue was the lengthy and slow judicial process so they were demanding the military court trials of the culprits without further delay.

Kabul asked to take action

(Continued from Page 1)

Also, he pointed out that there was no clue about the ammunition that was in the possession of the Afghan military comprising 150,000 personnel, and which just "disappeared" after the US withdrawal.

He said Pakistan had taken the right decision against illegal foreigners after the Afghan interim government showed no cooperation in containing the terrorists attacking Pakistan.

Kakar said sending 250,000 illegal people back to their country in a short span was "not an ordinary step and showed the sign that the policy would be implemented successfully". On maintaining a balance in relations with Afghanistan in the wake of actions against illegal residents, he hoped that the ties would be improved after the two sides settled their approach and expectations on various matters.

He said the immigrant policy was not meant to target the Pakistani Pashtuns and warned that those involved in the misuse of the decision would be severely punished. Any discrimination on the basis of ethnicity would not be tolerated, he added. On the status of Afghans who fled to Pakistan after the Taliban took over and awaited relocation to the US and Western countries under the US Special Visa Immigration (SIV) scheme, he said Pakistan was in touch with the countries of their destination and had the necessary database about them.

"They are on temporary and a stop-gap arrangement... We have no objection about them, but we want the countries of their destination to ensure a timeline for their relocation," he said. He dismissed the notion that any country including the United States

could 'pressurize' Pakistan on that matter and said, "Instead of this the 'requests' shall be made between the governments."

He said Pakistan was ready to negotiate the relocation mechanism and would facilitate the process, however stressed that "We will not allow them to live here and they have to leave." Asked about reports of clandestine activities of the persons awaiting SIVs in Pakistan, the prime minister said Pakistan's intelligence agencies were vigilant and were doing their job very professionally.

"They have the will and the capacity to identify and neutralize the terrorists who are determined to continue their fight against the State of Pakistan," he said. PM Kakar said Pakistan had the legal and ethical right to send back illegal foreigners and mentioned that there were 1.4 million Afghan refugees currently residing in the country who were registered via the 'Proof of Residence' card. The government registered another 0.8 million under the Afghan citizen card and the persons would not be deported, he said.

Pakistan, Uzbekistan resolve for early finalisation of Strategic Partnership Agreement: Pakistan and Uzbekistan reiterated the resolve to finalize the Strategic Partnership Agreement at the earliest to promote regional economic integration.

The bilateral ties were discussed in a bilateral meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) being held here. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to play an active role for the

regional connectivity.

The leaders exchanged views on deepening bilateral cooperation in a range of areas including political, trade, economic, security, defence, and connectivity. Expressing satisfaction at the growing level of bilateral cooperation, Prime Minister Kakar stressed the importance of sustaining the momentum.

He underlined that the recent operationalization of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and Transit Trade Agreement (UPTTA) would boost bilateral trade and transit trade in addition to streamlining Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA). They reaffirmed commitment to the early completion of Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway project. Prime Minister Kakar and President Mirziyoyev discussed on the ongoing humanitarian situation in Gaza and other regional and global developments.

PM, ECO secretary general discuss Kashmir, Middle East situation: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar held a meeting with Secretary General of Economic Cooperation Organization Ambassador Khusrav Noziri.

In the meeting on the sidelines of the 16th ECO Summit., they discussed the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Middle East. They reviewed the recent developments in the ECO, especially in the domains of trade, connectivity and economic cooperation. The ECO Secretary General thanked Prime Minister Kakar for Pakistan's firm support to the ECO and assured him of the commitment of the Secretariat to strengthen trade and connectivity in the region.