

Kashmir Solidarity Day

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Kashmir Solidarity Day will be observed on Monday to express whole hearted support of Pakistani nation to the just struggle of Kashmiri people for their inalienable right to self-determination under the UN resolutions. According to a report on Sunday, it said that arrangements have been made to celebrate Kashmir Solidarity Day tomorrow at home and abroad in a grand manner.



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India’s Aug 5, 2019 illegal, unilateral actions on IIOJK violate int’l laws, UN charter: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that India’s illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in IIOJK were a blatant violation of international law including the UN Charter, 4th Geneva Convention and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. “India has since been engaged in efforts to further entrench these illegal measures through a series of steps aimed at altering the demographic structure and political landscape of IIOJK,” the prime minister said in a message on the observance of Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5.

He said that the ‘Kashmir Solidarity Day’ was annually observed on the 5th February to express Pakistan’s unwavering support to the Kashmiri people’s just struggle for realization of their right to self-determination.

It was also an occasion to pay rich tribute to the sacrifices made by their Kashmiri brothers and sisters during the last seventy-six years, he added.

The prime minister said that Pakistan had consistently maintained that a lasting solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was possible only in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people.

“Pakistan will continue to extend its unstinted moral, diplomatic and political support for this just cause,” Prime Minister Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

He further said that the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions provided that the final disposition of Jammu and Kashmir would be made in accordance with the will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations.

However, the caretaker prime minister said, over the last seventy-six years, India had carried out a relentless campaign to intimidate and suppress the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and

Kashmir (IIOJK). In IIOJK, the iron-fisted Indian approach frequently manifested itself in extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions and custodial torture, he added. Prime Minister Kakar said India had muzzled the media and incarcerated the Kashmiri leadership and human rights defenders, adding these excesses have been well-documented by several human rights organizations and international media outlets. He said the Indian Supreme Court’s judgment of 11 December 2023 on the status of IIOJK was another step towards denial of the Kashmir people’s right to self-determination.

However, the genuine aspirations of the Kashmiri people could not be undermined through such domestic legislation or judicial verdicts, he observed. The prime minister said that India must allow unrestricted access to the UN and OIC observers, international media and human rights organizations to IIOJK to obtain first-hand information about the situation there; and investigate and report human rights violations.

Economic stability vital to strengthen country: Murtaza Solangi

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said no country can become powerful in the absence of economic stability.

Addressing a seminar on “Election 2024, Participation of Youth, Women, Transgenders, Minorities in politics and to Empower Them” organized by the Press Information Department here on Sunday, he said that minorities had played a significant role in the country’s development and they enjoyed equal rights. He said that the country would strengthen when minorities get rights as per the vision of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said minorities had played a vital role in almost every field of life especially in health and education sectors. Murtaza Solangi said that caretaker government was a constitutional setup and it would ensure holding of free, transparent general elections on February 8. He said that it was written in the Constitution that the country would be run by elected representatives which would come to power through elections. “Despite all presumptions, the caretaker government remained stuck to its stance of holding general elections. The country would be handed over to an elected government in a much better condition,” he

added. Murtaza Solangi said that after the February 8 polls the elected government would focus on strengthening the economy and solving problems facing the country.

He hoped that the new government would take forward the agenda of economic reforms besides increasing the tax base and improving governance. Artificial intelligence, voice cloning and fake information are challenges of the digital age and needed to be tackled, he added. He said that collective efforts were required for promotion of unity instead of spreading unrest in the country.

Principal Information Officer Tariq Mehmood said that it was highly important to provide opportunities to representatives of minority segments and ensure equality for them. “It is the responsibility of all political parties to provide equal opportunities to all segments of society. In Europe, participation of minorities in the political process is ensured,” he added.

He said the seminar had been arranged to ensure the participation of women, transgenders and minorities in the general election. He thanked caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi for participating in the seminar.

Senior Journalist Salman Ghani

said that Pakistan had come into being just because of democracy and the country’s future was linked to strengthening of democracy. He said, “The political leadership has to show seriousness as the country has to move forward.”

He further said that political parties should also highlight activities of different segments of society with regard to the general elections.

Nabeela Feroz said that women should come out and exercise their right to vote on February 8 as women were 49 percent of the total population. Maulana Raghib Nacemi stressed focusing on right narrative and added that voters should hold to account those who made tall claims to serve them. Analyst Salman Abid said that the manifesto was very important for the political system of any country and there was a need to include problems of the common man in a manifesto. He said unjustified distribution of wealth and resources had caused a lot of problems. Peter Jacob said that the purpose of highlighting the importance of segments of society was to shed light on their problems and deprivations and to ensure a system of equality in the country. Educationist Shahida Dilwar said that rights could be obtained if people practice their right to vote wisely.

Karachi rains enough to compare the performance: Shehbaz

LAHORE (INP): PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday mocked PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari over his repeated invitation for a live debate, as he cited the example of heavy rain in Karachi which has paralysed life in the megacity, which, he said, was enough to the compare the performance of two parties.

Media persons were reporting just few weeks ago that the PML-N leadership could not face the people and had decided to stay at home, he recalled and noted that the massive rallies held in different towns and cities were a proof of how much love and support the masses had for Nawaz Sharif – the three-time prime minister who is eyeing a record fourth stint in office. Addressing a press conference, he said it seemed that the people would give a clear mandate to the PML-N to govern the country for the next five years. About the alleged political victimisation of the PTI founder, Shehbaz said the same person used to claim that he won’t spare anyone and send everyone to prison, as the rivals were booked in bogus cases, at a time when he himself resorted to corrupt practices. Democracy doesn’t mean that a person involved in illegal activities should be forgiven, he asserted in response to a question.

Millions of voters would decide their future through use of ballot on

February 8, which his party was going to accept, Shehbaz said, as he listed the achievements of his party under Nawaz Sharif’s government in the past. Shehbaz said Pakistan witnessed billions of dollars of investment – he largest in the country’s history – during elder Sharif’s 2013-17 government, but the corruption perception index measured by the Transparency International came down.

He mentioned that all sorts of allegations were levelled against the Nawaz government; however, nothing was proven because of the unfounded nature of accusations. Millions of people were benefitting from the projects – including motorways and mass transit systems – launched by the PML-N, Shehbaz added. On the other hand, the corruption perception index went up during the PTI stint in government, he noted and cited the cases of first allowing the exports and then the imports of sugar and wheat as examples – the moves, he noted, which caused a loss of billions of dollars to Pakistan.

The PML-N president again recalled the case of destroying the people-oriented services and facilities like PKLI and hepatitis centres as well as stopping the supply of free medicines during the PTI tenure.

Political stability is a must for economic devel-

opment, Shehbaz told the reporters and said the bogus slogans revolving around labelling others thieves only caused uncertainty and frictions in society.

The PTI founding chairman himself used to say that there would be less corruption when there was an honest leader, he remarked and said the Transparency International endorsed the assertion by declaring him more corrupt. Shehbaz said the PTI government was a product of witchcraft and rigging, adding that the baseless allegations like receiving 45 per cent in the projects funded by China had been spread by the rival party, which chanted the slogans of dacoits and thieves to destabilize Pakistan.

He also highlighted the role played by the then chief justice Saqib Nisar in destroying the PKLI and delaying the Orange Line and said the same judge had declared the PTI chief as Sadiq and Amin. [Honest and Truthful].

Campaigning without any fear and restriction is a right of every candidate, but buying voters by distributing money is an insult to the people, he said – a reference to the revelation that the PPP supporters were caught red-handed as they were distributing money to the locals in the constituency from where their chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is contesting election for

National Assembly in Lahore.

Purchasing of vote is disrespect of vote: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz President Shehbaz Sharif has said that purchasing of vote is actually its disrespect.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, he said that it was unfortunate that corruption had increased during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf tenure as Transparency International also pointed it out. He said that promise of 10 million jobs and 5 million houses had not been fulfilled but it was very unfortunate that unemployment surged in the country. Shehbaz Sharif said during the tenure of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government only hatred was spread.

He said that general election on February 8 would decide the country’s fate. “The PPP has the right to contest elections. Bilawal Bhutto can contest elections from anywhere in the country but purchasing of vote is not a good practice,” he maintained.

He said that if the PML-N won the general election, confusion and the hue and cry would come to an end.

He said he would withdraw his nomination papers if corruption against him proved in any case. Comparison of work is enough to make things crystal clear instead of holding debates, he added.

The Frontier Post

Earthquake jolts Zhob, Loralai

ISLAMABAD (APP): An earthquake of 4.2 magnitude on the Richter scale jolted Loralai and its adjoining areas on Sunday. According to a private news channel, the National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) confirmed that tremors were felt in Loralai and the adjoining areas. However, no loss of life or damage to property has been reported from any part of Loralai so far.



HYDERABAD: Chairman Pakistan People’s Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing a public gathering during the Election Campaign at Hussainabad.

Bilawal urges people to bury politics of hatred, division with their votes

HYDERABAD (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged the people to defeat the politics of division and hatred by supporting his party in the upcoming general elections.

Addressing a large public meeting in Hussainabad area here on Sunday evening, Bilawal blamed Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) and other parties for continuing to sow division and hate for political gains.

“If any city has seen the politics of hatred, divide and terror, Hyderabad is one such city whose people have suffered losses and have given sacrifices too,” he observed, referring to the ethnic tensions which prevailed in the city in the 1980s and 1990s.

“But the peaceful people of Hyderabad did not back out or surrender to those tactics for which I want to salute you,” he said.

He alleged that while the PML-N had indulged itself in the politics of hate and divide at the center, MQM-P was doing the same in Hyderabad and Karachi. The PPP’s chairman added that those parties had turned politics into personal revenge, a deed which had always resulted in losses to the country, democracy, federation and the public. “But they aren’t worried about it. They just want to become prime minister for

the fourth time,” he said, referring to PML-N’s leader and former PM Nawaz Sharif.

He appealed to the people that while making decision about their votes they should consider which political party could serve them without discrimination.

Bilawal said the PPP only wanted to tackle the problems like poverty, inflation and unemployment with the support of the public.

Revisiting the PPP’s 10-point charter of economy, he promised to double the income of Pakistan’s people; to build 3 million homes for poor families with ownership rights for women; and supply up to 300 units free solar electricity.

He assured the women that he wanted to serve them the way a son served his mother.

According to him, the PPP’s government at the center would not only enhance grants under Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), it would also provide interest free loans to women to establish small businesses.

The PPP’s leader also pledged that the labour employed not only in the public sector but also those working in the private sector and the ones who were self-employed would also receive Benazir Mazdoor Card.

He reiterated that the part’s government would also launch support programs for peasants, youth and

school students.

He said they would establish a university and specialized healthcare facilities in each district of Pakistan.

Bilawal repeated that the funds for his 10 pledges would be arranged by finishing 17 federal ministries, which consume Rs 300 billion in annual budget, and by putting an end to Rs1,500 billion subsidies which were given to the country’s elite.

According to him, all those funds would be directly spent on the labours, peasants, youth, women and children. He requested the workers and supporters to convey to other people the fact that the upcoming election was a one on one contest between PPP and PML-N, adding that vote given to other parties would be a waste. “The only way to stop Sharif from becoming prime minister for fourth time is by voting arrow,” he said.

He also urged the people that they should not vote the candidates of Grand Democratic Alliance and MQM-P, blaming the latter for being supported by an enemy country’s espionage agency.

He also advised the people against voting in favour of religious parties.

The PPP’s chairman later took oath from the candidates of his party contesting on the 9 constituencies in Hyderabad that they would serve the people after winning the elections.





LAHORE: A worker busy final touch of making the sculpture of Moon and star of Pakistani Flag at Istanbul Square.

‘Pakistan will continue unwavering support to Kashmir’

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former ambassador A.M. Shahid on Sunday highlighted the prolonged sufferings of the people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), emphasizing Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri brethren.

Talking to Radio Pakistan, he underscores the 76-year-long suffering of the people in IIOJ&K, enduring Indian atrocities.

A.M. Shahid expresses concern over the lack of global response to the human rights violations in IIOJ&K, calling for serious consideration of the Kashmiri people's plight.

A.M. Shahid criticizes India's move to revoke articles 35-A and 370, asserting that it aimed to change the dynamics of the occupied valley. He highlights the determination of Kashmiris to achieve their right to self-determination despite brutal acts by Indian forces. The former ambassador asserts that the Modi regime, post the August 5 move, has struggled to control the situation in the occupied valley.

Emphasizing Pakistan's commitment, A.M. Shahid assures that Pakistan will continue its political, diplomatic, and moral support for the Kashmiri people until they achieve their right to self-determination.

IIOJK's Kashmiris struggle for right of self-determination can't be suppressed through oppression: CM

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah here Sunday said that on Kashmir Solidarity Day, the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the provincial government express complete Solidarity with Kashmiri people.

He reiterated their resolve to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to them in their struggle to get the right to self-determination.

In a statement issued on Kashmir Solidarity Day, Syed Arshad Hussain Shah said that the right to self-determination was the fundamental right of the people

of Kashmir, and their struggle for the same could not be suppressed through oppression by the Indian government, adding that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stand side by side their Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their just struggle, and will continue to do so until they get their right to self-determination.

The Caretaker Chief Minister urged upon international community and the human rights organizations to take notice of the Indian government brutalities in occupied Kashmir, and play their due role in giving Kashmiri people their inalienable right to self-determination by get-

ting implemented the resolutions of United Nations in letter and spirit.

He maintained that the decades-long struggle of Kashmir people for their freedom is unprecedented all over the world, and hoped that people of Kashmir would soon be able to get their right to self-determination. He condemned the unilateral decision of Indian government of revoking the special status of occupied Kashmir provided in Indian Constitution followed by the locked down imposed by Indian army in occupied Kashmir with the aim to suppress the struggle of Kashmiris for their freedom.

Minister for education calls on Punjab governor

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Education Mansoor Qadir met Governor Balighur Rehman at Governor's House on Sunday.

The governor, also chancellor of the public sector universities, held a detailed discussion with the education minister on matters pertaining to higher education. They exchanged their views for solving administrative

and academic problems of the universities on priority.

Mansoor Qadir submitted his recommendations to the governor for bringing improvement in the universities affairs. He emphasised that their was dire need to put a special focus on the new universities.

Balighur Rehman said the universities were focal point of education and wisdom and their standards need to be further elevated.

He acknowledged that positive role of universities with regard to making the new generation a useful citizen could not be denied.

The governor said that he, being the chancellor, keenly oversees the financial and administrative affairs of universities, so that they could be reformed according to the international standards by further improving their quality of education.

Minister condemns India's atrocities in Kashmir

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister Ibrahim Hassan Murad criticised India's continued violations in Kashmir, labeling it as one of the worst violations in decades, contradicting the UN Security Council resolutions.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he accused India of behaving like a land-grabbing mafia rather than a democracy.

He emphasised the significance of February 5 as a day to show solidarity with Kashmiris and urged the international community to pressure India for a resolution to the conflict.

Murad expressed confidence in the eventual freedom of the region despite Indian oppression, reiterating Pakistan's unwavering support for Kashmir diplomatically.

He condemned the international community's silence over the killings of innocent Kashmiris, equating it to the murder of justice. Murad reaffirmed Kashmir's integral part in Pakistan and vowed to continue advocating for its cause despite India's objections.

Commissioner visits city, reviews rainwater situation

KARACHI (APP): The Commissioner of Karachi, Mohammed Saleem Rajput, visited different parts of the city to review the situation of drainage in the wake of heavy rains.

The Commissioner visited the city on the directives of the Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister.

Later, he informed the Chief Minister that water had been drained out of most of the city.

He said that the process of drainage through machines was going on in the low-lying areas.

The Chief Minister directed that all town municipal officers should be mobilized. He said that the staff of municipal administration, the water board, and solid waste should be present on the roads to resolve the problems of the common people on a priority basis.

CM expresses displeasure over traffic management, PDMA performance

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar during a rain emergency meeting at CM House decided to issue displeasure letters to the Deputy Inspector General of Police and Director General of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) for failing to respond in time.

The Chief Minister has put all the civic agencies/local bodies, PDMA, traffic police, and water board on high alert to deal with cloud bursts/heavy rain situations properly. Necessary measures will be taken to clear all the major and minor arteries of the city, according to a CM House communique on Sunday.

The meeting was attended by Minister Information Ahmad Shah, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, IG Police Riffat Alam, Commissioner Karachi Saleem Rajput, CEO of Water Board Salahuddin.

Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab briefing the chief minister said that it was a cloud bust in the city which inundated main arteries. He added that he along with CEO Water Board Salahuddin visited various stormwater drains which were partially choked with plastic shopper bags.

He told the CM said that Shahrah-e-Faisal, particular-

ly the area of the nursery, Drigh Road, and Old City areas, I.I Chundrigar Road some major nullas were not flowing at the required capacity, therefore he not only got them cleared but installed water board machinery to pump out stagnant water from the low lying areas.

The CM took serious notice of the absence of DIG traffic when all the traffic was blocked almost on all the main arteries of the city. He added that traffic police failed to manage the traffic in time, therefore the people of the city have suffered a lot.

Baqar directed the Inspector General of Police, Riffat Mukhtar to issue a letter to the DIG Traffic and convey him his displeasure. "I am not happy with traffic management in the city, particularly on Saturday evening," he said.

The Mayor of Karachi told the CM that presently all the main arteries of the city were clear and traffic was plying smoothly, however, dewatering work was in progress in some areas. The drainage system was being improved by clearing the gutters and conduits.

During the meeting, it was observed that PDMA failed to respond in time. They sent the pumping and other machines very late,

therefore water could not be drained out from the low-lying areas well in time. The CM said that the Director General of PDMA should have been present on the roads to help the local bodies.

The CM directed his secretariat to issue a letter of displeasure to the DG PDMA and directed him to ensure the provision of functional machinery to the local bodies.

In the meeting, it was also noticed that most of the town chairmen failed to serve their areas during the rain emergency. The CM said that it was unacceptable, and all the elected local bodies chairmen and councillors must serve the people of their areas in close coordination with other agencies. He directed Mayor Karachi to coordinate with all the Town chairmen so that issues of this city could be resolved, particularly in such emergencies as Saturday heavy rain.

The CM directed the IG Police to issue him [DSP] an appreciation letter.

Earlier, the chief minister visited the Control room established in the Commissioner's Office where Commissioner Karachi Saleem Rajput briefed the chief minister about the rain emergency measures and preparation for the February 8 general elections.

Sindh Police prioritizes integrated communication system for General Elections 2024

KARACHI (APP): In preparation for the upcoming General Elections 2024, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) Technical and Transport, Sharjeel Kharal, has emphasized the need for a robust and integrated communication system.

Presiding over a crucial meeting, Sharjeel Kharal underscored the importance of aligning communication efforts with the directives outlined by IGP Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja.

The gathering, attended

by key stakeholders including AIGP Motor Transport and Telecom Sindh, DSPs, Range In-charges, and other motor transport officers, focused on streamlining communication channels to ensure seamless coordination during the electoral process.

The DIGP directed the implementation of effective communication strategies, emphasizing the issuance of regular awareness letters and orders to all relevant officials. Stressing the significance of timely sharing

of security guidelines and real-time reports, he urged for extraordinary efforts in every district and police station.

Moreover, Sharjeel Kharal highlighted the importance of maintaining the readiness and alertness of motor transport staff, officers, and personnel. Ensuring the functionality of available vehicles and the preparedness of personnel emerged as key priorities to facilitate efficient logistical support during the elections.

5th FEBRUARY 2024 KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY



This 5th February, we renew our steadfast support for the Kashmiri people in their struggle against the unjust Indian occupation. Our solidarity knows no bounds; it echoes through our hearts, ethical principles and political dedication.



PID(I)4710-D/23

Government of Pakistan

Specific Procurement Notice (SPN)

Employer:	Communication & Works Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through Chief Engineer (Foreign Aided Projects)
Project:	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project (KP-RAP) P177069
Contract title:	Package-3: Rehabilitation and Improvement of Flood Affected and Rural Access Roads and Bridges in District Swat ➤ Lot-1: Rehabilitation and Improvement of 04-Roads of 28.30 Km Length and 02-Bridges Package5: Rehabilitation and Improvement of Flood Affected and Rural Access Roads and Bridges in District DI Khan ➤ Lot-1: Rehabilitation and Improvement of 04-Roads of 28.80 Km Length ➤ Lot-2: Rehabilitation and Improvement of 04-Roads of 25.50 Length and 02-Bridges Package6: Rehabilitation and Improvement of Rural Access and Flood Affected Roads in District DI Khan ➤ Lot-1: Rehabilitation and Improvement of 03-Roads of 25.32 Km Length ➤ Lot-2: Rehabilitation and Improvement of 03-Roads of 39.10 Length Package7: Rehabilitation and Improvement of Flood Affected and Rural Access Roads in District Charsadda, Khyber, and Mohmand ➤ Lot-1: Rehabilitation and Improvement of 03-Roads of 27.50 Km Length ➤ Lot-2: Rehabilitation and Improvement of 09-Roads of 52.70 Length Package8: Rehabilitation and Improvement of Flood Affected and Rural Access Roads in District Karak, Kohat, Kurram, and Orakzai ➤ Lot-1: Rehabilitation and Improvement of 06-Roads of 38.39 Km Length ➤ Lot-2: Rehabilitation and Improvement of 05-Roads of 33.05 Length
Country:	Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Loan No. /Credit No:	7143-PK
RFB No:	Package-3: PK-KP C&W-375117-CW-RFB (Re-Bidding) Package-5: PK-KP C&W-390539-CW-RFB Package-6: PK-KP C&W-392525-CW-RFB Package-7: PK-KP C&W-400550-CW-RFB Package-8: PK-KP C&W-400551-CW-RFB 06 February 2024
Issued on:	06 February 2024

- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project (KP-RAP)** and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts named above.
- The **Project Implementation Unit (PIU)**, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project (KP-RAP), **Communication and Works Department (C&WD)**, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (GoKP) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the subject contracts as mentioned above.
- Bidding will be conducted through international competitive procurement using Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers-Procurement in Investment Projects Financing **November 2020**" ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **Engr. Muhammad Sajid, Project Director, PIU, KP-RAP, C&W Department, GoKP, Email: pd.kprap@gmail.com** and inspect the Bidding document during office hours **0900 to 1700 hours** at the address given below.
- The Bidding document in **English** may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PKR 20,000/- (Pak Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)**. The method of payment will be (i) **an unconditional bank guarantee**; (ii) **an irrevocable letter of credit**; (iii) **pay order / demand draft**; or (iv) **call deposit receipt (CDR)**. The eligible bidders also have the option to download the bidding document at no cost from C&WD website i.e., <https://www.cwd.gkp.pk/kp-rap.php>. Eligible bidders opting to download the bidding document from C&WD website shall inform PIU, KP-RAP in writing at the address given below failing which PIU, KP-RAP shall not be responsible if the bidder does not receive clarifications and amendments, if any. In case of any discrepancy between the downloaded document and hard copy, the latter shall prevail.
- A pre-bid meeting shall take place on **23 February 2024 at 11:00 hours (Pakistan Standard Time)** at the address mentioned below. A virtual option for those who prefer to participate remotely, a **TEAM or ZOOM** link will be generated and provided to ensure that interested parties can join the Pre-Bid Meeting virtually from any location. The Link will be uploaded and will be available on <https://www.cwd.gkp.pk/kp-rap.php> one day before the Pre-Bid Meeting.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **[1100 hours 'Local Pakistan Time' dated 21 March 2024]**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **[1130 hours 'Local Pakistan Time' dated 21 March 2024]**.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security:

Package-3: Lot-1: PKR 50 million	Lot-2: PKR 49 million
Package-5: Lot-1: PKR 45 million	Lot-2: PKR 51 million
Package-6: Lot-1: PKR 49 million	Lot-2: PKR 62 million
Package-7: Lot-1: PKR 44 million	Lot-2: PKR 34 million
Package-8: Lot-1: PKR 59 million	
- Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
- The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Engr. Muhammad Sajid

Project Director
Project Implementation Unit
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project
Communication and Works Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Address: House No. 8-BC Park Road, University Town Peshawar Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,
Pakistan Phone No: +92-91-9224272 Email: pd.kprap@gmail.com

INF (P) 215/24

People reject who ruined country: Sherpao

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Sunday said the people must not vote for the ones, who undermined the country and ruined its economy.

Addressing a gathering at Gandheri Union Council in Charsadda, he said the nation must not forget the ones, who staged attacks on the government buildings and military installations.

Criticising the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said its leadership polarized the society and created divisions.

He said the PTI had turned political differences into personal vendetta.

“Imran Khan misguided the youth

and provoked them to attack the military installations,” he said.

Calling for reconciliation, Aftab Sherpao said that after the election the political parties should join hands to come up with a common agenda to revive the economy and put the country on the path to development. He said the country could not afford political instability as enough damage had been done by indulging in politics of hatred.

He said the poor were grappling with a host of issues, including skyrocketing inflation and unemployment.

“The next government would have to work hard to give relief to the have-nots, who have been exposed to unbearable inflation,” he maintained.

He said the political parties should

not care about power rather they should care about the poor.

“The problems facing the country need out-of-the-box thinking,” he remarked.

Aftab Sherpao said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and its merged districts were not getting due rights.

He said the pledges made with the residents of the ex-Fata remained unfulfilled, which has created despondency among the local people.

He said the law and order was deteriorating, calling for efforts to beef up security to ensure the holding of the peaceful elections.

He reiterated his resolve that if voted to power, the QWP would spare no effort to address the prevailing challenges and provide relief to people.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali talking to traders of gem stones during his visit to the office of All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association.

Steps to ensure for a democratic, peaceful election: Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): The Minister of Information and Public Relations for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, emphasized the crucial collaboration needed from both candidates and the public to ensure the success of the upcoming general elections.

Speaking at a press conference in Nowshera, he highlighted the need for cooperation with the administration, police, and election commission staff to guarantee security and seamless logistical arrangements.

Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, and Inspector General of Police, Akhtar Hayat Khan, have undertaken comprehensive reviews of security and administrative preparations by visiting various districts

across the province. Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, in conjunction with the Chief Secretary and IGP, affirmed the government's dedication to conducting peaceful general elections on February 8.

“All provincial preparations are finalized,” stated Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel. “Security measures are in place, administrative arrangements are complete, and all available resources have been deployed to create a conducive environment for all election candidates,” he said.

Highlighting the on-ground assessments, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan have been actively visiting districts, recently focusing on central and southern districts. Their

inspections include meetings with field teams to ensure a thorough understanding of the situation.

Caretaker Minister emphasized the acting government's commitment to conducting free, fair, and impartial elections. He underscored the importance of public and candidate cooperation in achieving a peaceful election environment.

“CCTV monitoring, control rooms at the Chief Minister's Secretariat and Home Department, and emergency services in hospitals have been established,” assured Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel. “We urge candidates to adhere to Election Commission SOPs and work closely with the administration to maintain a secure and orderly electoral process,” he added.

KPBOIT inks MoU with Chinese group

PESHAWAR (APP): In order to enhance investment opportunities in mines and minerals sector of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a Memorandum of Understanding has signed by Vice Chairman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade Engr. Said Mahmood and Mr. Jianxin Hou, Chairman Shandong Xinxu Group Corporation, China.

The MoU signing ceremony was held the other day, in Shandong in China, and was witnessed by the high profile public and business community of the province.

On this occasion during his speech, the Vice Chairman of KP-BOIT shared various opportunities in value addition in the mines and minerals sector for Chinese investors and ensured full facilitation from the KP government side.

Through this MoU both parties may, to the best of their mutual endeavor and capabilities, strive to enhance investment in value addition in the mining sector of KP Province, provide specific product/project information, identification of joint venture partners, facilitating procedural matters with respective authorities remaining within respective legal mandate.

Similarly, partners may conduct matchmaking meetings, seminars with the goal of stimulating joint investments and reciprocal trade activities.

Saleem promises to solve problems of PK76

PESHAWAR (APP): Candidate for PK-76, Salman Khan here Sunday said that issues of clean drinking water and sanitation services in PK 76 would be addressed if voted to power in election 2024 by the people.

Addressing election corner meetings at Badabar and Musazai areas, Salman Khan said that focus would be made on addressing challenges of inadequate education and healthcare services

in PK-76 and development projects would be initiated with consultation of the area elders.

He said the constituency was overlooked for development in the past and all available resources would be utilized for speedy uplift of the area.

Besides addressing issue of low electricity voltage and unemployment, he said that technical education institutions would be established for speedy jobs creation.

He said that people of the constituency faced difficulty to find dignified jobs abroad due to lack of technical skills.

Besides installation of street lights, he said that sports grounds would be established to provide better jobs facilities to youth.

Salman urged people to exercise their right of franchise wisely and elect honest and committed leadership with a will to address their problems swiftly.

Health deptt cancels all types of leave

PESHAWAR (APP): The Health Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has cancelled all types of leave in the wake of the 2024 general elections.

It is further directed to have enough medicines in the stores of hospitals to counter any kind of emergency situation, according to a notification issued here on Sunday.



PESHAWAR: Parents at a stall during the Annual Science and Arts Exhibition held on Sunday at a local school.

ANP, QWP announces seat adjustment

PESHAWAR (APP): Awami National Party (ANP) and Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) on Sunday announced seat adjustment for two NAs seats in Charsadda for general elections 2024.

The formal announcement of seat adjustment was made in a joint press conference by ANP's Provincial President Aimal Wali Khan and Aftab Ahmad Sherpao chief of QWP.

The seat adjustment between the two parties took place in Charsadda's two national constituencies, NA-24 and NA-25.

In NA-24, ANP's candidate Irfan Alam withdrew in favor of QWP's candidate Aftab Sherpao while in NA-25, QWP's candidate Qaisar Jamal withdrew in favor of ANP's candidate Aimal Wali Khan.

The press conference saw the presence of other responsible figures, including candidates from both parties who withdrew in support of the designated candidates.

28 cops injured in accident

PESHAWAR (APP): At least 28 policemen were injured in a collision occurred between a truck and a police bus in Baba Ji Kandao area of district Buner, said Rescue 1122 on Sunday.

Upon receiving the distress call, Rescue 1122 swiftly dispatched ambulances along with medical teams to the accident site.

Due to the high number of casualties, six additional ambulances from Rescue 1122 were mobilized to the scene.

The initial reports from Buner suggest that the injured victims have been promptly provided with medical assistance on-site by Rescue 1122.

All injured individuals were then transferred to District Headquarters Hospital in Dagar for further treatment. Among the severely wounded, six were transferred to District Central Hospital in Swat, and one casualty was taken to MMC Hospital in Mardan for specialized care.

The event was packed with articulate and inspirational speeches, essays and poetry delivered by students who took the stage to share their perspectives on the Kashmir issue. Each of them demonstrated a nuanced

Electioneering material turns city into festivity

PESHAWAR (APP): The electioneering activities here turned Peshawar city and surrounding localities into a festivity as candidates of all popular political parties and independents have established their election offices across their respective constituencies.

District Peshawar with 5 National Assembly and 13 provincial assembly constituencies has 13,75,597 registered voters comprising 797,152 men and 578,445 women voters.

All political parties and candidates have displayed their flags, panaflexes and posters in all bazaars, streets, squares and roads, which present the look of a festival in the city.

Due to electioneering the sale of Qehwa traditional green tea, cooked black tea and soft drinks has registered an increase by manifolds.

Election offices have been established in all busy bazaars, streets and junctions where anthems and songs in favour of their respective political parties and candidates are being played loudly attracting people of all ages, particularly youth. Some candidates have hired the services of drummers to entertain visitors to their camps.

Prominent candidates in the NA-32 a complete urban constituency of the city include the octogenarian senior politician Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour, who is in the electoral race for the 11th time.

During his 35 year-experience in electoral politics, Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour has contested against various veteran politicians including Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, Imran Khan and Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao is fully aware of the importance of election offices.

In the General Election-24, the senior politician, beside other candidate is also facing challenge from

his old comrades Abidullah Khan Yousafzai and Sher Rehman. Abidullah was president of ANP district Peshawar has remained associated with the nationalist party for long time while Sher Rehman had contested the election for City Mayor Peshawar in 2021.

Other candidates in the contest are PTI-backed independent Asif Khan, Hussain Ahmad Madni of JUI-F, Abdul Waheed Khan of PTI-Parliamentarians, Tariq Mateen (JI), Zainullah (Markaz-e-Muslim League MML), Obaidullah (TLP), Javed Nasim (Independent), Mohammad Rizwan Khan (Independent), Zahoor Qadir (Independent) and Akhtar Hameed (Independent).

Similarly, Samad Murralsin Khan, a founding member of the PTI is also contesting the election as an independent candidate on the symbol of 'Aeroplane' and others.

SBBWU observes Kashmir Solidarity Day

PESHAWAR (APP): Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University (SBBWU) on Sunday observed Kashmir Day with a series of informative sessions, impassioned speeches, creative expressions, and thought-provoking discussions aimed at shedding light on the current and historical issues surrounding Kashmir.

The event aimed at reflecting challenges faced by the Kashmiri people.

The commemoration was marked by a solidarity walk in which the Vice Chancellor, faculty, and students actively participated, emphasizing unity and support. Additionally, the session commenced with a moment of silence, symbolizing collective remembrance and respect for the Kashmiri's struggle.

The event was packed with articulate and inspirational speeches, essays and poetry delivered by students who took the stage to share their perspectives on the Kashmir issue. Each of them demonstrated a nuanced

understanding of the historical background and the contemporary struggles faced by the people of Kashmir.

The students eloquently voiced their concerns, emphasizing the need for global attention and empathy towards the Kashmiri nation. Also the Art exhibition and on spot contest, provided a visual representation of the Kashmir issue.

Students exhibited their creativity through painting, offering diverse perspectives on the conflict.

A talk was also given by Prof. M Naeem Qazi, Director Area Study Centre, Peshawar emphasizing upon the Role of Youth in the Issue of Kashmir and enlightened the audience with comprehensive overview of the Kashmir issue. He delved into the religious history, Buddhist civilization, Islamization in Kashmir, the Mughal dynasty, Shalimar in Kashmir, and the Dogra Raj dynasty.

Stressing upon the need for international Organization's attention, the

speaker urged support from human rights organizations to address the Kashmir situation and provide relief to the nation.

In a call to action, the speaker particularly highlighted the pivotal role that youth can play in fostering awareness, dialogue, and constructive change in addressing the complex challenges faced by the Kashmiri people.

On the occasion, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Safia Ahmed (T.I) shed light on the Kashmir issue, emphasizing the importance of awareness among students.

She articulated the need for India to allow the Kashmiri nation the freedom to choose between an independent state and joining Pakistan.

She addressed the atrocities committed by the Indian army in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK), highlighting the restrictions imposed on Muslims, including the denial of mosque access, confinement of women in their homes, and internet shutdowns.

Kashmir Solidarity Day: Long struggles, sacrifices of Kashmiris for right to self-determination

PESHAWAR (APP): Every year, Kashmir solidarity day is observed on February 5 in Pakistan to honor the 77 years long struggle and matchless sacrifices of the oppressed Kashmiris of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) despite endless oppression, human rights abuses and state terrorism at the hands of Indian occupational forces for over seven decades.

From Karachi to Khyber and Gawdar to Muzafarabad, the people of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir are all set to pay glowing tributes to the martyrs of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir who sacrificed their lives during the legitimate freedom movement started on October 27, 1947.

Raise placards and banners with slogans like 'Kashmir Banay Ga Pakistan and Indians forces go out of Kashmir', the Kashmiris on both side of the LoC and Pakistanis would demand from UN, international powers and human rights organizations to put pressure on the fascist Modi government to restore the special status

of IIOJK and give rights of self determination to over 10 million oppressed Kashmiris as promised to them by the UN.

Besides Kashmiris, the civil society, political and religious parties, lawyers', students, bodies, transporters, trade, farmers, unions and general public planned protest rallies and demonstrations in connection with Kashmir solidarity day in all provinces of Pakistan including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"Kashmir, the heaven on Earth, has been blazing for more than seven decades, unnoticed by those who make global decisions. Unleashing terror, Indian military forces had illegally invaded Kashmir against the will of Kashmiris and occupied it soon after the creation of Pakistan with no respect for human rights," UN Charter and international laws," said Professor Dr Ejaz Khan, former Chairman, International Relations Department, University of Peshawar while talking to APP.

He said India had been openly dis-

regarding International laws and UN Security Council's resolutions and committed sheer human rights violation in the illegally occupied valley, adding Indian occupied forces had broken all records of atrocities and unleashed brutalities against innocent Kashmiris in a bid to press their legitimate freedom struggle but could not succeeded in their nefarious designs despite 77 years endless brutalities and human rights abuses.

"By abolishing the special status of IIOJK, India's nefarious designs regarding promoting Hindu ideology and hatred against Muslims besides settling Hindus in IIOJK has stood exposed," Dr Ejaz said.

Manzoorul Haq, former Ambassador said that October 27, 1947 and August 5, 2019 are black days in the history of Kashmir as on these days, India had made deep-rooted conspiracy to rob Kashmiris of their history, language and ethno-cultural identity. He said India's persistent repression, depriving Kashmiris of all liberties and human rights abus-

es at IIOJK were one of the root causes of an indigenous freedom movement in the held valley.

Mushtaq Ahmed Shah, Vice Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League said that Kashmir Solidarity Day is being observed with a renewed pledge to continue supporting the indigenous freedom movement at IIOJK politically, morally and diplomatically. He said Indian occupation forces were involved in extra judicial killing of innocent Kashmiris in fake encounters, putting the Kashmiri leadership behind bars, imposing clampdown on media and used rape of women and molestation of children as weapon of war. The gruesome violation of human rights including forced disappearance of over 8,000 innocent Kashmiris, 8,652 unmarked mass graves, imposition of longest curfew on some 10 million unarmed Kashmiris, extra judicial killings, rape and molestation of women and children have exposed India's ugly secular face, he said.

He said over 162,000 Kashmiris were subjected to inhuman torture by the Indian forces since 1989. Referring to the September 2021's Pakistani dossier having strong evidences of India's involvement in war crimes and human rights abuses in IIOJK said about 8,652 unmarked graves had been identified in 89 villages of six districts in the held valley while bodies of 37 Kashmiris burnt alive by Indian forces were beyond recognition.

"Since 1989, over 96,000 cases of extra judicial killings, around 162,000 cases of arbitrary arrests and torture, over 25,000 pellet guns injuries, 11,250 women raped, 23,000 women widowed and over 108,000 children were orphaned by the Indian army," he added.

Ambassador Manzoorul Haq said that the illegal occupation of Kashmir valley by India contravened multiple articles of the 30 fundamental human rights of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) drafted by representatives from all the regions of

the world including India on December 10, 1948 and was subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

This declaration is applied on all the signatory members of the UN including India and restrained them from abuse, exploitation, maltreatment and all kinds of violence besides violation of any fundamental rights protected in UDHR, he said.

Muhammad Hussain Khateeb, member All Parties Hurriyat Conference (Gillani Group) said that people of the held Kashmir were deprived of all liberties including communication, free media and internet where the journalists of independent media were being harassed, killed and jailed after exposing Indian forces' war crimes and human rights abuses.

They said road to peace in South Asia is passing through Kashmir and lasting peace in subcontinent was not possible unless resolution of the core issue of Kashmir as per wishes and aspirations of Kashmiris.



In brief

Food controller Kohat visit different markets

KOHAT (APP): Under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Khushal Program and on the direction of Deputy Commissioner Kohat Dr Azmatullah Wazir, Assistant Food Controller Gulab Gul Sunday visited various markets and reviewed the prices and stocks of urea, sugar and wheat. On the occasion, he also inspected food shops and exam their qualities on the spot with food team. Shopkeepers were fined for poor sanitation and violating the official price list, while other wholesale dealers were instructed to refrain from hoarding.

Soomro visits Shrine of Qalandar

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Sindh Minister for Law and Auqaf Umer Soomro visited the shrine of Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar on Sunday. Former Caretaker Sindh Minister Iftekhar Ahmed Soomro was also accompanied with him. The Caretaker Law Minister laid a floral wreath on the Shrine and offered fateha and prayers for the development and prosperity of the Country and Sindh as well.

Partly cloudy weather forecast

B A H A W A L P U R (APP): The local Met Office has forecast a dry to partly cloudy weather for the city for next 24 hours. The highest maximum temperature 16 centigrade and the lowest minimum 08 centigrade were recorded during last 24 hours. The dry to partly cloudy weather has also been forecast for rest of the region.

Gomal University organizes ceremony

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The Gomal University has organized a grand ceremony in connection with 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' here at its Wensam College the other day. Wensam College Principal Dr Fateh Khan was the chief guest of the event which was also attended by GU Director of Admission Riaz Ahmed Betanni, Coordinator Quaid-e-Azam Campus Dr. Allah Noor, Head Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Dr. Kamal Shah, Director of Students Affairs Dr. Nafid Khan, Wensam College's female section Head Arifa Rani, IT Incharge of Quaid-e-Azam Campus Dr. Mudassar and a large number of teachers and students. On this occasion, the students also delivered speeches on topics related to Kashmir Day, while the children attracted the participants through presenting tableaux to show solidarity with the Kashmiri brothers and sisters.

Photo exhibition, painting competition

SARGODHA (APP): A photo exhibition and painting competition based on Kashmiri oppression was held on Sunday under the auspices of the Sargodha Arts Council to express solidarity with Kashmir. The exhibition was inaugurated by Commissioner Sargodha Division Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti / Chairman Sargodha Arts Council. Deputy Commissioner Bhakkar Dr. Noor Muhammad, Deputy Commissioner Khushab Zeeshan Shabbir Rana and Director Sargodha Arts Council Asad Ahmed Rabbani were also present on the occasion. Thirty-two students participated in the painting competition, in which Hadiya Shabbir won first position, Humaira Yasmin second and Umama Amin third position. They were awarded cash prizes of Rs. 20,000, Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively.

Governor for investing more in education sector

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman has said that education is pivotal for the development and prosperity of a nation and we must focus on providing quality education to our youth.

Talking to APP, he said that it is the need of the hour to invest more in the education sector. He said that unfortunately, the PTI government gradually reduced funds for educational institutions for four years, affecting the quality of education.

He told that annual grants for Cadet College Hassan Abdal, Lawrence College Ghora Gali, and Sadiq Public School Bahawalpur were planned to be cut down to zero by the PTI government, however, recently the grants of these educational institutions were increased substantially. He said that a high-level financial committee has been formed to resolve the financial issues of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

He told that initially grants of Rs 55 million are

being planned to be given to the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. In response to another question, Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman told that the Punjab University's annual budget had a deficit of Rs 2 billion for which suggestions have been sought by the university administration. Governor Punjab said that it was a moment of pride and honor that Sadiq Public School Bahawalpur has completed 70 years. He said that being an alumnus of the school, he has a great affiliation with the institution.

Political hustle & bustle reaches on peak in SP ahead of elections

MULTAN (APP): Like other parts of the country, political hustle and bustle by the politicians and their supporters has reached its peak in South Punjab with a few days remaining in general elections.

The political party candidates were holding corner meetings in their respective constituencies to get maximum support in the general elections. The politicians hired daily wagers to install

panaflexes, banners, and cars on electric poles, flyovers, main chowks, and streets to get attention from the voters. The vehicles putting election symbols of candidates on the rooftops of the vehicles seemed to be running in the shape of rallies on the roads regarding the electioneering campaign.

The mini trucks, decorated with panaflexes and banners, were parked along the roadsides of major chowks

in the city to enhance the popularity of the politicians among the masses.

The candidates made promises with their supporters about jobs for unemployed youth, roads, clean water, and other facilities after electing in the elections. The people also seemed to be debating about their favorite political leaders at tea stalls, restaurants, marriage ceremonies, and other gatherings.

Ali Mardan expresses satisfaction over successful rescue operations in rain

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Sunday expressed satisfaction over the conduct of successful rescue operations in the rain and snow-affected areas of the province. According to a press release issued by the Chief Minister's Secretariat, Ali Mardan Domki has announced to award certificates of appreciation to all the officials who participated in the operation for the rescue of nine people including children, who were struck up in flood water in Keach district on the other day.

He directed commissioners

and deputy commissioners of the province to take precautionary measures in advance and prepare effective strategies to deal with any emergency situation in view of the weather conditions. He appreciated the performance of the Pakistan Army, FC, Levies, Police, PDMA and district administrations over the immediate rescue of people.

He also lauded the services of the Pakistan Army for supporting the civil administration and PDMA in the successful rescue operations exercised in the flood-affected areas and expressed best wishes for Commander-XII

Corps Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem Ahmad Khan and Inspector General FC Balochistan. The caretaker chief minister said that the Pakistan Army continued its welfare mission of serving the people by taking full part in the rescue operations alongside the civil administration in this time of trouble. Ali Mardan Domki has directed the Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and District Disaster Management Authorities of the province to ensure safety measures by clearing the flood roads and rainwater channels in view of the weather conditions.



MULTAN: Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Chairman Jahangir Tareen addressing a press conference.

Political heavyweights approach large tribes for support as election fever grips Charssadda

CHARSSADDA (APP): The independent and political party candidates approached large tribes and communities, seeking support for the 2024 election scheduled to be held on February 8.

With only four days left in the 2024 general election, candidates of various political parties and independents started approaching Tangiwall, Mohamadzai, Mohammad, Rajjarwall, and other tribes to get maximum support for the election that would be held on Thursday across the country, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Charssadda district.

On NA 24 Charssadda-1, political stalwarts are posing a serious challenge to Qumi Watan Party Chairman and former interior minister, Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, in his native constituency. Known as a stronghold of the ANP and Qumi Watan Party, Aftab Sherpao is again contesting the election from his home constituency, where he is being challenged by ANP, JUIF, PTI, and Pakistan Peoples Party candidates. Winning the 2002, 2008, and 2013 elections despite defeat in the last election, Aftab Sherpao expedited his election campaign to persuade voters, besides approaching large tribes to win their support.

In the 2013 election, Sherpao won the constituency with 37,044 votes against Munhamir Khan, who bagged 33,836 votes. However, Aftab Sherpao had lost to PTI's Anwar Taj, as the former stood in third place.

The women of Charssadda, constituting 45% of registered voters, are eyeing resolutions to their socioeconomic, educational, and environmental challenges besides seeking jobs.

The voters are demanding the establishment of a medical and cadet college, improved health and education facilities, and economic empowerment for women.

Senior vice chairman of the 'Muttahida' Shopkeepers Federation, Sadiqullah, said that inadequate healthcare and education facilities, insufficient transport infrastructure, and unfulfilled promises regarding road coverage are major challenges for the constituency, and any candidate with a solid program for its resolutions would get an edge over others.

He said a medical and cadet college was approved 15 years ago, but it had yet to be established in the constituency. He urged the prospective representatives to address these problems and alleviate the burden on the common people.

Meena Taj, an advocate for women's rights, emphasized the need for economic empowerment, education, and a change in societal attitudes. She said the existing laws empowering women are perceived as ineffective in practice, leading to challenges for widows and their children. Urging elected representatives to enforce harassment laws effectively and develop plans for women's livelihood improvement at the village level, she said that political discourse often focuses on emotions rather than concrete plans.

She highlighted the importance of political parties presenting clear manifestos and plans for future development, emphasizing that a focus on opponents rather than problem-solving contributes to divisive politics.

On NA24 Charssadda-II, ANP's KP President Aimal Wali is also being

challenged by JUIF and PPP candidates in his home constituency.

Aimal Wali Khan, who is the son of ANP President Asfandiyar Wali Khan, was contesting the election for a national assembly seat in his hometown of Charsadda after his father was out of the race due to health problems. The history of the past elections revealed that the ANP's had won the constituency a record six times, the JUIF's three times, and the PTI's only once. During general elections held between 1970 and 2018, this constituency was won three times by ANP President Asfandiyar Wali Khan, two times by Khan Abdul Wali Khan, and once by Begium Nasim Wali Khan. JUIF's Maulana Hassan Jan Shaheed clinched victory in the 1990 election, and Maulana Gohar Shah won it two times, while PTI's Fazal Muhammad Khan won it once in the last general election.

In the 1970 election, ANP Chief Abdul Wali Khan emerged victorious after securing 34,359 votes, while his wife Begium Nasim Wali Khan secured victory on the ticket of the Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) with 48,653 votes during the 1977 election. Abdul Wali Khan had regained the seat in the 1998 election after obtaining 63,185 votes. However, Abdul Wali Khan lost to JUIF's Maulana Hasan Jan Shaheed in the 1990 election after the latter bagged 66,452 votes. As a result, the former left practical politics.

ANP President Asfandiyar Wali Khan was elected member of the national assembly from this constituency in the 1993 election with 56,164 votes and the 1997 election with 55,059 votes, respectively.

Three political heavyweights at loggerhead on NA 35 Kohat as election fever reach to climax in KP

KOHAT (APP): The Election 2024 campaign on Sunday reached its peak in Kohat district, where a tough electoral battle is expected among Pakistan Muslim League (N) former senator Abbas Afridi and ex-MNA Sharyar Afridi, backed by Pakistan Tahrik e Insaaf and Saifullah Bangash of JUIF on February 8.

Besides addressing corner meetings and public rallies, the political stalwarts approached large tribes, including Bangash, Afridi, Aurkzai, and others, to get their support for the 2024 election.

Shahryar Afridi had won the 2013 and 2018 elections from NA 35 Kohat after securing 68,129 votes and 82,248 votes, respectively, while JUIF Gohar Bangash stood runner-up with 32,041 and 47,412 votes, respectively. Political observers said that Seth Saifullah Khan Bangash, who was defeated in the previous elections by a narrow margin, could surprise many on election day.

Saifullah may have gained an advantage after his party fielded strong candidates in the three provincial assembly constituencies, which were part of the National Assembly constituency, and these candidates were also campaigning for Saifullah.

PTI district president Aftab Iqbal will face three-time election winner and independent candidate Amjad Afridi on PK-91. He remained part of the Awami National Party and the PTI and later joined the Pakistan Peoples Party. Afridi is considered an influential candidate in the constituency as he and his brother, PML-N's Abbas Afridi, carried out massive development work in Kohat that may benefit them on D-Day.

JUI-F candidate Mohammad Shoaib of Darra Adamkhel, which is now part of KP-90, also has large voter support, especially from religious people, and approached large tribes to get support ahead of the polling day.

PTI has fielded Daud Afridi in PK 91 Kohat, who will face party dissident and former MPA Intiaz Qureshi, who is contesting the election independently. Iqbal Fana, who won the 2008 election as a nominee of the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal, can also surprise his rivals on polling day.

He recently quit the Jamaat-i-Islami after a long affiliation to join the JUI-F after being approached by supporters, which can surprise many.

Former minister Ziaullah Bangash, who joined the PTI-Parliamentarians, has jumped into the electoral arena of KP-92, where he was being challenged by the PTI's Shafi Jan, whose father laid the party's foundation in Kohat in 1996.

Johar Saifullah Khan Bangash of the JUI-F and Dr. Zulfiqar of the PPP, who have sizable support in the "Mini Larkana" of the Bangash belt on the Hangu Road, are also in the field and will give tough time to political rivals.

Dignity kits bring hope to Sukkur, SRSO, UNHCR & RSPN's humanitarian Initiative

SUKKUR (APP): In the wake of the devastating 2022 floods, the Rural Support Programs Network (RSPN), with the collaboration of the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO), marked a heartening event in Sukkur by distributing Dignity Kits to women and girls above 10 years old.

This initiative, generously funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) through the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), aims to provide crucial support to those affected by the calamitous floods. The Dignity Kits, distributed by RSPN, include essential items such as bathing prod-

ucts, buckets, shawls, slippers, a whistle, and a torch for safety. These kits represent a lifeline for the women and girls of Sukkur district, offering not only practical necessities but also a symbol of hope and solidarity in the face of adversity.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), SRSO, Muhammad Dital Kalhor, Project Manager, Nazia Shah, Protection Manager, UN, Ahsan Ali, District Manager, SRSO Sukkur, Nasreen Noonari, and other officials were present for the occasion. It is to be mentioned here that the Rural Support Program network, with financial backing from UNHCR through UNFPA,

responded swiftly to the urgent needs arising post-floods. The humanitarian response project was implemented across Sukkur.

Kashmore and Shikarpur districts, focusing on the most vulnerable members of the community. As part of this initiative, women- and girls-friendly spaces were established, serving as havens for rehabilitation and education. These safe spaces played a pivotal role in empowering and supporting the affected population. Sessions on gender-based violence (GBV), harassment, and physical and mental health were conducted, addressing the unique challenges faced by women and girls of all ages.

Rivals flexing muscles to secure maximum slots

FAISALABAD (APP): Deeply entrenched in caste system, the industrial hub of Pakistan is once again witnessing the old faces contesting 2024 elections embracing more or less the same slogans of economic revival, jobs and ameliorating the lot of people.

Although social media has revolutionized the society in the awareness regime, yet the old doctrine of caste and incentives based politics still persists in most parts of the country and Faisalabad is not an exception.

Known as Manchester of Pakistan - Faisalabad district is generally dominated by Jutt, Rajpoot, Gujjar, Arain, Ansari, Baloch bradaris with some other clans settled here even prior to the Independence of Pakistan.

Besides having their strong caste base, these candidates also own the tickets of key national political parties like Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan Peoples' Party with some candidates contesting as independents and claiming to be

supported by PTI whose symbol of 'Bat' was suspended by the ECP due to faulty intra party elections. Daily life interactions, participation in funerals and weddings, disputes resolution at courts and police stations as well as local development work once again surfaces as mainstay in keeping the vote bank intact.

Future promises and hopes like always are also in the heart of election campaign with PML-N ensuring to putting the country on strong economic footing and PPP promising employment, salaries increase, BISP expansion and grassroots development. As electioneering gained momentum in Faisalabad with a public meeting by Bilawal Bhutto, it culminated with the address of PML-N supreme Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's to a mammoth public gathering on February 02 with political pundits foreseeing tough contest ahead.

With the February 08 elections zeroing in, the candidates from main political parties and

the independents are diligently wooing voters by arranging public meetings and serving voters at election camps (Deras) with food, tea and even providing them logistics for personal use.

Housing over eight million populace, 5,297,899 Faisalabad voters including 2,841,085 male and 2,456,814 female - would be voting to elect 10 MNAs and 21 MPAs out of 277 and 574 candidates contesting elections respectively for National and Provincial Assembly seats.

Political figures like Rana Sanaullah Khan, Abid Sher Ali, Haji Akram Ansari, Rana Farooq Saeed Khan, Hafiz Mumtaz Ahmad, Hamayun Akhtar Khan, Ali Afzal Sahi, Mina Irfan Mannan, Shahbaz Babar, Arif Gill, Saadullah Baloch and Ali Gohar Baloch from top known Bradaris of the district.

It is worth mentioning that two stalwart families of Arain and Rajput bradaris - the Chaudhary Nazir and Rana Zahif Tauseef family are not participating in this election.

In the most important contest across the district, PML-N Punjab President, Former Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan will be facing his rival Dr Nisar Ahmed ex-MNA in NA-100. Rana Sana was elected from this constituency (then 106) during 2018 general elections. Sidra Saeed is contesting in this constituency as PPP candidate. Another important contest is in NA-97 where former federal minister and IPP stalwart Hamayun Akhtar Khan would be facing PML-N's Ali Gohar of Baloch clan. Saadullah Baloch parental nephew of Ali Gohar and Aysa Rajab Ali, widow of former MNA Rajab Ali Baloch (sister-in-law of Ali Gohar) are also contesting from the same constituency.

The third important contest is expected in NA-102 where former federal minister Abid Sher Ali would be contesting against independent candidate Changaiz Khan Kakar and Rana Naeem of PPP. As former Opposition Leader in National Assembly

Raja Riaz Ahmad has retired from elections, his son Danyal Ahmad would now be contesting election on PML-N ticket from NA-104 against Jamat-e-Islami candidate former President FCCI Rana Sikandar Azam and an independent Hamid Raza.

In NA-103, PML-N candidate, former state minister Haji Akram Ansari is trying his luck against independent Ali Sarfaraz, the son of former federal minister Mian Zahid Sarfraz. Former MNA Sheikh Khurram is also contesting as an independent candidate from this constituency.

PPP Central Punjab President, Former Federal Minister Rana Farooq Saeed would be facing former PML-N MNA Shahbaz Babar and former Punjab Minister and an independent candidate Hafiz Mumtaz in NA-98. Former Speaker Punjab Assembly Muhammad Afzal Sahi has fielded his son Ali Afzal Sahi as independent candidate against PML-N's Azad Ali Tabasum from NA-95.

PML-N leader Talal Chaudhary has retired in favor of Malik Nawab Sher Waseer as PML-N candidate from NA-96. Independent candidate Rai Haider Khan Khari and Rai Shah Jehan of PPP are also contesting from this constituency.

In NA 99, former Punjab Minister Malik Umar Farooq is now contesting election as an independent candidate to face Muhammad Qasim Farooq of PML-N and Neha Javed of PPP. Irfan Manan of PML-N, Muhammad Afzal of PPP and independents Rana Atif and Maj Gen @ Akram Sahi are contesting from NA-101.

Former Punjab ministers Latif Nazir and Khayal Ahmad Kastro are also contesting from different PP constituencies as independent candidates.

As PML-N and PPP have announced heavy manifestos of masses welfare and independents expect sympathy vote from PTI voters, Faisalabadites hope to see an interesting contest on February 08.



Aliyev: Azerbaijan strongman buoyed by war victory

BAKU (AFP/APP): Azerbaijani strongman Ilham Aliyev, who will likely sail to a fifth presidential term in Wednesday's election, is cementing his hardline rule after securing a historic victory over Armenian separatists.

Aliyev called the elections one year ahead of schedule in December when he was riding high in polls for securing victory over Armenian rebels in a three-decade territorial dispute.

Aliyev was celebrated as a national hero after his troops recaptured the mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh region in September's one-day offensive, ending one of the most bitter standoffs of the post-Soviet era and reclaiming territory that had sparked wars in 2020 and in the 1990s and claimed tens of thousands of lives on both sides.

The victory "saw Aliyev's approval ratings soar and guaranteed his electoral win in the upcoming election," said political analyst Farhad Mammadov.

"Polls have shown that the occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijani lands was the number one issue for Azerbaijanis," he added.

The 62-year-old took over in 2003 after the death of his father Heydar Aliyev, a former Soviet KGB officer and Communist-era boss.

He then extended his family's grip over the oil-rich Caspian state in elections in 2008, 2013, and 2018 that were denounced by the embattled opposition as fraudulent.

Supporters have praised the Aliyevs for turning the republic -- once thought of as a Soviet backwater -- into a flourishing energy supplier to Europe. But critics argue they have crushed the opposition and used their power to amass a fortune that funds a lavish lifestyle for the president and his family. Opposition parties have said they will boycott the



elections, accusing Aliyev of orchestrating systematic political repression. "There are no conditions in the country for the conduct of free and fair elections," said Ali Kerimli, the leader of the opposition National Front party. "Political dissent is being harshly suppressed. We are not going to be part of falsified elections and the imitation of democracy."

Aliyev's government has recently escalated a media crackdown, arresting several journalists who have exposed corruption among the political elite.

He amended the constitution in 2009 so he could run for unlimited presidential terms and in 2016 extended term limits from five to seven years.

The changes drew criticism from Council of Europe constitutional law experts as "severely upsetting the balance of powers" and giving the president "unprecedented" authority.

Then in 2017, the president appointed his glamorous wife Mehriban Aliyeva as first vice president. Born into the powerful Pashayev family, Mehriban is sometimes seen as a possible successor or even rival to her husband.

The next generation of the Aliyev

dynasty seems set to continue the family's leading political role.

US media has reported on property worth \$75 million (68 million euros) in Dubai in the names of the president's three children, son Heydar, and daughters Arzu and Leyla.

They are often spotted at lavish red-carpet events abroad and are thought to control substantial business interests of their own.

Bolstered by billions in oil money, Ilham has overseen years of economic growth and forged a strong military alliance with Turkey, while treading carefully between Russia and the West.

That approach saw him likened in one US diplomatic cable to the cold-blooded fictional character of Michael Corleone from "The Godfather" movies.

Aliyev's heavy-handed treatment of dissent at home also inspired comparisons to another character from the Corleone clan -- Michael's hot-headed brother Sonny.

"His goal appears to be a political environment in which the Aliyev dynasty is unchallenged," said the cable, released by whistleblowing organisation WikiLeaks.

Namibia's President Hage Geingob dies in hospital

WINDHOEK (AFP/APP): Namibia's President Hage Geingob died early Sunday in a hospital in Windhoek, the presidential office said in a statement. He was 82.

Geingob, who was serving his second term as president, revealed last month that he was receiving treatment for cancer.

"It is with utmost sadness and regret that I inform you that our beloved Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia has passed on today", read the statement on X, formerly Twitter, signed by acting president Nangolo Mbumba.

"At his side, was his dear wife Madame Monica Geingos and his children."

A biopsy following a routine medical check-up in January had revealed "cancerous cells", Geingob's office said at the time.

First elected president in 2014, Geingob was Namibia's longest serving prime minister and third president. In 2013, Geingob underwent brain surgery, and last year he underwent an aortic operation in neighbouring South Africa.

Up until his death, he had been receiving treatment at Lady Pohamba Hospital in Windhoek.

"The Namibian nation has lost a distinguished servant of the people, a liberation struggle icon, the chief architect of our constitution and the pillar of the Namibian house," said Mbumba. "At this moment of deepest sorrow, I appeal to the nation to remain calm and collected while the Government attends to all necessary state arrangements, preparations and other protocols."

He said the Cabinet would convene immediately to make the necessary state arrangements.

Born in a village in northern Namibia in 1941, Geingob was the southern African country's first presi-

dent outside of the Ovambo ethnic group, which makes up more than half the country's population.

He took up activism against South Africa's apartheid regime, which at the time ruled over Namibia, from his early schooling years before being driven into exile.

He spent almost three decades in Botswana and the United States, leaving the former for the latter in 1964.

Namibia is to hold presidential and national assembly elections towards the end of the year.

Hage Geingob, Namibia's veteran statesman: Hage Geingob, Namibia's longest-serving prime minister and third president, was an anti-apartheid activist turned statesman, who cut a reassuring figure.

He passed away early Sunday in a hospital in the capital Windhoek, where he was receiving treatment for cancer. He was 82.

Born in a village in northern Namibia in 1941, Hage Gottfried Geingob was the southern African country's first president outside of the Ovambo ethnic group, which makes up more than half the country's population. He took up activism against South Africa's apartheid regime, which at the time ruled over Namibia, from his early schooling years before being driven into exile.

He spent almost three decades in Botswana and the United States, leaving the former for the latter in 1964.

The tall, deep-voiced leader studied at Fordham University in New York, and much later in life received a PhD in the United Kingdom.

While in the US, he remained a vocal advocate for Namibia's independence, representing the local liberation movement, SWAPO, now the ruling party, at the United Nations and across the Americas.

In the early 1970s he started a career working for the UN on governance issues.

Seen as a centrist, he returned to Namibia in 1989, a year before the country's independence.

"I embraced the soil of Namibia after 27 years in exile. Looking back, the journey of building a new Namibia has been worthwhile," he said in a Twitter post in 2020 posting a photo of his younger self kissing the tarmac after landing back home.

- Fish rot -

When SWAPO won the first vote in 1990, Geingob was appointed prime minister - a position he held for 12 years before returning to it again in 2012.

In 2014, as the party comfortably won yet another vote, riding on the legacy of its role in the liberation struggle, Geingob became president.

In between top jobs, the composed yet stern talking leader who sported wide-rimmed glasses and a tuft of grey hair on his chin, held various ministerial and internal party positions. But his first term as president was tainted by a recession, high unemployment and graft allegations.

In 2019, documents published by WikiLeaks suggested that government officials took bribes from an Icelandic firm in exchange for continued access to Namibia's fishing grounds. The "fish rot" scandal threatened Geingob's prospects of a second term, with the head of state also coming under fire for pumping money into a bloated administration and granting contracts to foreign rather than local companies.

His share of the vote dropped considerably in 2019 from the 2014 height of 87 percent, but he was still able to comfortably sail to victory with 56 percent of preferences.

- Football lover -

He suffered a couple of health scares in his later years, having undergone brain surgery in 2013 and a heart valve surgery in South Africa in June 2023.

National Guard Ministry to receive visitors at ‘World Defense Show 2024’

RIYADH (SPA/APP): Under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the World Defense Show 2024 will start from today, Sunday till Thursday.

A pavilion of the Ministry of National Guard will participate in the show, featuring its significant achievements in localizing its current and

future security and military capabilities.

It will also provide knowledge transfer initiatives to keep pace with the latest developments and boost the value of industrial investment in the defense sector, through opportunities for collaborative partnerships between the ministry and local and international manufacturers of military equipment.

Additionally, the ministry will showcase the latest advanced technologies in communications and present a demonstration of the most prominent armament systems and their latest developments through interactive screens in its pavilion.

Held under the theme "Equipped for Tomorrow", the World Defense Show 2024, in its second edition, explores the future of the defense industry by showcasing the latest technological developments worldwide in various defense sectors in land, sea, air, space, and security.

Organized by the General Authority for Military Industries (GAMI), the exhibition will receive more than 750 exhibitors and representatives from 45 countries.

Senegal president postpones election

DAKAR (AFP/APP): Just hours before official campaigning was due to start on Sunday, Senegal's President Macky Sall announced the indefinite postponement of a presidential election scheduled for February 25, provoking anger from opposition figures and a ministerial resignation.

In an address to the nation Saturday, Sall said he had postponed the vote that would have decided his

successor because of a dispute between the National Assembly and the Constitutional Court over the rejection of candidates.

Lawmakers are investigating two Constitutional Council judges whose integrity in the election process has been questioned.

"I will begin an open national dialogue to bring together the conditions for a free, transparent and

inclusive election," Sall added, without giving a new date.

Under the country's election code, at least 80 days must pass between the publication of the decree setting the date and the election, so the earliest a vote could now be held is late April.

Just hours after Sall's announcement, Abdou Latif Coulibaly, the secretary general of the govern-

ment who has acted as its spokesman, announced his resignation.

He was quitting because he wanted to have "full and complete freedom" to defend his political convictions, Coulibaly said in a statement.

This is the first time a Senegalese presidential election has been postponed and adds to the growing political tension in the country.

El Salvador votes with gang-busting Bukele miles ahead

SAN SALVADOR (AFP/APP): El Salvador goes to the polls Sunday with victory for gang-busting President Nayib Bukele in the bag and the only question how many seats his party will claim in a new-look parliament.

Bukele, 42, enjoys approval ratings hovering around 90 percent and polls as Latin America's most popular leader, credited with slashing the country's homicide rate and restoring peace to a violence-weary nation. His government has rounded up more than 75,000 gangsters -- real and suspected -- since a state of emergency came into effect in March 2022. Thousands are held in a brand-new prison -- plugged as the largest in the Americas -- which the president had built in a matter of months.

And last year, the country that was once one of the most dangerous in the world saw the murder rate plummet to its lowest level in three decades -- far below the world average. As a result, Bukele is all but assured victory in Sunday's first voting round despite concerns about rights violations, creeping authoritarianism and grumblings about the economy.

"He has been effective. He cleaned up all those places (of gangs) where nobody thought it could be done," retired architect Claudia Del Velasco, 72, told AFP in the capital San Salvador, "excited" about casting her vote.

"One feels safe now to visit places you haven't seen for years. Even to discover" new ones, she added, though the economy "can improve." El Salvador's fearsome gangs took some 120,000 civilian lives in three decades, according to the government. With little need to campaign for himself, Bukele has instead focused on beating the drum for his party, Nuevas Ideas, which holds 56 seats in the current 84-member legislative assembly. The overall number of seats has been reduced to 60 under a Bukele-led reform, in a move critics say will make it much harder for smaller parties to get enough votes to get in.

In 2022, the legislature also approved a law allowing Salvadorans to vote abroad. Under that reform, all foreign ballots -- which tend to favor Bukele -- will count towards the department of San Salvador which has the most undecided seats, according to the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), an NGO promoting human rights. WOLA Central America director Ana Maria Mendez Dardon told AFP the political opposition could all but "disappear" in this election.

"There is a risk of having a one-party system in El Salvador," she said.

In a message on X this week, Bukele urged Salvadorans to vote en masse for Nuevas Ideas.

"Our country has changed, nobody can deny it. Our job this Sunday is to ensure that these changes are forever," he said.

Activists say many innocents -- including minors -- have been caught up in the anti-gang dragnet, locked up in inhumane conditions, even subjected to torture.

In December, an Amnesty International report raised alarm over the "gradual replacement of gang violence with state violence." An apparatus of power is also a concern, with the Bukele-aligned parliament having replaced the country's top judges and attorney general -- both institutions he had clashed with.

The Supreme Court subsequently allowed him to seek reelection despite a constitutional ban on consecutive terms.

There are also concerns about worsening antagonism towards critics and independent media, and of opaque public accounting.

El Salvador's ailing economy will be a major challenge for Bukele's second term, with high public debt and the president's investment of taxpayer money in bitcoin widely seen as a failed gambit.

Nearly 30 percent of Salvadorans lived in poverty in 2022, according to the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Voting in El Salvador is not compulsory, and turnout was just over 50 percent in 2019, when Bukele won in the first round.

There are just over 6.2 million eligible voters worldwide, some 740,000 abroad -- mainly in the United States, according to electoral authorities.

None of Bukele's five rival candidates have even five percent of polled support. Polls open at 7:00 am and will close 10 hours later.

Airlines learn patience in constrained Airbus-Boeing duopoly

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): With the latest Boeing crisis, airlines are starting down more delays, a familiar problem in a market in which both the US giant and rival Airbus face supply chain constraints.

Over the past year, Boeing has struggled with difficulties on its star plane, the 737 MAX, culminating with a major in-flight safety incident on Alaska Airlines in early January. Boeing had been eyeing a ramp-up of MAX production through 2025, but that plan has now been frozen by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The FAA's move likely will further slow Boeing's delivery timetable, which was already behind schedule. While the manufacturer's European rival Airbus has avoided comparable safety troubles, it also faces a major headache due to a problem with engines built by Pratt & Whitney, a unit of RTX. Hundreds of Airbus 320neo jets must be inspected between 2023 and 2026 to check for microscopic "contamination" of metals used to make the engines.

The inspections and any

necessary engine fixes require 250 to 300 days per aircraft, another hurdle for airlines eager to take advantage of strong travel demand. Some of Boeing's customers have seemed to open the door to potentially moving orders elsewhere.

Alaska Airlines, which until now has been exclusively supplied by Boeing, had been considering orders of the Boeing 737 MAX 10 prior to the January 5 incident. But Alaska Chief Executive Officer Ben Minicucci suggested a possible shift given its pending acquisition of Hawaiian Airlines, which is supplied by Airbus. "Everything is open at this point," Minicucci said in a recent broadcast interview. "We are going to do what is best for Alaska." American Airlines CEO Robert Isom last month said Boeing "needs to get their act together," while noting the carrier has large fleets of Airbus and Boeing planes. Asked if he would consider Boeing for an upcoming order, Isom said, "We're going to make sure that whatever is purchased,

whether it be from Airbus, Boeing, Embraer... is incredibly reliable, safe right from the get-go off the factory floor." But changing plane suppliers is not so straightforward.

Airlines must secure a spot in the order book of a manufacturer, which must ready supply chains to execute a multi-plane order over months and years; that is not so easy right now.

The Airbus production infrastructure is completely booked through 2030 for single-aisle planes -- the A320 line -- and through 2028 for long-distance jets, the A350. "We must deliver 8,600 planes on time and ready to fly," Christian Scherer, chief executive of Airbus's commercial aircraft business, said last month.

The plan is for Airbus to boost A320 production to 75 per month in 2026 compared with 48 monthly in 2023. Even under that schedule, airlines are signing contracts for jets that won't be delivered for years.

Despite the yawning timeframe, "we are still getting more orders," Scherer said. Airbus in 2023 received

net new orders of 2,094, smashing the previous record of 1,503 a decade earlier. The European giant has won myriad orders from airlines renewing their fleets to meet emission targets in 2050, a period when overall air travel is expected to have doubled.

Meanwhile across the Atlantic, Airbus's big US rival faces persistent scrutiny. Besides questions about quality control following the Alaska Airlines incident on the 737 MAX 9, Boeing has yet to receive certification on the 737 MAX 7 and the 737 MAX 10 -- the smallest and largest versions of the single-aisle model. Boeing has received 391 orders for the MAX 7 and 1,180 for the MAX 10. The latter was supposed to have commenced deliveries in 2023.

Given the uncertain timeframe, airlines are retooling their schedules. Like Airbus, Boeing's order book is robust, with more than 4,000 orders across the MAX program out of a total of 5,626 plane orders. The next available order slots for 737s are "towards the end of the decade," Boeing said.

US patient ‘happy again’ after brain implant treats epilepsy and OCD

PORTLAND (AFP/APP): American Amber Pearson used to wash her hands until they bled, terrified by the idea of contamination from everyday items, a debilitating result of her obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD).

But the repetitive rituals of her condition are largely consigned to memory, thanks to a revolutionary brain implant that is being used to treat both her epilepsy and her OCD.

"I'm actually present in my daily life and that's incredible," the 34-year-old told AFP.

"Before, I was just constantly in my head worrying about my compulsions." Brain implants have hit the headlines recently with Elon Musk's announcement that his Neuralink company had placed a chip in a patient's head, which scientists hope will ultimately allow people to control a smartphone just by thinking about it.

But the idea of inserting a device into the brain is not new, and for decades doctors have known that

precisely applied electrical stimulation can affect the way the brain operates.

Such deep-brain stimulation is used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease and other conditions affecting movement, including epilepsy. Pearson's doctors offered her the 32-millimeter (just over an inch-long) device to treat her debilitating epileptic seizures, confident it would be able to detect the activity that causes the episodes and deliver a pulse to interfere with them. It was then that Pearson herself had something of a lightbulb moment. "It was her idea to say: 'Well, you're going into my brain and putting this wire, and I have OCD, so can you just put a wire for OCD?'" recalls neurosurgeon Ahmed Raslan, who carried out the procedure at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland on the US West Coast.

"And you know, luckily, we took that suggestion seriously." There had previously been some study of the use of deep brain stimulation for people suffering

from OCD, but, says Raslan, it had never been combined with treatment for epilepsy.

Doctors worked with Pearson to see exactly what happens in her brain when she gets trapped in an obsessive loop.

The technique involved exposing her to known stressors -- in this case, seafood -- and recording the electrical markers.

In this way, they could effectively isolate the brain activity associated with her OCD. They could then configure her implant so that it would react to that specific signal. ual-program device now watches for brain activity associated both with epilepsy and with OCD. It is "the only device in the world that treats two conditions," says Raslan.

"And it's programmed independently. So the program for epilepsy is different than the program for OCD." It's a breakthrough he thinks only someone like Pearson could have come up with. "This is the first time in the world that's been done. Usually, we

think of devices either for OCD or for epilepsy.

"This idea sits outside of the box and would only come from a patient," he says. Raslan said a study is now underway at the University of Pennsylvania to see how this technique can be more widely applied, offering possible hope to some of the 2.5 million people in the United States who suffer from OCD.

For Pearson, there was an eight-month wait after the 2019 procedure to see any noticeable difference.

But gradually, the all-consuming rituals that had taken up eight or nine hours every day since her teenage years began to ebb.

The endless pre-bed checklists of window-shutting and the constant hand-washing diminished to a manageable 30 minutes a day. And the fear of contamination from eating with others is now gone. "I'm happy again and excited to go out and live and be with my friends and my family," she said. That "was something I was cut off from for years."

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Kashmir Solidarity Day

THE people of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir in the country and abroad observe Kashmir Solidarity Day on the fifth of February each year, to mark their unwavering support and unity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). This day begins with special prayers in mosques for the liberation of Kashmir, protests and public processions carried out throughout Pakistan, Azad Kashmir and important cities across the globe against decades-long oppression of the Indian occupier regime. The government of Pakistan, media, civil society, and human rights organizations call on the Indian government to fulfil its legal obligations by honouring UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions on the Kashmir dispute by enabling Kashmiris to exercise their globally recognized right to self-determination. At the same time, the UN and the global community are sensitized about their moral responsibility in implementing long-held UNSC resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir issue.

Historically, New Delhi's complicity with Kashmiri Hindu Maharaja and forceful occupation of Jammu and Kashmir caused a lifelong problem for millions of Kashmiri Muslims, splitting the territory into two, prompting displacement and migration along with instigating rivalry between the newly liberated neighbouring states, India and Pakistan. Kashmir is one of the longstanding unresolved disputes on the agenda of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and is like a stigma on the prestige and reputation of the global forum. The Indian rulers themselves took the Kashmir issue to the UN and acknowledged the need for a peaceful settlement of the issue by holding a plebiscite in the Jammu and Kashmir region. Later, India treacherously violated the UN resolutions and did not hold a plebiscite in disputed territory until now. Over the past decades, Indian-occupied territory remained one of the world's most militarized zones as New Delhi deployed over nine hundred thousand troops to suppress Kashmiris' rightful struggle to grasp their right to self-determination conferred by the UNSC decades ago. The human rights situation in Kashmir remains dire, while the Indian security forces weighed an undeclared war against innocent Kashmiris through raid and search operations, arbitrary arrests, extra-judicial killings, use of pellet guns, unlawful coercion and torture, blockage of the internet and restrictions on the press, movement of the public, peaceful assembly and political activities. Thus, Kashmir has been presenting the scenes of a highly guarded open prison where inmates do not have even the basic rights and access to information, religious freedom, political rituals etc.

Over the decades, Indian rulers not only betrayed the UNSC's resolutions regarding the Kashmir dispute but intentionally introduced policies and implemented measures aimed at consolidating India's unlawful control of the valley along with adding further complications to the issue making UNSC's resolutions null and void. The major step in this regard was the Modi- regime's unlawful actions taken on August 5, 2019, and thereafter, which was a failed attempt to sabotage the Kashmir issue by taking unilateral domestic constitutional and administrative measures. The Modi government allowed non-Kashmiris to get Kashmiri citizenry and property rights, and altered electoral constituencies and voter lists to ultimately change the demography of the disputed territory through biased and pre-planned illegal actions.

Unfortunately, 78 long and tragic years have passed after Indian troops illegally occupied the Muslim-majority Jammu and Kashmir valley and an equal amount of time has elapsed that the Kashmiris are waiting for the implementation of the UNSC resolutions to amicably settle this dispute that has shaped into a grave humanitarian crisis over the past decades. In fact, a single-day expression of solidarity with Kashmiris and event-driven sensation of the Kashmir issue failed to produce the required result in the past decades. Today, on February 5th 2024, the Pakistani Nation and the government must swear and take an oath that a fresh and wholehearted effort will be launched at the global level through all available means including media, human rights advocacy, political and legal campaigns to consistently raise the Kashmir dispute and highlight the urgency for immediate implementation of the UNSC resolutions and the serious risk of a nuclear clash involving the two nuclear-armed states in South Asia. So, things move in a positive direction, the decades-old Kashmir issue gets the attention of the global community and the dream of a free and prosperous Kashmir could be realized as early as possible.

The State for Sale or Lease

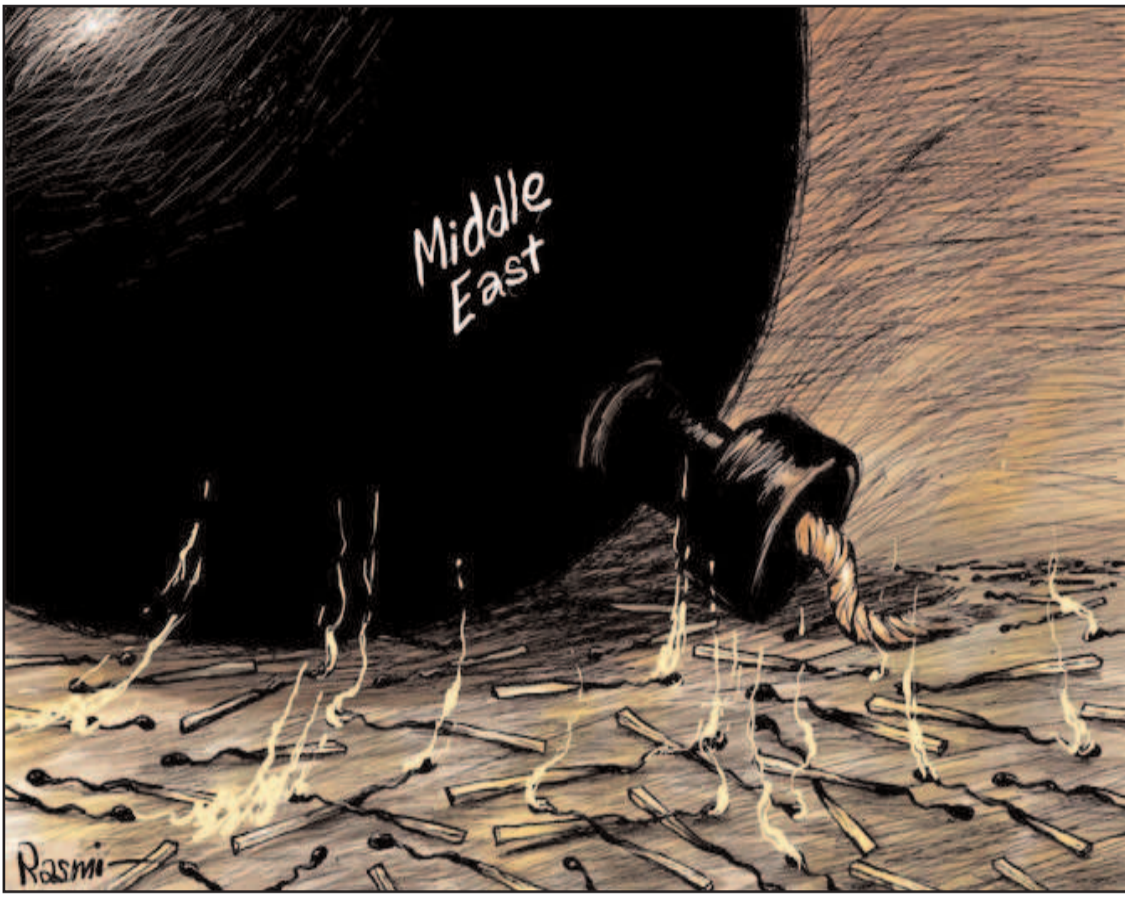
CARETAKER Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday witnessed the signing of an agreement between The Authority of Karachi Port Trust Pakistan and Abu Dhabi Ports Group, UAE. As said the agreement is a commercial understanding for the Outsourcing of Operations of Bulk and General Cargo Terminal at seven (7) Berths of East Wharf Karachi Port. Prime Minister Kakar expressed his satisfaction with the growth of exchanges, interaction, and cooperation between businesses in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

The Kakar's caretaker government has announced an auction of the Pakistani state-owned entities and a long list of gigantic corporations ranging from the PIA to Pakistan Steel Mills and Pakistan Railway to Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, seaports, and airports all are ready to hire/ purchase consortiums those have shaped into an unbearable burden for the state as well as the nation. A prestigious signing ceremony of the agreement selling operational rights of Karachi port's cargo handling was attended by Prime Minister Kakar, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Dr Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan, and other senior officers from both sides. During the ceremony, the difference in dress code and level of confidence of the auctioneers and buyers and the body language were very much obvious and outrightly chanting the hollowness and perversity of our system and the nation as well.

Although, the Pakistani leaders and bureaucrats failed to build and protect their national assets, however, they did not feel any remorse or disgrace over bartering the hard-earned valuables of their nation. The Emiratis will almost use the available infrastructure, the same machinery, and labor to generate profit for their country through whom our people couldn't do so. It is nothing else but a lack of sincerity, patriotism, and no devotion to duty and national responsibility that has now become a national brand of ours. Mr Kalar rightly observed that the bilateral relations between Pakistan and the UAE are booming while the recent agreement will further strengthen the bilateral ties in the marine and logistic sectors of the two countries. However, this relationship is not more than an association between the borrower and the lender, between seller and buyer, and a correlation between the needy and the rich. Those nations have built their states, ensured the writ of the law, and prosecuted the culprits, criminals, and crooks without any nepotism, class consciousness, or discrimination. Therefore, they excelled in each field and got distinguished in the comity of the nations. Our leaders and institutions fell victim to personalities, institutional prestige, and tribal ego thus, the national interest was compromised altogether. So, the leaders, institutions, and the public equally face disgrace and humiliation at the moment if one is conscious and feels guilty.

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Could the UK lead the way in breaking peace process impasse?

YOSSI MEKELBERG

FREEDOM from the shackles of the need to be elected, and perhaps even an acknowledgment that it is unlikely there would be a Conservative government after the next general election, might have done UK's Foreign Secretary David Cameron a world of good in terms of his approach to the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians.

It was only to be expected, in light of the dangerous volatility in a Middle East on the brink of a wider war, that the region would be high on the list of British foreign policy priorities. But there are signs that in his new political role, Cameron is ready to lead a new and much bolder effort to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — and, equally important, one that distinguishes itself, at least for now, from Washington's position.

To begin with, Cameron has become a frequent visitor to the region, including trips to Israel and Palestine, which has made Britain's presence there more visible. But he has now also grabbed the headlines with a groundbreaking speech in which he departed from the usual formula of generic and abstract support for a two-state solution. He went further by stating that the Palestinian people would need to be shown "irreversible progress" toward actually achieving this.

More crucially, he said: "As that happens, we — with allies — will look at the issue of recognizing a Palestinian state, including at the United Nations."

Is one of these allies he referred to the US? In diplomatic terms, this speech was a bombshell. Not surprisingly, he chose the very sympathetic Conservative Middle East Council as the venue to test the waters for what would be a sea change not only in terms of British policy toward the conflict but, as Cameron implied, also on the part of other countries.

Being cognizant of the

fact that London does not often take a stand independently of Washington on an issue that is central to US domestic and foreign policy, especially during an election year, this might suggest that the Biden administration, itself exasperated with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his extreme right-wing coalition partners, has agreed, at least tacitly, to the UK going ahead with a policy that could remove one of the major obstacles to achieving an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

On the other hand, if there is no American support for the policy, which one should doubt, it might mean that the UK and some of its European allies are recognizing that it is in their best interests to bring to an end this seemingly endless conflict that is harming their interests in the region and causing far-reaching social-political repercussions within their societies.

In recent years the UK has neglected to develop any encompassing strategy on the Middle East. Until recently, the reduced importance the current government attached to the region was demonstrated by its tilt toward the Indo-Pacific. It ignored the destabilizing political undercurrents in the Middle East, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and mainly concentrated on trade.

For instance, the UK cut £90 million from its budget for conflict prevention in the Middle East, and despite a number of Middle Eastern states still having high regard for the training provided by the British military, most of the region views the country as having a waning diplomatic influence.

Attempting to make a distinction between political and economic relations and social-political implications was clearly artificial from the outset.

Considering that the UK exports more to the Middle East than to China and India combined; that

the Gulf countries are the sixth-largest market for British goods; and that inward investment to the UK from the region is crucial to ensure its overseas investment figures remains in good shape, political developments are simply too important for the UK to ignore.

But the economic angle is only one facet of the importance of the Middle East to the UK. Its proximity and demography also hugely affect political and security considerations, including efforts to curb extremism, safeguard energy supplies and contain Iran's adventurism.

The very idea that as a major power the UK could scale down or downgrade the Middle East and North Africa region in its list of priorities was irresponsible to begin with, and the events that have followed Oct. 7 serve as a rude awakening to this fact.

Admittedly, for reasons that are difficult to fathom, the UK, despite its colonial past and the responsibility it must bear for some of the underlying ills that ail the Middle East, among them the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is respected and perceived as conducting a more sound and even-handed approach than the US, one that reflects a better understanding of the intricacies of the region.

That does not negate the fact that some of the reasons for the UK becoming a less influential power in the world have been self-inflicted. Firstly, successive British governments overstated the "post-Cold War dividend" and made major cutbacks to the nation's armed forces, which have become over-stretched in their attempts to fulfill the country's global commitments while lacking the required resources.

Secondly, the ill-advised Brexit continues to undermine the UK's influence on the world stage. The withdrawal from the EU, combined with the reduced military capacity, have led to an over-reliance on

America's military and diplomatic prowess in Britain's attempts to remain relevant, which has proved to be a double-edged sword.

Leading the way in recognizing a Palestinian state could be a game changer in advancing the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, and thereby also contributing to regional stability. The importance of recognizing Palestine as a state prior to the start of peace negotiations lies in the fact that it would rectify the problem of the anomaly and asymmetry in talks between an internationally recognized state, Israel, and a non-state representative of the Palestinian people, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

If the international community genuinely supports a two-state solution, recognizing a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would be a move in the right direction. Negotiations could then revolve around the specific details of borders, Jerusalem, refugees and settlements, without Palestinian statehood remaining a pressure point for an Israeli diktat of the nature of a peace agreement.

It would require also that Palestinian negotiators be pragmatic and realistic about what compromises Israel can and cannot deliver.

Cameron's bold statement, should it become official British policy, and there is no guarantee of this, could not only prove to be an invaluable contribution by the UK toward a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it would also announce the return of British policy to the heart of global politics by playing a leading role in efforts to grapple with one of the most intricate and hitherto intractable issues in world politics.

Whether this will also be a moment for the US, especially during an election year, to follow, or even encourage the UK to take the lead, in recognizing Palestine as an independent state, and in so doing create a new momentum for peace, remains to be seen.

Why 'the rest' are rejecting the West

Fawaz A. Gerges

AS the war in Gaza enters its fourth month, many in the Middle East and across the Global South have been struck both by the ferocity of Israel's military campaign and by Western governments' unwavering support for it. To them, this is as much US President Joe Biden's war as it is Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's, and the continuing indifference to the scale of the devastation has reaffirmed how cheap Arab lives appear to be to Western leaders.

For those who lived through the Cold War and witnessed how Western powers dealt with post-colonial states and their peoples, recent events are all too familiar. As I argue in my new book, *What Really Went Wrong: The West and the Failure of Democracy in the Middle East*, the United States and other Western countries, mainly the United Kingdom, have for nearly a century pursued an interventionist, militaristic, and anti-democratic foreign policy that largely ignores Middle Eastern peoples' interests. If anything, Western decisions have been driven historically by the desire to roll back communism and secure the dominance of liberal capitalism. In pursuit of these twin aims, the US offered Middle Eastern leaders a zero-sum choice: Either join in Western-led regional defence alliances and open your economy to global capital, or be considered a foe. In the name of maintaining stability and securing an uninterrupted flow of cheap oil, Western powers struck pacts with Middle Eastern leaders.

Notably, in the early 1950s, when the liberal democrat Mohammed Mossadegh became prime minister of Iran and nationalized the country's oil, the CIA and MI6 orchestrated a coup and replaced him with the Shah. That self-interested intervention arrested Iran's democratic development and set the stage for the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which ushered in the theocratic regime that rules to this day.

Similarly, in the 1950s, Gamal Abdel Nasser, a charismatic leader who was positively disposed toward the US, became president of Egypt and decided that it was not in his country's interest to join a Western-led defence pact. Seeking to humiliate him and force his ouster, America and Britain rescinded support for the massive Aswan High Dam project on the Nile River. What resulted was the Suez Crisis of 1956, which almost caused a world war. In the end, the most popular leader of the most populous Arab state became a bitter enemy of the West.

While the US-led West has certainly taken a heavy-handed approach in other regions as well, Western officials have long rationalised their neo-imperial mission in the Middle East.

The lesson for those strongmen has been unambiguous: repression and human-rights abuses will be ignored as long as America's orders are followed. For the people of the region, the lesson has been no less plain: their lives and rights mean little in the West's calculus — notwithstanding all its lofty rhetoric about democracy and the rule of law. The invasion and decades-long

occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq made that abundantly clear.

Barack Obama was the first US president to hint at a different approach. Speaking at the US Military Academy at West Point in 2014, he decried America's perpetual wartime footing and tendency to shoot first and ask questions later. America's costliest mistakes in the region had come not from restraint, he argued, but from the "willingness to rush into military adventures without thinking through the consequences — without building international support and legitimacy for ... action; without levelling with the American people about the sacrifices required."

Sadly, Obama's sober perspective appears to be lost on Biden, who belongs to the Cold War generation of American leadership. Until last October, Biden had devoted little time or attention to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He readily accepted the untenable status quo of perpetual Palestinian suffering, and focused instead on trying to expand the Abraham Accords. Those agreements, brokered by the Trump administration, sought to normalise Israel's relations with Arab leaders in exchange for security assistance and protection.

Since Hamas's brutal attack on October 7 — which exposed the folly of Biden and Netanyahu's approach — there has been neither restraint nor an effort to think through the consequences of the current war. Instead, Biden and his European allies have wholeheartedly endorsed Israel's all-out assault on Gaza. Even as the civilian death toll has risen at an unprecedented pace, the humanitarian crisis grows more acute by the day, and governments around the world have called for a ceasefire. Biden has shown no willingness to intervene to stop the bloodshed. Meanwhile, skirmishes on the Israel-Lebanon border and US-led airstrikes on Houthi positions in Yemen and on Iranian-backed militias in Iraq suggest that the conflict may yet escalate further. America and Britain are gradually being sucked into the region yet again, though with eyes wide open this time. Biden claimed to represent a clean break from Trump, but there is no daylight between them when it comes to the Middle East. There and in much of the Global South, Biden will be remembered as just another American president who devalued Arab lives, preaching democracy while supporting repression and violence.

Biden may soon regret his wholehearted embrace of Netanyahu in recent months.

Netanyahu, an expert at manipulating the American political process, recently rebuffed Biden's support for establishing a Palestinian state, insisting that Israel must have security control "over all the territory west of the Jordan [River]." That pronouncement was timed to the start of the US presidential campaign, in which Trump is his preferred candidate. Even if Biden ultimately secures a second term, the tragic irony is that the Middle East is less stable today than at any point in its modern history. The West's strategy has been a colossal failure, and this legacy will burden our world for a very long time.

— China Daily

China improves law to eradicate terrorism

WANG JIANG

TERRORISM is one of the most serious challenges facing the international community. Acts of violence not only violate basic human rights but also have a direct impact on the socioeconomic development of all countries, with broad and far-reaching consequences for global stability and growth.

China has been a victim of terrorism, with outfits such as the "East Turkestan Islamic Movement", which has been banned by the United Nations Security Council, posing a threat to the country's national security and territorial integrity. The separatist "East Turkestan Islamic Movement" has incited, planned and carried out a number of violent terrorist attacks in China, causing the loss of lives and property. And its victims have been members of many ethnic groups.

China opposes all forms of terrorism, extremism and separatism, and has cracked down on such activities in

accordance with the law and in line with international anti-terrorism norms.

First, China has been taking measures to combat terrorism, extremism and separatism to not only safeguard the country's national security, but also protect the existing international order with the UN at its core. China has signed and/or ratified a series of international conventions on counterterrorism, and implemented all UN resolutions against terrorism. It believes that counterterrorism operations and global cooperation in the fight against terrorism should abide by the principles of the UN Charter, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries, and adhere to international law.

More importantly, China calls on all countries to join the UN counterterrorism conventions, support the formulation of a "Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism", and help improve the international legal framework to

combat terrorism.

Second, China upholds multilateralism and defends the existing world order. It advocates that global cooperation in the fight against terrorism be led by the UN, because supporting the UN's coordinating role in global counterterrorism operations will foster unity in the international community, and strengthen the global fight against terrorism.

Third, China has been promoting regional and bilateral cooperation on counterterrorism. Under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization framework, China has joined regional counterterrorism conventions, including the "Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism", helped establish regional institutions to combat terrorism, and conducted joint anti-terrorism exercises with SCO member states. It has also signed bilateral treaties and coop-

eration agreements on combating terrorism, separatism and extremism with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and other countries.

Such efforts have enabled participating countries to share information on counterterrorism among themselves, block terrorists' financing channels, and tackle organized crimes and cyber terrorism. This regional cooperation model can help other countries to devise their own, unique way of fighting terrorism.

And fourth, China has vowed to cooperate with other countries and international organizations in the fight against terrorism. It has improved its legal system, so as to better deal with terrorist activities. China has also enhanced its strategic capability to combat terrorism and strengthened its ties with the international community to fight global terrorism, in order to maintain global peace and stability.

In fact, China's counterterrorism law has detailed provisions on international intelligence and information exchange, law enforcement cooperation, joint global fund supervision, and criminal judicial assistance. Further, China's national security law emphasizes the need to deepen mutual trust, increase mutual benefit, and promote international cooperation.

Even though the global fight against terrorism has yielded remarkable results, many challenges remain. For instance, terrorist organizations are still causing chaos and mayhem, and committing cross-border crimes. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the international community to fight against terrorism.

What's more, some countries think that only outfits that pose a threat to them are terrorist organizations, and turn a blind eye to the sufferings and fear of others. Some countries even resort to double stan-

dard, politicizing the global fight against terrorism and smearing other countries' legitimate counterterrorism measures.

In the face of such challenges, countries have to boost their capability to counter both traditional and nontraditional forms of terrorism. They should help bolster their respective national security and join hands to peacefully resolve regional and global disputes, and help build a new security mechanism featuring dialogue rather than confrontation, partnership rather than alliance, and win-win cooperation rather than zero-sum games. Only in this way can global terrorism be eradicated.

As for China, it should deepen its engagement with the international community to gain in experience and apply that knowledge to improve the counterterrorism laws, better safeguard national security and contribute to the global war on terrorism.

What marketers should gear up for in 2024

Dr M Muneer

PREDICTION is very difficult, especially if it's about the future!" The Nobel laureate Niels Bohr had famously said that.

It is that time of the year when predictions are made for the new year. Going with the spirit of what Niels had said, I will only pick up those trends that are already underway and will continue this year. Keep a sharp eye and an alert mind on these trends to strategise your competitive edge.

I expect mass customisation to become more sophisticated with AI and analytics. CMOs shall leverage Generative AI, machine learning, and data analytics to deliver hyper-personalised content and experiences across various touchpoints, catering to individual preferences and behaviour. Hyper-personalisation will remain at the forefront of marketing strategies this year. Companies like Amazon have been using advanced data analytics to personalise customer experiences. Use algorithm to analyse browsing and purchase history to offer recommendations, and significantly influence purchase decisions.

Next trend is the pervasive use of MarTech by marketers across the spectrum. AI will play an increasingly prominent role in MarTech. CMOs will harness AI for predictive analytics, chatbots, content generation, customer segmentation, and enhancing overall customer experiences. They will increase

ingly rely on AI-driven tools to automate repetitive tasks, optimise ad targeting, and streamline customer interactions. Chatbots, predictive analytics, and automated campaign optimisation will become more sophisticated, enhancing efficiency and customer engagement. Salesforce integrates AI capabilities into its marketing automation platform, enabling predictive lead scoring, content recommendations, and automated email marketing campaigns based on customer behaviour.

Third, with the rise of the metaverse and immersive technologies, CMOs will explore opportunities to engage audiences in virtual and augmented reality experiences.

Brands will experiment with creating immersive content and advertising within these virtual worlds. The metaverse may have taken a step back last year, but is expected to emerge as a new frontier for marketing in 2024.

Marketers will create virtual showrooms, events, and experiences to interact with audiences in novel ways. Nike has already dabbled in the metaverse with virtual sneaker designs and experiences. They engaged consumers by allowing them to design virtual sneakers and showcase them in AR through their app.

Fourth, the prevalence of voice-activated devices and smart assistants will continue to

shape consumer behaviour. CMOs will probably look at optimising their plans for voice search SEO and invest in conversational marketing tactics to engage customers through voice-enabled interactions. Brands will focus on providing seamless and engaging voice-based interactions with customers. Domino's Pizza in the USA utilises voice search optimisation, allowing customers to order pizza through voice commands on various platforms, leveraging technology like Google Assistant and Alexa.

Albeit doubts, purpose-driven marketing and sustainability will be the fifth major trend. Consumers are increasingly mindful of brands' values and their impact on the environment and society. CMOs will need to focus on sustainability initiatives, ethical practices, and purpose-driven campaigns, aligning the brands with causes that resonate with their customers. Brands that align with causes and demonstrate genuine commitment to social and environmental issues will find more growth.

Already many brands including Anthropologie and Patagonia are known for their sustainable and purpose-driven marketing.

The sixth major trend is video content dominance. Its consumption will be on the rise and CMOs will invest in various video formats including short-

form videos, live streams, interactive videos, and shoppable videos to captivate audiences and drive engagement. Brands will have to focus on showing seamless paths to purchase directly from video content. Ban or boycott, TikTok has emerged as a powerful platform for shoppable video content. Brands collaborate with influencers and use TikTok's native shopping features to create engaging and shoppable video content.

In addition, there are a few more trends that might be apparent this year for CMOs to strategise on:

•Influencer marketing: CMOs will collaborate with micro-influencers, nano-influencers, and even virtual influencers, seeking authenticity and niche audience engagement.

•Data privacy and compliance: As regulations get evolved further, CMOs will prioritise compliance with regulations and focus on transparent data collection practices to earn and maintain consumer trust.

•CX/UX transformation: CMOs will place an increased emphasis on enhancing customer/user experiences across all touchpoints.

•NFTs and blockchain in marketing: Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) and blockchain technology are expected to find applications in marketing, enabling unique ownership of digital assets, tokenised loyalty programmes, and verifiable authenticity of products.

— Khaleej Times

Biden and Scholz work to bolster ties

THE postwar relationship between Germany and the US was broadly stable and strong until the advent of the Trump presidency. Huge uncertainty has plagued the relationship since 2017, and it has still not fully stabilized following the departure of the great disruptor, Donald Trump, from the White House in 2021.

US President Joe Biden and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz are certainly much more like-minded partners than were Trump and Angela Merkel, who might have had the worst relationship, by some margin, of any of their predecessors in modern history.

This even applies if you consider the bilateral tensions that arose over the 2003 Iraq War, which resulted in a significant schism in the transatlantic alliance when Chancellor Gerhard Schröder opposed President George W. Bush's decision to topple Saddam Hussein's regime.

However, even Biden and Scholz have some key differences, despite their apparently similar political and personal dispositions. On this issue of Ukraine, for instance, tensions have risen since the Russian invasion over the pace and scope of Western support to Kyiv. One example of this was the disagreement between the two leaders over whether to provide tanks.

The US administration also has significant concerns about Germany's policy on China, given that Berlin has, at least since Merkel's time, been one of the primary advocates of Western economic engagement with Beijing. Scholz in 2022 became the first G7 leader to visit Beijing since the start of the pandemic, which was an indication of the level of importance Germany places on trade ties with China.

That long-standing German stance has come in for strong criticism, however, domestically and abroad. The perception that Scholz might be seeking to keep much of Merkel's China policy intact has been widely condemned. The Obama-era US ambassador to NATO, Ivo Daalder, for example, warned that Germany could potentially be "headed for a collision" with the Biden team.

Yet another issue complicating bilateral ties is the

ANDREW HAMMOND US Inflation Reduction Act, a huge package of subsidies for clean tech, which poses a potentially major risk to the EU's goal of remaining a preeminent global center for the green industrial revolution.

There is a growing sense in Europe that its edge in this "race" is imperiled. This has triggered a transatlantic row, and German Economy Minister Robert Habeck has highlighted the need for an intensified European "industrial policy that enables our companies to thrive in global competition, especially through technological leadership."

Challenging as these differences can sometimes be, Biden and Scholz have nonetheless sought to rebuild the US-German relationship, which is very important to both countries.

For the US president, the importance of Berlin has only increased in the post-Brexit landscape. Equally, Scholz — who had little foreign policy experience before becoming chancellor, having previously served as minister of finance, and minister of labor and social affairs — quickly acknowledged the importance of the US to Germany. Building on this foundation, there will be much for the two leaders to agree upon when they meet this coming week at the White House, including the importance of Biden's strategic goal of reuniting the Western alliance following the divisions caused by the Trump presidency.

Both leaders agree on the importance of closer cooperation on a range of challenges, including international security, promoting economic prosperity, and the threats posed by climate change. Biden perceives the US-Germany relationship as key to this mission, because in the post-Brexit era he views Berlin as an increasingly important anchor point, perhaps alongside Paris, in the transatlantic relationship during a time of growing geopolitical flux.

There might also be some diplomatic upside from easing bilateral tensions over irritants such as the Inflation Reduction Act, to help accelerate the global clean-energy economy through secure, resilient supply chains and deeper cooperation in critical and emerging technologies. Brussels and Washington are discussing an agree-

ment on critical minerals that would allow companies based in Europe access to certain subsidies through the act, if they in turn provide some of the raw materials needed in the US for manufacturing processes. This would replicate a similar American deal with Japan.

At the same time, the US and EU are reportedly deep in negotiations on a so-called global arrangement on sustainable steel and aluminum. This is forestalling the reintroduction of US and EU tariffs on steel and aluminum, which were frozen by a provisional bilateral agreement in October 2021 that suspended measures introduced in 2018 when Trump imposed tariffs on European imports.

If such an ambitious agreement eventually is reached it would potentially create the political space for Washington and Brussels also to try to reach compromises on the EU's recently introduced Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. There is no agreement yet on how American steel companies will deal with this new policy, whereby European importers have to pay duties corresponding to the cost of emissions generated during production.

Moreover, Biden has dialed down the rhetoric, in public, on several longstanding irritants in the relationship between the US and Germany that Trump had emphasized, especially relating to trade and defense spending.

On trade, for example, Trump described Germany as "very bad" because of its significant trade surplus, with exports outweighing imports. He was also vocal in his criticism of Berlin's failure to spend 2 percent of its gross domestic product on defense, a key NATO goal. Germany might now meet this target, as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Taking all of this together, it is clear that there is potentially much more upside in the US-German partnership under Biden and Scholz, especially if new accords can be reached in areas such as critical minerals, steel and aluminum. Yet several underlying uncertainties remain — and the relationship could yet go into diplomatic free fall if Trump wins a second term in office come November.

Don't place climate over poverty

SONG CHEN

TOO many rich-world politicians and climate campaigners forget that much of the world remains mired in poverty and hunger. Yet rich countries are increasingly replacing their development aid with climate spending. The World Bank, whose primary goal is to help people out of poverty, has now announced it will divert no less than 45 percent of its funding toward climate change, shifting some \$40 billion annually away from poverty and hunger.

It's easy to treat climate as the world's priority when your life is comfortable. The 16 percent of the global population that lives in those countries doesn't typically go hungry or watch their loved ones die of easily treatable diseases like malaria or tuberculosis. Most of the people in those countries are well-educated, and their average incomes are in the league of what was once reserved for royalty.

Much of the rest of the world, however, still struggles. Across poorer countries, 5 million children die every year before their fifth birthday, and almost 1 billion people don't get enough food to eat. More than 2 billion people have to cook and keep warm with polluting fuels such as dung and wood, shortening their lifespan. Although most young children now attend school, low education quality means most children in low- and lower-middle-income countries will remain functionally illiterate.

Poor countries desperately

need more access to inexpensive and plentiful energy that previously allowed rich countries to develop. The lack of access to energy hampers industrialization, growth and opportunity. Case in point: In Africa, electricity is so scarce that the total electricity available per person is much less than what a single refrigerator in the rich world uses.

Raiding development funding to spend it on climate action is an abysmal decision. Climate change is real, but the data do not support using scarce development resources to tackle it before addressing poverty-related ills.

Climate activists argue that poverty and climate change are inextricably linked and we should take simultaneous measures to alleviate poverty and combat climate change. But we actually don't.

Studies have repeatedly shown that spending on core development priorities helps much more and much faster per dollar spent than spending on climate action.

That is because real development investments — whether to fight malaria, boost the health of women and girls, promote e-learning, or raise agricultural productivity — can dramatically change people's lives for the better right now and make poorer countries better off in many ways, including making them more resilient against natural disasters and any additional, climate-related disasters.

In contrast, even drastically reducing carbon emissions would not deliver noticeably different outcomes for a generation or more. While spending on adaptation to build resilience in poor countries is a slightly more effective use than cutting emissions, both are far inferior to investing in the best development policies.

Climate change is not the end of the world. Indeed, United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's scenarios show the world will dramatically improve over the century and that, despite panicked campaigning, climate change will merely slightly slow that progress. Last year, the world saw its largest cereal production ever. With incomes and yields continuing to grow, hunger will fall dramatically over the coming decades. Climate change is forecast to merely make that hunger decline a smidgen slower.

Likewise, the IPCC expects global average income to increase three-and-a-half-fold by 2100, without climate change. Even if we do little against climate change, the work of William Nordhaus, the only climate economist to win the Nobel Prize for Economics, shows that it would slow the progress only slightly, because by 2100 incomes would still rise by 3.34 times.

We should tackle climate change smartly, with rich countries making sorely needed, long-term investments in green energy R&D to devise low-cost

solutions that deliver reliable energy at prices everyone can afford. Much of the poorer world primarily wants to pull people out of poverty and improve their quality of life by providing them with cheap and reliable energy. Yet rich countries now refuse to fund anything even remotely related to fossil fuels.

This smacks of hypocrisy, because rich countries themselves get almost four-fifths of their energy from fossil fuels, largely because of the unreliability and storage problems of solar and wind energy.

Yet they arrogantly castigate poor countries for aspiring to increase energy generation capacity and suggest that the poor countries somehow "skip ahead" to intermittent solar and wind, with an unreliability that the rich world does not accept for its own needs.

For people in most poor countries, climate change ranks far down the priority list. A large survey of political and social leaders in low- and middle-income countries similarly revealed education, employment, peace and health are their top development priorities, with climate change being 12th in a list of 16.

The poorer half of the world certainly deserves more opportunities to improve their lives. But as politicians are asking for more money, ostensibly to help the world's poorest, we should demand it goes into efficient development projects that actually save and transform lives, not to feel-good, inefficient climate programs.

Will 2024 be the new 1933?

Mark Jones

ON January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany. To his supporters, it was a day of "national revolution" and rebirth. Germany, they believed, needed the restorative force of an authoritarian strongman after 14 years of the liberal-democratic Weimar "system." That night, Hitler's torch-bearing brown-shirts marched through central Berlin to mark the dawn of a new era.

It was also a triumphant moment in the history of popular deception. Since the Weimar Republic's early days, its politics had been defined by disinformation campaigns, including the lie that Weimar democracy was the work of a cabal of Jews and socialists who had "stabbed Germany in the back" to ensure its defeat in World War I.

Today, few people dispute that Hitler's arrival was a turning point in world history, the start of a political process that would lead to World War II and the Holocaust. But Hitler did not "seize power," as the Nazis later claimed. Instead, as his biographer Ian Kershaw has explained, he was "levered into power" by a small group of influential men.

One of those men was Franz von Papen, who served as chancellor in 1932. He (infamously) thought that Hitler and the Nazi Party — by far the largest party after the Reichstag elections of 1932 — could be used to advance a conservative agenda. Similarly, Germany's president, former Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg, wanted to use Hitler to restore the monarchy.

But these conservatives' plans were soon swept away by Hitler's

ruthless leadership, Nazi violence, and the German public's rush to join the regime and become a part of the promised national reawakening. The liberals and social democrats who opposed Hitler were either subjected to violence or caught up in their own optimistic escapism. As bad as things got, they assured themselves, Hitler's rule would eventually collapse. Nazi infighting would surely bring an end to the new government.

Beyond liberals and socialists, a wider section of German society assumed that Hindenburg, who had promised to be president of all Germans, would keep Hitler on a leash, while others expected the army to do so. All had been fooled by Hitler's ability to look respectable in the final years of the Weimar Republic.

Within 100 days of Hitler becoming chancellor, as historian Peter Fritzsche has shown, the Nazis' ruthless drive for power became all too clear. By the end of the summer of 1933, German society had been brought into line. There were no more independent political parties, trade unions, or cultural organizations. Only Christian churches retained some degree of independence.

A year later, in the summer of 1934, Hitler ordered the murder of his internal party rivals and, following Hindenburg's death on August 2, declared himself German Führer. His dictatorship was complete. By then, the first concentration camps were already up and running, and the economy was being put on the path to war.

This period of history remains all too relevant today. Hundreds of millions of people will vote in piv-

otal elections this year, and even though the warning signs are there, few commentators are prepared to say it out loud: 2024 might be the new 1933.

Just imagine the world a year from now, with disinformation having taken down democratic majorities around the world. President Donald Trump ends the United States' support for Ukraine. Nato is no longer a restraint on Vladimir Putin's dreams of building a new Russian Empire across Eastern Europe. A critical mass of far-right parties in the European Parliament blocks a unified European response. Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia are on their own. With the war in Gaza having expanded into a regional conflict, Putin seizes the opportunity to launch another blitz, accompanied by long-range missiles. And amid the chaos, China decides to seize Taiwan.

The prospects for 2024 are so bleak that many refuse to contemplate them. Just as liberals in 1933 predicted that Hitler would quickly fail, wishful thinking today is clouding our judgment. We are sleight of hand — to borrow Christopher Clark's apt metaphor for the onset of World War I — into a new international order.

In her masterful two-volume history of the interwar era, Zara Steiner refers to 1929-33 as the "hinge years," when idealism in international relations was replaced by the "Triumph of the Dark." But as late as 1926, liberals had seemed to be winning: French Foreign Minister Aristide Briand and his German counterpart, Gustav Stresemann, shared the Nobel Peace Prize for their work on Franco-German reconciliation,

and Germany joined the League of Nations. Extreme nationalism seemed to be isolated in Mussolini's Italy.

Faced with today's global crises, there is no room for optimism. We are potentially in another hinge year. If liberals act now, they can still prevail.

In a promising sign, hundreds of thousands of Germans recently took to the streets to support democracy and diversity, and to denounce the far right. But demonstrations in one country are not enough. German liberals must be joined by others across the continent. A continent-wide demonstration would send a powerful message. The sense of urgency must extend upward, particularly to business leaders like JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon, who, hedging his bets, has already started cozying up to Trump.

Not so long ago, European leaders came together and did whatever it took to save the euro, because they recognized that the single currency's failure would end the European Union itself. Europeans now must demand the same urgency to meet this year's threats. The EU needs a plan for a world without Nato. It needs new tools to deal with member-state leaders like Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico, both of whom would rather kiss Putin's ring than defend democracy. It is simply unacceptable that Orbán still wields a veto over EU decision-making.

In the US, political mobilisation is the big variable. Trump's opponents must set aside their differences and unite behind President Joe Biden. We know all too well where disunity and naive optimism can lead.

Braced for impact

THE idea of a dedicated Loss and Damage Fund has been a recurring theme in global climate negotiations for decades. Its roots can be traced back to the early 1990s. Early proposals were met with resistance from developed nations, who raised concerns about the precedent of compensation payments for climate change impacts. With the escalating threat of climate change bringing to the forefront the devastating effects of loss and damage, particularly on vulnerable communities and nations disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, the concept of a loss and damage fund has gained momentum over time. At the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2022, countries agreed to establish a dedicated Loss and Damage Fund for the first time, recognizing the urgent need to address the irreversible losses and damages caused by climate change. Establishing the Loss and Damage Fund marked a significant step forward in the global climate change agenda, acknowledging the immense suffering experienced by vulnerable communities and nations.

Building upon the momentum generated at COP27, the 2023 COP28 climate summit in Dubai witnessed further progress on the Loss and Damage Fund. Member states gathered to finalize the operational structure and governance of the fund, ensuring its effectiveness and accessibility to those most in need.

A key outcome of COP28 was allocating \$700 million to the Loss and Damage Fund, a significant step toward addressing the funding gap that has hindered its implementation.

This initial injection of resources will allow the Loss and Damage Fund to com-

WANG YAO and SHI LIN mence its operations and support vulnerable countries facing the devastating impacts of climate change. The World Bank is set to manage the fund, with plans to begin disbursing finances as early as 2024. Establishing the Loss and Damage Fund represents a watershed moment in the global climate change response.

However, the current pledged amount of \$700 million covers less than 0.2 percent of the required funds, falling far short of the estimated \$50 billion to \$90 billion annually needed.

Thus, securing sufficient financial resources is crucial for the Loss and Damage Fund to fulfill its mandate and provide comprehensive support to vulnerable communities.

Another significant challenge lies in operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund in a manner that is responsive, transparent and accountable to the needs of affected countries. The fund's governance structure must ensure that decision-making is inclusive and equitable, with a strong representation of vulnerable nations.

Also, clear criteria for eligibility and disbursement of funds are needed.

Furthermore, the Loss and Damage Fund must address the complex issue of attribution, determining the extent to which climate change can be directly linked to specific loss and damage events. This is essential to ensuring that compensation and support are allocated fairly and effectively. Efforts are underway to expedite the adoption of new climate mechanisms.

Notably, development banks are gearing up to launch a task force for debt-for-nature swaps, intending to amplify initiatives that enable developing countries to exchange debt for commitments to safeguard crucial ecosystems.

Such a mechanism could provide financial resources and free up resources from debtor countries while help-

ing protect natural resources and biodiversity. Also, in the absence of sufficient resources to respond to losses and damage independently, some vulnerable countries may consider using the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights as a source of funding to support areas with severe losses and damage.

To harness the potential of the Loss and Damage Fund, greater international cooperation and collaboration are needed, which are essential to mobilizing the necessary resources and ensuring the effective operation of the fund. This includes facilitating dialogue between developed and developing countries, promoting knowledge sharing, and strengthening partnerships with relevant organizations.

Besides, supporting capacity-building efforts in vulnerable countries is vital to enhancing their ability to manage and adapt effectively to the impacts of climate change. This should include training, technical assistance and access to relevant technologies.

In addition, regularly reviewing and evaluating the fund's performance is essential to ensuring its effectiveness and to adapting to changing needs.

This includes assessing the impact of funded projects, identifying areas for improvement and making necessary adjustments to the fund's operations.

The Loss and Damage Fund represents a critical step forward in addressing the devastating impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities.

Moving forward, addressing the funding gap, strengthening governance and transparency, and integrating loss and damage considerations into the broader climate finance framework are essential. While challenges remain, the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund provides a beacon of hope and a means to address the devastating impacts of climate change.



Gemstones is a valuable sector, need development through comprehensive planning and policy: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): With the development of natural resources like minerals, tourism, gemstones, the province can be taken out of the backwardness and made a major contributor to the country's economy, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali said during his visit to All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association (APCEA) in the city of Namak Mandi.

The Governor, during his visit met with the business community dealing in precious stones, representatives of APSIA, the people of the area and urged upon of making a comprehensive planning and police for this valuable sector development that could play a key role in Pakistan economy in general and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali said that economic stability can be brought only by the provision of facilities to all the business community of the province, including those associated with the gemstone sector, and the promotion of business and industry in the province.

Significant development can be made possible in this sector, he added. He said, in this context, the business

community associated with the Gemstones sector should get the support of students who have graduated from universities who are familiar with modern technology, so that the youth can get employment with the precious stones of the province.

Exports can be increased along with introducing tourism at the global level, the Governor said, during his visit to the office of All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association (APCEA) located in Namak Mandi, a congested area of inner city Peshawar.

During the meeting with the representatives and officials of the present association, on this occasion, former caretaker provincial ministers Fazal Elahi, Adnan Jalil, Chairman of APSEA Syed Minhajuddin Bacha, Patron General Haji Mamour Khan, former coordinator of FPCCI Sartaj Ahmed were also present. Former Chairman Malik Naveed, Farooq Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Dr. Madiha, Sara Tafsheen and others were also there and welcomed the Governor.

On reaching the APCEA office, the Governor was warmly welcomed and garlanded. Presenting the SPAS letter containing the problems and difficulties

faced by the related persons and the suggestions and demands for the development of the said sector, he said that the gem stones sector should be given the status of an industry and Geology Center should be established in the universities. There was also a demand to make stones duty-free along with the elimination of difficulties.

On this occasion, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali said that his desire and effort is to end the problems of all the business communities of the province. Gemstones sector is a very valuable sector of this province, using natural resources including minerals, tourism, and gemstones.

By bringing it, we have to prove that our province is not backward and this province has a major share in the country's economy, he added. He said that the integrated tribal districts including Swat, Kohistan have a great potential for precious stones, coal, copper, marble and other minerals. For the development of the gemstone sector, the use of modern technology is very necessary to compete in the global market, he said, adding, the development of the gemstone sector can be made possible

with the best planning and policy, to take advantage of the potential of precious stones in the province.

The governor said that he will issue instructions to the universities to sign a MoU agreement with APCEA for the development of the gemstones department. He said that the Pak-Afghan International Expo will be organized in April.

They will make Peshawar a gem export city together with the business community, he said that all relevant institutions including the provincial and federal government have patronized the business community and will continue to do so in the future.

Other officials paid great tributes to the governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying that he is the first public governor to visit the business community, meet the people and visit the most densely populated areas without any protocol, on which the people of Peshawar and the business community are attracted to him. He also thanked the governor for coming to the office of APCEA and for the assurance of support and cooperation for the development of the James Stones Department.



MULTAN: Labourer is busy cutting wood into pieces with the help of a cutter at his workplace.

Korea to provide seed potato to Pakistan for producing virus-free seed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Republic of Korea under its Technical Cooperation Projects (TCP) would provide 160,000 tons of certified seed potatoes to Pakistan during five years.

The initiative maiming at to ensure the availability of virus-free seeds potatoes and contributing significantly to the agricultural sector development, said Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali.

Talking to APP here on

Sunday, he said that four aeronics greenhouses, 32 screenhouses and supplying a cold store and 100 KW solar systems to meet goals would also be established.

The PARC) in collaboration with Korean Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA) was working on aeroponic technology, which will transform Pakistan's potato production, Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali added.

PARC-KOPIA were

also working for achieving self-sufficiency in potato seeds, which would reduce the reliance on imported seeds.

He further informed that only 2% of Pakistan's potato seed requirement was being fulfilled locally and we relied on importing 98% of its seed demand.

With the implementation of this cutting-edge facility, Pakistan is poised to achieve self-sufficiency in potato seed production, he added. Dr Ali said that the aeroponic technology, which can yield

50 to 60 potato seeds per plant compared to just five from conventional methods.

Pakistan currently imports 15,000 to 20,000 tonnes of potato seeds yearly due to low-quality local seeds, straining farmers who can't afford better options and resulting in lower yields, he added.

He said that projects worth over \$8 million for livestock and smart farming set to launch in 2025, which would help to transform local agriculture and livestock sectors.

Women labour can increase economic output: PFC

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said that in countries with greater gender inequality, closing the gap in women's labour force participation could increase economic output by an average of 35 percent.

Talking to delegation of women entrepreneurs led by Ms Maheen, he said, "We have to narrow gender gap which is harming national as well global growth."

He said that keeping women out of economic opportunities is unfair and also harms growth and resilience for all.

"Over the time, gender-sensitive macroeconomic

and financial policies will result in higher growth, greater economic stability and resilience, and lower income inequality—a dividend not just for women, but for everyone," he added.

He said out of 190 countries surveyed, the World Bank found that women were equal legal standing with men in just 12 countries which speaks of sorry state of affairs worldwide.

Mian Kashif Ashfaq mentioned that according to organisation for economic cooperation and development, the gender based discrimination in social institutions costs the world economy US \$ 6 trillion but in recent years countries have reduced these costs

through social and legal actions such as curbing underage marriages, criminalisation domestic violence and increasing the number of female elected officials.

He said macro economic and financial policies affect women and men differently, often unintentionally. He said policy makers must help identify and remedy those biases by applying a gender lens to our main activities focussing towards maximum participation of women in every sphere of life for quick economic prosperity.

He said, "I have offered full scholarship to women with free food and hostel for imparting training in modern designs of furniture

industry and will be absorbed on regular jobs after successful training." He said in all expos of Pakistan furniture Council, women entrepreneurs are fully encouraged for participation to showcase their products and special discount is also offered to them for stall reservations.

Mian Kashif Ashfaq said no country could progress in any sector without active participation of women which constitutes 49 percent of total population of Pakistan. He said women can contribute significantly in cottage and small scale industrial units and government should offer them interest free loan to bring this segment of the society in the national mainstream.

Pakistan's economic prospects look promising : Meher

LAHORE (APP): Coordinator to Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman, Meher Kashif Younis Sunday said the future economic prospects of Pakistan look promising but their actual realisation would depend on successful integration into the global economy, sound macro-economic policies and close coordination between academia, industrialists and policymakers at all levels in addition to political stability and good governance.

Speaking here at a workshop on "Impact of Tripartite Collaboration for Economic Growth", he said under a constellation of these favourable conditions, it would be possible to add 2 to 2.5 percent points to the current trend growth rate where by per-capita income would

double in next decade.

Meher said Pakistan's future direction should focus on analytically examining the issue by bringing together government policy, industries and academia, co-evolving socio-economic systems and focusing on industries core role in the development process. The Coordinator said Pakistan's geographic location has not been cashed effectively for intra-regional trade and investment, to realise its future potential, Pakistan must position itself for integration into the regional and global economy, benefit from its youth population and advance technology.

He said studies suggest that universities and industries can promote long term growth with political support

in a large population to counter political pressure that limit the state's ability to organise development.

Meher Kashif said global hyper connectivity is causing a surge in the technological innovation which is not exogenous to the socio-economic system, innovation emerges from an evolutionary synthesis of strategy, technology and management which organisations can build and valorize.

He said policy making is a complex process involving variables and the power to make decisions lies in mobilizing people, procedures and resources to achieve the desired results.

The governments worldwide are implementing policies to boost innovation, generate new technologies

and foster advanced industries and these interventions can have both positive and negative impacts particularly in the global economy, he observed.

He said during the recent crisis and globalisation restructuring and socio economic disciplines are shifting their focus from traditional economic geography and regional development to studying local dynamics as this approach can synthesise individual spatial levels into global perspectives.

Today, this paradigmatic change appears in the "Fourth Industrial Revolution" thematic which has also been adopted quickly by formal international institutions like World Economic Forum, he concluded.

Colombo Port records over 27 pct increase in transshipment volumes

C O L O M B O (Xinhua/APP): Sri Lanka's Colombo Port has achieved a 27.7 percent increase in transshipment volumes in January compared to the same period in 2023, local media reported on Sunday quoting a senior official.

The Colombo Port is receiving increased trans-

shipment container volumes as major shipping lines are rerouting their ships following the recent attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, Chairman of Sri Lanka Port Authority (SLPA) Keith D. Bernard said. Transshipment traffic has increased by 89,778 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) to

reach 236,571 at the Jaya Container Terminal, he said. There has also been a 13,437 TEU increase, leading to 141,971 TEUs at the South Asia Gateway Terminal (SAGT) and a 45,545 TEU increase to 306,664 TEUs at Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT), Bernard added.

The total volumes at the Colombo Port have reached 685,206 TEUs in January which is a 27.7-percent increase compared to last year, with about 203 vessels calling at the port, he said. Earlier, the SLPA said the Colombo Port is targeting around 7 million TEUs of containers in 2024.

LCCI concerned over increase in power tariff

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has expressed deep concern over NEPRA decision to increase power tariff by Rs. 4.57 per unit under monthly Fuel Charges Adjustment (FCA) mechanism and feared that it would hit the trade and industry hard.

In a media statement, issued here on Sunday, LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhary and Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt said the December FCA of Rs 4.57 kWh would replace Rs 4.13 kWh of November 2023.

They said that repeated hike in power tariff was hitting exports and local businesses alike.

They said that above all, the dollar-rupee parity needs to be further narrowed down to support the manufacturing sector.

Power tariff hike to put burden of Rs 40 b on trade, industry: Anjum

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former president FPCCI and Chairman Businessmen Panel (BMP), Mian Anjum Nisar criticizing the decision of government to make another raise in electricity tariff has urged the NEPRA to reverse the decision of hike in power charges, as it has increased tariff of power Distribution Companies by Rs4.56 per unit as part of the December fuel adjustment to recover Rs76 billion from trade and industry.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said that this change in tariff will cause an additional burden of Rs40 billion on consumers. He said that it was unfortunate that during last two months, electricity prices have gone up by Rs8.69 due to fuel price adjustment. In November alone, the electricity tariff was raised by Rs4.13. In just two months, the power tariff raise has put an additional burden of Rs76 billion on consumers.

Mian Anjum Nisar said that the requests from these firms have come amid a prevailing inflation rate of 30 percent, suggesting that official estimates of declining inflationary trends might be less forthcoming because electricity and gas rates have a major contribution to the price baskets.

Besides, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has kept its policy rate unchanged at a record 22pc, citing frequent energy price hikes that keep inflation at elevated levels.

In their separate tariff petitions, the Discos have sought to rise about Rs81.5bn from their consumers in three coming months under the quarterly tariff adjustment for the October-December 2023 period.

This was also on top of about a Rs6.5 per unit monthly fuel cost increase for the billing month of February that currently awaits a decision by the

National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra).

The regulator has accepted the respective tariff petitions and has called public hearings on Feb 14 to see if the proposed increase in tariff was justified in line with the quarterly tariff adjustment mechanism. The quarterly adjustments for Discos now also apply to K-Electric consumers as well under recent government and regulator decisions.

The Discos have sought the increase to finance the additional financial impact of capacity charges arising out of currency devaluation and the interest rate hike besides the market operator fee, the impact of transmission and distribution losses on fuel cost adjustments, the cost of incremental consumption and variable operation and maintenance charges for the second quarter of the current fiscal year.



MULTAN: A worker is busy finishing the marble with the help of a machine at his workplace.



In brief

'Little Bird' Hamrin dies aged 89

LONDON (Reuters): Kurt Hamrin, Sweden's World Cup runner-up and Fiorentina's all-time top scorer, has died aged 89, the Swedish Football Association said on Sunday. Hamrin, nicknamed "Little Bird" for the speed and grace he showed on the wing, helped Sweden reach the 1958 World Cup final with four goals in the tournament, and was the last surviving player from the final, which they lost 5-2 to Pele's Brazil. "One of Swedish football's greatest icons has left us. Rest in peace Kurt 'Kurre' Hamrin," the Swedish FA said. "He is a legend in both AIK and Fiorentina for his efforts in the clubs. Thank you Kurre for all the blue and yellow memories you have been involved in creating for so many, rest in peace." Hamrin began his career at AIK in Sweden but is remembered most for his time spent in Italy's Serie A at Juventus, Padova, Fiorentina, AC Milan and Napoli, and is ninth on the league's all-time scoring list with 190 goals. He spent eight seasons at Fiorentina, helping them win the Cup Winners' Cup in 1961, their only major European trophy, and is the club's record scorer with 208 goals. Although Hamrin later played for Milan, winning the Scudetto and a European Cup, and ended his career back in Sweden, he returned to Florence to live with his family, where he died at his home in the city which adored him.

Mbappe to join Real Madrid

PARIS (Agencies): France captain Kylian Mbappe will join LaLiga giants Real Madrid when his contract with Paris St Germain (PSG) finishes at the end of the season, Le Parisien and ESPN reported on Saturday. Mbappe said last year he would not renew his contract at the Ligue 1 side when it expired at the end of the 2023-24 campaign, allowing him to move on to another club on a free transfer. French newspaper Le Parisien and ESPN, citing sources, said the 25-year-old striker would announce a pre-contract agreement with the 14-times European champions next week. Media reports last September said Mbappe had agreed to forego loyalty bonuses worth up to 100 million euros (\$107.84 million) to leave PSG as a free agent. Last year, the 25-year-old said he would not renew his contract at PSG, which expires at the end of the 2023-24 season when he could leave Paris for free. He is now free to sign a pre-contract agreement with a new club. The 2018 World Cup winner joined PSG as a 17-year-old in 2017 from AS Monaco, where he has since become the club's all-time leading scorer, and led the French side to five league titles. Mbappe was heavily linked with a move to Real in 2022 but announced a contract extension with PSG just weeks before the transfer window opened.

Saudi Arabia closes in on deal

LONDON (Reuters): An investment firm owned by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) has emerged as a frontrunner to back a new cycling league, three people familiar with the matter told Reuters, the latest move by the kingdom to buy into global sports. SRJ Sports Investments, founded last year, is in exclusive negotiations over a potential investment of around 250 million euro (\$270 million) in the venture being spearheaded by a number of major European cycling teams, one of the people said.



ISLAMABAD: India's Yuki Bhambri, right, and teammate Saketh Myneni shake hands with Pakistan's Muzammil Murtaza, center, and Aqeel Khan on the end of their double match in the Davis Cup World Group I play-off tennis.

India defeats Pakistan in Davis Cup Group I play-off

ISLAMABAD (Monitoring Desk): India eased past Pakistan 4-0 in their World Group I play-off tie Sunday, as they proved superior in both doubles and singles on Islamabad's grass courts.

A dominant India never looked back after winning both singles matches on Saturday, taking their overall record in the Davis Cup against Pakistan to 8-0.

The Indian pair of Saketh Myneni and Yuki Bhambri were too good for

the Pakistani duo of Aqeel Khan and Muzammil Murtaza, winning 6-2, 7-6. Veteran Pakistani player Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi could not take the court due to a hamstring injury sustained on Saturday, hurting Pakistan's chances in the doubles.

Indian Niki Poonacha took his match against a youthful Muhammad Shoaib 6-3, 6-4, winning in 64 minutes.

The twelve winning nations from the World

Group I play-offs will play a World Group I tie in September while the same number of losing nations will contest a World Group II tie, also in September.

Davis Cup results World Group I play-off

India beat Pakistan 4-0

Doubles: Saketh Myneni and Yuki Bhambri (India) beat Aqeel Khan and Muzammil Murtaza (PAK) 6-2, 7-6

Niki Poonacha (India) beat Muhammad Shoaib (Pakistan) 6-3, 6-4.

Gill says '70-30' for India victory as England chase 399



VISAKHAPATNAM (AFP): India's Shubman Gill said on Sunday the hosts remain favourites to win the second Test after his century left England needing a record chase of 399 on day three.

England, who lead the five-match series 1-0, reached 67-1 at stumps after opener Ben Duckett fell for 28 in Visakhapatnam.

Left-hander Duckett put on an attacking 50-run stand with fellow opener Zak Crawley, who is still batting on 29, before Ravichandran Ashwin got him out for his 497th Test wicket. Nightwatchman Rehan Ahmed, on nine, joined Crawley with England needing another 332 for victory.

"Definitely pleased but I left a few out there. We could have done with a few more runs," said Gill.

"I think it's 70-30 at the moment. Morning session will be key. We've seen there is moisture in the morning, and help for fast bowlers and spinners."

The highest fourth-innings target successfully chased against India is England's 378 at Edgbaston

in 2022, and the most successful in India was when the hosts got 387 against England in 2008.

Spinners Tom Hartley and Ahmed combined to bowl out India for 255 after Gill's 104 on a day of bowling and fielding brilliance.

Veteran pace bowler James Anderson struck early to remove the openers, and India slipped further after a stunning catch by captain Ben Stokes before Gill stabilised the innings. Anderson backed England to do the job with their attacking "Bazball" style of play, which was on display when they turned a 190-run deficit in the opener to go one up.

"The chat last night from the coach was that if they get 600, we were going to go for it," said Anderson. "It makes it very clear to everyone that we will try to do it tomorrow. I know there are 180 overs left in the game, but we will try to do it in 60 or 70."

Gill hits from

Gill hit his third Test ton, and first in his 12 innings since March 2023, to pull India out from 122-4 with two key stands including 89 runs with Axar Patel.

He reached the hundred with a single off debutant spinner Shoaib Bashir and raised his bat to a cheering Sunday crowd. He soon attempted a reverse sweep and departed when Bashir got him caught behind, a dismissal that was turned down by the umpire but replays showed the ball grazed the batsman's glove before wicketkeeper Ben Foakes took a sharp catch.

Gill had two lucky escapes on four, both close lbw calls and one successfully reviewed, but then batted fluently with his flicks and drives until his exit. England kept chipping away as Hartley, who returned figures of 4-77 with his left-arm spin, sent back Axar lbw for 45 to leave India six down by tea.

Ashwin played a stubborn knock of 29 before Ahmed took him down to wrap up the innings with his third strike. England missed part-time spinner Joe Root on the field for most of the day after the senior batsman hurt his finger while fielding in the morning, but Anderson said the time away was precautionary.

In the first session, Shreyas Iyer made 29 and was out after a moment of magic by Stokes. Iyer attempted a big hit off Hartley but Stokes sprinted back from mid-off and dived at full stretch to pull off a screamer of a catch.

Anderson, in an excellent morning spell of fast bowling, rattled Rohit Sharma's stumps with a superb delivery that pitched and moved away from the right-hander.

PSL 9 tickets to go on sale on Feb 6

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Tickets for HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) 9 will go on sale on Tuesday (February 6).

Fans would also be able to pre-book their tickets online at pcb.tcs.com.pk, said a press release.

Physical tickets have been made mandatory for all HBL PSL 9 matches. E-tickets (self-printed or digital copies) would not be accepted for entry across the four venues throughout the tournament.

Physical tickets will go on sale at designated TCS express centres from February 12 onwards. The tickets booked online can also be collected from TCS-designated pick-up centres or can be home-delivered by TCS.

The opening ceremony and first match of the ninth edition of the HBL PSL was scheduled to take place on February 17 at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. The tickets have been set at PKR 6,000 (VIP), PKR 3,000 (Premium), PKR 2,000 (First class) and PKR 1,000 (General).

The tickets for the final, to be played on March 18 at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi, have been set at PKR 8,000 (VIP), PKR 4,000 (Premium), PKR 2,500 (First class) and PKR 1,000 (General).

The tickets for the qualifier would be sold for PKR 5,000 (VIP), PKR 2,500 (Premium), PKR 1,500 (First class) and PKR 750 (General) while tickets for the two eliminators have been priced at PKR 5,000 (VIP), PKR 3,000 (Premium), PKR 1,500 (First class) and PKR 750 (General).

Over the course of HBL PSL 9, Karachi will host 11 matches including the final leg of the tournament, Rawalpindi and Lahore will host nine matches each while Multan will host five matches.

Australia thump West Indies by 83 runs to seal ODI series



SYDNEY (AFP): Man of the match Sean Abbott grabbed three wickets and slammed an entertaining 69 as Australia cruised to an 83-run victory over the West Indies in the second one-day international to seal the three-match series on Sunday.

Chasing 258-9, the visitors were dismissed for 175 in the 44th over at a humid Sydney Cricket Ground. Abbott starred with 3-40 while Josh Hazlewood took 3-43.

"It was a challenging start to the game, the West Indies bowled quite well early on. It was a tricky surface, but our late middle order did a terrific job," said Australia skipper Steve Smith. "I thought 250 was around par and we came out and did the job really nicely with the ball."

It was Australia's 11th consecutive ODI win to wrap up the series with a match to play in Canberra on Tuesday. Australia won the first game in Melbourne by eight wickets and while it was a more disciplined bowling performance by the West Indies, their batters struggled against the hosts' relentless attack. "I thought we stuck to our guns really well in the bowling department," said West Indies captain Shai Hope. "But the Aussies bowled very well and we need to find a way to bat a bit more freely."

The West Indies run chase started with a flourish as Alick Athanaze slammed successive boundaries off Aaron Hardie.

But he was out the following ball for 11 and fellow opener Justin Greaves (eight) went the next over with Hazlewood — back in the side for rested Melbourne bowling hero Xavier Bartlett — doing the damage.

When Kjorn Ottley was out for eight, caught behind off Abbott, they were struggling at 34-3. Hope and Keacy Carty ground out a 53-run stand, but it took them 14 overs.

Hazlewood returned to bowl Hope for 29 and when Abbott accounted for Carty (40), the West Indies were 108-5 with the match slipping away. Hazlewood struck again to remove Matthew Forde lbw and the night was capped by a sensational one-handed diving catch by Cameron Green to dismiss Roston Chase.

Earlier, Abbott hit 69 off 63 balls to help Australia post a respectable score after slumping to 167-7. Explosive 21-year-old Jake Fraser-McGurk was handed a debut in place of Travis Head, but failed to fire after the West Indies won the toss and sent Australia in, out for 10 to Alzarri Joseph.

Joseph struck again seven balls later to remove Josh Inglis for nine, caught at backward point. Green and Smith had steered Australia to their resounding win in Melbourne with an unbeaten 149-run stand.

But they were unable to repeat the feat with Forde bagging the key wicket of Smith, who chopped on to leave Australia tottering at 50-3. Green added 39 with Marnus Labuschagne before he lofted Oshane Thomas to mid-on and was gone for 33.

Labuschagne (26) again failed to convert a start to a big score, with spinner Gudakesh Motie picking up his wicket before removing dangermen Aaron Hardie (26) and Matt Short (41). Abbott then put on 57 with Will Sutherland — another debutant — before a late flurry took him to only his second one-day half-century.

Messi, Beckham booed after superstar sits out Hong Kong friendly

HONG KONG (AFP): Lionel Messi and David Beckham were booed on Sunday after the Argentina superstar sat out Inter Miami's pre-season friendly in Hong Kong.

The World Cup-winning captain, who has a hamstring strain, stayed rooted to the bench throughout the 4-1 friendly win against a Hong Kong select XI.

It brought a show of anger from the near-capacity crowd of 38,323 who had paid upwards of 1,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$125) to see their hero, and in many cases a lot more.

Halfway through the second-half, chants of "We want Messi" rose around the Hong Kong Stadium from fans desperate to see the greatest footballer of his generation in the much-hyped exhibition game.

The booing became louder during the last 10 minutes when it became clear that the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner would not make even the briefest of cameos.

The jeers rose to a crescendo at the final whistle after former Liverpool and Barcelona striker Luis Suarez also failed to take to the pitch because of a knee injury.



Miami co-owner Beckham was drowned out by booing as he tried to thank the crowd "for their incredible support" while fans signalled their anger with thumbs-down gestures.

"We understand the disappointment of the fans for the absence of Leo (Messi) and Luis Suarez," Miami coach Gerardo Martino told reporters, explaining the club's medical team had taken the decision after an assessment on Sunday morning.

"We understand a lot of fans are very disappointed and we ask for their forgiveness."

"We wish we could have sent Leo and Luis on for at least a while but the risk was too big."

The 36-year-old Messi

played just six minutes in Miami's last match, in Saudi Arabia on Thursday, and now faces a race against time to be fit for the new MLS season which starts on February 21.

"Messi mania" It was a bitter end to days of Hong Kong "Messi mania" in the lead-up to the match. Tens of thousands turned up just to watch him train on Saturday, where he did little more than jog and stretch.

The team hotel was besieged by hundreds of fans trying to glimpse their hero, and a traditional junk boat was cruising around Victoria harbour with Messi's face plastered across sails.

Messi shirts had been flying off the shelves after

tickets for the match sold out in an hour when they went on sale in December.

Miami's starting line-up featured neither of their other former Barcelona stars, Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba.

Robert Taylor opened the scoring for the MLS side in the 40th minute with a delightful right-foot curling shot from the left-hand edge of the box.

Two minutes later Hong Kong's Henri Anier laced a left-foot finish home to make it 1-1.

Miami regained the lead after half-time when Lawson Sunderland found the target from close range and Leonardo Campana increased the lead in the 56th minute.

Busquets and Alba finally made an appearance from the bench after 62 minutes to a smattering of cheers before Ryan Sailor rounded off the scoring for Miami in the 85th minute with a glancing header.

It was Miami's first

win in five matches on their globe-trotting pre-season tour.

They now move on to

Japan for a friendly against

Vissel Kobe on Wednesday

before flying back to the

United States.

Curry hits 60 but Warriors fall in Atlanta, Lakers beat Knicks

NEW YORK (AFP): Stephen Curry scored 60 points in a losing cause on Saturday as Dejounte Murray rescued the Atlanta Hawks in overtime for a 141-134 NBA triumph over Golden State.

Four-time NBA champion Curry made 22 of 38 shots from the floor, 10 of 23 from three-point range, and added six rebounds and four assists for the injury-hit Warriors.

"Steph was incredible," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "What a performance. I just feel so bad for him and for our guys because they are battling... Steph was sublime."

Curry was one shy of matching the NBA record for three-point attempts in a game and the 35-year-old guard joined the late Kobe Bryant as the only players over 35 to score 60 or more in an NBA game.

In another key game, LeBron James scored 24 points and Austin Reaves added 22 to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 113-105 victory at New York,

snapping the Knicks' nine-game win streak.

The Lakers outscored New York 33-19 in the fourth quarter to spoil a 36-point performance by Jalen Brunson.

"We just turned up our defensive intensity," James said of the late heroics. "We were really on point and on time with our doubles, with our hits, with our rotations."

"Jalen is playing at more than an All-Star level this year, so we know he's the head of the snake. We just tried to wear him down in the fourth quarter, keep him on multiple bodies, keep changing up defenses and I think that helped out a lot."

In Atlanta, Curry scored 22 points in the fourth quarter and eight more in overtime and looked to have given Golden State the victory on a jumper for a 123-121 lead with 14 seconds remaining in regulation time.

But Murray answered from 14 feet with 4.1 seconds to play to force overtime, then



scored seven consecutive points in the Hawks' 11-0 run to open the extra session and secure the triumph.

"I'm just glad our team got the win," Atlanta guard Trae Young said. "Steph was great in that second half. He got up to 50, wherever he was going, and in overtime we got a few more stops, got some rebounds

and made a few more plays."

Curry, whose career high is 62 points from a January 2021 win at Portland, took off his jersey after the game, autographed it and gave it to actress Lindsay Lohan.

Young led Atlanta with 35 points while Murray finished with 19 points. Jalen Johnson had 21 points and 13 rebounds

while Onyeka Okongwu had 22 points and 16 rebounds off the bench.

Young praised Murray's clutch effort down the stretch. "That's what we need from him," Young said of Murray. "We need him to be aggressive. He brings a lot to our team. He has a lot of talent. We can't win without him scoring and getting everybody involved."

Giannis hits 48 Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 48 points to power the Milwaukee Bucks over hosts Dallas 129-117.

Damian Lillard added 30 points for Milwaukee, while Luka Doncic had 40 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds in a losing cause.

Milwaukee's victory secured the Eastern Conference All-Star coaching spot for Bucks coach Doc Rivers, who replaced Adrian Griffin as the team's coach only eight days ago.

Boston head coach Joe Mazzulla, whose Celtics have a

better record, is not eligible for the All-Star spot because he had the job last season.

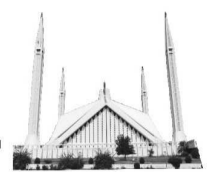
The Philadelphia 76ers, playing without reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Joel Embiid due to a right knee injury, suffered their fifth loss in six games, falling 136-121 at home to the Brooklyn Nets.

Cam Thomas scored 40 points to lead Brooklyn, who also got 23 points from Mikal Bridges. Sacramento's De'Aaron Fox scored 41 points to lead the Kings over hosts Chicago 123-115.

Domantas Sabonis had a triple-double with 13 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists for Sacramento while Malik Monk added 22 off the bench.

Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell scored 31 points while Evan Mobley added 28 to spark the Cavaliers' 117-101 triumph at San Antonio.

French rookie star Victor Wembanyama scored 19 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Spurs.



In brief

No entry on motorways

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highway and Motorway Authority (NHMA) has made M-Tag registration compulsory for all vehicles on motorways from February 5. According to details, this was being done for motorists convenience and a free flow of traffic through the entrance and exit points of motorways. To get M-Tag the motorists can visit the customer care center with their vehicle registration book/card and CNIC. No entry would be given on motorways to vehicles without M-Tag after February 5.

Wife, stepson booked

RAWALPINDI (INP): The police solved a blind murder case and arrested wife and stepson for killing a man in Gujar Khan area of Rawalpindi. According to details, Mehmood ul Hassan was shot dead two months earlier and wife had termed it blind murder. Gujar Khan police continued investigations and over suspicion arrested wife Shazia Parveen and stepson Sagar Ali. During investigations, the two revealed of killing Mehmood ul Hassan over domestic disputes. SP Saddar Nabeel Khokhar lauded the performance of Gujar Khan police. He said that how cunning the accused could be, can't escape from grip of law.

DC directs crackdown

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a decisive move led by Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon, Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates took robust action against beggars across Islamabad on Sunday. The ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said that thirteen beggars were apprehended in various city areas and promptly handed over to Kohsar police station. The initiative targeted professional beggars who also faced detention, while underage children found begging were compassionately directed to the Edhi Center. This ongoing operation, orchestrated by Assistant Commissioners, aimed to curb the pervasive issue of begging. Under Memon's watchful eye, the crackdown demonstrates a commitment to maintaining order and upholding the law. The relentless effort to address the beggar predicament showcased the administration's dedication to fostering a secure environment for Islamabad's residents.

World Cancer Day today

ISLAMABAD (APP): World cancer day is being observed today with an aim to raise awareness about the disease and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment. This year theme of the day is 'close the care gap: everyone deserves access to cancer care,' it is a part of a 3-year long campaign from 2022 to 2024. This marks the second year in a three-year campaign, emphasizing the need for global efforts to address disparities in cancer detection, treatment, and support services. The theme for World Cancer Day 2024 underscores the commitment to creating a more equitable healthcare landscape. The campaign aims to address disparities in access to cancer care, emphasizing the importance of making these services universally accessible. The overarching agenda for 2024 is 'Together, we challenge those in power.' World Cancer Day holds immense importance as a global effort to combat cancer.

Pak HC calls upon ensuring Kashmiris' right to self determination

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan High Commissioner in Malaysia Syed Ahsan Raza Shah on Sunday urged the international organizations and human rights bodies to ensure right of self-determination to the oppressed Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) under the relevant United Nations' resolutions.

He was addressing a Kashmir solidarity day event held at the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) jointly organized by collaboration of Majlis Perundangan Pertubuhan Islam Malaysia (MAPIM) and High Commission of Pakistan in Kuala Lumpur with the collaboration of IAIS, a press release said.

The high commissioner apprised the participants that for last seven decades, the Indian state had systematically converted Jammu and Kashmir into the largest open prison, where it had been oppressing the innocent Muslims through worst forms of human rights abuses and ethnic cleansing.

Ahsan Raza said the illegal Indian armed forces continued to use rape as a

weapon of war; they had blinded hundreds of Kashmiri children and youth by firing pellet guns directly at the faces; similarly, torture, illegal detentions, implication in fictitious cases, indiscriminate use of force under the impunity of draconian laws and systemized campaigns to rob the Kashmiris of their distinct cultural and religious identities marked the reality of India's brutal occupation of the occupied territory.

Emphasizing the seven-point agenda presented by international Human Rights and Muslim Rights activist Cikzu Azmi Abdul Hamid to resolve Kashmir issue, the high commissioner said it was a landmark guideline for ensuring peace in Kashmir and getting rid of human rights violations going on in IIOJK.

He also expressed concern over the sheer barbaric and inhumane brutalities, destruction and killings of innocent Palestinian brothers and sisters, said that the situation in Palestine served as a painful reminder of the similar sufferings of our Kashmiri brethren at the hands of an RSS-led, Hindutva-inspired, Islamophobic and fascist BJP regime that was hell-bent on

persecuting the Indian Muslims through worst forms of oppression.

Mentioning the construction of a Hindu temple on the site of centuries-old Babri mosque, Ahsan Raza deplored that India's judiciary had not only acquitted the criminals responsible for this despicable act but also allowed the construction of a temple on the site of the demolished mosque.

Similarly, he said, three days back on February 1, the BJP government illegally demolished a 600-years old mosque in Delhi in a fraudulent pretext of operation against encroachments and did not even spare the adjacent Muslim graveyard. He lauded the Malaysian people and the government for supporting the collective cause of the Ummah.

Sharing their remarks on the event, international human rights activist, Azmi Abdul Hameed who also holds the position of President MAPIM, said the dehumanization of Kashmiris continued in IIOJK for the last 76 years. Like Israel depopulated Palestine, he said, India was following the same tactics in Kashmir.



ISLAMABAD: An attractive view of thick clouds hovering over the sky in the Federal Capital. —APP Photo

Chief Secretary directs authorities to finalize best possible arrangements

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief Secretary Punjab, Zahid Akhtar Zaman here on Sunday directed the authorities concerned to finalize best possible arrangements for general elections 2024, scheduled to be held on February 8.

The Chief Secretary Punjab visited Rawalpindi Division and reviewed all the preparations including security being finalized for the general elections.

The Chief Secretary also visited the special control rooms established for the elections and the sensitive polling stations of Rawalpindi.

The Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chhatta briefed

the Chief Secretary about all the arrangements.

The Commissioner said that unconditional cooperation was given to the Election Commission of Pakistan by the divisional administration for the general elections.

All the arrangements including security had been completed in a timely and efficient manner, he added.

The number of registered voters in Rawalpindi Division is approximately 7.5 million, the Chief Secretary was briefed and informed that 5,490 polling stations were established across the division, for which 3,604 buildings were being used.

Additional arrangements

for the security of the polling stations had been made while the control rooms had also been set up.

Transparent conduct of general elections is indispensable for the country's security and development, the Chief Secretary said adding, considering this work as a social responsibility more than a professional one, the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures should strictly be implemented.

Zahid Akhtar Zaman instructed that every possible step should be taken to implement the code of conduct, issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan to conduct free, fair and transparent elections.

Commissioner visits Murree to review arrangements to facilitate tourists

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chhatta on Sunday visited Murree and reviewed all the arrangements finalized to facilitate the tourists coming to 'Queen of Hills' Murree to enjoy snowfall.

The Commissioner also inspected the tourist facilitation center and directed the Murree administration to remain alert 24-hour to provide help and assistance to the tourists.

He warned that negligence on part of the officials concerned would not be tolerated and strict action would be taken against the lax department.

The Commissioner also distributed necessary equipment among the officials on duty at the facility center. He gave the blankets, fan gas heaters, dry fruits and other essential items to the officials.

13 tourist facilitation

centers had been established in Murree to give quick response in case of any emergency, he said.

In the facility center there are personnel from all relevant departments including traffic police, civil defense, highways. The Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chhatta informed.

The Punjab government was spending huge amount to facilitate the tourists, he said adding, Chief Minister Punjab and Chief Secretary Punjab were also monitoring the arrangements finalized for the snowfall season. About three feet snow had been recorded in Murree till Saturday night and the roads were cleared with the help of heavy machinery early in the Sunday morning, he informed.

He directed the authorities concerned to sprinkle salt on the roads after snow removal operation.

Entry of vehicles should be allowed according to the parking capacity in Murree, he ordered the administration. Check post to monitor entry of vehicles into Murree had been set up at Islamabad, he said and instructed that no road should be blocked for more than an hour.

Liaquat Ali Chhatta directed the authorities to take immediate action on the tourist call for help in case of any difficulty.

He advised the tourists to finalize plan to come to Murree after confirm online hotel bookings. All the routes of Murree had been cleared, Deputy Commissioner Murree, Agha Zaheer Abbas informed the Commissioner.

164 traffic police personnel were performing their duty to regulate traffic, he further said and informed that heavy machines were being used to remove snow from the roads.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick addressing a press conference with Hurriyat Leadership regarding Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Kashmir solidarity walk held

RAWALPINDI (APP): A "Kashmir Solidarity Walk" was organized at Women's University, RWU, Rawalpindi, in which a large number of students, teachers and administrative staff participated.

A discussion about Kashmir was also held on this occasion.

All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter General Secretary Sheikh Abdul Mateen, who was the chief guest spoke about the ongoing atrocities of the Indian troops in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir besides throwing light on the background of the Kashmir dispute.

He said despite all the military aggression of India, the morale of the Kashmiris is high and they will continue their struggle for securing their right to self-determination.

Sheikh Abdul Mateen said Pakistan is an important party to the Kashmir dispute, which is advocating the right to self-determination of Kashmiris at the international level. He said the people of Kashmir are extremely grateful to Pakistan for its moral, political and diplomatic support.

Vice Chancellor of the University Dr Anila Kamal, while explaining the importance of Kashmir Solidarity Day, said people of Pakistan are standing side by side with their brothers and sisters of occupied Jammu and Kashmir in the struggle for freedom from Indian yoke.

ECP completes printing of 260m ballot papers

ISLAMABAD (PPI): The Election Commission of Pakistan has successfully completed printing of 260 million ballot papers for all constituencies in the country. According to a report on Sunday, National Assembly ballots are identifiable by green paper, whereas Provincial Assembly ballots are printed on white paper.

The electoral watchdog has also arranged 700,000 ballot boxes for the elections, with more than 276,000 polling booths being set up across the country. The ECP stated that in compliance with a Supreme Court directive,

ballot papers for 11 National Assembly and five Provincial Assembly constituencies underwent reprinting, with the original ones set for destruction as per the court order. ECP officials disclosed that this time, a total of 260 million ballot papers were printed, reflecting a 54.74 percent rise in candidates compared to the 2018 elections.

The ECP has also arranged 700,000 ballot boxes for the elections. According to sources, more than 276,000 polling booths are being set up across the country, with two ballot boxes to

be provided for each polling booth.

In one ballot box, votes will be cast for the National Assembly, while in the other, votes will be cast for the Provincial Assembly. A total of 552,000 ballot boxes will be used nationwide, with an additional 180,000 in reserve.

ECP officials shared that the delivery of ballot papers for Balochistan constituencies has been concluded, with considerations for security concerns and challenging weather conditions addressed through air transport.

No zoo in Islamabad violating IHC verdict please: Experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The concerned citizens and experts have urged the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to refrain from violating the Islamabad High Court (IHC) verdict on the Islamabad Zoo.

Moving a summary to the Federal Cabinet to reestablish the zoo in Islamabad will be a sheer violation of the IHC verdict, and it should be challenged in the court. They said CDA will be opposed for its connivance to cage the wild animals or to chain them again. It is the worst form of cruelty in the absence of technical and financial capacity of the CDA to regain the land to establish the zoo.

An online discussion on the subject was organized by the Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) and DTN on Saturday afternoon, a news release said.

The well-known biodiversity expert Z B Mirza said: CDA cannot fool the cabinet to take a favourable decision on its summary in the presence of IHC verdict that had clearly asked "to end the cruelty against the animals, and free the animals in their habitats". He said the CDA attempt to reestablish the zoo in Islamabad and grabbing the land is "mischievous by the dishonest officials". They know they cannot do it but

only after misguiding the Federal Cabinet. The biodiversity lovers will not support any uncalled-for decision by the CDA Board or the Federal Cabinet.

Another senior biodiversity expert Dr. Ejaz Ahmed said: Though zoos play an important role in education and awareness regarding different species and their behavior, if animals are kept with care. But we have seen that due to poor management and care, the majority of species are depressed and kept in a very unhygienic environment which results in their poor health conditions and strange behavior.

Rwp Ring Road project to prove game changer for people: Commissioner

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chhatta has said that Rawalpindi Ring Road project would prove to be a game changer for the people of Rawalpindi and the plantation drive on both sides of Rawalpindi Ring Road would be started from February 15.

The Commissioner said that the ring road project would be completed within stipulated time frame as over 20 percent physical work of the ring road project had been completed.

After the traffic network design to link the ring road with the motorway, work on Thalian Interchange would be started, he added.

Swan Bridge should be completed as soon as possible,

he directed the authorities concerned. The rest area being built on the ring road would be developed on the pattern of Bhera rest area, Liaquat Ali Chhatta informed.

Liaquat Ali further informed that the project would be completed before October. The ring road project would help reduce traffic load on the roads of Rawalpindi city and ensure a smooth flow of traffic in the town, he added. Once the ring road is completed, the local residents would get employment opportunities near their respective areas, he said. Special attention should be given to the quality of the construction work, Liaquat Ali Chhatta instructed and warned that no compromise would be made on quality of

the construction work.

He said that after completion of the ring road project, there would be a clear difference in the traffic flow of Rawalpindi city.

Applications for Maskan-e Ravi project can also be submitted online: Amir Mir: Punjab government spokesman and caretaker Information Minister Amir Mir has announced that applications for the Maskan-e Ravi project can now be submitted online as well.

The application form is available at the RUDA website ruda.gov.pk. Amir Mir said that hundreds of journalists had applied for the residential project comprising 200 acres of land in Lahore. Journalists, in order

to submit their online applications, should visit https://ruda.gov.pk/ maskan-e-ravi and for getting further information visit Customerservices@ruda.gov.pk.

Amir Mir stated that the responsibility for developing the residential project will rest with the Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA). The journalists will be awarded 3300 plots in Punjab. He said that payment in instalments will be made in 10 years and the plots will be allotted through a balloting process. The last date for the submission of the application form is February 6 while final balloting for the allotment of plots will be held on February 12, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Cyclists take part in a cycle rally in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day at D-Chowk. —INP Photo



ESTABLISHMENT OF FRONTIER CORPS TEACHING HOSPITAL KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

STATE-OF-THE-ART HEALTHCARE FACILITY AT SHAKAS (DISTRICT KHYBER)

**In the periphery of Hayatabad Peshawar,
The Frontier Corps Teaching Hospital
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
has emerged as a beacon of modern medical
excellence in Shakas Khyber District.**

This state-of-the-art medical facility, nestled amidst the challenging terrain, not only ensures top-tier health services to officers and soldiers of Frontier Corps North but also extends a benevolent yet professional touch to their families and the vast communities of Khyberpakhtunkhwa. Beyond the realm of conflict, this hospital stands as a testament to compassion, where lives are saved, and hope is rekindled for generations to come.

Cutting-Edge Infrastructure and Facilities

The Frontier Corps Teaching Hospital Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a testament to contemporary healthcare engineering, boasts a 200-bed capacity within a multi-story earthquake-proof building. Equipped with cutting-edge machinery, the hospital encompasses a Modular OT Complex, ICUs, Specialist Clinics, and purpose-built departments for Gynaecology, Obstetrics, Dermatology, Rehabilitation, Ophthalmology, ENT and Dental care.

The hospital's six levels are meticulously designed for

efficient administration and optimal medical care, accommodating a daily influx of over 1200 patients. Notably, the Accidents and Emergency Department, strategically positioned near Gate-II, ensures swift access during emergencies.

Advanced Diagnostic and Clinical Support

The Radiology Department, housed in the basement, boasts advanced diagnostic tools, including Doppler Ultrasound machines, Electrocardiogram, Computed Tomography Scan, X-Ray machines, Fluoroscope, Mammography, Magnetic Resonance Imagery, and Computed Tomography Scan Machines. The Pathology lab is fully equipped for basic and advanced laboratory tests.

Specialized Wards and Critical Care Units

Wards linked to specialty departments include the Family Ward on the second floor, catering to maternal and child health care. The third floor hosts an elaborate Intensive Care Unit with 26 beds, a Critical Care Unit, and 8 state-of-the-art Operation Theaters, ensuring advanced hygiene through HVAC and AHUs Systems.

Comprehensive Amenities and Infrastructure

The hospital features a central Pharmacy, integrated with Hospital Management Information System (HMIS), along with

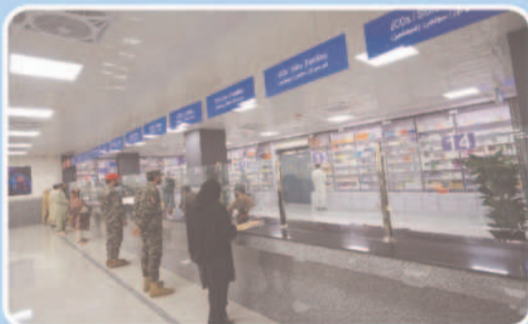
in-house facilities such as a Cafeteria, Phlebotomy and Blood Bank, Central Sterile Services Department, and Laundry, strategically situated in the basement. A robust power supply, facilitated by a 4.7 Mega Watt express feeder, 1500 KW ampere Generator sets, and a 630 KW ampere UPS system, ensures uninterrupted service to critical areas.

The Boiler system, an 800 KW powerhouse, guarantees a reliable supply of hot water and steam, while a network of 10 lifts, including clean and dirty dumbwaiters and cargo lifts, meets logistical requirements. The hospital's safety and security are bolstered by a Building Management System, Alarm system, Camera-based surveillance, and a comprehensive Communication system with WiFi facility.

Notably, the hospital incorporates a Helipad on the rooftop, complementing two ground helipads, ensuring swift medical evacuation during operational exigencies.

Vision for the Future

In essence, the Frontier Corps Teaching Hospital in Shakas Khyber District stands as an unparalleled addition to healthcare facilities around Peshawar, promising the highest quality medical care to the majority of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Looking ahead, the hospital aspires to evolve into a distinguished teaching institution, playing a pivotal role in shaping the future of medical professionals in the country.



QUALITY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES NOW AT THE DOORSTEPS OF PUBLIC

FRONTIER CORPS TEACHING HOSPITAL

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (FCTH KP)

with its high quality services, benevolent yet professional treatment, is available to provide state-of-the-art healthcare facilities to the entire population of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Frontier Corps North officers, soldiers and their families. In fact, this hospital will act as a ray of hope, where lives will be saved and also a ray of hope for the mainstreaming of Khyber district.

Infrastructure / Facilities

Effective management and uninterrupted medical care
for hundreds of patients every day

- 200 bedded hospital
- Operation Theatres
- Gynaecology/Pediatric
- Eye Treatment
- Ultrasound Facility
- ICU Complex
- Dermatology Clinic
- ENT
- Dental Clinic
- Modern X-ray Machines
- Specialist Clinics
- Modern Pathology Laboratory
- Rehabilitation Center
- Cardiology
- Uninterrupted Power Supply

Accident and Emergency Department
near the entrance gate



Frontier Corps Teaching Hospital Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

with its state-of-the-art facilities will be a phenomenal growth in health and treatment facilities in Peshawar and its surroundings. It will surely provide the highest quality medical care to the majority of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Where care meets commitment - Your health becomes our priority

Frontier Corps Teaching Hospital, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Shakas District Khyber

For more information: UAN: 091-111-113-284