

IED blast kills one in Bajaur
F.P. Report

KHAR: A generator mechanic was killed and his driver was injured when the vehicle they were travelling in was targeted with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Mamond tehsil of Bajaur district, police informed on Monday. Police said the blast occurred in Bandagai area of Mamond tehsil where the vehicle of a generator mechanic named Etebar Khan was targeted with an IED.



@thefrontierpost

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXI

No. 125

Regd. No. 241

ZIQAAD 19 1445 -- TUESDAY, MAY 28 2024

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30



LAHORE: Former federal minister, Khawaja Saad Rafique called on Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif.

Annual budget likely to be presented on June 8
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The annual budget session of the National Assembly has been scheduled to commence on June 5 at 5pm. It confirmed that the session will mark the beginning of discussions on the federal budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

According to media reports, the decision to present the federal budget for the next fiscal year in the National Assembly has been finalized for June 8. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb is slated to present the budget, outlining the government's financial plans and allocations across various sectors.

Following the budget presentation, debates on the proposed budget are set to kick off from June 10. Members of the National Assembly will engage in detailed discussions, analysing the budgetary proposals and their potential impact on the nation's economy and welfare. The approval of the budget is expected to be sought in the last week of June, following the conclusion of Eidul Azha.

Meanwhile, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has already presented its budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, with a surplus of Rs100 billion. KP Finance Minister Aftab Alam presented the budget. The total revenue for the province was estimated at Rs1,754 billion, while the total expenditure was Rs1,654 billion. Under the new budget, basic salaries for government employees will see a 10% increase, alongside a corresponding 10% rise in monthly pensions. Additionally, the minimum monthly wage is set to rise from Rs32,000 to Rs36,000, aimed at improving the livelihoods of workers across the province.

Eight die as jeep falls into gorge
F.P. Report

SHANGLA: Eight members of a family including women and children died when a jeep fell into a gorge here on Monday. Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Saffron, Engr Amir Muqam grieved over loss of the precious lives.

According to details, a jeep heading to Pagorai from Balay Baba skidded off road and plunged into a ditch. As a result of accident, eight family members including women and children were killed.

The local people and rescue teams through collective efforts pulled up the bodies and shifted them to District Hospital Alpuri. Minister Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan and Saffron, Engr Amir Muqam expressing deep grief over the loss of eight precious lives in the dreadful accident has expressed his sympathies with the bereaved families.

Centre, KP govt resolve power problem
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Federal Minister Owais Leghari, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur Monday assured the public that concrete steps are being taken to alleviate the power crisis affecting the country.

Addressing a press conference jointly in Islamabad, they addressed the pressing issue of load shedding and the measures being taken to resolve it. Speaking on the occasion, Mohsin Naqvi said the KPK government and the federal power ministry have been engaged in discussions for the last few days to address the ongoing load-shedding crisis in the province.

"The talks proved to be highly productive, with both parties working towards a common goal of providing relief to the public," he added. The Interior Minister affirmed that the crisis in KPK has been addressed.

"We understand the challenges faced by our citizens. Measures are being implemented to address and resolve these issues," Naqvi stated. Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said that efforts are being made to address the system's deficiencies and ensure relief to the masses from load shedding. Gandapur said that a viable solution has been identified that will provide significant relief from load shedding. "We have found a way that will offer relief. The focus is to make KPK load shedding-free," he reiterated.

"We aim to eradicate load shedding from our province. Federal and provincial

institutions will work together to achieve this goal," Gandapur said. The Chief Minister highlighted that the primary goal of these discussions was to provide relief to the public and find sustainable solutions.

The talks also covered the financial aspects related to electricity provision. "We are making efforts to ensure that all our dues will be paid. Gandapur emphasized that KPK deserves relief from load shedding due to its significant contribution to electricity production.

"All institutions will work together. Our province has been facing severe load shedding problems, which also lead to law and order issues," he stated. "We have found a way that will provide relief to the public. He expressed gratitude for the mutual understanding and cooperation achieved during the meetings.

By resolving the issues with the federal government, we will address the financial obligations as well," he said. Federal Minister Owais Leghari said that load shedding can be reduced by eliminating electricity theft in the country. "The solution to load shedding lies in preventing electricity theft," he said adding that What we are implementing in KPK will be replicated in other provinces as well. Leghari further added that the province of KPK is currently generating electricity and supplying it to the national grid. Owais Leghari reiterated the commitment to tackling electricity theft as a crucial step towards ending load shedding.

PM declares May 28 as public holiday
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday declared May 28 as public holiday to mark Youm-e-Takbeer, when Pakistan performed nuclear tests in the hills of Chagai, Balochistan making country's defence impregnable.

In a statement prime minister stated that Youm-e-Takbeer reminds the Pakistani nation of unity to make the defence of the country invincible, said a news release issued by the PM House. On this day in 1998, the entire nation decided for the integrity of the country, that there would be no compromise by accepting any external pressure on national defence, he added.

PM Shehbaz Sharif remarked, "Youm-e-Takbeer reminds of becoming united under the one flag to strengthen the defence of this country of political and defence forces." He said Youm-e-Takbeer was the day

of renewing pledge to always thwart the nefarious designs of the external as well as internal enemies who want to endanger the country through their chaotic politics. "This is also the day of paying tributes to the measures taken by then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan Army to making the national defence invincible," he added.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had an excellent telephone call with his Norwegian counterpart Jonas Gahr Store and appreciated Norway's decision to recognize the State of Palestine in wake of Israel's atrocious military aggression.

The two leaders welcomed the recent decision of the International Court of Justice, ordering Israel to halt its heinous actions in Gaza and Rafah. Both Norway and Pakistan firmly believe that the UN backed two-state solution offers the best path to lasting peace in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif hoped that the bold and principled decision by Norway, Spain and Ireland would encourage other countries to follow suit in recognizing the statehood of Palestine. He expressed the optimism that the international community pays similar attention to the plight of brave, innocent Kashmiris who are also facing brutal occupation and oppression for the past 76 years.

Shehbaz Sharif and Jonas Gahr Store also exchanged views on Pakistan-Norway ties and expressed a shared desire to further strengthen their friendly and cordial relations, especially in trade and investment. Shehbaz Sharif said he is grateful to the Norwegian Prime Minister for complimenting the Pakistani diaspora in Norway who are a bridge between both countries. He extended a warm invitation to Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

Sana: Nawaz all set to play proactive role in politics
F.P. Report

LAHORE: Announcing the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) intra-party elections, Prime Minister's Adviser on Public and Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah has said that party supremo Nawaz Sharif will be seen proactively "playing his role in national politics soon".

Sanaullah, addressing a press conference in Lahore on Monday, announced that the ruling party commenced the process of the intra-party elections by the PML-N's constitution and an election commission was also established by a

central working committee. The former federal minister said that nomination papers were issued from 9am to 5pm today which would also be continued before 12pm by tomorrow (Tuesday). "Scrutiny of the nomination papers will be performed at 1pm, whereas, candidates could withdraw their nominations by 2:30pm, tomorrow."

He added: "Overall, 11 nominations have been issued so far. At 3pm tomorrow, final lists of the candidates will be issued and a general council's session will be held afterwards." He added that the

party would organise the polls for electing its president at 4pm today. Sanaullah went on to say that Bashir Memon, Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Ishaq Dar, Raja Muhammad Farooq, Hafiz Hafeez-ur-Rehman and Shah Ghulam Qadir have received their nomination papers today.

He said that Shahid Khaqan Abbasi — a disgruntled PML-N leader who had applied to register a new political party last month — could also submit his nominations, however, the scrutiny committee will decide on his "eligibility" to contest the party's intra-party polls.

Street crime: Man shot dead over resistance
F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Armed men gunned down a citizen over resistance during a street crime in Gulbahar area of the provincial capital on Monday.

According to details, armed motorcyclists intercepted a citizen near Educators School Javed Town and asked to hand over the mobile phone. Over resistance, the culprits gunned down Muhammad Asim Siddiqui s/o Gulzar Ahmed hailing from Javed Town and sped the scene with snatched cell phone.

DSP Gulbahar Circle, Mukhtar Ali along with police team reached the scene and shifted the body to hospital for postmortem. The police collected the CCTV footage of the incident and after registering a case into the incident started investigations.

Sardar Tanveer granted bail
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad sessions court has ordered the release of former prime minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas by granting him bail.

Tanveer Ilyas's counsel stated that maximum conviction under the section was of three years. He demanded that accused Tanveer Ilyas must be granted bail. He also informed the court that his client Ilyas's confiscated passport had also been returned. During the hearing, Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) officials presented the record in court. However, the FIA prosecutor raised reservations on the bail of Sardar Tanveer Ilyas.

Consequently, Judicial Magistrate Abbas Shah approved the bail of Ilyas in illegal diplomatic passport case against Rs100,000 surety bonds. Sardar Tanveer Ilyas was accused of possessing his diplomatic passport after stepping down from the position of premier.

Pakistan set to launch satellite into space
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's second communication satellite, Paksat MM1, is set for launch this Thursday, in a significant move for the country's space and communication technology, says in media reports.

This advanced satellite, developed by Pakistani scientists and engineers through relentless effort, marks a major step forward in the nation's aspirations to enhance internet connectivity across all regions. The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) has been at the forefront of this ambitious project, with a vision to bring reliable internet services to every corner of Pakistan. The upcoming launch of Paksat MM1 is poised to turn this dream into reality, providing a much-needed boost to the country's digital infrastructure. Paksat MM1 is designed to significantly enhance communication capabilities, ensuring widespread internet coverage. This development is particularly crucial for remote and underserved areas, where internet access has been limited or non-existent. By bridging this digital divide, Suparco aims to foster greater socio-economic development and digital inclusion.

On May 11, Pakistan had announced plans to launch a new satellite into space, following the successful deployment of the iCube Qamar satellite. The MM1 was scheduled to be launched on May 30, according to a spokesperson of the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco).

Five soldiers martyred
23 terrorists killed in operations; COAS visits CMH
F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Twenty three terrorists were killed by the security forces in three separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

On Sunday, an intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Hassan Khel, Peshawar District, where six terrorists were successfully neutralized by the security forces and multiple hideouts were busted. Captain Hussain Jehangir and Havildar Shafiq Ullah also embraced Shahadat on 26 May, while fighting gallantly.

On Monday, in another operation conducted in Tank District, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as a result of which ten terrorists were sent to hell.

The third engagement occurred in general area Bagh, Khyber District, wherein, the security forces sent seven terrorists to hell, while two terrorists were injured.

However, during the intense exchange of fire, five brave soldiers; Naik Muhammad Ashfaq Butt (age 32 years; resident of district Kahuta), Lance Naik Syed Danish Afkar (age 30 years; resident of district Poonch), Sepoy Taimoor Malik (age 32 years; resident of district Layyah), Sepoy Nadir

Sageer (age 22 years; resident of district Bagh) and Sepoy Muhammad Yasin (age 23 years; resident of district Khushab), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat.

A large quantity of Weapons, ammunition & explosives was also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as the innocent civilians. Sanitization operations are being carried out to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. Security forces are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Namaz-e-Janaza of Sepoy Taimoor Shaheed (age 32, resident of district Layyah), Sepoy Nadir Sagheer Shaheed (age 22, resident district Bagh), Sepoy Muhammad Yaseen Shaheed (age 23, resident of district Khushab), Lance Naik Syed Danish Afkar Shaheed (age 30, resident of district Poonch) and Naik Ashfaq Butt Shaheed (age 32, resident of district Kahuta), who embraced Shahadat during an intense exchange of fire with terrorists at general area Bagh, Khyber district, was offered in Peshawar Garrison today.

General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and a large number of military & civil officials attended the funeral. Later on, COAS visited CMH Peshawar to inquire about the well being of troops injured during the operation. COAS appreciated their high morale and reaffirmed the resolve of the Nation to fight the terrorism with full vigor and spirit. Shuhada will be laid to rest with full military honor at their respective native towns. Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Commander Peshawar Corps.

Meanwhile, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday expressed his condolence on the martyrdom of five personnel in the operation in district Khyber. The Governor prayed for the departed soul and the ranks of the martyrs and patience for the bereaved families.

The Governor expressed his heartfelt sympathy to the families of the martyrs. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that the entire nation appreciates the sacrifices of the security forces in the war against terrorism. Faisal Karim Kundi salutes the martyrs of the security forces who sacrificed their precious lives for the establishment of peace.



PESHAWAR: Chief of the Army Staff, General Asim Munir interacting with injured soldier during his visit to CMH.

Nothing in KP budget for people: Opp leader

PESHAWAR (APP): Leader of the Opposition Dr Ibadullah while starting debate on Budget Session for financial year 2024-25 in the Speaker Babar Salim Swati in chair, said that the incumbent KP government passed first two budgets of the caretaker government and the current budget is this assembly's own budget but nothing for people of the province.

Dr Ibad raised question that for the first time in history, the province broke the tradition and presented the budget before the federation. He said that the budget of the province depends on the revenue received from the Federation up to 92 percent. The current budget is nothing but a political stunt, Dr Ibad said. He said that it is important to know the motives behind presenting the budget so quickly and then passing it. He said that the current budget of KP is nothing but a fantasy. Dr Ibad expressed that the budget is the most important document regarding expenditure and revenue of any province. He said that health, education, IT, Mines and Mineral departments have been fully ignored and nothing for ongoing developmental schemes and no powers has been given to local bodies.

Earlier, 84 percent of the 2023-24 budget was dependent on federal funding while more than 84 percent of the current budget is to be met

from the federal government." He said that the province does not know how much to get from federation in various fields including NSC. The province's own revenue is Rs93 billion, while the revenue received from the federation is more than Rs1200 billion, adding out of Rs1200 billion, more than 1100 billion is to be found in the fight against terrorism, levies and other sectors, Dr Ibad informed the House. "We don't know what has been written in the budget to the province as the current budget consists only of assumptions." "The province expected Rs 91.1 billion in the war on terror last year but got Rs 85.7 billion." If the Chief Minister's KP style is aggressive, how can it be expected to get all these benefits from federation, Dr Ibad said.

Leader of the Opposition Dr Ibadullah said that in the current budget, the expenses of the province in the next fiscal year are 63 percent higher, Minister of Finance tell from where will they get it? Maulana Lutfur Rehman of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Lutfur Rehman said that for the first time, the provincial budget was presented before the federal budget which is strange. He said that the sad thing is that the budget of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa might be passed before the federal budget is presented.

He said that it would be

good if this budget is canceled and presented with real figures after the federal budget. He said that unfortunately, the government could not fulfill its goals in the last ten years in this province. He said that the expenditure has not been incurred in the budget of the last financial year, so why was the supplementary budget presented? He said that there is a need to form a committee against this irresponsible behavior as the debts of the province are increasing enormously.

He said the economy of the province is stagnant and there is no increase in the revenue of the province. Unfortunately, no serious steps have been taken to increase the revenue of the province, Lutfur Rehman added. Ihsanullah Miankhel of PPP, said that allocation of 10 billion rupees for Chashma Lift Canal in DI Khan is welcome and good initiative but unfortunately out of these money for this project, allocated only 2 billion rupees.

He said that Rs3 billion have been allocated for non-productive projects like BRT. He said that BRT Phase will not be allowed to start until the Chashma Lift Canal Project is started. The announcement for DI Khan Motorway is being welcome so the government should inform about buying or planning to buy land for DI Khan Motorway, said Miankhel.

Two children burnt to death
F.P. Report

DI KHAN: Two children were burnt to death while four people were scorched due to fire in a house here on Monday. Fire caused due to unknown reasons erupted house of Colonel Saqib located inside Imamia Gate in Dera Ismail Khan. As a result of fire, 8-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son of Colonel Saqib were burnt to death while he himself along with four family members was scorched.

Lawmakers complain to CM of power load-shedding

KARACHI (APP): The heat wave and scorching heat across the province. Those, who called the CM were one Member of National Assembly (MNA) Jam Abdul Kareem and eight Members of the Provincial Assembly.

ٹینڈرنوٹس

سکاؤٹس ٹریننگ اکیڈمی ورک کو گورنمنٹ کے منظور شدہ ٹھیکیداروں سے درج ذیل کاموں کیلئے جس کی کل تخمینہ لاگت 900,000 روپے ہے سربراہ ٹینڈر مطلوب ہیں جو کہ مورخہ 29 مئی 2024 دن 10:00 بجے تک پہنچ جانے چاہئیں۔ ٹینڈر اسی دن 10:30 بجے ٹینڈر دہندگان یا مجاز نمائندوں کی موجودگی میں کھولے جائیں گے۔ ٹینڈر فارم دیا جائے گا۔ ہر کام کیلئے 2 فیصد ریر بیعانہ زید تنطقی کو ال ڈیپازٹ کی صورت میں ٹینڈر فارم کے ساتھ منسلک کرنا ہوگا۔

سیریل نمبر	کام کی نوعیت	تخمینہ لاگت (روپوں میں)	زیر بیعانہ	مدت فراہمی
1-	اسالٹ کورس رسکاؤٹس کمپنٹ کورس کا میٹینینس رمرمت	900,000/-	22,500/-	ایک ماہ

میجر
برائے کمانڈنٹ
محمد حسن ریاض
سکاؤٹس ٹریننگ اکیڈمی، ورکس

”ویکسینیشن کرائیں اور کرونا ایس او پیز اپنائیں“

PAKISTAN RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO E-BID

Divisional Superintendent, Pakistan Railways Peshawar invites electronic bid on Pakistan Railway Composite Schedule of Rates-2016 (Peshawar Division), and through rates from the contractors having certificate with relevant category of C-4 or above and specialization in CE-10 & EE-11 from Pakistan Engineering Council for the year 2023-24, on Single stage - Two envelope system (Technical / Financial Bid) and also included in the active Taxpayers list (ATL) of F.B.R for the under mentioned work. Narne of firm / agency on CDR is mandatory.

#	Description	Approximate Cost	Earnest Money	Period of Completion
1	Special Repair / Up-Gradation of Washing Lines at Peshawar Cantt.	Rs.67585604/-	Rs.3379280/-	08 Months

2. Tender documents can be obtained from <http://eprocure.gov.pk> Bidders must submit their bids both technical and financial, through E-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (E- PADS). Technical Bids must be accompanied by a scanned copy of Bid Security in the form of CDR/ Pay order, in the name of Divisional Accounts Officer, Pakistan Railways Peshawar amounting to Rs.3.379 Million. Whereas, bid security in original shall be submitted in the office of Divisional Superintendent, Pakistan Railways Peshawar (Works Accounts Branch) along with other necessary documents as stated in bidding documents. Tender must be uploaded on E- PADS at 12:00 or before, on **13 June, 2024**.

3. Only bids through EPAD will entertained and no other bid will be accepted except EPAD. Technical bids will be opened on same date in the chamber of Divisional Accounts Officer, Pakistan Railways, Peshawar at 12:30 hours in the presence of the representatives of the firms who want to be witness. Financial bids of only technically qualified firms will be opened for which time and date will be communicated to qualified firms accordingly.

Note: This bidding notice is also available on Pakistan Railways web site www.pakrail.com and PPRA web site (www.ppra.org.pk).

No. 1012-WA/20/PSC/2022-23

”ریلوے لائن صرف ریلوے کرائسنگ سے احتیاط سے پار کریں“

PID (P) 162/24

(SANA ULLAH)

for, Divisional Superintendent

P. R Peshawar

(Ph: No. 091-9210695)



ہمارا ایمان
کرپشن فری پاکستان

TENDER NOTICE

FOR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION OF WHEAT ON PR TO PR BASIS INCLUDING CHITRAL DISTRICTS (LOWER IN & UPPER) MAIN AND LOCAL FOR THE YEAR 2024-25

- Sealed Tenders are invited for transportation of wheat on PR to PR basis for PRCs of Districts Peshawar, Nowshera, Azakhel, Charsadda, Mardan, Swabi Dargal, Dir Upper Dir Lower, Swat, Buner, Shangla, Haripur, Havelian, Mansehra, Battagram, Kohistan, Kohat, Hangu, Kurram, Bannu, S.Nurang, Karak D.I. Khan, South Waziristan (Wana). Chitral Lower and Chitral Upper (Main & Local). Tender forms can be obtained @ Rs.2000/- per Form on PR to PR and 5000/- from Down District to Chitral Lower and Chitral Upper (Main) (Stationery charges non refundable) per centre from Food Directorate Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Camp Adda, G.T Road Peshawar till 12.06. 2024 during the working hours.
- Tender forms shall be issued to registered carriage contractors /firms of Food Department who have renewed their registration for the year 2024-25 and are registered with KPRA.
- Each tender form shall be accompanied with earnest money amounting to Rs. 1.00 Million (One million) in shape of call deposit from Khyber Bank or any schedule Bank in the name of Director Food, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, for all stations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Rs.5,000,000/- (Rupees Five Million) each for Chitral Lower/Upper (Main) (Direct from down districts)
- The approved/lowest firm/carriage contractors will follow the directions/instruction of ICT Based intervention (Project) of Food Department Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- No tender form will be issued on the tender opening day
- Flat rate per ton (Net weight) shall be quoted
- Incomplete tender form shall not be accepted
- Proof of NTN/KPRA registration will be attached with the tender form
- The contractor is bound to pay Income Tax, KPRA Sales Tax on services, Stamp Duty, DPR Funds and Professional Tax according to the prescribed rates fixed by the Government
- On approval of rates, the successful bidders shall have to execute contract agreement with Food Department within 15 (Fifteen) days, the earnest money will be adjusted as security, failing to execute contract agreement with in the stipulated period, the same will be forfeited in favour of the Government
- Tenders will be received at 10:00 AM and will be opened on the same day at 11:00 AM on 13.06.2024 in the presence of Tender Opening Committee and Carriage Contractors or their authorized representatives in Food Directorate, Haji Camp Adda, G.T.Road Peshawar
- The competent authority may reject the tenders in part or in full on the basis of cogent ground/reasons
- Any other information, if required, may be obtained from Food Directorate, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Camp Adda, GT Road, Peshawar till one day before tender opening date during working hours.
- The proceedings during the tender opening shall be video recorded for transparency. Copy of the video can be obtained on payment of cost

DEPUTY DIRECTOR ACCOUNTS

FOOD DIRECTORATE

PESHAWAR

INF (P) 1106/24

(MPAs) of Sindh including Dr. Sikandar Shoro, Adeel Altaf Unar, Arbab Lutufullah, Taj Mohammed Mallah, Arbab Amir Abdullah, Malik Asad Sikandar Khan, Seema Khurum and Eijaz Sawat.

All the parliamentarians informed Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah of the problems of their constituencies and their solutions.

They discussed issues of load-shedding, health, education, drainage of sewerage water and development projects in detail.

They complained that the power companies had continued the load-shedding even in the conditions of heat wave and scorching heat in the province.

The CM responded that the provincial government had warned the power companies including HESCO, SEPCO and KE.

He said that the provincial government was making all-out efforts to resolve the issues of the people.

CM reviews facilities, issues of SEZs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a meeting to review facilities and issues faced by Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Punjab, here on Monday.

The chief minister expressed indignation at the failure of institutions concerned to promote industry in the province, and directed to change heads and boards of the industrial estates for their poor performance. She said a performance audit of heads of industrial estates and their teams will be conducted.

An industrial estate should be used for the same purposes for which it was established, she added. Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Information & Culture Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari and MPA Sania Ashiq attended the meeting. Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Finance Secretary Mujahid Sher Dil, Secretary Industry Ehsan Bhutta and other relevant officers were also present.

CM takes notice of student's rape in Wazirabad: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has taken notice of an incident of alleged rape of a student by two persons in Wazirabad. The CM also sought a report from the inspector general Police and said the accused should be punished as per law.

DC reviews dengue surveillance

LAHORE (APP): An anti-dengue drive initiated by the district administration is in full swing under which surveillance is being carried out at various points in the provincial capital.

Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider on Monday visited Mazong area where she inspected anti-dengue arrangements and instructed the house owners about dengue preventive measures.

She checked houses, empty plots and commercial markets of the area and assessed the close monitoring of dengue larva elimination. She observed the attendance and performance of anti-dengue squad deputed on field duty in the area.

Similarly, Assistant Commissioner City Rai Baber visited UC-72 Bilal Ganjh to inspect anti-dengue arrangements.

Public Notice

I, Shabana Shuja (14301-7660483-4), wife of Qazi Shuja Uddin, have lost the original documents for my plot (11.1 marla) whose address is: Plot# 66, Sector 4, Phase 1, KDA Kohat. I have applied for duplicate documents with KDA Office. If anyone finds it, please contact me on cell # 0345-9100084.

Mashood opens first PM Youth Development Centre

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairman Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan has said that the future of Pakistan lies in the hands of its youth.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Prime Minister Youth Development Centre at Superior University here on Monday, he said that opportunities were available at national and international levels for youths who were passionate and committed.

He emphasized that it was the government's job to provide platforms and facilitate young minds, adding, "We did this throughout our life. We introduced a number of youth initiatives in the past and are proud of it."

He noted that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had a special vision for the youth, which was why Punjab introduced the first Youth Policy in 2010 when Shehbaz Sharif was the Chief Minister of Punjab.

It was determined in the policy that if Pakistan were to make progress, it must invest in its youths, he added. Consequently, the Punjab government distributed laptops, established the Punjab Education Endowment Fund, Daanish schools, and held youth festivals to engage the youth positively. Additionally, the Punjab Skill Development Company was established to impart skills to the youth, he added. He mentioned that the Punjab Endowment Fund had started in 2008, with 2 billion rupees added to it annually. "Within ten years, it had amassed 24 billion rupees. The profits from the fund allowed the Punjab government to cover the educational expenses of the poor but talented students, benefiting more than 450,000 students," he added. He highlighted that the development of Punjab was a part of Pakistan's development but not the whole. The challenge was to introduce a system ensuring all provinces progress together, he added.

PROJECT DIRECTORATE

Establishment of Institute of Criminology & Forensic Sciences
Address: Dept of Criminology, University of Peshawar, Pakistan

INVITATION TO BID (Single Stage Two Envelopes)

Sealed Bids are invited from registered contractors/firms/companies for "Supply & Installation of Solar System at the Dept of Criminology Under the Project, Estt of Institute of Criminology & Forensic Sciences, University of Peshawar" as per schedule given below:

Estimated Cost Rs:	E/Money Cost Rs:	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Meeting	Submission of Sealed Bids	Opening of Technical Bids
5,896,000/-	118,000/-	From the date of advertisement till Wed 12 th June, 2024	On Thu 6 th June 2024 at 10.00am in the Dept of Criminology	Upto Thu 13 th June, 2024 till 10.00am by post/hand	On Thu 13 th June, 2024 at 10.30am in the Dept of Criminology

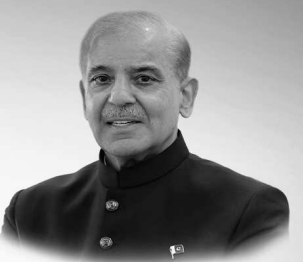

Source & Address for tender inquiries, collection & submission of the Bidding Documents is: Mr. Muhammad Shakeel, Resident Engineer, Directorate of Works, Opp: Block-D Hostel, University of Peshawar Cell: 0313-9119096, Email: muhammadshakeelupp@gmail.com

CONDITIONS:

- Only the contractor or owner of the firm/company will be issued the Bidding Documents on Non-Refundable Fee of Rs.3,000/- upon submission of written application along with the following documents:
 - Copy of CNIC / NTN of the prospective bidder.
 - Up-to-date Registration with PEC, FBR & KPRA having Active Status & AEDB (PPIB).
 - Up-to-date Registration as AOP with Registrar of Firms OR as Company with SECP.
 - An affidavit duly attested by an Oath Commissioner to the effect that the bidder has never been blacklisted nor involved in disputes / litigations anywhere and that the documents attached with the application are correct & nothing has been concealed.
- Bids along with E/Money @2% of the bid in the shape of Call Deposit from bidder's account only in f/o the Treasurer, University of Peshawar sealed in envelopes in the manner as specified in the Bidding Documents, addressed to the undersigned should reach by the above deadline.
- In the 1st Phase, Technical Bids will be opened by the Committee in the presence of the concerned bidders, whereas, in the 2nd Phase, Financial Bids of the technically qualified bidders will be opened for which date & time will be later on communicated to the bidders.
- Additional Security in f/o Treasurer, University of Peshawar, if required, may be deposited in accordance with the SRO,(14)/Vol: 1-24/2021-22 Peshawar, the May 10, 2022.
- The competent authority reserves the right to reject/accept any or all the bids with solid justification in light of the rules.

-Sd-, Prof. Dr. Basharat Hussain

Project Director




وطن کے ہم رکھوالے ہیں


ہم 28 مئی والے ہیں

نہ جھکے تھے نہ جھکیں گے

ایٹمی قوت بنایا تھا

معاشی قوت بنائیں گے





/GovtofPakistan
www.moib.gov.pk

حکومت پاکستان

PID(0)7337-D/23



In brief

Three killed in clash with rivals

HYDERABAD (INP): Three people were killed in firing between two groups of Junejo community over a land dispute in Kacha area near Sadiq Kalhoro of Khairpur Gambat on Monday. According to media reports, the men who are killed in the exchange of heavy fire in Kacha area are included Naeem Junejo and Ali Hasan Junejo. As per the channel report, the shooting is continued between two groups of Junejo community in Kacha area till filing this report and there is a fear of more bloodshed. It reported that the local police of Sadiq Kalhoro have not yet reached the spot to stop firing between groups. The heavy exchange of fire between groups has spread panic in the area. The local police have confirmed the incident of firing and killing of three persons of Junejo community on a land dispute. On a contact, the DSP said they are investigating the incident.

Civil society hold protest

F.P. Report

LARKANA: Civil Society members arranged protest against killing of a 13-year-old boy Siraj Odhana, who was shot dead by two accused 3 days ago for resisting sexual assault in Jogi locality of Rato Dero taluka of Larkana district and demanded arrest of the killers. A protest demonstration was held by the relatives of the boy. On this occasion, social activists Jalbani, Dodo Arabani, Sarfaraz Arabani, Suraj Joyo, Rehman Abro, Saber Chandio, Ibrahim Joyo, the family members of the boy, Muhammad Ali, Mohammad Panhal, Rabeel Ali, Abdul Wahab Nazeer Ahmed, Babar Ali Odhana said that an innocent boy like Gulen has been killed innocently, while lawlessness has increased in Rutodero. Influential residents have set fire to the city, citizens have stopped leaving their children's homes in fear. They said that the mother of innocent Siraj is waiting for justice with tears of blood day and night over the death of her son.

Provision of clean water

F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SING: Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Iqra Nasir said that providing clean water to the people is my first priority because drinking clean water is good for people's health. This she said while talking to The Frontier Post that if people do not get clean water to drink, people can suffer from various diseases in which hepatitis disease is developing. My effort is to provide clean and transparent water to the people of Kamalia so that the people are safe from diseases like hepatitis.

FESCO imposes Rs.866.7m fine

FAISALABAD (INP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has imposed Rs. 866.7 million fine on 8,405 electricity thieves, caught during the last 260 days of anti-power-theft campaign in FESCO region. A FESCO spokesman Tahir Sheikh said that FESCO had launched a vigorous anti-theft drive in 8 districts of its region and during 260 days of this campaign the anti-theft teams of the company caught 8405 power pilferers including 27 electricity thieves during last 24 hours. The company had imposed a total fine of Rs.866.7 million on the pilferers under the head of detection units of 19.4 million in addition to getting cases registered against 8265 accused.



QUETTA: Chief Minister of Balochistan, Sarfraz Bugti addressing assembly session.

Tout mafia eradicated from police stations: DPO

Saqib Mushtaq

BAHAWALPUR: District Police Officer (DPO) Bahawalpur claimed that false cases were successfully eliminated for the first time in history and added that it was overcome by concrete steps like issuing a notification to eradicate the influence of the tout mafia and unauthorized individuals from all police stations across the district.

The civil society, legal professionals, and the Chamber of Commerce Bahawalpur expressed their deep appreciation to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for appointing an honest and dedicated officer to the Bahawalpur district. SSP Asad Sarfraz Khan initiated open court sessions daily to address false cases and ensure that justice is served for the petitioners and affected parties.

Furthermore, strict actions were taken against police station SHOs for negligence, with dismissal being the consequence for any instance of vehicle theft from police premises. These measures have led to a significant 90% success rate in the district, marking a substantial development. Notably, 70% of corruption has been eradicated from Bahawalpur police, and citizens are now receiving free FIA registration and other legal rights.

A significant change was witnessed in the role of DSP Legal, which is now emphasizing prosecution and timely completion of case files, a departure from the historical trend of corruption and negligence. Senior lawyer Dr. Shahzada Aamir Mushtaq advocate commended the appointment of SSP Asad Sarfraz Khan,



emphasizing the importance of appointing honest and capable officers to uphold justice and protect citizens.

Despite these positive changes, there are still some individuals within the Bahawalpur police misusing their powers. However, the District Police Officer Asad Sarfraz Khan is committed to bringing them to justice. Efforts have been made to enhance police patrolling, recover stolen goods, and upgrade the Traffic School and Traffic Office in Bahawalpur. Additionally, front desks have been established to prioritize the rights of women and transgenders.

DPO Asad Sarfraz Khan, reiterated the commitment to ensuring the rule of law and timely justice for the victims, in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and the instructions of IG Punjab Police Usman Anwar. The office remains open 24 hours a day to serve the community.

Leather made beds a tradition in Buner

F.P. Report

BUNER: Bakht Sher Rehman in the village of Topdara in the beautiful Gokand Valley of Buner has been leading the art of creating comfortable, durable and health-friendly cuts(beds) decorated with leather from cattle's skins for over twenty years.

According to the details, Bakht Sher Rehman has been earning a Halal livelihood from the art of making comfortable, durable and health-friendly cuts (beds) decorated with cattle's skins for the past twenty years by putting into practice his childhood hobby in the village of Topdara in the beautiful valley of Gokand, Buner. He said that they clean the skins of cattle and make thin braces with sharp pellets.

Bakht Sher Rehman said that a charpai (bed) is prepared after two to three days of continuous work and three types of charpais (beds) are prepared and colored charpais (beds) are also prepared on the customer's request and the price of a charpai (bed) is fifteen thousand, twenty thousand and twenty five thousand as per the quality decoration and standard of the leather.

Bakht Sher Rehman said that apart from Buner, other cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, his handmade leather beds were taken to Punjab cities Lahore, Faisalabad, Sindh city Karachi, and even an enthusiast in Australia. He added that if the leather beds are protected from moisture, sun and rain, they can be used for a hundred years and if mustard oil is applied once a year, they can be made soft, comfortable, shiny and durable.

Let us also mention here that the art of making leather beds from the skins, a Pakhtun traditions from ancient times, with special skill, hard work and dedication, is a source of good and respectable support for Bakht Sher Rehman and many other families. On the other hand, the art of the ancestors is also a mirror of the ancient and Pakhtun culture and is also an example of maintaining this continuity and transferring this art and skill to future generations and immortalizing it forever.

Reforms to be introduced

F.P. Report

GILGIT: Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan has said development of the backward and remote areas is the top priority of the government.

Chairing a meeting of Provincial Secretaries and Heads of District Departments in district Khar-mang, he said that steps will be taken to solve the problems of the people at their door step in the region.

Fumigation continue in Kohat

Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: The District Administration Kohat has started fumigation throughout the district to prevent people from dengue fever with the mutual consultation of the elected members of the national and provincial assemblies from Kohat.

The anti-dengue spray was also

Jewelers reject imposition of Income and Custom Acts

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The Jewelers' Association has announced to strongly resist if the government failed to reverse its decision to impose taxes and custom acts in Malakand division. The announcement was made by the association's district president Ziaullah during a news conference at the Timergara press club here the other day. Other office bearers of the association were also in attendance.

Ziaullah said the Jewelers had rejected the government decision of imposing income and custom acts in Malakand region because the region had been declared a tax-free zone under an agreement decades ago. He said the region had been kept deprived of basic facilities, advanced infrastructure and development.

He said that the majority of the local population depended on working abroad, farming and small businesses through which they could run their families. He said that the main roads in the region presented a deserted look while residents had no drinking water facility. He demanded the government to maintain the tax-free status of Malakand division and reverse its decision. He threatened to strongly resist if the government did not reverse its decision.

Meanwhile residents of Dinjarai village in Samarbagh complained that female staff and students of their girls' school lacked drinking water at the school due to which the washrooms were also dysfunctional. Talking to local journalists the residents Syed Muhammad, Yar Muhammad, Sadam Hussain and others said that washrooms of the school were dysfunctional due to unavailability of water.

He said the students were facing shortage of drinking water in this sizzling season. They demanded the executive engineer public health department, assistant commissioner Samarbagh and district education officer female to take notice of the issue and resolve it soon.

Parents demanded starting of BS at govt girls degree college: Parents of female students and religious circles demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to launch BS classes at the government girls' degree college Balambat without wasting time.

Talking to local journalists at Timergara they said that over 1000 female students were getting BS classes at the Post Graduate College for boys Timergara where over 4000 male students were also enrolled. They said that coeducation and mixed classes were against the teachings of Islam and local norms and tradition.

The parents pointed out that building for the government girls' degree college Balambat had been constructed while

intermediate classes had been started at the facility. They demanded the KP minister for higher education and chief minister to take notice of the matter and appoint female lecturers and professors at the government girls' degree college Balambat so that BS classes for girls could be started there from the next academic session.

Minor drowned: A three-year baby identified as Alia d/o Imran drowned in a nearby stream at Kandaro area in the jurisdiction of Balambat police station. A local elder rescued the baby and shifted her to the district headquarters hospital Timergara wherein the doctors announced her dead. Later the baby was laid to rest at Kandaro.

Class-IV employees rejected 10% increase: The class IV employees working at government colleges while rejecting the 10 percent increase in salaries demanded the government to increase their salaries at least by 35 percent.

The class IV employees' president Muhammad Iqbal told local journalists that the lawmakers had increased their salaries and privileges by 200 percent while they were also getting free electricity, gas and luxurious cars with fuel. He said the class IV employees who got Rs 30000 per month had to afford their utility bills, children fees and medical treatment. He said that due to record inflation the class IV employees were finding it difficult to run their houses so the government should increase their salaries by 35 percent.

People's paramedics to sweep association poll: The provincial president of the People Paramedics Khurshid Iqbal Yousafzai has said that he would try to unite different paramedical unions under a single platform for the elections of paramedical association to be held on Jul 1st. He was addressing a function at Malikabad arranged in the honour of retiring health workers.

Leaders of the People Paramedics, Islamic Paramedics, Malagari Paramedics, Jamiat Paramedics, Insaaf Paramedics and Muttahida Paramedics attended the function. Besides Khurshid Iqbal, Nasrullah, Naik Zada, Humayun Khan, Shahid Hussain, Haroon ur Rashid and Javed also spoke on the occasion.

Khurshid Iqbal said that due to the efforts of the paramedical association, hundreds of health workers were promoted to grade 16, 16 and 17 in the province while 40 class iv employees were also promoted to class III. He said that paramedics played a key role in the entire health sector. He said that he would try to unite different unions under a single platform for the July election so that the paramedical leadership could work together for the welfare of the community.



QUETTA: Activists of Balochistan Labour Federation holding a protest rally in favour of their demands.

Over 1,000 students rescued amid Haripur School inferno

F.P. Report

HARIPUR: In a harrowing incident on Monday, over 1,000 students and teachers

were safely rescued from a devastating fire that engulfed the Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Sirikot, Haripur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The fire, caused by an electrical short-circuit, rapidly spread through the building due to the presence of flammable materials, including wooden furniture in classrooms.

As the fire broke out, quick-thinking locals and rescuers sprang into action, managing to evacuate all students and staff members before the flames consumed the entire structure. Despite strong winds complicating the firefighting

efforts, the community's swift response ensured that no injuries were reported.

The school's location, fortunately, in a non-congested area, helped prevent the fire from spreading to nearby buildings. Firefighters from adjacent towns arrived to battle the blaze, but the building was already heavily damaged by the time they could contain it. This incident comes amid a severe heatwave gripping Pakistan, with temperatures soaring above 45 degrees Celsius in regions previously unaccustomed to such extreme heat. The rising temperatures have exacerbated the vulnerabilities of Pakistan's power distribution systems, leading to an increase in short-circuit-related fires.

The heatwave is expected to persist for another two days, raising concerns about the adequacy of current summer vacation schedules. Traditionally, summer breaks in Islamabad, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa start from June 1 to August 15. However, the shifting weather patterns suggest an urgent need to reconsider this timing to better align with the new climate realities.

In a related tragic incident, a fire at a home in the Androon Imamia Gate neighborhood of Dera Ismail Khan claimed the lives of two children and severely burned four other individuals. This further underscores the pressing need for improved safety measures and infrastructure to cope with the increasingly harsh climate conditions.



South Africa's election could bring biggest political shift

CAPE TOWN (AP): South Africans will vote Wednesday to decide whether their country will take its most significant political step since the moment 30 years ago when it brought down apartheid and achieved democracy.

This national election will not be as momentous as the one South Africa held in 1994 - few have been. Then, Nelson Mandela led the African National Congress party to victory as Black South Africans who were the majority were allowed to vote for the first time. It officially ended a half-century of racial segregation under apartheid - a violently enforced system that attracted the world's outrage - and hundreds of years of white minority rule.

But while the ANC still governs in 2024, it is amid rising discontent caused largely by high levels of unemployment and poverty. That could result in a majority of South Africans choosing another party this week over the one that led them to freedom. "Thirty years of South African democracy does not mean we should endure an eternity under the ANC," John Steenhuisen, the leader of the main opposition Democratic Alliance party, said in the run-up to the election.

Any change is not expected to be sweeping, though. The possible repercussions are complex because while several polls have the ANC's support at less than 50%, suggesting it is in danger of losing its majority for the first time, no opposition party has risen to a position to overtake it. The ANC is still widely expected to be the largest party, well ahead of an increasing number of opposition movements that are splitting the disaffected vote. But without an outright majority, the ANC would likely have to strike agreements or coalitions with others to remain in government and reelect President Cyril Ramaphosa. That would end its political dominance of post-apartheid South Africa and herald a new era, where the ANC co-governs.

The ANC won six successive national elections, starting with the one that made Mandela the first Black president in 1994. But from a high of gaining nearly 70% of the vote 20 years ago, it has experienced a steady decline in support while South Africa grapples with deep socio-economic problems, some of which were left over from apartheid. The ANC has also been criticized for the corruption scandals that have plagued it and for not tackling the



country's violent crime problem. There were an average of 83 homicides a day in the last three months of 2023. A failure in basic government services impacts many in the country of 62 million, with communities, towns and parts of major cities going without water and electricity.

The issue that stands out, though, is joblessness and the resulting poverty. South Africa's official unemployment rate is ranked the world's worst at 32%, and it's even higher - at 45% - for young people aged between 15 and 34. That sits at odds with the country's status as the most advanced on the African continent. The World Bank estimates more than half of South Africans live below the poverty line. "Together we will do more and we will do better," ANC leader Ramaphosa said in what's almost become a party motto. At the ANC's last major rally this weekend, he said it still represents the aspirations of South Africa's people and promised to prioritize job programs and extend social support for the millions that rely on government grants.

The ANC asserts it is the only party that can effectively govern South Africa and while it's undoubtedly facing its biggest electoral challenge, analysts point out that it has the most effective grass-roots campaigning machine and has traditional support among older South Africans and those in rural areas, voices that are generally given less airtime. The possibility of the ANC clinging onto its majority has not been ruled out. The election will take place on one day, with nearly 28 million people registered to vote across the nation's nine provinces. They will decide the makeup of the national Parliament but also the provincial legislatures. More than 50 parties are registered to contest the national election, a record

number, and independent candidates have been allowed to stand for the first time.

South Africans don't vote directly for their president, but rather for parties. Those parties get seats in Parliament according to their share of the national vote and lawmakers elect the president, who has always been from the ANC because of its parliamentary majority. Just over 80% of South Africans are Black, but it's a multiracial country, with significant numbers of people who are white, of Indian heritage or with biracial ethnicity. Mandela referred to South Africa as a "Rainbow Nation" as he attempted to harness that diversity into a new unity after apartheid.

But three decades later, poverty still disproportionately affects the Black majority. While they disagree strongly on policy and are in no way united, the main opposition parties, from the centrist DA to the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters and the new MK Party of former President Jacob Zuma, repeat one theme: that the ANC has failed to live up to its 1994 promise, when it swept to victory under the slogan "A Better Life For All." The ANC's fading allure may be seen most clearly among young people, the South Africans in that 15-34 age bracket who didn't experience apartheid or have no memory of it and many of whom are now voters. This election could give voice to a new generation, who are aware of apartheid and the ANC's role in defeating it through stories told by their parents and grandparents but don't see how it helps them three decades later. "The youth were not born, so we can't tell them about fighting for freedom," said Simphiwe Mpungose, a provincial organizer with the new MK Party. "They are concerned about what they see now."

Four people killed in Peru mishap

LA OROYA, Peru (AP): Four people were killed and more than 30 others were injured after a passenger bus and a cargo train collided in central Peru, the country's national police said.

Authorities said the crash happened after 4 a.m. in the district of La Oroya, about 110 miles (177 kilometers) east of the capital, Lima. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications in a statement said the cause is under investigation. It added that the train and bus, both privately operated, had all the required permits.

The ministry said all of the injured were taken to a nearby hospital. The agency did not immediately release the names of the deceased. Highway Police Cmdr. Justo Venero told RPP radio station that the area where the crash occurred has speed-limit and train-crossing road signs. Venero said the train's driver told authorities that its "audible and visible signals" were on when the collision happened. The bus had set out from Lima and was headed to the city of Huancayo. Images released by police showed the overturned bus on the Central Highway.

Burkina Faso extends military rule

BURKINA FASO (BBC): Burkina Faso's military government has announced it will extend junta rule for another five years. The country's ruler, Capt Ibrahim Traoré, will also be able to contest the next presidential election, the state-owned broadcaster says.

When he seized power in a coup nearly two years ago, Capt Traoré pledged to restore the civilian government by 1 July this year. But Burkina Faso has now joined neighbouring Mali in extending military rule. The move was announced, after a national consultation meeting in the West African country's capital city, Ouagadougou.

An amended charter, signed by Capt Traoré, states that the new 60-month transition period will take effect from 2 July this year. "The elections marking the end of the transition may be organised before this deadline if the security situation so permits," the Reuters news agency quoted the charter as saying. Burkina Faso has been governed by the army since January 2022, when Lt Col Paul-Henri Damiba seized power from President Roch Kaboré.

Col Damiba justified the coup by saying the previous government had failed to deal with growing militant Islamist violence. Since 2015, jihadist rebels affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group have waged a grinding insurgency that has killed thousands and displaced millions. In September 2022, Capt Traoré ousted Col Damiba, arguing a second coup was necessary because Col Damiba was himself unable to tackle the insurgency. Capt Traoré promised to improve the country's dire security situation within "two to three months" and restore civilian rule within 21 months.

But since issuing the pledge, Capt Traoré has warned that elections are not "a priority" until territory is recaptured from jihadist forces so that all citizens of the country can vote. Under the new charter, quotas will no longer be used to assign seats in the assembly to members of traditional parties, the AFP news agency reported. Instead, "patriotism" will be the only criteria for selecting deputies. The decisions made during national consultation happened swiftly. Local media reports indicated that political parties were absent at the start of the meeting. International and human rights groups, including the European Union and UN, have accused Burkina Faso of serious human rights violations in its fight against Islamists, including the indiscriminate killings and forced disappearances of dozens of civilians.

130 people die at Sudan hospital amid city siege

KHARTOUM (BBC): Over 130 people have died at a single hospital in Sudan's besieged city of El Fasher, in the Darfur region, according to medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

Fighting between rival groups in Sudan's civil war in the battle for control of the city has recently intensified. The situation was "terrible," one resident told the BBC, with hospitals and markets experiencing "violent artillery shelling".

El Fasher is the last major urban centre in Darfur that remains in the hands of Sudan's army. The army has been fighting the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) for more than a year, in a civil war that has killed thousands and forced millions from their homes. The army remains in control of El Fasher. The city has become a refuge for people displaced by fighting in other areas. On 10 May the RSF intensified their assault on the city, in what UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called "an alarming new chapter" in Sudan's conflict.

MSF said one of its hospitals was struggling to cope with the increased casualties. South Hospital had treated 979 casualties in just over two weeks, the charity said. 134 had died, "a sign of the violent intensity of the fighting", it added. Supplies at the hospital are running low and will last barely a week, the UN said. MSF said that across the city, more than 700 people had died over the past 10 days. The medical director of El Fasher's government-run Saudi hospital told the BBC the situation was "terrible".

"Since the early morning, the RSF began violent artillery shelling of the city, targeting residential areas, markets, and hospitals," Modther Ibrahim Suliman said. The Saudi and South hospitals are the last functioning in the region. The Saudi Hospital was previously shuttered by the violence but it partially reopened to treat emergency cases. El Fasher residents say that access to food and water has become increasingly difficult. The RSF has been attacking the city from three sides and blocked all supply routes. Despite the hardships, many residents in the city are not leaving their homes because of the fighting, even for emergency medical care.

Journalist Mohamed Zakaria said he had no plans to flee. "There is no place to go to... the road is very difficult and dangerous right now". Earlier this week, a UN expert warned civilians in El Fasher were being targeted because of their ethnicity. Special adviser Alice Wairimu Nderitu added that the Darfur region as a whole was facing a growing risk of genocide as the world's attention remained focused on conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. Meanwhile, more than two weeks of fighting between Sudan's military and a notorious paramilitary group over a major city in the western Darfur region killed at least 123 people, an international aid group said.

The fighting in el-Fasher, the provincial capital of North Darfur province, also wounded more than 930 people in the same period, Doctors without Borders said. "This is a sign of the violent intensity of the fighting," the group said.

"We urge the warring parties to do more to protect civilians." Clashes between

the military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces escalated earlier this month in the city, forcing thousands of people to flee their homes, according to the United Nations.

El-Fasher has become the center of the conflict between the military and the RSF, which is aided by Arab militias commonly known as janjaweed. The city is the last stronghold that is still held by the military in the sprawling Darfur region. Sudan's conflict began in April last year when soaring tensions between the leaders of the military and the RSF exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in the country. The conflict killed more than 14,000 people and wounded thousands more amid reports of widespread sexual violence and other atrocities that rights groups say amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

It also pushed the country's population to the brink of famine. The UN food agency warned the warring parties earlier this month that there is a serious risk of widespread starvation and death in Darfur and elsewhere in Sudan if they don't allow humanitarian aid into the vast western region. The RSF has built up forces in recent months seeking to wrest control of el-Fasher. Along with its Arab militia allies, the RSF besieged the city and launched a major attack on its southern and eastern parts earlier this month.

The clashes renewed in the Abu Shouk camp for displaced people in the Salam neighborhood in the city's northern part, as well as its southern western parts, the UN's International Organization for Migration reported.

France to lift state of emergency in Caledonia

PARIS (AP): French President Emmanuel Macron decided Monday to lift the state of emergency in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia in a move meant to allow political dialogue following the unrest that left seven people dead and a trail of destruction, his office said.

The president's office said in a statement the state of emergency won't be extended "for the moment" and will therefore end Monday at 8 p.m. in Paris, which is 5 a.m. Tuesday in New Caledonia. The decision aims at "enabling meetings of the various components" of pro-independence movement FLNKS, the Kanak and Socialist Liberation Front, and allow elected officials and other local leaders "in a position to call" for lifting the barricades to go there and meet with protesters, the statement said.

Macron repeatedly pushed for the removal of protesters' barricades with leaders on both sides of New Caledonia's bitter divide - Indigenous

Kanaks, who want independence, and the pro-Paris leaders, who do not. In the statement, he insisted it is "the necessary condition for the opening of concrete and serious negotiations."

Macron's move comes after he traveled to New Caledonia. The statement said 480 additional gendarmes are to arrive on the archipelago "in the next few hours," putting security reinforcements at more than 3,500. The seven people killed in shootings include two gendarmes.

The state of emergency had been imposed by Paris on May 15 for at least 12 days to boost police powers. The emergency measures give authorities greater powers to tackle the violence, including the possibility of house detention for people deemed a threat to public order and expanded powers to conduct searches, seize weapons and restrict movements, with possible jail time for violators. This month's unrest erupted as the French legislature in Paris debated amending the French constitution to make changes to

voter lists in New Caledonia.

The leader of a pro-independence party in New Caledonia called on supporters to "remain mobilized" across the French Pacific archipelago and "maintain resistance" against the Paris government's efforts to impose electoral reforms that the Indigenous Kanak people fear would further marginalize them. Christian Tein, the leader of the pro-independence party known as The Field Action Coordination Unit, addressed supporters and protesters in a video message posted on social media.

In a separate statement, the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front called on Macron to withdraw the electoral reform bill if France wants to "end the crisis." New Caledonia became French in 1853 under Emperor Napoleon III, Napoleon's nephew and heir. It became an overseas territory after World War II, with French citizenship granted to all Kanaks in 1957.

Australia plans to send aid to Papua New Guinea

MELBOURNE (AP): Australia prepared on Monday to send aircraft and other equipment to help at the site of a deadly landslide in Papua New Guinea as overnight rains in the South Pacific nation's mountainous interior raised fears that the tons of rubble that buried hundreds of villagers could become dangerously unstable.

Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles said his officials have been talking with their Papua New Guinea counterparts, when a mountain-side collapsed on Yambali village in Enga province, which the United Nations estimates killed 670 people. The remains of only six people had been recovered so far. "The exact nature of the support that we do provide will play out over the coming days," Marles told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"We've got obviously airlift capacity to get people there. There may be other equipment that we can

bring to bear in terms of the search and rescue and all of that we are talking through with PNG right now," Marles added. Papua New Guinea is Australia's nearest neighbor and the countries are developing closer defense ties as part of an Australian effort to counter China's growing influence in the region. Australia is also the most generous provider of foreign aid to its former colony, which became independent in 1975.

Heavy rain fell for two hours overnight in the provincial capital of Wabag, 60 kilometers (35 miles) from the devastated village. A weather report was not immediately available from Yambali, where communications are limited. But emergency responders were concerned about the impact of rain on the already unstable mass of debris lying 6 to 8 meters (20 to 26 feet) deep over an area the size of three to four football fields.

An excavator donated by a local builder became the first piece of heavy earth-moving machinery brought in to help villagers who have been digging with shovels and farming tools to find bodies. Working around the still-shifting debris is treacherous. Serhan Aktoprak, the chief of the International Organization for Migration's mission in Papua New Guinea, said water was seeping between the debris and the earth below, increasing the risk of a further landslide.

He did not expect to learn the weather conditions at Yambali until Monday afternoon. "What really worries me personally very much is the weather, weather, weather," Aktoprak said. "Because the land is still sliding. Rocks are falling," he added.

Papua New Guinea's defense minister, Billy Joseph, and the government's National Disaster Center director, Laso

Mana, flew in an Australian military helicopter from the capital of Port Moresby to Yambali, 600 kilometers (370 miles) to the northwest, to gain a firsthand perspective of what is needed. Mana's office posted a photo of him at Yambali handing a local official a check for 500,000 kina (\$130,000) to buy emergency supplies for the 4,000 displaced survivors. The purpose of the visit was to decide whether Papua New Guinea's government needed to officially request more international support.

Earth-moving equipment used by Papua New Guinea's military was being transported to the disaster scene 400 kilometers (250 miles) from the east coast city of Lae. Traumatized villagers are divided over whether heavy machinery should be allowed to dig up and potentially further damage the bodies of their buried relatives, officials said.

Scarred by war, Myanmar children 'cannot have the life they used to have'

DHAKA: Ever since she witnessed a Myanmar military air strike on her school in February, kindergarten teacher Mi Hser has been haunted by the memory.

The day started like any other at the school in Daw Si Ei village in the south-eastern Karenni State's Demoso township. Children tossed around a football, while others played and shared snacks until the morning bell. Gathered outside for their weekly assembly, the 170 students listened as their teachers spoke. There was a buzzing overhead - a military drone - but neither Mi Hser nor anyone else took much notice.

The village had been living with war ever since the February 2021 military coup led to widespread nonviolent protests and then an armed uprising. Like other parts of the country, Karenni State - also known as Kayah State - has endured relentless clashes between the mili-

tary and resistance forces, as well as brutal military attacks on civilians.

Still, Mi Hser's village was about 27km (17 miles) from the nearest active conflict zone, and she believed that she and her students would be safe. But later that morning, as she stepped outside with her 11-month-old son during a break between classes, a fighter jet roared overhead. A fellow teacher pulled her back inside moments before a deafening explosion shook the building. Mi Hser saw rubble falling around her, and then everything went blank.

When she regained her bearings, a student was lying in a bunker, their head bleeding, and a teacher was holding another student who was barely conscious. In total, four boys were dead, the youngest just 12, while 40 more students were injured. Although Mi Hser had just seconds to react, she blames herself for not doing enough. "I

failed in my duty to protect the students," Mi Hser told Al Jazeera a month later.

Since the attack, she has been incapacitated by fear, which keeps her from returning to the school to pick up her belongings from her classroom, and she has been struggling to sleep. "My eyes are wide open and my ears are listening for jet fighters or drones," she said. "Even the sound of a cat jumping on the metal roof frightens me." She and other survivors of military attacks in Karenni, who were interviewed in person in February and early March, have been given pseudonyms to reduce the risk of retaliation by the military.

In the three years since Myanmar erupted into heavy fighting between the military and anti-coup forces, the military has also retaliated against civilians with air strikes, shelling, other types of killings and arson - actions that United Nations-appointed human

rights investigators have said amount to war crimes.

The crisis in Karenni and across Myanmar has only intensified since anti-coup fighters launched a renewed offensive against the military late last year. Earlier this month, the UN said the number of people forcibly displaced across Myanmar had surpassed 3 million, of whom nearly one-third were located in Myanmar's southeast, including Karenni State.

The situation in Myanmar had "morphed into a never-ending nightmare" which is inflicting "unbearable levels of suffering and cruelty" on people in the country, the UN's human rights office said in March. It found that the military was responsible for the deaths of at least 4,600 civilians since the coup, including 659 women and 490 children. The attack on the school in Daw Si Ei village was not an isolated incident. — Aljazeera

MOSCOW (AFP):

Lyudmila went through "all the stages of depression" after her husband, an officer in the Russian army, died in Ukraine in September 2022. To try to overcome the grief, she set up a psychological support service to help other military widows deal with their loss.

"It was a huge shock. I didn't understand what was happening. I felt like the heroine in a very bad film," the 32-year-old told AFP in an interview, describing the moment she found out her husband had died. For Lyudmila, who asked to have her surname withheld, her husband "died a hero... fulfilling his duty as an officer" during the first year of Russia's offensive against Ukraine.

At the funeral, she said she managed to "remain dignified" -- an "unwritten rule" for such occasions, she said. She worked through the ini-

tial pain with the help of a psychologist.

First came denial, then anger, she said. "You throw things on the floor, you break everything, because the pain tears you up inside," she said. "You need to feel physically that you're still alive, because inside you're almost dead." It was at this point that she discovered "Widow to Widow", a book by the US therapist Genevieve Davis Ginsburg, and decided to help other women who had lost husbands during the conflict.

She took courses to become a trained psychologist and with the help of a veterans' association launched a service offering free help to widows, provided by volunteer psychologists. "Our aim is to make help available to everyone, not just those who can afford a psychologist," Lyudmila said. She said her mission was "to show women that

life goes on, you have to live it". "We are born, we will die one day. That's the key to accepting loss," she said.

Although she now tries to distance herself from news about Russia's offensive, her husband's death has not changed her attitude to the conflict. "I am first and foremost my husband's wife, the wife of an officer," she said. After working 24/7 for the service she set up, fatigue recently forced her to take a break. One of her former clients is Anna, a 31-year-old singing teacher, who lost her husband last July. "I turned to a psychologist because it was so hard and unbearable," she said. "Support from family and friends was not enough."

"During the sessions, we analyse all of my accumulated pain, which helps me calm down. I find the strength to carry on living," said Anna, who also declined to give her last name.

The Frontier Post

JALIL AFRIDI
Managing Editor

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at
Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town,
Peshawar.
Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001
Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573
E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com
Lahore Office: 0335-4026284
Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com
Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253
Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com
Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907
Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com
“USA and Canada Toll Free Number 415-3704551

US destabilizing factor in Asia-Pacific

Threats to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific are increasing as a result of the United States expanding its military presence in the region and persuading its allies to join it in its attempt to contain China.

The provocative steps the US has taken include staging more frequent and increasingly sophisticated military exercises in the South China Sea and its incessant efforts to meddle in the Taiwan question, with the secessionist forces on the island being willing pawns in its games. Just a day prior to the People's Liberation Army starting naval exercises in the waters around Taiwan in a show of its resolve in response to the separatism-inflected inauguration speech of the island's new leader, the US and the Dutch navies conducted bilateral operations in the South China Sea. They claimed the joint exercises were aimed at "maintaining stability and free use of vital sea lanes in the 'Indo-Pacific'".

The joint operations were held shortly after US and Filipino forces launched their largest combat exercises in years last month. Running until early May, they involved more than 16,000 of their military personnel, with another 250 French and Australian personnel also taking part in them. In particular, the deployment of a US ground-launched missile system to the northern Philippines as part of the exercises has raised concerns about escalating tensions in the region and the growing risk of misjudgment and miscalculation among regional countries.

US "Indo-Pacific" Commander Admiral Samuel Paparo tried to pin the blame for the escalating tensions in the region on China, when he assumed office earlier this month, disingenuously claiming, "We must be ready to answer the PRC's increasingly intrusive and expansionist claims in the 'Indo-Pacific' region". This cannot but raise worries about what lies ahead in terms of Sino-US rivalry in the region, given that the US is upping its ante in challenging China's core interests concerning the Taiwan question and the South China Sea issues in the name of countering the alleged aggression from Beijing.

The acts of attempted intimidation that are unsettling the region are initiated by the US, not China, whose actions are necessary responses to the US' attempted coercion and bullying. China will not be cowed by the strong-arm muscle flexing of the US no matter how big a stick it wields.

And it is wielding a big stick. About 29 nations, 40 surface ships, 3 submarines, 14 national land forces, and more than 25,000 personnel will participate in the upcoming biennial Rim of the Pacific exercise the US has organized, which is scheduled to last from June 26 to Aug 2. Some China hawks in Washington and separatists in Taiwan have colluded to try to include the Chinese island's armed forces in the maritime drill. The National Defense Authorization Act, which US President Joe Biden signed into law in 2022, has already opened the possibility of inviting Taiwan to the RIMPAC exercises. Although Taiwan is yet to be invited, such a step, once taken, would undoubtedly draw a strong response from Beijing. Even without that provocative move, the naval exercises clearly do not have "inclusivity at its core", as the US Navy has claimed. If that was true, China would have been invited to participate, as it has been previously.

The increasing frequency, scale and complexity of the US-orchestrated military exercises in the Asia-Pacific indicate that the US would have no hesitation in taking more extreme and risky actions in pursuit of its geopolitical goal of containing China. It is therefore to be hoped that the scheduled meeting between US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore this week will be taken as the opportunity for listening as well as talking. It is essential that the US realizes that its so-called competition with China, when manifested in the form of encircling military muscle, is a recipe for mishap, and thus misfortune, for all in the region.

Important Notice

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



Raisi's death: Iran must choose a safe transition pathway

Dr. Mohammed Al-Sulami

THE sudden death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a tragic accident last week has left the Iranian regime in a state of shock. Raisi's passing is particularly impactful not just because it leaves a critical leadership position vacant at a crucial time for Iran, both domestically and internationally, but because he had played a key role in balancing Iran's relations with neighboring Arab countries, as well as with Russia and China.

More importantly, Raisi was seen as vital for ensuring the regime's stability in the post-Ali Khamenei era. His absence creates a significant void, with no other figure appearing qualified to fill his shoes, leading to ambiguity and multiple possible scenarios for the regime's future.

This makes the selection of a new president a highly complex and sensitive task. It is not just about filling the presidential seat, but also concerns the overall future of the regime and the Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist (Velayat-e Faqih) system.

The stability of Iran's internal affairs and the balance of its foreign policies are at stake. The crucial question now is: What option will the regime choose to ensure its survival and maintain its stability?

One possibility is that the sudden departure of Raisi will compel the regime to appoint a figure with even more extreme tendencies to the presidential seat.

This would align with the regime's apparent strategy since the 2020 parliamentary elections, which has been to rely on the most dependable hard-liners in all institutions and decision-making positions, sidelining those with wavering loyalties, even if they are part of the regime.

This trend was evident with the removal of figures like the Larijani brothers and barring Hassan Rouhani from running in the Assembly of Experts elections.

This scenario is reinforced by the fact that the trusted names currently being considered are all competing to showcase their hard-line credentials. There seems to be no major figure capable of fulfilling the stabilizing role Raisi was expected to play. The selection of his successor may be influenced by the differing interests of various power centers within the regime. This situation could rekindle ambitions for the supreme leader position, potentially boosting the prospects of hard-liners affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards.

The ascent to the presidency of a hard-line figure affiliated with the most hard-line movement would have significant repercussions across Iran. Internally, the regime would likely become less tolerant of growing opposition groups and more stringent in using social control measures, intensifying clashes with society and widening the gap between the regime and the masses.

This could exacerbate the economic crisis, deteriorate living conditions and lead to spontaneous protests, plunging the regime into an internal legitimacy crisis.

Externally, such a hard-line shift may result in a more confrontational Iranian policy toward neighboring countries, potentially undoing recent diplomatic efforts, such as the restoration of relations with Saudi Arabia, which had opened avenues to mitigate Iran's problems and crises.

This shift could provide opportunities for external forces seeking to destabilize or pressure the regime. The regime's

hard-line stance might also impact the nuclear issue, especially amid growing demands by hard-liners to alter Iran's nuclear doctrine. This could lead to a direct confrontation with the US and the West, potentially dragging Iran into a costly conflict.

Another possibility is that the Iranian regime might allow reformists and moderates to participate in the June presidential election to make the race more competitive. This move would be aimed at reducing political tension and increasing voter turnout, which has reached its lowest levels in recent elections, particularly in the parliamentary elections last March, where turnout was the lowest since the 1979 revolution.

However, this approach would challenge the hard-liners' strategy of monopolizing power — a direction Khamenei likely does not favor.

The hard-liners, who have successfully sidelined reformists and moderates from all decision-making positions, will likely work hard to obstruct any efforts to reintroduce these groups into political life, even if their participation is limited to merely running in the elections alongside other competitors.

The most likely scenario is that the regime will impose a candidate who will continue Raisi's policies.

During Raisi's term, Iran made significant gains internationally, despite limited internal effects due to long-standing economic sanctions. Raisi's strategy of turning eastward and strengthening ties with neighbors, such as the landmark agreement with Saudi Arabia, brought dynamism to Iran's foreign relations.

Although Raisi's approach was not con-

frontational with the West, there were efforts to mitigate sanctions, achieving some breakthroughs.

Iran also managed to maintain a balance of deterrence following confrontations with Israel, while avoiding regional war by opening communication channels with the US. Even on the nuclear issue, Iran engaged in indirect negotiations with the US, mediated by Oman. Continuing this approach could help maintain the regime's external achievements and potentially improve its internal situation.

This middle-of-the-road approach, blending ideology and realism, which Raisi adopted, aligns with the turbulent international and regional situation since Oct. 7, 2023. Continuing this approach would serve Iran's interests internally, where there is significant tension due to deteriorating economic conditions and suppression of freedoms.

Externally, it requires Iran to pursue a balanced policy that limits its isolation on both the regional and international levels.

So, the upcoming presidential elections will involve careful calculations to engineer an outcome that ensures a reliable, charismatic and legitimate candidate who can serve Iranian interests.

This candidate will continue the general path set by the regime, a path significantly shaped by the late President Raisi. While the Iranian regime can manage the political vacuum left by Raisi's departure, the greater challenge is Khamenei's succession.

Various analyses agree that Raisi was pivotal in ensuring a smooth transfer of power after Khamenei, whether for himself or as a mediator. His absence creates a significant void that will be difficult to fill.

The indispensable state

Grassan Charbel

BENJAMIN Netanyahu anxiously reads the reports about the International Criminal Court, the International Court of Justice and Spain, Ireland and Norway's recognition of a Palestinian state. A total of 147 countries now recognize the state of Palestine. He tells himself: The flood of the state is more dangerous than the flood launched by Yahya Sinwar.

The security reports make him even more anxious. Israel has never been embroiled in eight months of a war of attrition that has depleted its soldiers and tarnished its image, and it appears to be incapable of deciding the battle in its favor. He also has to deal with the war launched by Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, some "messages" launched by Iraqi factions and the strikes by the Houthis against shipping in the Red Sea.

Netanyahu can kill more Palestinians, but he cannot put an end to the war. The invasion of Rafah will be costly and lead to a flood of calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Even the US, which has always been generous with its support, now believes that Israel will never enjoy security if the Palestinians do not obtain their own state.

Netanyahu thinks that the Palestinians never believed in peace with Israel. He believes that Yasser Arafat, who shook hands with Yitzhak Rabin at the White House, was searching for a foothold in the Palestinian territories, from where he could start expanding his state. Netanyahu has long been convinced that a "Palestinian state" was a long-term project aimed at uprooting the state of Israel.

That is why he has spent the majority of his long time in power attempting to destroy everything that could act as a foundation for that state to become a reality. He launched a large-scale settlement campaign to eat away at Palestinian territories. He used all means at his disposal to undermine the Palestinian Authority and prevent it from benefiting from the legitimacy it enjoys in the world. He banked on the division between Fatah and Hamas and on bolstering Israel's position in the region without needing to take the bitter pill of accepting a Palestinian state.

Netanyahu was not the sole blind warrior. Ariel Sharon never abandoned the dream of eliminating the Palestinians. He took advantage of the global upheaval after the Sept. 11 attacks to besiege the headquarters of the Palestinian president as if he never forgave Arafat for leaving Beirut alive and returning to reside in the Palestinian territories.

Netanyahu is aware that a ceasefire will be a blow against him. He knows this from the protests held by the families of the hostages and the calls for holding him to account and putting him on trial. So, he forges ahead with the war and continues the bloodbath. Reports only deepen his obsession of searching for a victory that would overshadow

debates about his shortcomings and defeat the wolves that are preparing to pounce on him from inside and outside his government.

He has never experienced such a crisis. The US is still trying to humor him, but it also views him as a heavy burden on Israel, the Palestinians, the region and America itself. He cannot relinquish American support, but a price must be paid to keep benefiting from it.

The US has a real interest in implementing the two-state solution. It believes it is necessary to end the conflict, support moderates and deprive Iran of a card that has allowed it to infiltrate other countries, reside there and change their features.

Netanyahu also knows that moderate Arab countries, led by Saudi Arabia, have played a decisive role in persuading Western capitals that there can be no stability in the Middle East without the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. Arab foreign ministers have stressed that a ceasefire must be accompanied by a political process that leads to the establishment of a state within a specific timeframe.

The battle of the state is open, but the journey is not easy. An Israeli government capable of taking what Israelis deem to be "difficult decisions" must be formed. Chief among these decisions is accepting the idea of a Palestinian state and a return to respecting international resolutions.

The Palestinians must also be united to address the wave of support for the Palestinian state. The Palestinians are calling on the world to champion their rights. The world also has the right to call on the Palestinians to take into account that the establishment of their own state must be conditioned on the recognition of Israel and international guarantees to it.

Would Hamas be able to accept this, even through the Palestine Liberation Organization? What would be the position of the so-called axis of resistance, specifically Iran, especially since the Palestinian state can only be born through America's approval?

And finally, the US must take a firm position in making Israel accept the two-state solution, given that there can be no other viable option.

At a commencement speech at West Point military academy on Saturday, US President Joe Biden stressed the importance of his country. He said: "Thanks to the US Armed Forces, we're doing what only America can do as the indispensable nation, the world's only superpower."

This statement underlines America's responsibility in ending the injustice against the Palestinian people and putting out the chronic fire that has exhausted the Middle East. The US is required to carry out consultations to come up with a serious and guaranteed mechanism because the vast majority of the world now believes that the Palestinian state is indispensable if the Middle East is to catch its breath.

Is a rules-based international order truly possible?

Patrick Gathara

AT the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, which sought to craft a new world order out of the ruins of World War I, Japan introduced the following clause on racial equality to be written into the covenant of the League of Nations: "The equality of nations being a basic principle of the League of Nations, the High Contracting Parties agree to accord, as soon as possible, to all alien nationals of States members of the League equal and just treatment in every respect, making no distinction, either in law or in fact, on account of their race or nationality."

The West was aghast. Australian Prime Minister Billy Hughes was mortified about the future of "White Australia" if the clause was accepted. The British Foreign Secretary Lord Balfour declared that while he found the notion that all

men were created equal an interesting one, he did not believe it. "You could scarcely say that a man in Central Africa was equal to a European."

More than a century later, similar concerns are being voiced at the prospect of Western nations and their allies receiving the treatment routinely meted out to lesser countries.

There has been uproar, especially in the United States and in Israel, following the decision by International Criminal Court prosecutor, Karim Khan, to seek arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his defence minister, Yoav Gallant, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity relating to the genocidal Israeli assault on Gaza.

To many Kenyans, the protests are reminiscent of the reactions of the Kenyan and other African governments when our own President Uhuru

Kenyatta and his then deputy and now successor as president, William Ruto, were hauled before the ICC on similar charges a decade ago. The two were accused of complicity in the violence that followed the disputed 2007 presidential election and to date, they remain the only sitting officials to actually stand trial in The Hague.

It does not help that Khan was the lead lawyer for Ruto's defence team but beyond that, many of the arguments offered by the US and Israel are a reshuffle of those of Uhuru (as the Kenyan pair were known). While today Khan is accused of anti-Semitism, his predecessor was accused of "race hunting".

The protests over Khan ignoring complementarity and riding roughshod over local judicial processes echo similar complaints by the Kenyan government which assert-

ed that Kenyan courts had the wherewithal to deal with the crimes. Even the tarnishing of the court as irrelevant reproduces Kenya's infamous description of it as "a painfully farcical pantomime ... the toy of declining imperial powers".

All these were eventually debunked. The charge that the ICC focused exclusively on African countries was undermined by the fact that the vast majority of these cases were referred by African countries themselves.

The complementarity argument collapsed as no local cases ever materialised with regard to any of the crimes — just as it is the probable case in Israel.

And as the consternation clearly shows, the ICC is far from irrelevant.

But there is a significant difference. In the past, crimes

against humanity charges were only ever levelled against non-Western nations. In fact, as human rights attorney and war crimes prosecutor Reed Brody told The Intercept, "the ICC has never indicted a Western official". Khan himself reported being told that the ICC was "built for Africa and thugs like Putin".

Historically too, the US and its allies have considered themselves as above the reach of international law. In the war crimes tribunals that followed the end of World War II, only the crimes of the Axis Powers (Italy, Germany and Japan) were tried.

It was also held that it would not constitute a defence to argue that the Allies had done many of the same things the Axis Powers were being accused of.

However, the requested arrest warrants against Israeli leaders threaten to upend this established system of Western

impunity. "If they'll do this to Israel, we're next," US Senator Lindsey Graham has declared. As the non-Western world increasingly looks to give international institutions teeth and make them less tools of Western hegemony, such fears will only grow. Already, South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice accusing Israel of violating the genocide convention has inspired a challenge by Nicaragua of Germany's provision of arms to the apartheid state.

The fact is these tussles are about much more than Israel and its crimes against the Palestinians. The ultimate question they raise regards whether the much-touted notion of a rules-based international order is truly possible. Will the West humble itself before the international system it has been instrumental in creating or will it continue to insist on its exceptional status?

Remembering Palestinian journalist Amna Homaïd

On April 24, Amna Homaïd’s torn body lay in the rubble of a house in Shati camp, in the Western part of Gaza city, as rescuers tried to find survivors. An Israeli attack had struck the building, killing her and her eldest son Mahdi. Her brother and her other five children were injured but survived.

Her death was added to the dark statistic of more than 140 journalists and medical workers murdered in Gaza by Israel’s genocidal onslaught, per the count maintained by the Gaza Media Office. This year – like last – more journalists have been killed from Palestine than from any other nation.

Palestinian women journalists have always been at the forefront of Israel’s violent occupation and the wars it has waged on Palestinians. Their bravery and dedication have helped shine light on the suffering and atrocities the Palestinian people have been through and continue to face.

But Amna was more than a journalist; she was a poet and a feminist activist. She was born in Gaza in 1990 to a family who traced their roots to the Palestinian town of Isdud – what the Israelis now call Ashdod.

As is the case for most women in Gaza, Amna’s journey was marked by resilience and an unwavering commitment to education. She obtained a BA from the Islamic University of Gaza in 2016 and later joined a master’s degree programme at Al-Aqsa University. Both of her alma maters have been completely destroyed by Israeli bombardment.

She worked for several local newspapers and radio stations, lending her voice to the margin-

alised, conducting research and advocating for women’s rights and the Palestinian cause.

She lived in the Yarmouk neighbourhood, just a few kilometres away from Gaza’s Mediterranean coast. Had she been born on the other side of the sea, she may have enjoyed a sprawling career and prominence, winning many awards and global recognition for her many gifts. As it is today, her final reward has been death at the hands of the Israeli army.

Amna left behind a seven-month-old baby, Duha, as well as children Ali (10), Mohammed (9), Amir (5), and Ghana (4). Her husband – journalist and activist Saed Hassunah – has been unable to reach them.

They had become separated in December after Israeli soldiers raided an apartment building in Gaza city where they had taken refuge, kidnapped and tortured him and forced Amna and the children to leave. After the Israeli army released Saed – beaten up, stripped and with no possessions – he made his way south, as he was unable to establish contact with his family for days. Injured and deeply worried about his wife and children, he suffered a nervous breakdown.

Prior to this horrible ordeal, the family had survived Israeli bombings targeting the places where they had sought shelter twice. The second time Amna and Duha were injured.

“I can’t stop thinking of them after the murder of Amna,” Saed told me. “I can’t go to the north and they can’t come to the south. We are separated. I could not even attend the funeral of Amna or bid her the last farewell, and I can’t sleep, thinking of them.”

Ghada Ageel

Amna’s family are emblematic of the atrocities unfolding there.

The words of the United Nations special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese, ring with a sombre truth: “The colossal amount of evidence concerning international crimes committed by Israel in Gaza just over the past six months could keep the International Criminal Court busy for the next five decades”.

The horror of Amna’s death is forever captured in a report aired by Al Jazeera Arabic. As correspondent Ismail al-Ghoul arrives at the scene of the bombing, one of Amna’s sons, Mohammed, runs towards him. With tears streaming down his face and his voice shaking, the little boy calls out: “Uncle Ismail!” “Yes, what happened my dear?” the reporter asks.

The boy pours out his heart: “My mom and my brother are trapped under the rubble, and my other siblings and uncle are wounded. I came out OK,” he says, crying and not realising he has small pieces of shrapnel in his body.

The reporter asks him what happened. Mohammed struggles to speak. Breathing heavily and sobbing, he says a rocket struck while the family were sitting together. As he is overcome by tears, a relative rushes to embrace him, offering what little solace could be found amid the unfolding genocide.

Mohammed’s words are a spectre in my mind, thousands of kilometres away in Canada and helpless to do anything against the savage Leviathan unleashed onto Gaza. I hope someday these words will echo

in the halls of international justice.

Before she was taken from us, Amna faced a smear campaign. Israel’s Channel 14 broadcast a photograph of her and claimed that she was part of the Palestinian armed resistance and that her presence at al-Shifa Hospital proved Hamas “hid in the hospital”.

Instead of displaying solidarity with a fellow journalist under fire, the Israeli media chose to incite against her instead. Amna was indeed at al-Shifa, but left the hospital just before the siege began so she avoided death in the massacre of at least 400 people in March. This decision to leave prolonged her life by a few weeks.

Her husband believes she was targeted for her reporting on the Israeli genocide.

A few weeks before her murder, Amna penned a poignant reflection on her Facebook page: “My choices have always been a mix of bitter and astonishing experiences. Though the junctures are fraught with difficulty and fate hangs in the balance, I have never been one to waver, to bend, to retreat, or to falter. Nothing will deter me from upholding the sanctity of sacraments and carrying and delivering the message that I deeply realised at a young age.”

Amna’s murder on April 24 is a loss to her family, her friends, the Palestinian people and anyone committed to building a better world. Her words of hope and dedication are an incredible testament to the power of the human spirit to survive through the unimaginable. I hope they inspire future generations to act as bravely as she did.

China's carbon commitment blueprint for global sustainability

Kaiser Nawab

CHINA'S determined climate commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 and peak carbon emissions by 2030 marks a significant turning point in the global fight against climate change. By declaring its intent to meet these targets independently, China is signaling a robust and self-reliant approach to environmental sustainability that could serve as a model for other nations.

Driving this commitment are stringent climate policies being actively implemented across major municipalities and provinces such as Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong. These regions are leading the charge with comprehensive strategies for green, low-carbon development, emphasizing technological innovation and the integration of sustainable practices across various industries. This shift towards carbon neutrality reflects a profound transformation in China's economic growth model, one that prioritizes environmental stewardship alongside economic development.

Renewable energy is at the heart of this transformation, experiencing rapid and unprecedented growth within China. This surge is creating a ripple effect across various market sectors, spurring advancements in electric vehicles (EVs), energy storage solutions and other cutting-edge technologies. The expansion of renewable energy not only bolsters China's energy security but also positions it as a frontrunner in the global green economy.

At the corporate level, Chinese businesses across manufacturing, construction and logistics are embracing this green revolution. Companies are increasingly integrating solar panels, adopting electric vehicle fleets and implementing a wide range of clean energy practices. This transition is driven by a combination of government policies and market incentives, with both state-owned and private enterprises proactively setting and meeting challenging emission reduction targets. This dynamic reflects China's evolving energy landscape, shaped by national and local government priorities, market transformations, significant investments in the energy sector and the implementation of carbon tax schemes.

Chinese suppliers are also excelling within the global supply chain, particularly in innovation, production efficiency and emissions reduction. Many suppliers have already established stringent climate reduction targets and actively participate in industry-wide collaborations. For example, the UNFCCC China group's initiative in the apparel industry highlights how Chinese suppliers are leading the charge in sustainability. Global companies and buyers can leverage these suppliers' commitments to continuous improvement, robust investments and dedication to low-carbon practices, thereby enhancing their own sustainability efforts.

China's "30/60" decarbonization goal—reaching a carbon peak before 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2060—places significant

emphasis on the role of finance in facilitating the green and low-carbon transition. The country has developed a multi-tiered green finance market system, with green loans and bonds ranking among the highest globally. This financial framework is supported by top-down government policies and bottom-up local initiatives, such as the carbon trading market and green finance pilot zones.

Over the past decade, these efforts have spurred rapid growth in green industry. These initiatives demonstrate how financial mechanisms can be effectively leveraged to support environmental goals. Nevertheless, China's journey towards carbon neutrality is fraught with challenges. The country must balance economic growth with environmental protection, ensure energy security while reducing carbon emissions, and foster innovation in green technologies. Despite these hurdles, the progress made thus far is promising and sets a strong foundation for achieving the 2060 carbon neutrality goal.

At the corporate level, Chinese businesses across manufacturing, construction and logistics are embracing this green revolution. Companies are increasingly integrating solar panels, adopting electric vehicle fleets and implementing a wide range of clean energy practices. This transition is driven by a combination of government policies and market incentives, with both state-owned and private enterprises proactively setting and meeting challenging emission reduction targets. This dynamic reflects China's evolving energy landscape, shaped by national and local government priorities, market transformations, significant investments in the energy sector and the implementation of carbon tax schemes. Chinese suppliers are also excelling within the global supply chain, particularly in innovation, production efficiency and emissions reduction. Many suppliers have already established stringent climate reduction targets and actively participate in industry-wide collaborations. For example, the UNFCCC China group's initiative in the apparel industry highlights how Chinese suppliers are leading the charge in sustainability. Global companies and buyers can leverage these suppliers' commitments to continuous improvement, robust investments and dedication to low-carbon practices, thereby enhancing their own sustainability efforts.

tries. Notably, BYD, a Chinese company, has surpassed Tesla to become the world's best-selling brand of electric vehicles. Additionally, China's share of renewable energy capacity, primarily from solar, wind and hydro sources, now constitutes about 50 percent of its total generation capacity. In 2023, the clean energy sector accounted for 40 percent of China's GDP growth, highlighting the significant economic benefits of the green transition.

China's success in green finance initiatives is a testament to its commitment to sustainable development. Green finance pilot zones and the carbon trading market are pivotal in directing investments towards green projects, fostering innovation and driving the transition to a low-carbon economy. China's approach to integrating environmental sustainability with economic development offers valuable lessons for the global community. By prioritizing technological innovation, embracing green finance and fostering a culture of sustainability, China is paving the way for a greener future. The country's efforts underscore the importance of a coordinated and comprehensive approach to addressing climate change, involving government policies, corporate actions and community engagement.

As the world grapples with the urgent need to address climate change, China's example offers hope and direction, demonstrating that with determination, innovation and collaboration, a sustainable future is within reach.

— China Daily

‘Change’ on the cards for UK as Sunak calls July election

THE owner of a luxury apartment in Santa Monica, California, may soon be paying it a rare visit come July. This is the view of many British observers after the dramatic decision of this owner, who happens to be British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, to call a general election for July 4.

The shock is that Sunak has opted to go for this nuclear option so early, when the economy has yet to recover and the Conservatives lack a compelling narrative that might allow them to overturn their huge and consistent deficit in the polls. The Tories endured a torrid time in the local elections at the beginning of May. Most had expected the PM to pick a date in the autumn. Many Conservative MPs were openly seething. The public appeared generally content to bring an end to the interminable election season.

British politics has been as unpredictable and fickle as the English weather for a decade or so now. Yet, this time, Keir Starmer is the overwhelming favorite to become King Charles’ third prime minister. He still needs a jaw-dropping 12 percent swing to get a majority of just one, but the Tories look finished, bereft of ideas. The country appears to be craving change.

It will be a race in which the two leaders, Sunak and Starmer, will rarely inspire, as they are both short on charisma. But voting is often a gut issue, an emotional decision, and how the electorate sees the leaders will matter hugely.

It has been 14 years since Labour was in power. At the last general election in 2019, the party did disastrously, achieving its worst election result in almost a century. The Tories now trail

Labour by 20 points in the polls and this has been pretty much the case ever since Sunak came into office following the crashing of the British economy under his predecessor, Liz Truss. Her 45 days in power will haunt the Tory election bid.

An ugly campaign may be in the offing. The Conservatives have given notice that they will fight on culture war issues, with immigration at the heart of their messaging. Recent anti-Muslim comments by senior Conservatives show that a

The shock is that Sunak has opted to go for this nuclear option so early, when the economy has yet to recover and the Conservatives lack a compelling narrative that might allow them to overturn their huge and consistent deficit in the polls. The Tories endured a torrid time in the local elections at the beginning of May. Most had expected the PM to pick a date in the autumn. Many Conservative MPs were openly seething. The public appeared generally content to bring an end to the interminable election season. British politics has been as unpredictable and fickle as the English weather for a decade or so now.

hurricane of Islamophobia could be imminent.

Starmer claims the British people want change and has pledged to “return Britain to the service of working people.” Labour will portray the Tories as chaotic and without a plan. In contrast, Labour claims that it will return stability and calm. The word “change” will

be bandied around consistently during this six-week campaign. Starmer will also tap into the widespread view that Britain is broken, that key services are just not working.

What will be the key issues? The economy is the top concern for voters and has been consistently, not least since COVID-19. Inflation was at 11 percent just two years ago. It is now back down to 2.3 percent, yet prices are still more than 20 percent higher than they were in 2021. Real wages are

hardly above where they were in 2010. Tories will promise tax cuts, but it is doubtful this will have a great effect. Labour will not follow this and has pledged to borrow to invest in the green economy.

Immigration is what the Tories will want to focus on. The trouble is that their anti-immigration plans have not been very successful.

Small boat crossings across the English Channel, which decreased by a third in 2023, have increased in recent times. This failure is one reason the highly anti-immigrant Reform UK party could fare well and undermine Tory hopes.

Labour will, as ever, push for health to be a centerpiece of the campaign. Waiting lists are 300,000 higher than when Sunak pledged to reduce them.

There should be a vigorous debate on Britain's place in the world. That this may not happen is perhaps an indication of the increasingly isolationist attitude of many voters. But it matters. First and foremost, eight years after voting to leave the EU, just what is Britain's relationship with the EU going to be? Labour will articulate a position that the country must get closer again without rejoining. Secondly, how will relations with the US fare going forward? This has not always been easy in recent years. Much will depend on November's election across the Atlantic.

Gaza will be an issue in certain constituencies. Expect a fair number of independent candidates to challenge, with Palestine a key theme. A significant portion of the core Labour voting base has been angered by the party leadership's tepid response to Israeli war crimes. They may punish the party.

Anything but a Labour victory would be a shock. The real question is how large a majority Starmer will get. He will want to get way past the magic mark of 326 MPs that is necessary for a majority. Will he have a large enough majority to govern freely or will he have to win over all wings of his party or even other center-left parties?

Neil Howard

Crucially, these moral and theoretical cases have received enormous empirical backing over the past five years, as a wave of basic income pilots has spread around the world, particularly in the United States, where nearly 150 have sprung up since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sparked by the first mayor-led pilot in Stockton, California in 2019 and funded in large part by the COVID-19 relief money distributed by the federal government, local authorities across the country have been experimenting with unconditional cash as an upstream social policy intervention that could form the basis of a new welfare model. The findings from these pilots are electric – improvements in well-being, education, entrepreneurship, maternal and child health; reductions in stress, depression, homelessness and recidivism. They provide enough evidence to support the effectiveness of basic income programmes.

This movement includes influential progressive organisations, academic institutions, grassroots organisers, and even a nationwide coalition of elected officials, all of whom have rallied around the vision of basic income for all within the next decade. So well developed is this movement that polls suggest that a majority of Americans now favour some form of basic income. The rising popularity of this policy is scaring conservative lawmakers, political lobbyists, and their billionaire backers.

Billionaire backlash shows the power of basic income

LAST month, the US state of Iowa enacted a law banning local governments from adopting basic income programmes. This follows similar developments in Arkansas, Idaho, and South Dakota.

In Texas, after lawmakers failed to get their own such law adopted, the state’s attorney general filed a case to prevent Harris County from launching the basic income pilot that its officials had authorised. Declaring the pilot “unconstitutional”, the attorney general has taken his case all the way to the Supreme Court of Texas. What is going on here? And why do the intricacies of seemingly obscure local US politics matter?

To answer these questions, we have to look into the radical potential that basic income has to reshape our social relations. Defined as a regular cash payment given unconditionally to all, a

basic income can be thought of like a pension, only for everyone. Its purpose is to provide a permanent, base level of financial security for all people independent of work, recognising that if we lack money or the means to make it in the world of the market then we are in deep trouble.

Theoretically, the case for basic income is well-developed. It rests on the intuitive premise that ensuring people's basic security will mitigate the effects of multiple societal ills, including racism and other forms of discrimination, and help improve individual and social wellbeing.

Morally, it rests on two historical truths. First, that not all wealth has been “earned” – plenty has been stolen, accumulated through violence and exploitation, or reproduced through cycles of inherited privilege. Second, poverty is political rather than personal – it is about where

you are positioned in the social matrix rather than who you are and what you do.

Simply put, therefore, poverty and wealth are both about power – historical and contemporary – and how this plays out in people's everyday lives. The idea behind basic income is to rebalance that power, redistributing it from those who have plenty to ensure that all have enough.

This moral case is strengthened by the decades of research that scholars have done to prove that social ills of all sorts have their roots in poverty.

From physical and mental ill health to drug abuse, homelessness, and crime, many of the issues we face are causally related to being poor. Likewise, we know that exploitative work and domestic violence are easier to sustain and harder to resist when people lack the “freedom to say no” that money

the largest basic income study involving 200 Kenyan villages showed that the distribution of monthly payments did not result in recipients leaving the workforce but promoted occupational choice.

Such studies and academic articles did not make it into FGA's “research” because its aim is not to produce defensible scholarship but rather to develop the discursive weaponry needed as part of the overall hegemonic strategy of the billionaire class.

In this respect, the growing battle against basic income can be seen as a kind of a case study of hegemony at work, a classic example both of the tools the powerful use to maintain their position and the moments at which they choose to use them.

For progressives, this can mean only one thing – that basic income might just be an idea whose time has come.



PESHAWAR: President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fuad Ishaq addressing opening ceremony of two-day Gemstones and Mineral Show. Vice President SCCI Ejaz Khan also present on occasion.

ICMA elects office bearers



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Shehzad Ahmed Malik re-elected as president of Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan while Muhammad Yasin vice president, Shaham Ahmed Honorary Secretary and Marryum Parvaiz elected as Honorary Treasurer 413th session of National Council of ICMA.

Shehzad Ahmed Malik, FCMA, M.A. in Economics, CFC(USA), Employer Trainer of ICAEW is a highly experienced professional with over 25 years in management consultancy and finance. He currently serves as the CEO of SMNCO (Shehzad Malik Management Consultants Pvt Ltd.) and holds various board positions in Pakistani companies. He is also a board member of SAFA, contributing to its Committee on Education, CPD, and Training.

He represented ICMA on the Members' Development Committee of the Confederation of Asia and Pacific Accountants (CAPA). At ICMA, he chairs the Technical Support and Practice Development (TSPD) Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Education Committee. With over 24 years of professional experience, Mr. Malik has held significant roles such as Vice President & Honorary Secretary at ICMA.

Finance Director/CFO at Islamabad Electric Supply Company and Army Welfare Trust (AWT). He has contributed to the Ministry of Finance's Tax Reforms & Anomaly Committees of FBR served as a faculty member at several universities and ICMA International.

Moreover, he holds honorary positions in various committees of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Advisor at Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO). He has also worked with World Bank and HEC on different projects.

Mr. Muhammad Yasin, FCMA, and CIPFA (UK), served on ICMA's National Council (2018-2020). He has held roles

such as Chairman of the Research and Publications Committee and Honorary Treasurer, and has also been President of PIPFA's Board of Governors. With over 24 years of diversified experience spanning across sectors including Textile, Oil & Gas, Media, Aviation, Supply Chain, and Education, he is currently the Group CFO at The Superior Group and a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM).

Mr. Shaham Ahmed, Staff General Manager at Pak Suzuki, serves as Honorary Secretary of ICMA, contributes to academia as a visiting faculty, and leads transformative initiatives in business development, sustainability, and global recognition, including digitizing examinations and fostering vocational education partnerships. His dedication to advancing professional standards and fostering industry-academia collaboration is exemplary.

Ms. Marryum Parvaiz, Secretary to the Competition Commission of Pakistan, is also heading Chairman Secretariat and Mergers & Acquisitions Department encompassing a wealth of expertise amassed over two decades.

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 465 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 465.55 points, a negative change of 0.61%, closing at 75,517.49 points against 75,983.04 points the previous day.

A total of 446,071,483 shares valuing Rs 16,406 billion were traded during the day as compared to 609,848,980 shares valuing Rs 23,580 billion the previous day.

As many as 406 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 123 of them recorded gains and 231 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 52 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 55,596,310 shares at Rs 5.02 per share, Symmetry Group Limited with 40,663,666 shares at Rs 6.19 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 29,465,739 shares at Rs 1.37 per share. Excide Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 37.66 per share price, closing at Rs 508.35, whereas the runner-up was Pakistan Services Limited with a Rs 24.59 rise in its per share price to Rs 806.97.

Shahmurad Sugar Mills Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 45.43 per share closing at Rs 522.41, followed by Murree Brewery Company Limited with a Rs 13.21 decline to close at Rs 430.39.

Rupee sheds 10 paise against dollar

Pakistani Rupee on Monday lost 10 paise against US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.30 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.20.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.50 and Rs 280.10 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 68 paise to close at Rs 301.84 against the last day's closing of Rs 301.16, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.77, whereas an increase of Rs1.04 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 354.38 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 353.34.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 03 paise each to close at Rs 75.77 and 74.20.

SCCI wants proactive steps to put gemstones sector on modern lines

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: President, the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fuad Ishaq said the gemstones sector is a prime source for enhancement of country's export and foreign exchange and stressed it is in dire need of hour to put this important sector on modern lines.

The SCCI chief wanted pragmatic steps to financial assistance of traders attached with the gemstones sector.

He assured the chamber will take up issues of gemstones traders with government and relevant authorities and try to resolve them at earliest.

Fuad Ishaq was addressing an opening ceremony of two-day Gemstones and Mineral Show organized by Gemstones Traders Association in Peshawar on Monday.

The event was attended by the SCCI senior vice president Sanaulah Khan, vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi, Saddar Gul, Faiz Rasool, the Gemstone Traders Association president Haji Murad Tajak, Haji Dost Muhammad, other office bearers, a large number of traders associated with Gemstone Sector.

After inaugurating the

two-day Gemstones Show, Fuad Ishaq toured various stalls set up during the exhibition wherein traders briefed him about importance and quality of various kinds of gemstones, and their demand internationally and export.

Gemstones traders on the occasion expressed anguish over harassment through using various tactics and unnecessary actions and creating trouble and demanded amicable resolve of all issues to earn huge foreign exchange through enhancing export of gemstones and stabilizing the economy and promoting the gemstone sector.

Fuad Ishaq responding to traders' demands of the traders assured that chamber will take up issues of gemstone traders' with Civil Aviation Authority, airport, custom and other authorities and would make all out efforts to resolve all problems that have been faced by the traders amicably.

The SCCI president asked the gemstones traders association to submit all issues in writing to the chamber so that these issues will soon be taken up with relevant authorities.

Earlier, the chamber president Fuad Ishaq formally inaugurated the Gemstone Show.

Pak construction industry adopting modern construction materials

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Keeping in mind the global trends and commitment to climate action, the construction industry of Pakistan is moving towards the adoption of modern and sustainable construction materials, according to an Institute of Architects Pakistan (IAP) official.

To showcase the construction sector's potential and create awareness about these modern construction materials, such as value-added PVC products, the IAP recently organized three-day IAPEX 2024. The event attracted a strong foothold of architects, interior designers, students, experts, and industry players.

Mishaal Merchant, Chairman of IAP highlighted that the construction sector plays a pivotal role in the overall economic development of any country. According to a report by the Pakistan Credit Rating Agency (PACRA), in 1QFY24, the sector contributed ~11.5% in industrial activities and around ~2.7% to the GDP. The destructive floods of 2022 and changing global trends have necessitated the local construction industry to embrace international standards and promote the use of sustainable materials.

Among the modern and cost-effective construction materials displayed at the event, downstream PVC products garnered a lot of interest from the visitors. ThinkPVC, a retail outlet owned and operated by Engro Polymer & Chemicals (EPCL), showcased downstream PVC products ranging from pipes and fittings to doors, windows, roofing, and wall panels, at the IAPEX.

Talking about the much-needed change to modernize Pakistan's construction sector, Muhammad Idrees, Chief Commercial Officer



at EPCL said, "Resolving the urban housing crisis demands a balanced approach - enhancing existing housing, while also embracing modern, sustainable materials for new construction. ThinkPVC offers innovative and cutting-edge solutions that not only surpass aesthetically but also offer cost-effectiveness, while meeting evolving climate demands. We work closely with architects and developers to ensure our products uphold our commitment to sustainability, thus elevating the construction landscape."

He added that PVC is the material of choice by architects and developers across the world due to its longevity against the changing climate needs, as well as aesthetics and cost-effectiveness compared to other materials. ThinkPVC also unveiled Vero, a new and advanced range of kitchens and vanities, at the IAPEX with the aim to redefine the benchmarks of quality and craftsmanship in the Pakistani market. The superior quality Vero products will also encourage import substitution and development of the local market in line with global standards of excellence.

at EPCL said, "Resolving the urban housing crisis demands a balanced approach - enhancing existing housing, while also embracing modern, sustainable materials for new construction. ThinkPVC offers innovative and cutting-edge solutions that not only surpass aesthetically but also offer cost-effectiveness, while meeting evolving climate demands. We work closely with architects and developers to ensure our products uphold our commitment to sustainability, thus elevating the construction landscape."

He added that PVC is the

CCP approves merger of two brokerage houses

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved a Scheme of Arrangement for the merger of M/s. Intermarket Securities Limited (IMS) with M/s. EFG Hermes Pakistan Limited (EFG).

M/s. Intermarket Securities Limited (IMS) is a public unlisted company providing brokerage services in Pakistan, while EFG will be the

Pakistan Limited (EFG) is a registered public listed company focused on offering brokerage services in stocks, along with financial brokerage, corporate finance, and financial research.

The Phase-I competition assessment by the CCP identified 'Brokerage Services' as the relevant product market. The assessment further revealed that post-transaction, IMS will dissolve without winding up, and EFG will be the

surviving entity. Under the Scheme of Arrangements, the agreed swap ratio for the transaction is 2.16:1, whereby, for every 1 share of IMS, EFG will issue 2.16 shares to the shareholders of IMS.

The assessment further confirmed that post-transaction, the merger will lead to a slight increase in EFG's market share, which will not result in EFG attaining dominance in the brokerage market. The

merger signifies a strategic consolidation aimed at enhancing service offerings and market reach, ultimately benefiting clients with improved financial services and research capabilities.

Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu said that this approval underscores the CCP's commitment to fostering competitive markets while ensuring that mergers and acquisitions do not adversely affect market dynamics and consumer interests.

Meezan Bank strengthens foothold in forex services — launches Meezan Exchange



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank has officially commenced operations of Meezan Exchange Company Limited (MECL), its wholly-owned subsidiary in Karachi. MECL will offer remittance and forex services to all customers. As an initial step in its journey, MECL will expand to 10 outlets nationwide within the first month of its launch with accelerated plans to launch 50 outlets

within a year. The first Meezan Exchange branch, located at the Trade Tower, Karachi, was recently inaugurated by Mr. Irfan Siddiqui, Founding President & CEO of Meezan Bank, along with Mr. Zia Ul Hassan, Chairman of the Board MECL, Mr. Faisal Sarwar, CEO MECL, and senior management from Meezan Bank and Meezan Exchange.

Meezan Exchange's rapid roll out comes with the State Bank of Pakistan's

structural reforms in the exchange sector that aim to create local forex powerhouses with licenses to operate in the country. MECL has joined the country's growing list of exchange companies and specializes in offering transparency and cost-effectiveness in every transaction, building upon its core strengths of offering efficient currency exchange rates, swift service, and a superior customer experience.

Mr. Irfan Siddiqui remarked, "The launch of Meezan Exchange reinforces our commitment to delivering seamless financial solutions. We are on the path to building best-in-class financial solutions based on our Core Values of Shariah-compliance, Integrity, and Service Excellence. Meezan Exchange is a testament to the rapid strides we want to make in providing outclass remittance and multi-currency exchange services to both our corporate and individual customers."

Ensuring continuum of care through integration of MNCH and PPF

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Building Healthy Families (BHF) trained 65 Master Trainers from the public and private health sectors on ensuring a Continuum of Care through Integration of Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) and Post Partum Family Planning (PPFP).

The training of master trainers was done in three batches from April 22, 2024 till May 10, 2024, for health care providers from 19 districts of Sindh who will later trickle it down in

their respective districts.

Dr. Farhana Memon, Project Director, Reproductive Maternal And Neonatal Child Health (IRMNCH) Sindh, graced the occasion as a Chief Guest and appreciated the facilitation by BHEA in strengthening the capacity of the public and private sectors in Sindh to ensure high-quality MNCH and PPFP services to women in the province. The USAID-funded, Pathfinder International-led Building Healthy Families (BHF), is about \$40 million invest-

ment in Pakistan to provide technical assistance to the federal and provincial governments. This contribution will be instrumental in improving reproductive, maternal, and child health indicators of the province's most vulnerable populations. It will expand access to and use of essential healthcare services in Pakistan, including high-quality family planning and maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition services.

"Our key interest is to provide facilities and

upskill healthcare providers as it is them and the Master Trainers who are always at the forefront of making any program a success" - Dr. Farhana Memon, Project Director, RMNCH Sindh.

BHF is currently in Year 2 of the project, operating in 19 districts in Sindh. Focus on healthcare equity is fundamental to BHF's approach, and the activity is committed to addressing the needs of women, girls, youth, and people traditionally marginalized from accessing quality healthcare.

Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where seven ships, Maersk Phuket, Bo-Mustafa-O, Kourou Leader, Sea Steller, Isabella Kosan, Marangas Asclepius and Sunny Bay scheduled to load/offload Container, Cement, Rice, Chemicals, LNG and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminals, Grain Terminal, Engro Terminal, Elengy Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Blue Bird, Ullswater and Bateleur carrying Mogas and LPGs also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours.

A total of eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a container ship 'Maersk Phuket' left the port on today morning while three more ships, Al-ba Gas, Ultra Colonsay and Torm Venture are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 174,265 tonnes, comprising 135,938 tonnes imports cargo and 38,327 tonnes export cargo carried in 2,159 Containers (272 TEUs Imports and 1,887 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

PNSC participated in 2nd Pakistan Hindu Council



F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) realizing its national obligation actively participated in Job Fair and Education Expo 2.0 organized by the Pakistan Hindu Council (PHC).

The effort made by Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, the honorable Member National Assembly and Patron in Chief of the Pakistan Hindu Council (PHC) is much appreciated in providing such a gateway towards introducing

employment in Pakistan, guiding and giving opportunity to directly meet the young generation.

The presence of Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) event was to search for graduates having excellent academic background to fulfill its Human Resource needs for ongoing business expansion and diversification.

The young graduates were provided guidance and career counseling about Maritime Industry and associated benefits. In addition, jobs through various

Internship and Management Trainee Programs offered to skilled and unskilled graduates.

The Pakistan National Shipping Corporation encouraged youngsters to avail this opportunity and be part of it for their better and prosperous future.

With the clear direction of Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, the honorable Federal Minister of Maritime Affairs, the main objective of PNSC was to provide employment opportunities through a direct platform to professionals.



In brief

All Pakistan Memorial Basketball kicks off Tuesday

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) was holding All-Pakistan Muhammad Majid and Abdul Nasir Memorial Basketball Tournament (PBBF) at the Siddique Memon Sports Complex Karachi from Tuesday. According to the Associate Secretary of Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) and Tournament Director Muhammad Yaqoob Qadry, top teams were taking part in the tournament. Teams of Pakistan Air Force, Wapda, Police, Rangers, Islamabad, Sindh, Green, Balochistan and Sindh White will compete in the six-day event to conclude on June 2, he said. He said Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab Siddiqui would inaugurate the event while Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori will be the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the tournament who will distribute prizes among the players. Four matches will be played daily in the tournament, the semi-finals will be held on June 1, while final will be played on June 2, he said.

SA team to arrive on June 5

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Saudi Arabian football team was set to arrive in Islamabad on June 5 for the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers match against Pakistan. According to details, the team would travel from Riyadh to Islamabad on a chartered flight. The highly anticipated match between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia was scheduled to take place on June 6 here at the Jinnah Football Stadium of Pakistan Sports Complex. This would be Pakistan's final home match in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers Round 2. Pakistan would play their last away match on June 11 against hosts Tajikistan. Both teams were expected to give their best performance in the game. The FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers have generated immense excitement among football enthusiasts who would be waiting to witness the encounter at the Jinnah Stadium.

Jacks thankful for Kohli influence

LONDON (AFP): Will Jacks hopes to put the on-field "coaching" he received from Virat Kohli to good use when England bid to retain their T20 World Cup title next month. Jacks goes into the third game of England's warm-up series against Pakistan having helped propel the hosts to a 23-run win at Edgbaston on Saturday. The Surrey all-rounder struck a quickfire 37 in what proved to be a decisive stand with captain Jos Buttler as England went 1-0 up in the rain-hit four-match series ahead of Tuesday's game at Cardiff's Sophia Gardens. It was another example of Jacks' power hitting after he recently struck an unbeaten century off just 41 balls -- including 28 runs from one Rashid Khan over -- as Royal Challengers Bengaluru chased down 200 to beat Gujarat Titans in a high-pressure situation, with India star batsman Kohli looking on from the other end. "The big thing with the IPL is that every game is such an occasion, the crowd, the atmosphere," Jacks told reporters on Monday, just over a week from England's World Cup opener against Scotland in Barbados. "Every game you feel like you've got to step up and that's similar to international cricket." As for batting with Kohli, the 25-year-old added: "He's a very good role model.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF), Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob addressing a press conference. —APP Photo

Two KP players win Silver at South Asian Junior Tennis

PESHAWAR (APP): Two promising players of Pakistan, hailing from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Shayan Afridi and Muhammad Junaid Khan part of the three teams with a player from Sindh Rashad Ali grabbed silver medal in the recently concluded South Asian Junior Tennis Championship held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Teams from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, and India were the other participating teams where Pakistan team, despite unseeded in the U12 category, finished with silver medal by defeating strong Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bhutan while lost to strong India, the top seeded team of the South Asian Junior Tennis Championship, in the final. Muhammad Abid Khan was the team coach of 'Pakistan's team showed excellent performance and

defeated the teams of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives and Bhutan, while in the final it faced defeat against India, thus the teams of Pakistan and India has also qualified for the Asian Junior Tennis C'ship which will be held in a period of two months. M. Shayan Afridi and Junaid Khan after arrival at Peshawar Sports Complex, were welcomed by the General Secretary of the Provincial Tennis Association Umar Ayaz Khan Khalil. Dr. Tahir, a well known plastic surgeon and Chairman of the KP Tennis Association, President DIG Saleem Khan Marwat, Senior Vice President KP Tennis Association Syed Farhat Abbas, coaches Roman Gul, Nouman Khan, Shaharyar Khan, Zakir Ullah, Inam Ullah, Israr Ullah, Janan Khan, Wakeel Khan, Amjad Khan, Mehmood Khan and

other personalities were also present. The two players Muhammad Shayan Afridi and Junaid Khan were garlanded soon after arriving at the Peshawar Sports Complex. The office-bearers of the KP Tennis Association also demanded from the Chief Minister KP Ali Amin Khan Gandapur to announce cash prizes for both the players who created history of being unseeded players reaching the final and winning silver medal. Earlier, a ceremony was also organized in the honour of Shoaib Khan and Mohammad Yousuf Khalil, who joined the Davis Cup team after recording victories in the trials matches against top seeded national ranking players. It is hoped that in the upcoming competitions, KP players will continue to shine not only at national but also at international level.

More matches decided in PM Youth Talent Hunt Men's Handball League

PESHAWAR (APP): Decision of several matches in the ongoing Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt National Handball League-2024 being played at different venues under the aegis of Directorate of Sports inside University of Peshawar premises on Monday. Adnan Khan, Project Manager, Higher Education Commission Islamabad was the chief guest along with the President of Provincial Handball Association and Director of Sports Peshawar University Bahre Karam, Additional Registrar Dr. Noorzada, Ahsan Khan, Sajjad Khan, officials of Pakistan

Handball Federation and representatives of Higher Education Commission were also present. In the matches held on Monday KP White scored a 40-19 goals victory against Federal White team where in Khyber White players fully dominated the match and did not give many chances to Federal White Team Islamabad to strike back. In the other match Balochistan White scored 15-11 goals victory against Sindh White in a thrilling match while Balochistan Green scored 30-3 goals win against Sindh Green and Punjab Green defeated Federal Green by 30-06

goal in a one-sided affair. KP Green defeated Sindh Green by 37-12 goals, while Punjab Green defeated Federal Green by 45-08 goals in a one-sided affair. President KP Handball Association and Director Sports Bahre Karam said that two teams from Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Federal Islamabad and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are taking part in the National League. He said University of Peshawar is hosting the provincial as well as National Leagues of the Handball and ensures due facilities to the players of various provinces.

Nadal defeated in likely French Open farewell



PARIS (AFP): Rafael Nadal's record-breaking French Open career came to its likely end on Monday when the 14-time champion slumped to a demoralising first round defeat against Alexander Zverev. Nadal, who turns 38 on June 3, went down 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 to world number four Zverev, suffering only his fourth loss in 116 matches at Roland Garros since his 2005 title-winning debut. It was the first time he had been defeated in Paris in the opening round and will again lead to questions over his long-term future in the sport. "I don't know if this is the last time I will be here, I am not 100% sure but if it is then I wanted to enjoy it," said Nadal. "The feelings today are difficult to describe in words."

Plagued by injuries,

which had limited him to just four events since January last year, former world number one Nadal is now 275 in the rankings and was unseeded in Paris. However, he insisted on the eve of the tournament that he was "100% keeping the door open" on his future in a sport which has brought him 22 Grand Slam titles. In a repeat of the 2022 semi-final, which Nadal won when Zverev quit with ankle ligament damage, the Spaniard had his chances. He was a break of serve up in the second and third sets, only to be pinned back on both occasions by his in-form 27-year-old opponent. Chants of "Rafa, Rafa" had loudly echoed under the roof of Court Philippe Chatrier which was shut tight against the torrential rain sweeping across the grounds and bringing havoc

to the schedule. They subsided to silence when Nadal was broken to love in his opening service game and he was left to regret his inability to convert two break points in the fourth game. Nadal saved two set points in the ninth game but surrendered the opener after 50 minutes when he buried a loose forehand into the net. It was only the fourth opening set he had lost at Roland Garros. Nadal broke for the first time in the match to lead 3-2 in the second set but couldn't back up the advantage and handed the break back to three-time semi-finalist Zverev as he served for the set. A tense tie-breaker followed which the German claimed, buoyed by stretching to 5/3 on the back of a gruelling 19-shot rally. Nadal dug deep and with the likes of Novak Djokovic, Carlos Alcaraz and Iga Swiatek having watched from the packed stands, he broke and held for 2-0 in the third set. However, Zverev again roared back to level at 2-2 before a besieged Nadal had to save four break points in a 13-minute fifth game to stay in contention. The effort was too much and a composed Zverev was soon 4-3 up and the match was over when Nadal fired a forehand wide and long.

Rauf hopeful for Pakistan's comeback

CARDIFF (Web Desk) : Pakistan's right-arm pacer Haris Rauf expressed his confidence in the national team to force a comeback in the ongoing four-match T20I series against England.

The express pacer addressed a press conference here on Monday and revealed that the touring side is confident and will try to win the remaining fixtures heading into the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. "Yeah, we lost one game but as a team, we are very confident and [will] try to win the next couple of games before the World Cup. "As a team, we had a good practice session today and we played a lot of games in the past. "Obviously, it is disheartening to lose a match but as a team we are confident and we can beat any opposition and we've done that a lot of times in the past.

"When you make mistakes, you learn from them and try not to repeat them. So, we'll work on it and will try to perform well in the coming matches and make a comeback." Haris Rauf further revealed the obstacles he faced amid his rehabilitation from a shoulder injury, which he sustained in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 9. "The family support remains throughout your career. Making a comeback is not easy but if one has delivered performances in the past, it is not difficult for the team to select again," Haris said. "It's hard for a player when he gets injured and comes back again for the game. It's not easy because you are struggling a lot at that time.

Australian volley ball team's visit to Pakistan of significant importance: Elliott

ISLAMABAD (INP): Head coach of the Australian volleyball team, Daniel Elliott has termed the visit to Pakistan very important saying that the Pakistani team is currently showing the best performance in the region. He said there will be the best volleyball matches with Pakistan to prepare for the Challenge Cup, while the Chairman of the Pakistan Volleyball Federation, Chaudhry Mohammad. Yaqub says that the series will be helpful for the preparation of international events, the team is providing all possible facilities to improve

performance. Speaking during a press conference with Pakistan Volleyball Federation Chairman Mohammad Yaqoob, Australian and Pakistani captains in Islamabad, Daniel Elliott said that it was great to come to Pakistan. The Pakistani team was in the best form at the moment, Pakistan's performance in recent events has been excellent, that's why they expressed their desire to play a series against Pakistan before the Challenge Cup. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Pakistan

Volleyball Federation, Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob, said that we are happy to host Australia as the fans will get to see the best volleyball series. He said the series will be helpful for the preparation of the international event. Volleyball was the most watched sport after cricket, he added. The Australian team will be seen in action for the first time in the country's history. The first match will be played on May 28, while the second and third matches will be played on May 29 and 30. The matches will start at Liaquat Gymnasium daily at 1:30 PM.

Naqvi rewards Wheelchair cricketers for Asia Cup triumph



LAHORE (APP): Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi on Monday presented a cheque worth rupees 1.5 million to the Pakistan Wheelchair cricket team on winning the Asia Cup 2024. The Pakistan Wheelchair cricket team had overcome Sri Lanka in the final of the Asia Cup Wheelchair championship 2023 in Nepal last year. It was Wheelchair cricketers consecutive title. In order to the team's achievement, Chairman PCB invited members of the Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket team to the PCB Headquarters at Gaddafi stadium and congratulated

them on their triumph. Mohsin Naqvi lauded the team's efforts and expressed best wishes for the team's continued success. He also assured PCB's support for the Wheelchair Cricket Team in its future endeavours. Members of the Wheelchair Cricket Team expressed their gratitude to the PCB for hosting them and offering them encouragement. Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket Council Chairperson Ruksana Rajput, Wheelchair Cricket Team captain Mohammad Zeeshan, vice-captain Imran Arain, batter Syed Ahsan Ahmed, wicket-keeper-batter Muazzam

Nawaz and bowler Mohammad Fayyaz were present on the occasion. PCB Chief Operating Officer Salman Naseer, Director - Domestic Cricket Operations Abdullah Khurram Niazi, Senior General Manager Domestic Junaid Zia and other PCB officials attended the ceremony. It is pertinent to mention here that the Wheelchair cricketers have been appreciated twice by the PCB for this achievement. Former Chairman Zaka Ashraf had also awarded a cash prize of 3.6 million rupees to these wheelchair cricketers for the same feat in December last year.

England captain Buttler set to miss 3rd T20 against Pakistan

LONDON (AFP): Jos Buttler has left the England squad ahead of Tuesday's Twenty20 international against Pakistan to be with his wife, who is about to give birth to the couple's third child.

The 33-year-old England captain struck a match-winning 84 as the hosts took a 1-0 lead in the rain-affected four-game series with a 23-run win in Birmingham on Saturday. But he is now set to miss Wednesday's third T20 in Cardiff, with vice-captain Moeen Ali in line to lead England at Sophia Gardens instead. Ben Duckett could be brought in to open in Buttler's absence or England could promote Will Jacks from No 3 after he made 37 off 23 balls against Pakistan at Birmingham's Edgbaston ground.

Surrey all-rounder Jacks recently returned from a stint in the T20 Indian Premier League, where he made a dashed unbeaten hundred to lead Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a nine-wicket win over Gujarat Titans. If he were to move up the order for England on Tuesday, Jacks would be opening the batting alongside Phil Salt, a player he knows well from their time in franchise cricket.



"I think we're both very comfortable," Jacks told Sky Sports. "Me and Phil have played a lot of cricket together — we've played franchise cricket together which definitely helps when we come to England. The 25-year-old added: "We understand each others' games very well and we're both that kind of free-flowing, top-order batters everyone has nowadays." This series, which concludes at The Oval in London on Thursday, is serving as a warm-up for the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and the United States, with reigning champions England starting their title defence against Scotland in Barbados on June 4. Archer rest England fast bowler Jofra Archer could be rested for the Cardiff match

ahead of the Oval finale. Archer has been beset by elbow injuries since his starring role in helping England win the 50-over World Cup in 2019. But the 29-year-old marked his long-awaited return to international cricket by taking two wickets at Edgbaston after a washed-out series opener in Leeds. Archer, on his first international appearance for 14 months, and first on home soil since 2020, bounced back from an expensive first over, which went for 15 runs, to finish with 2-28 as Pakistan were dismissed for 160. Fellow fast bowler Mark Wood is the most likely replacement for Archer but Jacks was pleased to see the Sussex paceman back in international action. "It's great for all English fans, even cricket fans all over the world — everyone wants to see him (Archer) bowl," Jacks said. "It's been a while and to see him even come back from how he got hit in his first over is impressive. "He's been bowling good speed in the nets, good speed in the middle, good yorkers at the death — he's a massive asset for us and we love to have in him our team."

Teams reaching Peshawar to participate in KP U23 Inter-Region games

PESHAWAR (APP): Teams are reaching Peshawar to participate in the forthcoming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa U23 Inter-Region Women, Men Games, Additional Director Sports and Chairperson of the Organizing Committee of Games, Rashida Ghaznavi said on Monday. Rashida Ghaznavi said that women Games would be played in Abdul Wali Khan Sports Complex, Charsadda, BISE Sports Peshawar and Peshawar Sports Complex. Rashida

Ghaznavi said that all arrangements have been completed to organize the women's games in the best way as 770 players from all seven regions of the province will compete in nine different games. The official inauguration will be held on Tuesday at Hayatabad Sports Complex Peshawar with Chief Minister KP Ali Amin Gandapur formally inaugurate. Cricket, Athletics and Taekwondo would be organized in BISE Peshawar

Sports Complex, Squash at Qamar Zaman Squash Complex and the rest of five Games of women would be played at Abdul Wali Khan Sports Complex Charsadda, she informed. Before the trials of women players of all regions have been conducted very smoothly and the selection of various teams across the province have been made on the basis of merit. The trials were held in Chitral in which Chitral Lower and Chitral Upper women players participated.

She said that according to the Policy of the KP Govt, women have been given opportunities on the basis of equality and efforts have been made to involve women officials in these games. He said that the women's team will fully participate in the opening and closing ceremony of the U23 Games. He said that Tamim Gandapur, who is an international athlete, will lead the team with the national flag, which is an honor for women athletes.



In brief

IRSA releases 332,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 332,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 367,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1467.97 feet and was 69.97 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 145,400 cusecs and 145,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1183.15 feet, which was 133.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 64,900 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 193,800, 129,500, 98,800 and 42,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 98,700 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 34,900 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Police arrest three robbers

RAWALPINDI (APP): Bani Police have arrested three robbers, members of 'Faisal' gang and recovered cash Rs 35,000, snatched costly mobile phone, weapons and other items from their possession, said a Police spokesman here on Monday. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, Bani Police Station managed to net three robbers namely Faisal, Haris and Asmat and recovered cash Rs 35,000, a costly mobile phone, weapons and other items from their possession. The arrested accused have been sent to jail for identification parade. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Rawal, Faisal Saleem said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind bars.

AIOU holds tutor briefing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has appointed tutors across the country for the Spring Semester 2024 to provide excellent guidance to the thousands of students enrolled in the Matric and FA programs. According to a press release, the tutors are expected to perform their duties with dedication, integrity, and a commitment to national service to keep the students motivated to learn. These remarks were made by the Director of the Islamabad Regional Campus, Ahsan Shakoor, during a briefing session for tutors held the other day. He emphasized that tutors were university ambassadors who should encourage students unable to attend regular schools to enroll in the open university. Helping these students get on track will lead to societal improvement and ultimately contribute to the country's development. The Regional Director informed the tutors about the official WhatsApp group created by the university at the number 0304-0378832. This group will keep both students and tutors updated on the university's educational activities. Tutors can also use this WhatsApp number to quickly resolve their issues. Ahsan Shakoor mentioned that the university's education system has become fully digitalized. Under the new system, the appointment of tutors is based purely on merit and is conducted through an automated system, with the regional offices playing a minimal role.

Gilani stresses constants efforts for impregnable national defense

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the nation observes Youm-e-Takbeer on Tuesday to commemorate the 26th anniversary of Pakistan's nuclear tests, Acting President Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani called for drawing inspiration from that success to make the country's defence impregnable through technological and economic advancements.

The acting president, in his message to the nation, termed the day a pivotal moment in the nation's history and called for a renewed pledge to continue working towards a peaceful and stable world.

He said on that day, Pakistan successfully demonstrated its nuclear capabilities and joined the ranks of nuclear powers. "Youm-e-Takbeer serves as a

testament to our nation's resilience, unwavering determination, and commitment to maintaining regional peace and stability," he added.

He said the journey to becoming a nuclear state was not without its difficulties as the national leadership and scientists braved various challenges to achieve the remarkable feat.

"Today, as we reflect on this journey, we acknowledge the hard work of our scientists and engineers without whom this achievement would not have been possible. Today, we also recognize the contributions of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto whose efforts led to making Pakistan a nuclear state. We also appreciate Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's decision as the opposition leader of the time to support

Nawaz Sharif for conducting nuclear tests. Indeed, it was the collective determination of our civil and military leadership as well as our scientific acumen, and unwavering dedication to national defence that propelled us forward," Acting President Gilani remarked.

He said that Pakistan, as a responsible nuclear state, firmly believed in the peaceful resolution of conflicts. "We are also strictly adhering to international standards, and have implemented stringent controls and comprehensive safety measures to safeguard our nuclear assets," he maintained.

"Pakistan remains committed to maintaining Credible Minimum Deterrence, preserving the balance of power and deterring aggression.

Railways penalize 93 officials on corruption charges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has held responsible and penalized as many as 93 officials of the department on corruption charges during the last five years, as a part of its efforts to control malpractices.

"Several steps are being taken to control corruption in Pakistan Railways which include introducing ticket vending machines and online reservation of ticket to avoid black marketing," an official in the Ministry told APP.

The official said the task teams have been established to keep watch on any irregularities and check the attendance of staff in the organization.

He said the ticketless campaigns through Special Ticket Examiners (STEs) groups and officers are being carried out on daily basis in the divisions to check and charge the ticketless passengers with penalty.

"The payment of pen-

sion is being carried out through online banking system to facilitate the pensioners as well as to eliminate the ghost pensioners," he added.

He said all the auctions are held through designated committee in transparent manner and deposited amount is being received through CDR duly verified by the concerned Divisional Accounts Officers (DAO). The official said E-Kacheri as well as Khuli Kacheri are held on monthly basis to resolve the grievances of staff, pensioners and the public.

He said that vigilance offices have been established over the system to control the corruption and resolve any complaint received from public / Railway staff. "An online booking/reservation application system has been launched by Pakistan Railways known as Railway Automated Book

and Travel Assistance (RABTA)," he added.

He said this application has eased the booking process and also helped monitor cash inflows. To minimize the chances of corruption, the Human Resources Management & Information System, (HRMIS), Applications & Products (SAP) in Data Processing have been launched to ensure paperless system.

The official said only authorized personnel have access to the database of SAP and HRMIS. He said the regular performance review meetings are conducted to ensure the timely disposal of disciplinary cases of employees.

The focal persons have been nominated from all departments of Pakistan Railways to promptly resolve the complaints reported through Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit (PMDU).

CDA mobilizes to extinguish Margalla Hills' fire

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) teams are on-site, working tirelessly to extinguish the fire in the Margalla Hills' Saidpur Village range.

A CDA spokesperson said that over 75 firefighters are actively working to control the blaze. Additional teams have been dispatched to the area to expedite the firefighting operations.

The Director for Protection and the Director General of Environment are personally on-site, overseeing the response. Despite the challenges posed by strong winds, all available resources are being utilized to contain the fire, the spokesperson added.

CDA putting maximum efforts to address water shortage in summer: The Water Management Wing of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has inten-

sified its efforts on several projects to mitigate water shortages in the federal capital on the arrival of the summer season.

"The authority has instructed the relevant departments to expedite all repair and maintenance work, addressing issues such as leakages and replacing old and rotted pipes at the Simly Water Filtration Plant and Main Distribution Line," an official told APP.

He said that timely repairs and maintenance by the Water Supply Wing had not only saved eight lakh gallons of water per day but also improved water pressure in the pipelines.

Similarly, addressing complaints related to leakages from old and deteriorated pipes in water supply lines across different sectors of the federal capital would enhance water availability for the residents, he said.

The official said that water levels in dams like Khanpur Dam had decreased over time due to insufficient rainfall in the federal capital.

Consequently, the Water Supply Department was working tirelessly around the clock to bridge the water shortage gap during the summer season, ensuring adequate water supply to the citizens, he added. To a question, the official said the authority was going to install four new tube wells in Sector F-10, F-11, G-10, and G-11 to further facilitate the residents.

The initiative aimed to address potential water shortages reserves in Khanpur Dam decline, he added. He said the tender had already been published in various newspapers to expedite measures aimed at controlling water shortages before the arrival of the summer season.

Disbursement of quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafaalat continues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The disbursement of the quarterly tranche (April-June) of Benazir Kafaalat cash assistance to the beneficiaries continued smoothly across the country by the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

According to an official source, the payment process is being executed in two phases to disburse Rs. 10,500 per household among over nine million registered beneficiary families. In the first phase, the payments are being issued among the beneficiaries in all districts of Islamabad, Balochistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan.

The payments are also being disbursed in Peshawar, Mardan and all districts of Malakand and Hazara Division in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, all districts of Karachi Division and District Hyderabad in Sindh province and Gujranwala,

Sahiwal, Rawalpindi and all districts of Sargodha Division and District Vehari in Punjab.

While payments to the beneficiaries in the remaining districts will be issued in the second phase. The beneficiaries can receive their payment through the nearest centers after receiving message from 8171. The beneficiaries, in case of any complaint, can approach the nearest BISP Tehsil offices or call the toll-free helpline number 080026477 of the Benazir Income Support Program.

The special control room has been activated in the BISP headquarters to address the complaints of the beneficiaries promptly.

However, the beneficiaries can also contact the officials on WhatsApp numbers including 03018472841 (Hyderabad District), 03018472838 (Karachi Division), 03175370095 (South Punjab), 03202399616

(Central Punjab), 03028238564 (North Punjab), 03492883482 (Balochistan), 03155212820 (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), 03155213094 (Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan).

The messages from the Benazir Income Support Program are sent only from 8171, and messages from any other number should not be trusted. The officials of BISP have been directed to ensure the smooth disbursement of Kafaalat payments to the women without any deductions.

The staff has been deputized to monitor the process of payment disbursement and take immediate action against the agents responsible for deductions from the beneficiary's payments.

The BISP is currently supporting 9.3 million deserving families and acting as a lifeline for those facing economic hardship.



ISLAMABAD: A view of smoke emitting after fire erupts at Margalla Hills in the Federal Capital. —APP Photo

Six police officials sacked

RAWALPINDI (APP): Six police officials, including a Station House Officer (SHO) from Morgah, have been sacked from their positions due to their involvement in altering documents and destroying evidence in murder case.

The dismissed officials were including former SHO Morgah Shahid Gillani, Sub Inspector Waqas Ahmed, Sub Inspector Farruk Mehmood, Head Constable Murtaza Hassan, Head Constable Tassawar Hussain, and Head Constable Haq Nawaz.

According to a police spokesperson, a case has been filed against these officers for their actions, which favoured the accused and compromised the investigation. City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani stated that these individuals, by abusing their power, not only brought disgrace to the department but also violated the law.

He emphasized that such misconduct will not be tolerated, and those responsible will face legal consequences. CPO Hamdani affirmed the commitment of Rawalpindi Police to uphold the principles of accountability and transparency.

Missing boy body recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB), Capital Police along with civic agencies and Rescue 1122 recovered the body of young boy Taha who went missing on Saturday at Trail-5 of the Margalla Hills National Park.

According to the IWMB spokesperson, a fifteen-member team of the IWMB resumed the search operation at 0400 hours in the morning. During the operation, the body of the young man was found in a ditch on Trail-5. Apart from other team members, two climbers also participated in the operation. The IWMB reported the dead body to the local police and helped them in identifying the incident site.

He added that the boy perished at a difficult to approach terrain that took hours to reach the location to recover the body. The IWMB, local police, Capital Development Authority, Metropolitan Corporation (MCP) and Rescue 1122 personnel were involved in the relief activities.

ANF recovers 45 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in its ongoing operations against drug trafficking conducted nine raids across the country and managed to recover 45 kg drugs besides arresting 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 7.7 kg ice was recovered from a Jeddah-bound passenger at Peshawar Airport.

In second operation, 13 kg of hashish and 170

grams ice were recovered from the possession of an accused arrested in Multan.

8.4 kg opium was recovered from two suspects netted in Phoolnagar Kasur area while 5.4 kg ice was recovered from two suspects rounded up in two operations in Quetta.

4.8 kg hashish was recovered from an accused in Chashma Road Mianwali.

3.6 kg hashish was recovered from the posses-

sion of an accused nabbed near Haji Camp Peshawar.

2 kg hashish was recovered from a suspect held near Burhan Toll Plaza Attack.

In ninth operation, 500 grams ice was recovered from an accused arrested near a college in Peshawar.

Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.

Abbasi visits various parks to inspect facilities

RAWALPINDI (APP): Member National Assembly (MNA) Hanif Abbasi along with Director General (DG) Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA), Rawalpindi Ahmed Hasan Ranjha here on Monday visited various parks and inspected the facilities being provided to the citizens.

On this occasion, Hanif Abbasi also planted a sapling in Quaid-e-Azam Park and praised the ongoing plantation campaign and initiatives taken by PHA.

Hanif Abbasi visited the office of PHA, Rawalpindi. Later, DG, PHA Ahmed Hasan Ranjha along with Hanif Abbasi and prominent social and political figures of Rawalpindi city

visited Quaid-e-Azam Park, Allama Iqbal Park, Milad Park, Ayesha Park, Mehra Sharif Park, Muslim Park, Shah Najaf Park, Shah Najaf Ground and 'Gulab' Park.

Hanif Abbasi and other political and social personalities appreciated the initiatives taken by PHA regarding the recreational facilities being provided to the public in the parks and said that the Punjab government would ensure the provision of quality recreational facilities to the public.

Ahmed Hasan Ranjha said that PHA was utilizing all available resources to provide quality recreational facilities to the citizens and the authority's successful

plantation campaign was underway with the public cooperation and support.

The target of planting thousands of trees this year would be achieved, he said adding, the effects of severe weather could be reduced only by plantation campaigns. Hanif Abbasi encouraged the initiatives of the authority for providing facilities and best recreational environment in various parks of Rawalpindi.

The PHA spokesperson informed that a large number of citizens from different city areas visit the parks in the morning and evening hours and enjoy the refreshing air of the parks while avoiding the effects of hot weather.

Mohtsib to hold "Khuli Katcheries" in Rwp

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Officers of the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat to hold Khuli Katcheries in Rawalpindi, Chakwal and Attock on May 28, 29 and May 30, 2024 respectively under the directions of the Wafaqi Mohtasib, Mr Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi.

According to the details, the Senior Advisor, Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat Ahmad Farooq will hold "Khuli Katchery" on May 28, 2024 (Tomorrow) in Superintendent Engineer's office located at IESCO City Circle on Rashid Minhas Road Marir Chowk,

Rawalpindi in response to the public complaints, whereas, the Director General, Muhammad Ashfaq would hold Khuli Katchery in the Deputy Commissioner Chakwal's Office on May 29, 2024 and Haroon Sikandar Pasha, Advisor would hold a Khuli Katchery in Assistant Commissioner's Office in Jand, District Attock on May 30, 2024, which would be attended by the Officers and officials concerned of the Federal Government organizations and entities, said in a Press Release issued here on Monday.

It is pertinent to mentioned

here that the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat's Officers would receive the public complaints in Katcheries and issue on the spot directions for their resolution. This initiative is part of the Outreach Complaint Resolution (OCR), mechanism being followed by the Wafaqi Mohtasib office with a view to providing administrative justice and relief at the doorsteps of the people. Officials belonging to the Sui Gas, Electricity, NADRA, BISP, Post Office etc have been directed to attend these Khuli Katcheries for prompt resolution of public complaints.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain offering condolences with the Iranian ambassador on tragic demise of Iranian president, foreign minister and other officials. —APP Photo

20 Afghan citizens released

KABUL (Khaama Press): Officials from the Taliban administration have announced that 21 Afghan prisoners have been released from neighbor country's jails and transferred back to Afghanistan. These individuals were freed. According to the reports, these individuals had been imprisoned for 21 to 71 days due to a lack of residency documents. Officials have stated that these individuals have been referred to the International Organization for Migration for assistance.

250 migrant families deported

KABUL (Khaama Press): More than 250 Afghan migrant families were deported or voluntarily returned from Pakistan and Iran in one day. According to the report, 24 families entered Afghanistan through the Torkham crossing, and 68 families entered through the Spin Boldak border. Meanwhile, 98 families returned via the Islam Qala route in Herat, and 75 other migrant families returned through the Silk Road crossing in Nimroz province.

Asia is comparable to a living body composed of soil and water. The heart that beats inside the body is Afghanistan. The destruction of Afghanistan would be the destruction of Asia. And in its progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia. - Allama Iqbal

IEA supports cadres and personalities



KABUL (Ariana News): Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs Mawlawi Abdul Kabir said that the policy of the Islamic Emirate is to appreciate and support the cadres and personalities of the country and efforts are being made to provide them with facilities.

He stated this in a meeting with the representatives of the union of medical specialists abroad.

According to a statement released by Arg, Kabir considered specialists to be one of the country's greatest assets, noting that Afghanistan needs specialists in any situation.

He added that due to the fact that Afghans are poor, there is a need for public and private health institutions to work with full accuracy and kindness in diagnosing and treating patients.

According to the statement, in the meeting, the representatives of the union of medical specialists abroad announced that a large number of Afghan specialists living abroad are willing to return to the country.

Kabir assured the members of the union that he will share their problems and suggestions with the relevant institutions to address them.

No threat to other countries, says Mujahid

KABUL (Khaama Press): The spokesperson for the Taliban administration, responding to concerns raised by Central Asian countries about increasing terrorist threats from Afghanistan, has stated that there is no threat to other countries.

Radio Television Afghanistan, a media outlet under the control of the Taliban, released an audio recording of Zabihullah Mujahid. In this audio, he says that there are no "rogue groups" in Afghanistan.

Mujahid did not clarify what he meant by "rogue groups," but he reassures countries about the establishment of security and the non-exploitation of Afghan soil at a time when concerns about the "reinvigoration" of terrorist groups in Afghanistan have risen.

Most recently, Kamchybek Tashiev, the head of Kyrgyzstan's security, stated at the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) security meeting on Friday, that "the number of terrorists in northern provinces of Afghanistan is growing, posing a threat to the integrity of the southern borders of CIS countries."

Previously, the President of Tajikistan also warned of increasing terrorist threats and proposed the creation of a security belt along the border with Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Thomas West, the US Special Representative for Afghanistan, during his regional trips, has visited Turkey emphasizing what he called "coordinated efforts against ISIS-Khorasan threats."

Since the Taliban took over the country, ISIS has posed significant threats to the Taliban regime, carrying out most of the suicide attacks and targeted killings.

The most recent attack occurred in Kandahar, where dozens of people were killed and several others were injured.

ISIS claimed responsibility for the Kandahar attack, highlighting their continued presence and threat in the region.

ARCS, IHH officials meets

KABUL (BNA): Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, the Vice president of the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), along with his delegation, met with Wahid ul Din, the representative of the humanitarian charity foundation IHH. Mr. Junaid, responsible for humanitarian diplomacy at the foundation, and Mr. Hamza, responsible for Central Asian development projects, to attract humanitarian assistance in Istanbul, Turkey.

According to a statement from ARCS, the Vice president of ARCS thanked the officials of the foundation for their ongoing assistance to the people of Afghanistan, expressing hope for further cooperation in the future to aid fellow citizens in need.

Meanwhile, the officials of the foundation pledged to sustain their assistance to Afghanistan, reaffirming the organization's ongoing commitment to support the country's development and humanitarian efforts.

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed bids are invited for the purchaser of items given below at Principal Saidu College of Dentistry Saidu Sharif Swat. for the year 2024-25, for the manufacturer, distributor and firms registered with income/sales tax department, reflected as active tax payer on the list of FBR, NTN and KP professional tax where applicable. The bidder firm must have relevant registration/ authorization fro dental/ medical materials and X-ray Film supply. The bidder shall provide an undertaking that the bidder has not been declared blacklisted by any Governmental / semi- Government institution. Bidders shall not be eligible to bid if they are under a declaration of ineligibility for corrupt and fraudulent practices issued 4 any government organization in accordance with the section 44 (1) KPPRA rules 2014.

Note: Interested Bidders must submit scaled bids to the office of the Principal Saidu College of Dentistry Saidu Sharif Swat, inside Saidu Medical College, Saidu Sharif, Swat on before **13th June, 2024 at 11:00 AM**, which will be opened on the same day at **11:00 AM**, in the presence of those bidders or their representatives who choose to attend the process Bid submitted after 11:00 AM shall not be entertained.

S.No	Name of Items	Security
01	Dental Materials	100,000/-
02	Dental Instrument	30,000/-
03	Anesthesia Drugs	30,000/-
04	Surgical & OT consumable	30,000/-
05	Pathology Lab consumable	30,000/-
06	X-ray Film	30,000/-
07	Bedding Clothing	30,000/-
08	Stationary	30,000/-
09	Electrical & Hardwar	30,000/-
10	Contingency	30,000/-

Terms and conditions:-

- All bids should be computerized. Hand written, doubtful, conditional and alternate rate will not be accepted.
- Words "bids for" have to be mentioned on envelop, otherwise bid will not be accepted.
- Call deposit of the items must be attached with the quotation on the name of "Principal Said College of Dentistry Saidu Sharif Swat", call deposits will be verified before the comparative statement. In case of bogus call deposit, action will be taken against the firm.
- All rates will valid up to 30-06-2025.
- Details of items can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during duty hours.
- The purchase committee has the right to cancel or accept all or any quotation/ bid at any time due to any reason of be explained.

PRINCIPAL

Saidu College of Dentistry Saidu Sharif Swat
info.scdswat@gmail.com/ 0946-9240142

INF(P)
1012/24

UNICEF announces provision of water

KABUL (Khaama Press): The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has announced that it will provide clean drinking water to more than 22,000 people in flood-affected areas in Afghanistan.

This UN agency stated in a message published on its social media platform X page that many water supply networks have been destroyed due to recent floods in Afghanistan.

According to UNICEF, families in flood-affected areas need water for drinking, cooking, and bathing, and 15 liters of water will be distributed per person daily.

Meanwhile, recent floods in various parts of the country have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and significant financial losses.

Previously, the United Nations had also warned about the shortage of drinking water in Afghanistan, emphasizing that 79% of families in the country do not have access to potable water.

It is worth mentioning that Afghanistan is, according to reports, the most vulnerable country in the world to climate change.

The dire humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is further exacerbated by a series of deadly natural disasters, leaving many communities in desperate need of basic necessities.

The combination of severe droughts, earthquakes, and floods has overwhelmed local capacities, leading to a critical shortage of food, shelter, and medical supplies.

Efforts to provide relief are hampered by the country's challenging terrain and ongoing conflict, making it difficult for aid organizations to reach those in need.

Charitable organizations provide free eye treatments

KABUL (TOLOnews): Two charitable organizations, in collaboration with the Afghan Red Crescent Society, have provided treatment for nearly 4,000 patients suffering from eye ailments in the country.

The assistant spokesperson for the Afghan Red Crescent Society said these patients are treated free of charge, with the treatment cost estimated at \$100,000 dollars.

Fazalhaq Maqsoodyar, assistant spokesperson of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, said: "In five days in the Kabul center, nearly 4,000 people with eye diseases will be examined, and of course, 400 surgical operations will be performed."

Siddiq, who has had vision problems for three years, is pleased with the start of the free treatment process for patients.

She said that significant economic challenges have prevented her from addressing her eye condition until now.

"It has been three years that I couldn't afford the treatment. My eyes couldn't see, and after three years, I came for this treatment because I didn't have the money to pay for it," Siddiq said TOLOnews.

An official of the medical team, who, along with Pakistani doctors, has come to Afghanistan from the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, said they are striving to establish a well-equipped hospital in Afghanistan.

An official of the medical team from Al-basar International Foundation (BIF), said: "This is the fourth day and the surgeries we have started today and these four days of screening we have seen more than 2,500 patients have been seen, and around 200 patients have been registered for surgery."

According to the Afghan Red Crescent Society, this process will also begin in other provinces also.

Severe floods in Baghlan, Badakhshan claim 16 lives

KABUL (TOLOnews): Due to the recent floods in Baghlan and Badakhshan, 16 people, including women and children, lost their lives. Local officials in these provinces say that as a result of these floods, 500 houses have been completely or partially destroyed.

According to local authorities, the floods have affected the districts of Doshi, Dand-e-Ghori, the city of Pul-e-Khumri, the village of Morchak in central Badakhshan, and sever-

al other districts in these provinces. "Last night, a very strong flood occurred. The major casualties we have are in the Larkhab area of Doshi district in Baghlan province. In Larkhab, approximately six people were martyred, including three children, one woman, and two men, and over 300 houses have been destroyed," said Abdul Ghafoor Khadem, chief of Baghlan Police Command.

Mohammad Kamgar, head of the Natural Disaster

Management in Badakhshan, said: "Unfortunately, the floods resulted in the deaths of ten members of one family and injured one other person."

Meanwhile, several families who have lost all their possessions due to the floods criticize the delayed arrival of aid and are calling for immediate assistance from the interim government and aid agencies.

Hizbullah, a flood victim, said: "The flood took nine members of my family.

We found two bodies, but the others are still missing."

Ziaullah, another flood victim, said: "Our request is that as we are among the affected, whatever is allocated to any part of Afghanistan, do not forget us."

Over the past week, deadly and devastating floods in several provinces of the country have claimed the lives of more than 300 people, destroyed hundreds of residential houses, and ruined thousands of acres of agricultural land.

Afghanistan 6th most vulnerable country to climate change: UNDP

KABUL (TOLOnews): The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Stephen Rodrigues, said that although Afghanistan does not contribute to climate change, it is the sixth most vulnerable country, losing millions of dollars annually as a result.

In an exclusive interview with TOLOnews, Stephen Rodrigues said that the climate change and flooding have caused damage to residents in several provinces of Afghanistan.

According to this UN official, in the past ten years, about one million hectares of land in Afghanistan have turned into desert, causing millions of people to be displaced.

"In the last ten years in Afghanistan, maybe about one million hectares of land became desert, and this country was already drought-stricken. We have seen a lot of droughts, we

have seen millions of people have been displaced, we have seen water scarcity," Stephen Rodrigues said.

He also stated that more than 200 people have died and over 300 have been injured due to these floods, and that the search and rescue operations are still ongoing.

Stephen Rodrigues further emphasized that UN agencies continue to provide aid in the areas of shelter, food, water, and healthcare for the victims of recent floods.

Stephen Rodriguez added: "Providing them with tents so that they can sleep in temporary shelters was one of the priorities. And then, providing healthcare services for those who were severely injured. And to prevent the worst problems, we needed to remove debris and remove dead animals to access some areas. There are people without jobs who need food, cash, and



water."

Stephen Rodriguez emphasized that they support female entrepreneurs in Afghanistan and have supported 75,000 women's enterprises in the past two years alone.

The UNDP representative in Afghanistan explained: "In fact over the last two years, we have supported 75,000 women-led businesses across Afghanistan, some of them are micro-enterprises small

and some medium-sized. We have provided them with capital, credit, loans, capacity-building training, support for participation in business activities, and the creation of business associations for women. We have provided extensive support for women."

Stephen Rodrigues stressed that restrictions on women in Afghanistan cause an annual loss of about \$600 million to \$1 billion to the Afghan economy.

Azizi reveals plans for Afghan trade rxhibition in Tashkent

KABUL (TOLOnews): Acting Minister of Industry and Commerce, Nooruddin Azizi, announced that an exhibition is set to be held in Uzbekistan within the next month.

Nooruddin Azizi told TOLOnews that around 250 Afghan traders are expected to participate in this exhibition.

Nooruddin Azizi also added that other exhibitions will also be held in Kazakhstan and Russia.

The Acting Minister of Industry and Commerce said: "Our next exhibition, Inshallah, is aimed for Uzbekistan. We are in the process; the exact date is not yet known. Perhaps within a month. Our effort is to transport Afghan products via land routes and have a very large exhibition in Tashkent."

He also mentioned that during his visit to Tatarstan, he met with high-ranking Russian officials and discussed the country's investments in various sectors, increasing trade between Kabul and Moscow, and resolving trade challenges.

Nooruddin Azizi said: "Russia is ready to invest in Kabul's water projects, including the Shahtoot Dam, Panjshir water, and other dams to inject water into Kabul."

The acting Minister of Industry and Commerce added that efforts are being made to increase Afghanistan's trade through the Chabahar port, and discussions have been held to reduce the cost of transporting Afghan goods to Central Asian countries.

Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce and Investment stated that developing Afghanistan's



trade relations with regional countries plays a significant role in increasing the country's exports.

Mohammad Younus Momand, the first deputy of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said: "It should be for Afghan products and productions so that our traders can get booths there and participate. If the exhibition

is organized this way, it will certainly help a lot in the growth of our exports and production."

In the past three years, the acting Minister of Industry and Commerce has traveled to Central Asian countries, including Russia, China, Iran, and Pakistan, to improve Afghanistan's trade relations with other countries.

Iran's 2nd humanitarian aid shipment reaches Mazar-e-Sharif

MAZAR-E-SHARIF (TOLOnews): The second shipment of humanitarian aid from Iran for the flood victims arrived in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

This aid includes food items, medicine, carpets, tents, and blankets.

Sajad Jafari, the Deputy Consul General of Iran in Mazar-e-Sharif, said that Iran has historical ties and many cultural similarities with Afghanistan and pledged continued aid for the recent flood victims in the country.

"The people of Iran and Afghanistan are not separate. Given our historical and cultural roots and the fact that both nations are Muslim, the aid from the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue," Sajad Jafari said.

Afghan Red Crescent society officials welcomed this aid and stated that it will soon be distributed to the flood victims.

Mohammad Younus Maasomi, Head of the Afghan Red Crescent Society in the northern region, said: "Aid from Turkey, Qatar, and Iran, amounting to dozens of



tons, has been sent to northern Afghanistan."

Meanwhile, some flood victims are calling on aid organizations to address their challenges and provide them with permanent shelters.

Mohammad Ishaq, a tribal elder from Gurziwan district in

Faryab, said: "These are cold areas, and a single tent will not solve people's problems. Charitable organizations and the Islamic Emirate should work on providing shelters for the people."

Mohammad Sharif, a flood victim from Faryab, said: "People's crops and

agriculture have been destroyed, and they need shelter. Aid organizations must assist the flood victims."

Several provinces, especially Baghlan, have recently experienced devastating floods, resulting in significant loss of life and property.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Energy, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Laghari in a meeting with Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur.

Tarar: A convicted person can’t acknowledge govt’s achievements

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Monday said that a convicted person in prison could not digest and acknowledge multiple achievements of current government on diplomatic front and initiatives for the development of the country.

"Definitely, there is a sinister plan to compare the current situation with that of 1971 but these tactics are doomed to fail; InshaAllah, Pakistan will remain on the map of the world and make march towards progress and prosperity", he said while addressing a press conference. He said during the tenure of the present elected government, by the grace of Allah Almighty, Pakistan had achieved many milestones on the diplomatic front.

"The Prime Minister had a telephonic conversation with the Prime Ministers of Norway and Ireland in the backdrop of their strong stance on Middle East situation", he remarked. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had telephonically contacted the prime ministers of Norway and Ireland who had condemned the ongoing atrocities in Gaza and Rafah and called fort immediate for cease-fire.

The minister said that PM Shehbaz Sharif informed the two Prime Ministers about Pakistan's position on the situation. "Pakistan has always raised its voice for the rights of Palestinians," he said adding PM Shehbaz Sharif during his address to

UN General Assembly had stated categorically that Pakistan will continue to raise its voice for the cause of Palestinians. During World Economic Forum meeting in Riyadh, the PM remarked that there could not be peace in the world without peace in Gaza.

He said Pakistan was desirous of peace in Palestine and it wanted immediate ceasefire in the area. He said contacts with other countries were imperative and a means to show solidarity with the people of Gaza. Tarar said the Prime Minister had been raising voice for Palestine at every international forum and calling for urgent steps for a lasting solution to the Palestinian issue.

The minister said Pakistan was striving to promote trade and investment with friendly countries as it wanted trade and not aid now. He said that one-window operation under Special Investment Facilitation Council, had been appreciated by the investors of friendly countries. He said that seven desks had been set up for global investors under SIFC which included desks for China, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, European Union, United States and the Far East. These desks would eventually focus on bringing investment to Pakistan, he remarked.

He said that the official press agency of the UAE released the news of the allocation of 10 billion dollars which meant they had set aside the specific amount for investment in Pakistan. Significant progress had been made in the investment negotiations of five billion dollars with Saudi

Arabia, he said, adding that soon the agreements would be signed. The Prime Minister, he said, would leave on important visit to China in the next few days and the concerns regarding the Chinese citizens will be addressed, besides holding discussions to take forward the CPEC and other bilateral projects during this visit.

About the economy, he said during the past few months, current account deficit had reduced, information technology related exports had increased, in addition to bringing down inflation to17 per cent. He said that foreign exchange reserves had also increased which was a positive development. "Economy is stabilizing and international financial journals and institutions are indicating that Pakistan's economy is on the path of revival".

He said that the PDM government had made strenuous efforts to avoid default. Lashing out at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership, he said some people were harping on negative propaganda under specific agenda.

Tarar said Pakistan would definitely make progress towards development and prosperity, besides making its place in comity of nations. He was of the opinion that those people were putting Pakistan's interests at stake against their petty personal interest which was highly regrettable. Under the specific agenda, the former rulers had brought the country on verge of default and when Pakistan approached IMF for a loan, a political party wrote letter to the IMF, asking for not doing so.

21 die after storms sweep across several US states

TEXAS: At least 21 people have been killed in a series of powerful storms that swept across the central and southern United States, leaving a trail of destruction and devastation. The storms caused deaths in the US states of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kentucky, just north of an oppressive, early season heatwave setting records from south Texas to Florida. Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear declared a state of emergency early on Monday after tornadoes ripped through the state.

"It was a tough night for our people," Beshear said on social media platform X, later adding in a press briefing that "devastating storms" had hit almost the entire state. The governor said "at least a few" tornadoes touched down in Kentucky over the weekend, including one that travelled on the ground for about 65km (40 miles). Officials said 100 state highways and roads were damaged by the storms. The extreme weather system, which struck the region beginning late on Saturday, overturned vehicles and ripped up homes, leaving a wake of deadly destruction in its path.

The death toll over the Memorial Day holiday weekend included at least eight fatalities in Arkansas, seven in Texas, four in Kentucky and two in Oklahoma, according to tallies by state emergency authorities. The deaths in Texas came after a tornado tore through the Valley View area north of Dallas, Cooke County Sheriff Ray Sappington told reporters. It destroyed homes and a petrol station, and overturned vehicles on an interstate highway. In Oklahoma, at least two people were dead after a tornado hit Mayes County late Saturday, the county head of emergency management, Johnny Janzen, told the Fox News affiliate in Tulsa.

In Kentucky, the latest place left with shattered homes and no power was the tiny community of Charleston. "It's a big mess," said resident Rob Linton. "Trees down everywhere. Houses moved. Power lines are down. No utilities whatsoever – no water, no power." Hundreds of thousands of Americans faced power outages on Monday due to the weather, according to the Power Outage. US tracking website, with Kentucky alone having more than 180,000 outages. — Aljazeera

Missing young boy found dead

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The dead body of a young boy who was reported missing after going for hiking at Trail 5 in Islamabad was found in a ditch on Monday morning. According to the police, the body was located by the staffers of Forest and Environment Department who informed the police. An operation by Rescue personnel was underway to retrieve the boy's body from the ditch.

Taha's mother and other family members rushed to the scene for identification of the dead body. Sources in the police believed that the 15-year-old boy had slipped into the ditch and died. However, Taha's father earlier lodged a report claiming his son was kidnapped after he went for hiking along with his five friends. After which police launched a search operation at Trail 5 and adjacent Margalla Hills. Police sources said they will use Lohay Dandi route for recovering the boy's body.

Reporters allowed to cover court proceedings

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday allowed court reporters to cover judicial proceedings. As per details, the court issued a stay on the notification issued by PEMRA that imposed restrictions on court reporting.

The Sindh High Court has also issued notices to Pemra, the Ministry of Information, and others, seeking a response by June 6. Advocate Abdul Moiz Jaferi argued that Pemra has no authority to issue such directives, and it is the judiciary's prerogative to decide what can be reported and what not.

Israeli attack on Rafah tent camp kills 45

S Arabia leads condemnation of Israeli attacks

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Monday condemned the Israeli attacks on Rafah, the latest of which was the targeting of tents of displaced Palestinians near the warehouses of UNRWA that killed at least 45 people, mostly children and women. The foreign ministry, in a statement on social media X, also affirmed the Kingdom's rejection of the blatant violations by the Israeli occupation forces of all international and humanitarian laws. It also called on the international community to intervene immediately. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said Monday that the humanitarian situation in Gaza is completely unacceptable.

Prince Faisal stressed that the two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict remains the foundation for permanent peace and security in the region. He also noted that there are several European countries planning to officially recognize the State of Palestine to follow Spain, Ireland and Norway, in an attempt to implement the two-state solution. Jordan also strongly condemned the "ongoing war crimes committed by Israeli occupation forces in Gaza," particularly the 'latest incident involved the bombing of a refugee camp near the UNRWA headquarters in western Rafah. — Arab News

ued in Rafah's Tal Al-Sultan neighborhood about two kilometers (1.2 miles) northwest of the city center. The society asserted that the location had been designated by Israel as a "humanitarian area." The neighborhood is not included in areas that Israel's military ordered evacuated earlier this month.

The airstrike was reported hours after Hamas fired a barrage of rockets from Gaza that set off air raid sirens as far away as Tel Aviv for the first time in months in a show of resilience more than seven months into Israel's massive air, sea and ground offensive. There were no reports of casualties in what appeared to be the first long-range rocket attack from Gaza since January. Hamas' military wing claimed responsibility. Israel's military said eight projectiles crossed into Israel after being launched from Rafah and "a number" were intercepted, and the launcher was destroyed.

Earlier, dozens of aid trucks entered Gaza from southern Israel under a new agreement to bypass the Rafah crossing with Egypt after Israeli forces seized the Palestinian side of it earlier this month. Israel's military said 126 aid trucks entered via the nearby Kerem Shalom crossing. But it was not immediately

clear if humanitarian groups could access the aid — including medical supplies — because of fighting. The crossing has been largely inaccessible because of Israel's offensive in Rafah. United Nations agencies say it is usually too dangerous to retrieve the aid. The World Health Organization last week said an expanded Israeli incursion in Rafah would have "disastrous" impact.

"With the humanitarian operation near collapse, the secretary-general emphasizes that the Israeli authorities must facilitate the safe pickup and delivery of humanitarian supplies from Egypt entering Kerem Shalom," the spokesperson for UN chief Antonio Guterres said in a statement. Egypt refuses to reopen its side of the Rafah crossing until control of the Gaza side is handed back to Palestinians. It agreed to temporarily divert traffic through Kerem Shalom, Gaza's main cargo terminal, after a call between US President Joe Biden and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.Egypt on Monday condemned what it called the "deliberate bombardment by Israeli forces of displaced peoples' tents" in Rafah, in strikes which Gaza's civil defence agency said killed at least 45 people. — Arab News



RAFAH: Palestinians looking at destruction caused by attacks on tents of displaced people by Israel.

Sharjeel slams KE over inflated bills, power outages

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Monday lashed out at K-Electric for sending inflated bills to consumers and unleashing prolonged power outages across the city.

In a statement, he called the K-Electric as 'uncontrolled horse' from day one till date and said that the balance sheet of K-Electric should be checked to see how much profit the power entity was making. Sharjeel said: "Under an agreement, K-Electric is bound to spend one percent of its earnings on network expansion and maintenance. Whether it is rain or heatwave, the feeders of the K-Electric are tripped."

The info minister said that the Sindh Assembly had passed a Resolution some days back, urging the electricity supply companies to correct their direction. After the bill was passed in the assembly, K-Electric wrote a letter as saying that the government's electricity dues were pending, he informed. He said that electricity supplying companies had no right to give collective punishment to the people, as inflated bills and massive loadshedding was a violation of the Constitution and law. Sharjeel said that power

supply companies were sending bills based on mere estimates rather than meter readings, which was the violation of laws. Sharjeel said when people approached the power companies for correction of the inflated bills, they told them that they could not reduce the bills but could make payment installments.

The info minister said that in the rural areas of Sindh, PMTs were taken off if there were 10 defaulters in 100 houses. K-Electric, Hesco, and Sepco were fully violating the constitution, he said and warned them that the law would come into action if the Constitution was violated. He said that the power supply companies could not punish the poor people for their greed and incompetence, adding common people were worried due to load shedding amid heatwave, and even electricity was not being provided to examination centers.

Meanwhile, Sindh Minister for Narcotics Control Sharjeel Inam Memon said on Monday that random drug tests of some students would be conducted in different Karachi schools to arrest drug peddlers. "Random tests of some students will be conducted and their names will be kept confidential. If a student tests positive for drugs, then their parents would be contacted

and the student will be asked who provided them the drug."

However, he clarified that no legal action would be taken if a drug test of a student returns positive. Last month, the Sindh government announced preparations for a comprehensive crackdown against the scourge of drugs across the province.

Sindh Minister for Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Sharjeel Inam Memon chaired high-level meeting in Karachi to spearhead move aimed at curbing the scourge of drugs. During the meeting, the provincial minister stressed the need to tackle the drug epidemic head-on. He outlined plans to form teams comprising efficient officers dedicated to executing the crackdown effectively.

"A massive crackdown targeting drugs and its traffickers would be launched imminently," Memon said, emphasizing that the young generation must be liberated from the clutches of drug dealers. He also announced that officers demonstrating exceptional performance would be duly recognised and rewarded with awards and honours as a testament to their dedication and commitment to the cause.

Rocket carrying satellite exploded in flight: NK

SEOUL: North Korea says its attempt to launch a rocket with a spy satellite on board has failed after South Korea's military reported the launch of an "unidentified projectile". North Korea said its attempt on Monday to put a spy satellite into orbit ended in a mid-air explosion, state media reported. "The launch of the new satellite carrier rocket failed when it exploded in mid-air during the flight of the first stage," the deputy director general of North Korea's National Aerospace Technology Administration said in a report carried by state media.

An intial analysis suggested that the cause was a newly developed liquid fuel rocket motor, but other possible causes were being investigated, the report said. Officials in South Korea and Japan had earlier reported that the launch seemed to have failed. Earlier on Monday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said North Korea fired an "unidentified projectile southwards" over the Yellow Sea.

Several minutes after the launch, it said many fragments were spotted in the sea. It said South Korean and United States intelligence authorities were analysing whether the launch was successful. The projectile launched from North Korea disappeared from radar, and the launch appeared to have failed, a Japanese government official told the broadcaster NHK. A senior Japanese Ministry of Defence official told reporters, "The missile did not fly into the area that had been announced, and the situation is not as North Korea had intended. We are still analysing whether it is a satellite or not," Japan's Kyodo news agency reported.

Japan had issued an emergency alert ordering evacuations in the southern Okinawa prefecture before lifting the warning and saying the rocket was not expected to fly over Japanese territory. Earlier on Monday, North Korea said it planned to launch a satellite between Monday and June 4. — Agencies

State completely failed to protect citizens: PHC

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A single member bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprised Justice Aijaz Anwar annoyed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police due to failure in recovery of four enforced disappeared brothers from Hayatabad, Peshawar three months ago, on Monday.

The counsel Muhammad Nader Shah argued that the four brothers were abducted from their home three months ago and despite previous court orders, the police have failed to recover them. Justice Ijaz Anwar remarked that the state has completely failed to protect its citizens, and if the executive does not act in accordance with the Constitution, such incidents will continue to happen.

Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa informed that a committee comprised of policemen is constituted for recovery of four enforced disappeared brothers belongs to business community. PHC Justice Ijaz Anwar expressed disappointment over the lack of progress in

the case and observed that is any issued redressed after formation of a police committee to investigate the matter.

Peshawar High Court Justice Ijaz Anwar further remarked that businessmen are closing their trade activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to such incidents. PHC adjourned the hearing of a case regarding four missing persons from Hayatabad, Peshawar, until June 10, directing the police to produce the missing persons in court on the next hearing.

PTI's leaders interim bail extends in corruption case: Special Anti-Corruption Court Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has extended interim bail plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and MPAs, Ajmal Khan and Gul Dad Khan, until June 24 in a case of corruption and illegal appointments. The court was scheduled to hear the case yesterday (on Monday), but the lawyers for the accused did not appear, resulting in the adjournment of the hearing.

According to the prose-

cution, a case of corruption and illegal appointments has been registered against Ajmal Khan and Gul Dad Khan in Bajaur, and both leaders have been named in the case. Special Anti-Corruption Court Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has extended their interim bail until June 24.

ATC confirms Qadri bail plea: Special Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Peshawar Judge Asghar Ali Shah confirmed the interim bail of provincial minister Adnan Qadri in a case related to attacking police check post during a protest against the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, on 9th May 2023.

The counsel Syed Sikandar Hayat Shah argued that the case was politically motivated and that there was no evidence to link Adnan Qadri to the incident. The ATC judge Syed Asghar Ali Shah remarked that despite the seriousness of the incident, the prosecution's file did not contain any concrete evidence, including CDR and confirmed Adnan Qadri's interim bail.

Police dismantle PTI hunger strike camp

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Karachi Division organized a symbolic hunger strike camp outside the Karachi Press Club, demanding the release of Imran Khan and the restoration of their allegedly stolen mandate.

Heavy police presence dismantled the PTI camp and arrested over a dozen workers, including women, amid allegations of police brutality. In response to the police action, lawyers from the PTI Insaf Lawyers Forum arrived in large numbers, re-established the camp, and resumed the hunger strike. Key PTI leaders, including PTI Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh, Karachi President Raja Azhar, Karachi Division General Secretary Aarsalan

Khalid, and other prominent figures such as Faheem Khan, Jamal Siddiqui, Yasir Baloch, Rana Azam, Sarina Adnan, and others PTI leaders and workers participated in the protest alongside party workers.

During a press conference, PTI Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh criticized the police actions and questioned whether Murad Ali Shah is the Chief Minister or the Chief Martial Law Administrator of Sindh. He emphasized that the press club is a place where freedom of expression should be protected and urged the media to support their cause to ensure the rule of law prevails in the country.

Sheikh highlighted the irony of police presence, initially mistaking it for an operation against criminals in

Katcha area of Sindh, but in fact police were there at Karachi press club to arrest peaceful PTI workers. He condemned the government's inability to control crime while focusing its efforts on detaining PTI workers. Sheikh decried the establishment of what he called a "civilian dictatorship" in Sindh, arguing that PTI's lawful and peaceful protests were met with unjust oppression. He claimed PTI won a significant number of seats in Karachi, yet their mandate was stolen and given to those rejected by the people.

Furthermore, Sheikh condemned the targeted killings and incarcerations of those who raise their voices for truth, mentioning journalist Nasrullah Guddani, who was allegedly murdered for his bold reporting.