

ATC AJK reserved verdict

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Muzaffarabad has reserved its verdict on the bail application filed by Kashmiri poet Ahmed Farhad. The court heard arguments from both sides before deferring its decision. Farhad's case has garnered significant attention as he went missing for fifteen days before the Pakistani government announced his arrest in Islamabad on May 29th.



@thefrontierpost

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXI

No. 132

Regd. No. 241

ZIQAAD 26 1445 -- TUESDAY, JUNE 04 2024

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

# CM told KP PA to stage protest if Centre didn't pay

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur told the provincial assembly that the promise made with people of merged districts is being broken, adding if they do not get their right this year, the KP government would react in this regard.

Addressing the wind up speech of the budget for financial year 2024-25, in Speaker Babar Salim Swati in chair, the Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said that a pany did receive so how the law and order situation can be restored. He said that if the rights of the province and tribal people are not given, then the provincial government will protest.

He said that the provincial government is taking tangible steps for promotion of health sector, adding will keep more money for health card. He informed the House that 156,000 medical operations have been done since the holy month Ramadan. He said that more than five hundreds and fifty projects will be completed this year that were going on for years but were not being completed.

He said that the development budget is Rs416 billion, will work in every part of the province on a priority basis. He said that developmental work will be done through elected representatives. The chief minister said that the developmental schemes of the federal government should be completed on priority basis otherwise the provincial government will stage protest.

He said that the federal government is also thinking of cutting in the higher education sector that is injustice with the province. We demand that our share in this sector should be increased instead of cutting to provide more opportunities of education to people, said the chief minister. Money has been earmarked for Ehsaas Hunar, Ehsaas Program, Ehsaas Young Programme, he said.

"Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur further told the House that the electricity issues are also being discussed with federal government. WAPDA officials are involved in electricity theft, people do not steal. We will now take the province towards solarisation. Government schools, colleges, universities, government offices, government buildings will be transferred to solar."

## Gandapur directs admin for immediate repairing of power transformers

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, in view of the current scenario of power load-shedding has directed the all Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to immediately make arrangements for the repair and maintenance of out of order electricity transformers in their respective areas.

He issued these directives while chairing a meeting of Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners held here at Chief Minister's House on Monday. Advisor to KP CM on Finance Muzzamil Aslam, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan and other relevant authorities attended the meeting.

All Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners participated in the meeting via video link. The chief minister added that the provincial government will provide all required funds to district administrations for this purpose. He also directed them to work together with WAPDA teams to implement the power load management schedule in letter and spirit in their respective districts. The Chief Minister said that Divisional and District Administrations are the front line team of the government in implementation of its policies and reforms initiatives at grass root level, they need to work out of the book for the enforcement of good governance strategy and providing relief to the general public. He stressed that nobody will be victimized on political grounds, government machinery should focus on public service delivery with enthusiasm and satisfaction.

He said that the provincial government will provide free solar system for the poor. He said that 156 to 162 feeders are where huge load shedding is taking place. Austerity is essential, no more extravagance on public money will be tolerated, said the chief minister.

"The law and order situation is in front of everyone, but unfortunately the federations are not giving money. We have given seven billion rupees to the police in limited resources. The sacrifices made by our army, police and people should be appreciated." A plot of five marles will be given to the families of all the martyred security personnel in the government housing society, Gandapur told the House.

He said that we will make effective legislation to end the scourge of drugs from the society. He said that strict legislation will also be passed to eradicate corruption. Regarding cipher verdict, the Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said that the release of PTI founder is a victory for truth. I want to ask who is guilty of the punishment the captain was awarded in this case?

The makers of this false case should be exposed and punished should be given to them, he said. He

said that PTI founder was punished on the clock in Tosha Khana. He said that here is one law for us, another law for others. "Party chief was fighting for the same thing that they want to make one Pakistan and not two. Sometimes certificates of treason and sometimes terrorism are being given."

Meanwhile, Special Assistant to Chief Minister Liaquat Ali Khan said that terrorists are organizing again in my constituency Dir. We can't take more dead bodies of doctors, scholars and citizens, said Liaquat Ali. I was also targeted by terrorism in the past, Liaquat Ali said. IGP and security officials should take notice and maintain the law and order situation in Dir, Liaquat Ali added.

Provincial Forest Minister Fazle Hakim while supporting Liaquat Ali said that terrorists were organized again and all the people were worried. He demanded strictly measures to eliminate terrorism. Similarly, the opposition and treasury benches demanded probe and punishment in death of Musa Khan student of the University of Malakand. later, the Speaker Babar Salim Swati adjourned the proceedings till June 12, at 2pm.



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur addressing during provincial assembly session.

## PM directs immediate abolishment of Pak PWD

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed for immediate dissolution of the Pakistan Public Works Department (Pak PWD) due to years' long poor performance and corruption.

The prime minister issued the directive during a high level meeting held on reducing the government expenditures and the size of its infrastructure, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. During the meeting, the prime minister observed that the Pak PWD as a department had failed to achieve its objectives and asked for an alternate mechanism for the development projects which were tasked to it.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, PM's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan and other relevant senior officials.

For reduction of government expenditures, the prime minister was apprised of a report compiled by a committee headed by Chairman Deputy Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan. The committee had recommended for abolishment of certain government entities and merger of others. The prime minister directed the committee for finalization of further recommendations.

## 20% raise in pays proposed in Punjab budget

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab Finance Department proposed a 20 percent increase in the salaries of government employees in the Punjab budget of the new financial year 2024-25.

According to media reports, 20 percent increase in the salaries will be for ad hoc relief and there will be no increase in the basic salary of government employees. The sources in the finance department also said that a 15 percent increase in pension is proposed. The channel reported that the Punjab Budget 2024-25 will be presented on June 12 as the Punjab Finance Department has sent the summary of the Punjab Budget session to the law department on that date.

The volume of the Punjab budget for the next financial year (FY) 2024-25 will be Rs53.9 trillion. Punjab is likely to receive Rs3700 billion from the federal government, while Rs1027 billion has been set as the tax collection target in the budget under the head of income generation. Similarly, the Punjab government has earmarked Rs597 billion for salaries and Rs447 billion for pensions of its employees in the budget. There is a proposal to allocate Rs800 billion for development projects, Rs30 billion for the Ramadan Package, Rs8 billion for the CBD, Rs600 billion for the education sector and Rs406 billion for the health sector.

## G7 leaders 'fully endorse' Biden's Gaza peace plan

ROME (Reuters): Leaders of the Group of Seven major democracies "fully endorse and will stand behind" a ceasefire and hostage release deal in Gaza outlined by US President Joe Biden and call on Hamas to accept it, Reuters reports.

A statement issued by the group said the deal "would lead to an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages, a significant and sustained increase in humanitarian assistance for distribution throughout Gaza, and an enduring end to the crisis, with Israel's security interests and Gazan civilian safety assured".

Meanwhile, the criminal trial of Hunter Biden has begun in federal court in Delaware, the United States as US President Joe Biden's son faces gun charges in a historic case. Hunter Biden, 54, arrived at the courthouse on Monday for the first trial of the child of a sitting president, in which he will face three felony charges stemming from his purchase and possession of a revolver in 2018. He has pleaded not guilty.

The trial, which began with jury selection on Monday, comes as Joe Biden campaigns for reelection. First Lady Jill

Biden, Hunter Biden's wife Melissa Cohen Biden and his half-sister Ashley Biden were in attendance at the trial in Wilmington, before US District Judge Maryellen Noreika. "Jill and I love our son and we are so proud of the man he is today," Joe Biden said in a statement, adding that a lot of families have loved ones who have overcome addiction.

Hunter Biden was charged with lying about his use of illegal drugs when he bought a Colt Cobra .38-calibre revolver and with illegally possessing the weapon for 11 days in October 2018. If convicted on all charges in the Delaware case, Hunter Biden faces up to 25 years in prison, though defendants generally receive shorter sentences, according to the US Department of Justice.

The case is expected to centre on Hunter Biden's years-long crack cocaine use and addiction, which he has discussed publicly and which was a prominent part of his 2021 autobiography, entitled Beautiful Things. He told Noreika at a hearing last year that he has been sober since the middle of 2019. Prosecutors will seek to prove that Hunter Biden knew he was lying

when he ticked the box for "no" next to a question on a federal gun purchase form asking if he was an unlawful user of a controlled substance.

Prosecution lawyers revealed in court filings that they may use details gleaned from Hunter Biden's phone and iCloud account, including photos of him smoking crack and messages with drug dealers. They said they may call as a witness his former wife Kathleen Buhle. Hunter Biden's lawyers have indicated they may try to show he had completed a drug rehabilitation programme before purchasing the gun and may have considered his answer on the gun purchase form to be truthful.

Noreika entered multiple orders over the weekend that were requested by prosecutors and that appeared to undercut Biden's legal strategy. The judge said Biden's legal team could not introduce expert testimony that people suffering from substance abuse disorder might not consider themselves an addict. That testimony could have helped Biden show that he did not know he was lying on the background check form. The government is required to prove that Biden knowingly lied.

## Decrease in inflation a positive indicator: Tarar

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Monday termed a historic and record decrease in inflation a positive indicator for the country and reaffirmed the government's commitment to work hard till the complete revival of the economy.

Addressing a press conference here at the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Secretariat at Model Town, the federal minister said, "The inflation rate has dropped to 11 percent during this month beyond expectations, as reported by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics while Bloomberg, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, World Bank and other international departments are also acknowledging progress of Pakistan's economy and also see it on right direction".

Attaullah Tarar highlighted the government's tireless efforts from day one, focusing on the economy, leading to several positive outcomes. "These include a significant drop in inflation, lower fuel prices, unprecedented growth in

the stock exchange, increased foreign reserves, enhanced direct investment, and record tax collection by the Federal Board of Revenue," he added. He expressed optimism about Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's upcoming historic visit to China with a delegation of approximately 100 businessmen.

Tarar anticipates fruitful B2B meetings, business conferences, and the signing of agreements, which he believes will further bolster the country's stability. To a question about China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Tarar praised the historical rapid pace of work on CPEC projects during Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's tenure, highlighting the commendable role of Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the then Chief Minister of Punjab, in ensuring their swift completion. He ensured these projects would be completed with more pace.

However, he criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government, attributing increased grievances from friendly countries and isolation of Pakistan to their actions, including

halting work on CPEC projects. Tarar expressed confidence in Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, noting that other friendly nations trust him, citing UAE's \$10 billion direct investment allocation and anticipating significant outcomes from Shehbaz Sharif's four-day visit to China.

"There is a serious government in Pakistan now and due to its steps in favour of the country and its people, it saved the country from default, stabilised its currency, increased IT exports, which built the trust of the business community. Many meetings have been held on the budget, and the cabinet, which is working without salary, is trying its best to provide a conducive environment to businessmen," he maintained.

Responding to a query, he said that PTI is actually a collection of contradictions, which used to refuse even its Tweets, adding that neither a personality nor a political party is above the state. "If anybody does not like this state, they may leave for other countries," he added.

## 11 coal miners die of suffocation in Quetta

F.P. Report

QUETTA: As many as 11 people died of suffocation due to the gas leakage in a coal mine in Sanjdi area near Quetta on Monday. The deceased include nine labourers, the contractor and the mine manager.

Chief Mines Inspector Abdul Ghani Baloch said that the tragic incident took place in result of the gas leakage in mine. All the ill-fated people were from

Swat. The dead bodies would be sent to their native towns after the funeral prayers, said the chief mines inspector. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed sorrow over the death of 11 miners and offered his condolences to the families of the deceased.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of precious human lives in the tragic incident," an official quoted the interior minister

as saying. In March this year, twelve miners were killed and eight rescued after an explosion rocked the private coal pit in the mining region of Khost, 80 kilometres (50 miles) east of Quetta, trapping 10 people about 800 feet (244 metres) below ground.

The province's chief inspector of mines had said that 20 miners had been inside the mine when a methane gas explosion took place overnight.

## Christian man attacked in mob succumbed to injuries

F.P. Report

SARGODHA: A Christian man who became a target of an angry mob in Punjab's Sargodha district over alleged blasphemy succumbed to his injuries on Monday morning, police officials said.

According to the Regional Police Officer (RPO) Sharik Kamal Siddiqui's spokesperson, Nazir Masih, who was over 70 years old, was under treatment in CMH Hospital in Rawalpindi for nine days. Masih also had two surgeries but he couldn't survive the injuries inflicted on his head, said the spokesperson. His postmortem has been conducted and he will be buried later today.

According to the report, Masih died due to severe injuries to his head, said the hospital sources. The incident took place on May 25 in Sargodha after an angry mob tortured Masih for alleged blasphemy. The situation turned violent when enraged people attacked the victim's house in the Mujahid Colony area, damaging his belongings and torching a shoe factory established within it. They also burnt tyres and damaged electricity installations in the area.

Following the incident, at least 25 people were taken into custody by the police who also shifted the victim and his family to an undisclosed location after rescuing them. Sargodha Division Commissioner Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti pledged that those involved in the incident would be brought to justice after holding a transparent inquiry into the incident. Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) had also expressed concerns over the situation in Sargodha and urged the Punjab Police and district administration to bring perpetrators to justice immediately.



GAZA: Palestinians walking amid destroyed buildings as they return home to Jabalia following the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

## PTI founder, Qureshi acquitted in cipher case

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In another landmark judgement, the Islamabad High Court on Monday suspended the sentence awarded to PTI founder Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the cipher case. The trial court had sentenced both the party leaders to 10-year prison each in the case.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Gul Hasan Aurangzeb heard the appeals against the sentences handed down to the PTI founder and Shah Mahmood Qureshi. The lawyers of both sides advanced their arguments and the court earlier reserved the judgement. Barristers Salman Safdar, Taimur Malik and others represented the appellants, while FIA prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi was absent.

Barrister Safdar argued that there was no document

proving that former Principal Secretary Azam Khan handed over the cipher to Imran Khan. Safdar stressed that it was prosecution's responsibility to prove the case. He said the judgement was passed in a hurry. Safdar questioned how there could be charges for retaining the cipher that was lost and highlighted a lack of action against those who returned the eight copies of the cipher after the FIR was registered. He argued that the prosecution's request for additional documents indicated the failure to prove the case.

Barrister Safdar demanded that the accused be discharged, noting that the court was not told about any specific country with which relations had worsened. In response, the chief justice referenced the prosecution's statement from the previous hearing which suggested

the case be sent back to the trial court.

Safdar pointed out that the prosecution's dependence on a Supreme Court decision was wrong as it pertained to a civil matter. The defence lawyers opposed remanding the case to the trial court and completed arguments. Alhumdolillah!!! PM Imran Khan and Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi sahib acquitted in the cipher case.

They are political prisoners and should be released immediately. Previously, the Islamabad High Court had sought arguments on the admissibility of appeals against the convictions of Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi. On Jan 30, both were sentenced to 10 years in prison in the cipher case. PTI chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan hailed the decision and declared it a victory of law and justice.





# CM Maryam meets parliamentarians

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the prices of all food items including flour, sugar, ghee, pulses will be reduced further.

Talking to the members of national and provincial assemblies from different districts, she said a significant reduction in the price of oil will give further relief to the people of Punjab.

The CM said, "Every sector including health and education is my priority." For the first time, attention is being paid to mobilize and activate social welfare for bringing ease in the lives of special persons, she added.

The CM briefed the visiting public representatives that revamping of all 2800 BHUs and RHCs of Punjab will be completed soon. Punjab's first air ambulance service will be launched soon, she added.

The CM highlighted that home delivery of free medicines for the patients suffering from deadly diseases like cancer has been started. She said at a cost of Rs 8 billion, an anti-smog program is being started to eliminate environmental pollution.

The visiting assembly members appreciated Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for launching

remarkable public welfare projects. They paid tribute to her efforts for the gradual reduction of inflation. MNA Nasir Bosal and MPA Ifthikhar Hussain Chachar were among those who met Special Assistant Zeeshan Malik was also present.

**CM orders to accelerate crackdown on electricity theft:** Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a special meeting to review issues and actions taken to curb electricity theft in Punjab, directed to present a comprehensive report on electricity theft based on more authentic data.

The Chief Minister was briefed by Chief Secretary and IG Punjab about the ongoing crackdown against electricity thieves in the province. They said, "660 police officers are assisting in the campaign against electricity thieves in each district." They also submitted a report on 05 electricity distribution companies including LESCO.

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, IG Punjab

Dr. Usman Anwar, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Sajid Zafar Dal, Secretaries and other relevant officers were also present.

**CM increases monthly stipend of special persons to Rs 7,500:** Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a special meeting to review Chief Minister Himmat Card project, has increased monthly stipend of special persons from Rs.6,000 to Rs.7,500.

The CM said "Special people are very dear to us. We will help them in every possible manner." She directed to give monthly stipends to special persons for three years in the first phase. She said, "About 30,000 special people will get a monthly stipend of Rs. 7,500 for three years."

Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to run an awareness campaign for the provision of wheelchairs. She said, "Needy people can use the helpline of Chief Minister's Office at 0800-02345 to register themselves for the wheelchairs." She added that special persons will also be given 14 types of assistive devices in the second phase.

The Chief Minister highlighted that wheelchairs, hearing aids, tricycles,

Braille and other devices will be provided to make the life of special persons easier. She said subsidized public transport facilities and loans will also be given to special persons in a phased manner.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and MPA Sania Ashiq attended the meeting. Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Principal Secretary to CM Sajid Zafar Dal, Secretary CM Office Danish Afzal, Secretary Social Welfare and other relevant officers were also present.

**Punjab CM's message on World Cycling Day:** Today is a day to recognize the importance of cycling as an environment-friendly and healthy mode of transportation," said Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in her message on World Cycling Day.

She added, "Cycling not only reduces our carbon footprint but also keeps us physically and mentally fit."

Madam Chief Minister said, "Where possible, a culture of using public transport and bicycles for movement should be adopted." She added, "Pakistan is in the list of countries affected by global warming."

## Role of media significant for deeper Pak-China cooperation

KARACHI (APP): Consul General of People's Republic of China in Karachi, Yang Yundong has said the role of media was significant for deeper Pak - China cooperation in all spheres and Chinese government would create more opportunity for Pakistani friends to visit China.

He said this while addressing the office bearers of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) who were invited for a dinner hosted here at the Consulate on Sunday night by him. Yang Yundong said unfortunately not many Pakistanis had visited China to this day, but we were working and remain hopeful to create more opportunities to our friends in Pakistan could visit his country.

"Today we are happy to host you all friends at the Consulate for Chinese dinner, and my heartiest greetings to Sarmad Ali on becoming the Senator. China is developing very fast, and the change is many a times a pleasant surprise for working diplomats of China, when they travel back

home". CG Yang said.

He further added, our focus must be on more exchanges between the media of both countries, and APNS could play a role in bridging the gap.

The Second Phase of CPEC was more important with focus on agriculture, industrial cooperation and trade for increasing exports of Pakistan and benefiting the lives of people at grassroots level, he added.

The delegation of APNS was led by its Secretary General, Senator Sarmad Ali Khan. While expressing his views, Sarmad Ali said, Pakistan was expecting to see investment in agriculture, mining, accommodation and other sectors and China was seen as a key element in it.

"Gwadar needs to be developed as a city in such, the new airport will provide more opportunities in increasing connectivity.

Development of land and hotels is also required in Gwadar. Some Chinese media have their office in Islamabad the likes of 'People's

Daily', 'Xinhua News Agency', and more presence is expected".

Sarmad said, China had been a friend in need for Pakistan.

"Chinese people have a special place for Pakistan in their heart and they call us Iron Brother 'Batie', I learned it on my last visit to China a few years back. As China is now the biggest manufacturer of EV vehicles, it is progressing rapidly in cutting edge technology, and the second phase of CPEC will play a pivotal role in Pakistan's success in exports and trade".

The attendees included, Deputy CG Zhang Hao, APNS Finance Secretary Shahab Zuberi, Dr. Tanvir, Shamsi, Kazi Asad Abid, Younis Mehar, Athar Kazi, Kazi Sajjad Abassi, M. Bilal Farooqui, also present were Zahid H. Karani, Mustafa Karani, Yousuf Karani, and officials from the Consulate.

The APNS delegation thanked Yang Yundong and his colleagues for their hospitality and a love filled Chinese cuisine.

## Over 906,011 children to be immunized during anti-polio drive

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Aamir Khatak Monday inaugurated the Second Sub National Immunization Drive (SNID-II) by administering polio drops to children under five years of age.

The coordinator of the World Health Organization, Health Authority and officers of other relevant departments were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Khatak said the campaign was launched against the presence of positive polio environmental samples in the province which could be avoided by administering the anti-polio vaccine.

He informed that around 906,011 children would be immunized during the drive while 2,834 mobile teams, 677 area incharges, 269 fixed points and 192 Union Council medical officers were participating in the campaign.

The commissioner pointed out that children were also immunized at 125 transit points in the district.

He directed the officials to give special attention to the high-risk Union Councils of the district and no child should be left without immunization.

He further directed to cover the refusal and non-attended cases on the same day, adding no negligence would be tolerated in that regard.

Meanwhile, District Superintendent Vaccination, Dr Muhammad Nadeem told APP that over 160,000 children would be administered against the Polio virus on the first day of the campaign.

He urged the citizens, particularly the parents, to come forward and play their role in eliminating the crippling disease from society.

The campaign will continue till June 8.

## CASS hosts roundtable on reimagining Pakistan's Afghan strategy

### F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, convened a roundtable discussion on 'Reimagining Pakistan's Afghan Strategy.' The event aimed to explore and refine Pakistan's strategy towards Afghanistan in an evolving geopolitical regional landscape. Esteemed discussants included Pakistan's Special Representative on Afghanistan

Ambassador Asif Durrani; Mr Hassan Akbar, Senior Policy Specialist at the National Security Division, Government of Pakistan; Ms Amina Khan, Director at the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad; Mr Aarish Ullah Khan, Research Analyst at the Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad; and Dr Usman W. Chohan, Advisor on Economic Affairs & National Development at



CASS. Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd), Senior Director at CASS moderated the proceedings, while President CASS Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed delivered the concluding remarks.

The discussion highlighted the need for a 'patient', 'proactive' and 'consistent' strategy, focusing on bilateral dia-

logue, enhanced border surveillance, and effective refugee management. The importance of employing advanced yet more cost-effective technology-driven security systems such as UAVs for border control was underscored, alongside proposals for bolstering Afghanistan's economic capacity through improved connec-

tivity, educational linkages, and trade routes. The roundtable also highlighted the necessity of a comprehensive approach rather than reactive measures, advocating for strategies that 'compartmentalise' various aspects of the Pak-Afghan relationship to prevent escalation and ensure cooperation across multiple domains.



LAHORE: Nazim-e-Ala of Minhaj-ul-Quran giving briefing to Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi at Farid Milat Research Institute.

### LESCO's Superintendent dismissed from service

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has dismissed from service a Line Superintendent Grade-II of Batapur Sub-Division.

According to LESCO spokesman here Monday, the Line Superintendent Ghulam Nabi was shifting 11KV pole and a 25kVA transformer from private workers on Minhala Road. During the operation, government bucket was also working along with a private bucket. He added that Ghulam Nabi was carrying out this work without taking permission from the department thus endangering the lives of private team due to which the area consumers faced power cut for several hours.

The departmental inquiry in this regard also revealed that the said LS has also been facilitating power theft by installing bogus electricity meter. The X-En Shalamar Division Ali Raza dismissed the Line Superintendent Grade-II Ghulam Nabi after thorough departmental investigation.

### Lost & Found

I have lost original Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Trade Testing Board Certificate under roll # 63557. If anyone finds please return it to Nisar Ahmad S/o Wazir Zada P/O Wari Landi Shah Tehsil Wari District Upper Dir Contact 0312-3065248.

## Chinese solar company delegation meets Ch Shafay

LAHORE (APP): The delegation of China's solar company Zonerger Corporation met Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain at Punjab Investment Board in which investment opportunities in the province and special incentives for foreign investors were discussed.

The opportunities of investment in solar energy sector in Punjab were also discussed.

The Minister while talking to the delegation said that the government is serious about manufacturing

solar panels in Punjab. Efforts are being made to set up a factory to manufacture solar panels in Punjab this year. He said that investors have special incentives of investment in industrial estates. Income tax exemption for 10 years and one time duty free machinery import facility has been given. The provincial minister said that Garment City is being built on an area of 2000 acres near Lahore. Foolproof security is being given to foreign investors in Punjab. Several Chinese companies have invested in various

sectors of Punjab. All possible facilities will be given to Zonerger Company to increase investment in Punjab, he added.

Mr. Shao Wei, GM of Zonerger Corporation of China said, "Our group has installed a 300 megawatt solar power plant in Bahawalpur. Our company has the expertise in the manufacturing of inverters and batteries. We are looking to increase investment in solar energy sector of Punjab."

Officials of Punjab Investment Board were also present in the meeting.

## Punjab govt to set up Sahulat Centres for farmers

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has decided to establish Sahulat centers in every tehsil to provide quality pesticides to farmers at a controlled rate.

Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman presided over a video link meeting of all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners to review cotton cultivation targets, measles situation and Suthra Punjab programme, at the Civil Secretariat on Monday.

The chief secretary directed the commissioners of Bahawalpur, Multan and DG

Khan to ensure full monitoring of the cotton crop. He said that the deputy commissioners must keep a close watch on the prices, supply and demand of urea fertilizer for the next two months and obtain the data of stocks and sales from fertilizer dealers on a daily basis.

The chief secretary mentioned that the improvement of health and education sectors was a priority of the government, adding that on the instructions of the chief minister Punjab, the health sector had been included in the key performance indica-

tors (KPIs) set for the deputy commissioners.

He ordered the authorities to launch a crackdown before Eid against illegal sale points of cattle and form special squads for checking. The administrative secretaries of the agriculture and health department gave a detailed briefing in the meeting. The agriculture secretary said that the target of cotton sowing had been set at four million acres in the province, while the crop had been cultivated on 3.2 million acres so far.

### GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders on percentage rate basis (not on individual items) are hereby invited for the works mentioned below from the approved PEC registered Contractors duly renewed for the current financial year 2023-24. Tender documents can be received from the office of the undersigned during office hours on any working day on payment of tender cost ( Non-Refundable) up to 20/06/2024 with written request on letter pad accompanied with attested copy of CNIC, Income tax Registration Certificate as active taxpayer (filer) Tenders will be issued to the proprietor of the Firm/Company or their legally authorized representatives having registered power of attorney (duly attested). The tenders in sealed cover should be received in the tender box kept in the office of undersigned on 21/06/2024 upto 2:00 Pm and the respective tenders will be opened on the same day at 02:30PM in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives, having registered power of attorney.

The following instructions may be read and understood carefully in true letter and spirit as in case of violation of any of these, the tender forms will not be issued. The documents under mentioned must be accompanied with the applications, failing which no tender forms will be issued.

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS,

- 1) No tender will be sold / issued on the date of opening of tenders.
- 2) No tender will be issued / received through post, telegraph or E-Mail.
- 3) According to PPRA Rule-25, Bid Security as stated below against each work in the shape of CDR/Call deposit shall be furnished from any scheduled Bank in the name of Executive Engineer, Central Civil Division, Pak PWD, Bannu. No tender will be entertained without bid security as stated against each work or less amount.
- 4) Tenders can be purchased on the prescribed cost (Non-refundable) in Cash mentioned against the below noted works from the office of the undersigned during office hours upto 20/06/2024.
- 5) All CDRs once received may be credited into the Government Account and will be refunded through Government Cheque.
- 6) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, lowest bidders CDR may be retained till acceptance of tender.
- 7) The documents provided by the bidders if found ambiguous will be verified and in case of fake one, the firm will face immediate / appropriate penal action as per rules and law.
- 8) Tender Notice is also available at PPRA web site ([www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk))
- 9) Under Rules 33(1) of public Procurement Rules, 2004, the competent authority reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of bid or proposal.
- 10) The submission of tenders by the contractor implies that he is fully conversant with the site of work, scope of work and terms and conditions as laid down in the tender documents.

**Note:-** In case of any public holiday or surprise engagement of the undersigned the schedule of closing & opening will be on 24-06-2024 on same time.

S#	Name of Work	N.I.T Amount	Earnest Money / Bid Security amount	Period of Completion	Cost of Tender
1.	Installation of Solar Energy based Irrigation Tube Well at Sub Division Mirnashah Tribal District North Waziristan (NWTD)	5082657	102000	02 Months	2000/-
2.	Installation of Solar Energy based Irrigation Tube Well at Sub Division Razmak Tribal District North Waziristan (NWTD)	5082657	102000	02 Months	2000/-
3.	Installation of Solar Energy based Irrigation Tube Well at Sub Division Mirali Tribal District North Waziristan (NWTD)	5082657	102000	02 Months	2000/-
4.	Establishment of MCII Centre at Gul Ahmed Kot District Bannue, tehsil Baka Khel, District Bannu	3399162	68500	02 Months	2000/-
5.	Construction of 02 Nos Community Centre at various places tehsil Sari Naurang District Lakki Marwat 1.(A) Construction of Community Centre at Hammad Muslim Bagh/Nar Sahib Khan District Lakki Marwat. 2.(B):- Construction of Community Centre at Sohaib Khan Malik Town Mama Khel tehsil Sarai Naurang District Lakki Marwat. (A+B)	19473046	389500	02 Months	2000/-

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
Central Civil Division Pak, PWD, Bannu

PID(P)165/24





PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur chairing a meeting of Division Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners via video link.

## PHCBA committed for welfare of legal fraternity

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court Bar Association Mingora bench president Shams ul Haadi advocate said that the bar and bench are two wheels of justice that must work together. He assured lawyers that their issues are his top priority and he will not back

down from fighting for their legitimate rights, on Monday. He expressed gratitude for the trust lawyers have placed in him and promised to address their issues on a priority basis. He emphasized the importance of maintaining good relations with the bench, as it is essential for delivering jus-

tice to the people. PHCBA Mingora bench president urged lawyers to dedicate their efforts for dissemination of justice, which will lead to the progress of society. He also mentioned that the Chief Justice has assured him of cooperation and a plan of action will be devised soon.

## JI delegation congratulates PHCBA new cabinet

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A delegation of Jamaat-e-Islami led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa general secretary Abdul Wasigh visited the Peshawar High Court Bar Association and congratulated the newly elected president Fida Gul and his cabinet, on Monday.

The delegation comprised of former provincial minister Inayat Ullah Khan, Islamic Lawyer Movement president Justice (R) Ghulam Mohiye-u-Din, Arbab Muhammad Usman Khan, Faqir Ullah Awan and Muhammad Farooq Malik advocates.

JI General secretary expressed hope that the new president and his cabinet would work to resolve the issues faced by the legal community and uphold the rule of law, democracy, and the independence of the judiciary. He also emphasized that Jamaat-e-Islami is the only democratic party in the country, working tirelessly for the supremacy of the constitution, parliament, and the rule of law.

The delegation expressed their expectation that the new leadership would play a vital role in strengthening the relationship between the bar and the bench, ensuring the provision of justice to the oppressed, and upholding the rule of law and democracy in the country.

## Deterioration of standards in examination II flays 'miserable failure' of educational boards

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The educational boards have miserably failed in conducting examinations due to the incompetence and corruption of officials, leading to the deterioration of merit and standards in the examination system.

This statement was made by Barrister Behrullah Khan, Advocate and Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami District Peshawar.

Behrullah Khan Advocate stated that unfortunately, there are

eight boards present in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but due to corrupt officials, the eradication of cheating and ensuring merit has failed miserably.

The destruction of the education system is ultimately the responsibility of the key officials appointed in the boards who are destroying the future of the nation's youth.

He further added that the prevailing injustice and elimination of cheating in educational boards

necessitate a transparent examination system. Until cheating is eradicated, the country cannot progress, and the future of the nation will remain in the hands of corrupt individuals.

Therefore, we urge the provincial government to utilize its influence to secure the future of the Pashtun nation, especially the promising youth, and to play its role in ending the luxuries of the board officials and rectifying their wrongdoings through reforms.

## 35th Senior Management Course Participants from NIM Lahore Visit CS Office



### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The participants of the 35th Senior Management Course of National Institute of Management Lahore visited the Civil Secretariat Peshawar as part of their Inland Study Tour.

The delegation was warmly received by Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary.

They were provided a comprehensive briefing on the policies of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and other per-

tinent issues. During the visit, Chief Secretary of the Planning and Development Department, Imtiaz Hussain Shah, delivered an in-depth presentation on the province's development and planning.

The session was highly informative, offering the participants valuable insights into the strategic initiatives and planning processes of the provincial government.

At the conclusion of the meeting, shield was presented to the participants

in recognition of their visit. Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary emphasized the significance of such training programs in the careers of government officials. He stated that these courses enhance the efficiency of officers in managing government affairs and aid them in making prompt, correct and impressive decisions.

The participants of the Senior Management Course were comprised of officers from federal, provincial and various other cadres

## Awareness walk held

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Cantonment Board Peshawar arranged an awareness walk for Cleanliness and Anti-Littering campaign in Cantt area Peshawar Cantt. The walk aims to create awareness among the public about cleanliness and Anti-littering and to dispose off solid waste in a safe, prompt and efficient manner. To be sure, the objective of this exercise is also to create awareness among young people. That cleanliness is important for both body and mind, clean environment is necessary to prevent the spread of disease, so support the Cantonment Board and beat the dirt and keep your surroundings clean, this is the requirement of our faith.

## Test rescheduled

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: It has been made for all concerned that due to announcement of Public holiday by the Federal & Provincial Governments, the ability tests earlier scheduled for 28-05-2024 were postponed. The said ability tests for the posts of Male Associate Professor in Pakistan Studies (BPS-19) in Higher Education Department, Female Associate Professor Pakistan Studies (BPS-19) in Higher Education Department, Male Associate Professor in Computer Science (BPS-19) in Higher Education department and Female Associate Professor in Computer Science (BPS-19) in Higher Education Department have now been rescheduled to be held on 07-06-2024 (Morning/Evening Sessions) Candidates shall download their Roll Number Slips from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission's website [www.kppsc.gov.pk](http://www.kppsc.gov.pk).

# Qasim announced Rs232bn for health ADP schemes

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah addressed a press conference to discuss the health department's Annual Development Program (ADP) schemes and other initiatives.

Accompanied by Secretary Health Mahmood Aslam Wazir, Director General Health Services Dr. Muhammad Saleem, and Additional Director General Administration Dr. Siraj, the minister announced the allocation of PKR 232 billion for health ADP schemes, which includes 89 ongoing and 32 new projects.

Minister Shah informed the media that an air ambulance service will be launched in the province within a few months to improve access to mountainous regions.

Additionally, a Gamma Knife Center for brain tumour treatment is being established. In response to a question, the minister

expressed deep sorrow over the accidental death of student Musa and announced the expansion of ICU beds throughout MTIs. He also mentioned the suspension of individuals involved in the Nowshera hospital video scandal.

Highlighting further advancements, Minister Shah revealed the introduction of robotic surgeries, which will save both time and resources.

To handle health emergencies in rural areas, a

Motorbike Response Unit is being established, and planning is being finalized to designate Hayatabad as a Health City.

He also announced the commencement of Executive Health Check-ups for dignified free treatment of senior citizens in all hospitals, with a formal inauguration by Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur soon.

Minister Shah emphasized the allocation of a reserve fund in the budget

to ensure no patient's treatment is halted. The department is forming a pool of doctors and nurses to address staff shortages in hospitals through contractual hires.

He added that Trauma centers are being established in regions to stabilize patients before referral. He noted that over 60% of the patient load is on Peshawar's hospitals, and merely increasing ICU beds will not suffice to address the issue.



## KPRA successfully surpasses annual target for fiscal year 2023-24

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) has successfully surpassed its annual target for the fiscal year 2023-24. According to details shared by KPRA, the Authority has successfully surpassed its annual target of Rs35 billion by collecting Rs37.1 billion in the 11 months of the ongoing financial year 2023-24.

KPRA recorded 37% growth in the first 11 months of the financial year 2023-24 as compared to the same period of the previous financial year, during which the Authority had collected 27.1 billion in taxes.

KPRA is mandated to collect and administer Sales Tax on Services and

Infrastructure Development Cess (IDC) in the province. The government of KP has assigned it a Rs35 billion target for the ongoing financial. This year, KPRA has managed to collect Rs32.2 billion from the sales tax on services and Rs4.9 billion in the IDC in the 11 months period.

Compared with last year's 11 months, Rs23.9 billion were collected from the sales tax on services while this year's corresponding period collection is 32.2 billion which shows 35% growth in STS collection. Similarly, Rs3.2 billion were collected from the IDC in 11 months of the previous year while this collection is 4.9 billion which shows 53% growth.

Last year, KPRA collected Rs30.5 billion in the whole 12 months of the

year while this year the collection has crossed 37.1 billion which shows the exemplary performance of KPRA and its team, said the Director General KPRA Fouzia Iqbal in her statement issued to media. She appreciated the efforts of the KPRA team for their performance and directed them to increase their efforts in the last month of the financial year to surpass the target with more impressive figures. She said they will cross Rs40 billion by the end of June.

"We are thankful to our stakeholders, the taxpayers, traders, and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for showing their trust and their cooperation. We expect them to continue their trust and cooperation in the future," she said.

## Chanzeb enquires after health of ailing comedian Mirawas

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Zahid Chanzeb, Adviser to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism and Culture, visited Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) Peshawar and enquired after the health of famous Pashto comedian Mirawas who is currently undergoing treatment in the Endo Ward of the hospital.

Director General KP Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) Barkatullah Marwat, Director Culture

Ajmal Khan, Legal Advisor Khawaja Sajjad, Hospital Director Dr. Faisal Shehzad, and Merawas's son Shah Fahad were also present on the occasion.

Adviser Tourism and Culture termed Mirawas as a cherished national asset and assured that he will be nominated for the Presidential Award of Excellence.

Zahid Chanzeb handed him over two cheques of money one on behalf of his department and one from his own pocket. The

Adviser Tourism prayed for speedy recovery of the ailing comedian and instructed the hospital director that no effort should be spared in his proper treatment.

Zahid Chanzeb also inquired about the health facilities being provided at the hospital to other patients and their attendants in the ward. He expressed concern over the increasing number of diabetes patients in the ward and other hospitals and henceforth emphasized the need for a full fledged

awareness campaign in this regard because, he said, after reaching the age of fifty or sixty years, people could be protected from this chronic disease by making a little exercise or walking a routine.

The Adviser Tourism instructed the hospital administration to aware the people about the preventive measures to be protected from diabetes, while in this regard he assured to take effective measures at the level of the provincial government by contacting the Minister of Health.

## Dept of Criminology holds awareness session

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Department of Criminology, University of Peshawar invited Mr. Imran Shahid, DIG Counter Terrorism Department, KP Police for one day awareness session on "Resurgence of Terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in recent past, State's response and Way forward" to the students and faculty members.

The session was chaired by Dr. Basharat Hussain, Chairman Department of Criminology. The session was started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Dr. Muhammad Ibrar, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology started the session by briefing the guest speaker about the establishment of the Criminology department, academic programs offered, number of students and future plans. Dr. Basharat Hussain, formally welcomed the guest speaker and stated that regular awareness sessions on different criminological topics are arranged for the students in order to introduce them



with the theoretical knowledge along with the field experiences by the law enforcement officials.

He was very grateful to the DIG, Counter Terrorism Department for sparing time and sharing his thoughts with the students and faculty members.

It is important to men-

tion that Counter Terrorism Department (henceforth CTD) is one of KP government's Department for security and law enforcement focusing on countering terrorist's activities. After detailed presentation on the topic, the forum was opened for question answer session.

The students of Criminology department took keen interest in the strategies of CTD to curb different terrorist activities.

They also asked questions to cover various aspects and work directions of CTD. At the end of the session a group photo was arranged.



PESHAWAR: Lady Health Worker administering polio drops to a child during anti polio campaign in t Provincial Capital. — APP photo





## In brief

### Traders leader shot dead

PAKPATTAN (INP): Robbers gunned down a traders leader over resistance during a robbery and fled away with looted cash here on Monday. According to details, a gang of robbers barged into a showroom jurisdiction of City Police station in Pakpattan and took the owner hostage at gunpoint. Over resistance, the robbers shot dead President of Trade Union Mochi Morpul and fled with looted cash. The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem and police after registering a case into the incident started investigation.

### Annual Mango Festival held

HYDERABAD (PPI): HYDERABAD (PPI): Tandojam played a pivotal role as a key partner at the 56th Annual Mango Festival held in Mirpurkhas, according to information on Moday. Under the personal interest and directives of Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri, SAU experts participated prominently from the first day, contributing significantly to various sessions and sectors to ensure the festival's success. On the inaugural day of the festival, Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri attended the opening ceremony alongside the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar, the Minister of Tourism and Culture, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah, prominent political leader Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, and Secretary Rafiq Ahmed Buriro. The ceremony was also attended by Divisional Commissioner Faisal Ahmed Aqeli, Director General of Agriculture Research Sindh, Noor Muhammad Baloch, and Chairman of the Mango Festival Management Committee, Rais Arif Khan Bhurgari, along with Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rasheed Masood Khan, provincial and district administration officials, and agricultural experts.

### Bandits abduct man

SHIKARPUR (PPI): SHIKARPUR (PPI): Police failed to maintain law and order despite tall claims as a man abducted and cold bloodedly murdered by dacoits in Shikarpur district's Khanpur taluka on Monday. According to police, Iqbal Napur, a nephew of local landlord Raees Karim Bux Napur, was taken hostage by a gang of bandits from agricultural farm in Napur Kot police jurisdiction. The abductee was subjected to severe torture and killed within few hours of his kidnapping. The bandits thrown the body of their victim in Kot Shahu katcha area. After getting information, the police and family members reached to the spot. The body was shifted to hospital for medical formalities. Police officials have said that the department inquiring into the incident and launched a search operation after sealing entry and exit points of the katcha area. Rampant kidnappings and other crimes by various gangs of bandits operating in the katcha area has made life miserable for local population. The authorities and police department have claimed to act against criminals entrenched in the area but to no avail despite claims. Local people recently staged protest at the Indus Highway to press for recovery of 11 hostages kidnapped by bandit gangs and blocked the Sukkur-Shikarpur highway for traffic. The law-and-order situation of Sindh especially of katcha area along the Indus worsening with every passing day as bandits continuing to abduct people for ransom, while the police has failed to maintain the law and order.

# Qaumi Mahaz threatens to protest against load shedding

## F.P. Report

BANNU: Bannu Qaumi Mahaz has threatened to protest in against unscheduled and prolong load shedding during severe heat-wave, as well as sit-ins in large scale due to public outcry, on Monday.

Speaker of the Quami Assembly Pir Seyyed Qaisar Abbas Shah, head of the Bannu Air Front, Irfan Pir Zada, Advocate High Court, speaking to media representatives after the meeting, whether Malik Qaymos Khan and other officials were also present at the site, he said that one side of the warm On the other hand, Wapda Pisco boys have started a series of 18 to 20-hour electricity load shedding throughout the district, which has stopped the business of traders, while the streets of the city have become desolate due to the heat.

The speakers said that Prime Minister had issued orders to load-shedding the electricity according to the schedule throughout the province, but here in the district of Bannu, PESCO has blown the orders of the Prime Minister. The criminal anger of the elected representatives of the district of Benno over the load shedding is an injustice to the people and an insult to the vote. Or they will record a protest at every square of the streets.

**Politician shot killed:** Unknown suspects killed the political and social leader Ishaq Khan Wazir along with his fellow body-

guard in the Mamandkhel police station of Bannu area.

The death bodies were taken to the district headquarters hospital where the deceased Ishaq Khan's uncle Adnan son of Malik Mirsmad Khan Wazir reported to the police and said that Mr. Ishaq Khan was deployed in polio as a UCMO contractor with UNICEF. that he killed them along with his partner Nazir Han Saknah Hasan Khel Khairaki, we have no enmity with anyone, the police have registered a case and started an investigation.

**PSF held get together:** Former prominent leaders of the People's Students Federation in Peshawar, including Malik Dilnawaz Khan, Yayha Shah Khalil and Engineer Dawood Jan organized a reception in honor of PSF's longstanding associate Barrister Dr. Usman Ali.

The event was attended by central executive committee members of the party including Barrister Masood Kausar, Azam Afridi provincial cabinet members Syed Ayub Shah, Syed Taher Abbas, Comrade Anwar Zaib, Khawaja Yawar Nasir, Javaid Khattak Syed Zafran Shah, Waheed Afzal Gorla, Ashraf Saraf, and several founding members.

On this occasion the focus of the discussion was on the current political scenario, and attention was drawn to the party's situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The parti-

cipants reiterated their commitment to present the party's widest interests, reorganize the party with new cadres, and pledge unconditional services to the central and provincial leadership of the party in empowering the youth.

It was recommended to strengthen the party's roots in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and urged President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to initiate organizational reforms in the province, emphasizing the need to revive party workers and public confidence in the wake of the disappointing results of recent elections, asserting that the aspirations of all classes of society are still associated with the Pakistan People's Party.

The partners expressed their desire to send a message to the party leadership to consider their positive suggestions and take necessary steps to deal with current challenges. A comprehensive campaign should be launched to revitalize the party's foundation and attract new supporters, democratic elections should be held at all levels (ward, town, city, district, and provincial) to ensure the certainty of new leadership and representation. An organizational structure should be formed for accountability and decision-making, reforms should be made in provincial and local committees to ensure inclusivity and activity, keeping members informed and engaged through regular meetings.

# Govt girls' middle school inaugurated

## Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Former Interior Minister and senior leader Pakistan Tehreek Insaf Shehryar Khan Afridi along with Member Provincial Assembly Shafi Jan made inauguration of the upgradation and construction work of Government Girls Middle School Usterzai Kohat from the workers of the area.

Upgradation and construction work of the school from primary to middle has cost Rs.13.9 million. Shafee Jan MPA from Kohat also addressed on the occasion and highlighted the steps taken by the government for promotion of education in the province.

Addressing the inaugural

ceremony, Shehryar Afridi said that the promotion of education is at the top of the priorities of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government, that is why, the provincial government is spending huge amounts on education sector. He said that children are our future and these children have to go ahead and take the reins of this country.

Shehryar Afridi stressed upon the teachers to focus on the character building of children and teach them patriotism. Highlighting the importance of Education, he maintained that it teaches us humanity and Muslims are urged to get education. He said that every member of the socie-

ty should support the government and play their part in the promotion of education.

Meanwhile, deputy commissioner Dr. Azmatullah Wazir under Section 144 Cr. P.C extended ban for further 60 days on all kind of sale/purchase/construction/encroachment in respect of the State Land, Shamilat-e-Deh and land along Toi and Algada, in the district.

All ACs, AACs, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Circle Girdawars and Revenue Staff has been directed to ensure implementation of this order and in case of any violation initiate legal action against the violators.

# JUI-F kicks off membership campaign

## F.P. Report

WANA: In a significant move, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam officially launched its membership drive in Upper South Waziristan. The event, attended by prominent religious leaders, local elders, and a large number of workers, marked the beginning of the party's efforts to strengthen its presence in the region.

District Convener Malik Sultan Mehsud addressed the gathering, outlining the organization's rules and regulations and emphasizing inclusivity. He also announced the appointment of district assistants and tehsil organizers. The inauguration was graced by esteemed guests, including former MNA and Ameer of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Merged Districts Maulana Jamaluddin, former Senator

Maulana Salah Shah, Central Assistant Election Organizer Maulana Khanzala Mehsud, and Tehsil Chairman Taj Malook.

Participants expressed their commitment to establishing a transparent organizational record in the tribal districts. The membership drive, which will continue until July 25, aims to strengthen Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam's presence in Upper South Waziristan.

The event concluded with religious leaders praying for the prosperity and development of Upper South Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Pakistan.

**PPP workers committed for public mobilization:** At a meeting with party workers in Ragzai today, district president Amanullah Wazir, General

Secretary Imran Mukhlis, Vice President Younas, Senior Vice President Humayun, and key members Ehsan and Pila Khan expressed their gratitude to the workers for their tireless efforts in spreading the PPP's manifesto across households.

The cabinet formation will proceed in phases, with the first phase focusing on tehsil Birmal, followed by Ragzai, Azam Warsak, Zam China, Angoor Adda, and Daza Ghundai in the second phase. Subsequently, tehsil-level and city-wise cabinets will be established in tehsil Shakai, tehsil Toi Khulla, and tehsil Wana. The PPP Lower South Waziristan district extends an invitation to all residents to join the party and actively participate in the region's development and issue resolution.

# School bags among students distributed

## F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: School bags were given away to deserving students of state-run educational institution here in Sadu Khel village of tehsil Landi Kotal, district Khyber on Monday.

In this connection under the banner of Khudai Khedmatgar, Khyber, a simple gathering was organized in government primary school, Sadu Khel that was

attended by volunteers of the organization besides learners and teachers of the institution.

District head of the Khudai Khedmatgar, Fazal Rehman Afridi distributed free bags among poor students of the school. Speaking on the occasion he said that the founder of the Khudai Khedmatgar organization (Bacha Khan) had himself set up 126 schools in his era to educate the Pakhtun generation of that time

and his successors continued his mission.

He maintained that the purpose of the wellbeing activity was to support the poor parents who could not afford to meet the educational necessities of their children. Since the first day of its creation, the organization has been engaged in efforts to encourage educational activities in the area and will continue their hard word in this regard, he remarked.

# University students demand removal of VC, provost

## F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Despite the closure of the University of Malakand (UoM), hundreds of its students on Monday took to the streets and held a protest rally outside the varsity against the administration for its alleged involvement of a student's death. The protesting students carrying placards inscribed with slogans of 'stand for justice and stand for Musa' blocked the Chakdara Shamoza road for vehicular traffic and chanted slogans against the varsity administration.

The local administration diverted the traffic to the main Swat GT road. The protesters were demanding an immediate suspension of the UoM vice chancellor Prof Dr Rashid Ahmad, Provost Dr Janus Khan, chief proctor Dr Aziz Khan and hostel warden Habib Khan for their misbehavior and mentally torturing the students. The protesting students were of the view that Musa Khan and his friends were served show cause notices on keeping 'Rabab', a musical instrument with him that caused severe depression to him and he died in a road accident. Dozens of students were also carrying 'Rabab' on the occasion. They said the students would never compromise their legal rights and their freedom to speech.

Besides students' leaders, the rally was also addressed by the ANP provincial president Mian Ifthikhar Hussain, MPA Humayun Khan, ANP provincial general secretary Hussain Shah Yousafzai, provincial president of Mazdoor Kisan Party Fayyaz Ali, JI youth wing district President Ateequr Rehman, PPP district secretary information Alam Zeb advocate, students' jirga chief Maaz Khan, PPP Adenzai leader Naemullah and others.

The speakers alleged that Musa Khan, a student of the Journalism and Mass Communication department sixth semester was killed in a road accident because he was expelled from the hostel along with other colleagues at night. They rejected the varsity's notification of closing the institution for three days and demanded its immediate reopening. The speakers also demanded a high level inquiry regarding the death of Musa Khan. They demanded the removal of provost, chief proctor and hostel warden within a couple of days and warned to come on the roads again if their demands were not met by Thursady next.

Later the representatives of district administration along with the university administration including Mr Hayat Ullah Yousafzai, Registrar, UoM Prof Dr Jamil Ahmad, Dean Faculty of IT and Mr Mohammad Ayub, Assistant Provost conducted a meeting with the protesting students and representatives of political par-



ties for a peaceful resolution of the protest on the sad demise of late Musa Khan. Sources privy to the development told this reporter that the students' leaders did not agree with the varsity administration and stuck to their demands.

Meanwhile taking notice of the severity of the issue the UoM convened a meeting of all Deans, heads of teaching departments, heads of administrative sections and coordinator Women Sub Campus Bathkela to be held on Tuesday today to discuss the emerging situation. A notification issued by the varsity registrar said the agenda of the meeting would be shared on the table.

**Suicide:** A class IV employee Ahmad Hussain of a government school at Karo Dara in Upper Dir district reportedly committed suicide at Karo dara here on Monday, residents said. They said that unknown thieves had taken away the solar system battery from the school and he was being tortured by the officers of the elementary and secondary education department. The deceased was laid to rest amid moving scenes.

**People of Malakand will never accept imposition of taxes in region:** Speakers at a protest rally against the government's decision to impose income and custom acts in Malakand division warned to cut up the region from the rest of the country if the decision was not reversed in writing. The Jamaat-i-Islami organized the protest sit-in at the Chakdara interchange of Swat motorway here on Sunday evening.

A large number of the JI workers and businessmen from all parts of the region attended the event. Traffic from one side of the motorway was

diverted on a service road for about three hours. The rally was addressed by the JI provincial deputy chief and former provincial minister Inayatullah Khan, former MNAs Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitral, Sahibzada Tariqullah, President Anjuman Tajiran Swat Abdur Rahim, President Hotel association Shakerullah, former provincial minister Shah Raz Khan and others.

The speakers rejected the imposition of taxes in Malakand and warned the government to stop testing the nerves of its residents. They said the government would forget the situation in AJK and the TNSM era in Malakand when the income and customs acts were implemented in the region. They said the successive governments had kept deprived the region of progress and development. One of the speakers criticised the federal minister of finance for his remarks regarding the people of Malakand and said neither he nor his government could ever impose taxes upon people of Malakand.

The speakers said that all political parties, trade unions, civil society, students and legal fraternity were on the same page regarding the issue. They said that Malakand division was a tax free zone under a written agreement and imposing taxes was an illegal and unconstitutional act of the government. Mr Inayatullah announced yo hold a grand jirga and a multi parties conference if the tax act was extended to the region. He asked the PTI lawmakers from all districts of Malakand to come forward and play an active role in this regard. He said that was the start not the end and the people of Malakand would never compromise their legal rights.

## Disable youth protests against police threats

### F.P. Report

SHAHDADKOT: Disabled youth Amanullah Panhwer, a resident of Jafarani village area of Shahdadkot district, along with his innocent children blamed police for death threats on influential people behalf, on Monday.

This he said while addressing a press conference at Wagan Press Club and spoke against the police and the influential people. He added that I am poor and suffering from a disease like diabetes.

The police and influential person giving me death threats and to my innocent children. I am telling the law enforcement agencies that if there is any kind of harm to me and my children, their responsibility will be SHO and they will be effective.

I appealed to him by holding his hand and saying that please take notice of my problem and justice should be done to poor, otherwise I will take very strict action, the responsibility of which will be on the management.

**Water stall established in wake heatwave:** Although the temperature is 50 degrees Celsius in Waggon town which is the main city of district Qambar Shahdadkot called the hottest district of Pakistan, the elected representatives and the chairman of the town committee have not provided any facilities for the people of Waggon town areas.

Due to this, Waggon town and its surrounding areas are facing the problems of the self-resolved city. A dynamic social leader fighting for the problems here, Ajaz Ali Waggon, a few days ago mintinef a post on social media. A good-hearted man living in Saudi Arabia donated money to set up a sweet and water stall at the main square of the city. The process of giving syrup and cold water to the coming travelers and the people of the city is going on. The citizens also appreciated this process.

# First phase of wheat procurement completed

## F.P. Report

MARDAN: In a scathing attack on the federal government, Provincial Minister of Food, Zahoora Shah, has accused them of deceit, exploitation and renege on their promises. Speaking to the media, Shah lambasted the federal government for selling electricity to the province at an exorbitant rate of Rs 70 per unit, while the province generates electricity at a cost of only Rs 4 per unit. "This is nothing but daylight robbery," Shah exclaimed. "They are calling us electricity thieves,

but in reality, they are the ones who are stealing from us. We generate electricity at a cost of Rs 4 per unit, but they sell it to us at Rs 70 per unit. This is a clear case of exploitation," Shah alleged that the federal government is not fulfilling its promises and is trying to provoke the people of Mardan. "They are trying to incite us, but we will not fall into their trap," Shah warned. "We will continue to fight for our rights and will not be fooled by their tactics."

The minister also announced that the first phase of wheat procurement has been completed,

with 300,000 metric tons of wheat purchased. "We have completed the first phase of wheat procurement, and I am pleased to say that the process was transparent and fair," Shah said. "We have exposed the wheat mafia's tactics, and they are now trying to discredit us."

Shah's accusations came at a time when tensions between the federal government and the provincial government of Mardan are running high. The provincial government has been accusing the federal government of not fulfilling its promises and of exploiting the province's resources.

# SSP commits to end tribal disputes in Larkana

## F.P. Report

LARKANA: Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) Larkana Mir Rohal Khan Khoso visited disputed area of taluka Ratodero villages Hasanpur, Fatehpur, Hasan Jalbani where firing between two tribes continues and other nearby areas, where old disputes were continuing in Veesar-Jalabani tribes since long.

SSP Larkana Mir Ruhul Khan Khoso has criticized the ongoing fierce firing in the old conflict between two groups of the Weser and Jalbani community living in the areas, taking notice, the disputed areas were examined with a heavy police force. On this occasion, the root of the dispute was also inspected in the area of Reshem Gali and Ganu Gath, where SDPO Ratodero and SHO Ratodero visited SSP Larkana. was given a detailed briefing about the long-standing rivalry between the two groups of the Jalbani and Vesar tribes.

On this occasion, SSP Larkana while talking to the media said that those who disturb peace and order will be dealt with iron hands. All efforts will be

made to make the area peaceful.

**Repair of roads directed:** The Sindh government has issued instructions to repair the damaged roads in different areas of Larkana city and restore the beauty of the parks in order to increase the beauty of the city.

The work of the belts was carried out rapidly while the gardens of the Floating Sachal Colony area, the green belts on the road, which were in a bad condition for a long time, were re-constructed and made green to add more beauty. On the instructions of Garden Superintendent Arif Ahmed Soomro and in-charge Green Belts Abdul Hafeez Baloch speed up the work of Green Belts established in different areas of the city in order to increase the beauty of the areas including greening.

Mayor of Larkana Anwar Ali Nawaz Luhar said It was said that trees are being planted on the city's parks, roads and green belts are being prepared. Mayor Larkana further said that the city will be made an urban forest under the vision of the Sindh government so that

the citizens can avoid climate change in the future and the citizens can be protected from the heat.

## 100 more green buses approved for Quetta

QUETTA (INP): Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafaqat on Monday said that at least 100 more green buses have been approved for Quetta city as in the first phase, 25 buses would come within a month and a half which would be operated on different routes of the city.

He expressed these views while talking to the media. He said that the green bus service in Quetta city has provided better public transport facility to the citizens. Currently, only 8 buses are being operated under private contract in Quetta city, more than 11 thousand people travel in these buses daily which is a great success, he said and added that 100 more buses have been approved for the city and it was expected that 25 more buses would come in the first phase within a month and a half.





## Mexican officials again criticize volunteer searcher

MEXICO CITY (AP): A Mexican volunteer searcher criticized in the past by the government has found more human remains in Mexico City and officials have attacked her for it - again.

The existence of clandestine body dumping grounds is sensitive for Mexico's ruling Morena party. Morena, which is running the former Mexico City mayor for president in elections, claims the kind of violence that plagues other parts of the country has been successfully combated in the capital.

But volunteer searcher Ceci Flores, who has spent years searching for her two missing sons, says that's because officials haven't bothered to look for bodies. It's a common complaint by relatives of missing people in many parts of Mexico, where drug cartels and kidnap gangs use shallow pits to dispose of the bodies of their victims.

Flores posted a video showing what appeared to be human femurs and craniums in the tall dry grass of a hillside on the city's east side. She suggested there were at least three bodies, and noted there could be more on the hillside. "We don't want to disturb them," Flores said in the video, pointing to a pile of bones with her shovel from a distance of several feet. "We don't want to go in and disturb them."

Flores has sparred with the government before, accusing officials of ignoring the plight of Mexico's more than 100,000 missing people. In late April, Flores drew the ire of city prosecutors when she claimed she had found charred bones and at least

two people's identification cards in another semi-rural area on the city's east side. Prosecutors quickly concluded the bones were from dogs, and that the ID cards had been discarded or stolen and their owners were alive.

Soon after, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador played a government-produced video at his daily press briefing, accusing searchers like Flores of morbidity and claimed they were suffering from "a delirium of necrophilia."

But, acting Mexico City prosecutor Ulises Lara was forced to acknowledge that Flores had indeed found bones, and that they were apparently human. Lara said police, forensic experts, National Guard officers and soldiers were dispatched to the scene. That raised the obvious question of why the vast team of official manpower had never been able to find the bodies, while a lone searching mother armed with only a shovel did.

Lara lashed out at Flores without mentioning her by name, claiming "the chain of custody" of the evidence had been broken and the bones had been "handled." "This violated the dignity and respect that people searching for the relatives deserve, and some of them have expressed their discontent with this situation," Lara said, implying it would have been better not to have found them. In a video posted on social media, Flores reacted with disbelief.

"Seriously? These remains were unknown. We did the work they are supposed to do," Flores said. "You (Lara) didn't even know about them,

were't aware of them, had not located them." Regarding the accusation that other searching relatives were angered by her actions - mass searches of the kind Flores carries out in her native Sonora are not common in Mexico City - Flores shot back, "they should be angry at you for not doing your job." López Obrador's administration has spent far more time and resources looking for people falsely listed as missing - people who may have returned home without advising authorities - than in searching for grave sites that relatives say they desperately need for closure. Flores is a very accomplished searcher, and like many mothers of disappeared people, she has a deep sense of mission. One of her sons, Alejandro Guadalupe, disappeared in 2015. Her second son, Marco Antonio, was abducted in 2019. Authorities have told her nothing about the fate of either of them.

In her home state of Sonora, authorities confirmed in April they had identified 45 missing people from among 57 sets of remains at a body dumping ground known as "El Choyudo" that was originally discovered by Flores' group. The Searching Mothers of Sonora. The "madres buscadoras" (searching mothers) usually aren't trying to convict anyone of their relatives' disappearances. They say they just want to find their remains. Many families say not having definite knowledge of a relative's fate is worse than it would be to know a loved one was dead. At least seven volunteer searchers have been killed in Mexico since 2021.

## Indonesia is to deport a fugitive to Thailand

JAKARTA (AP): One of Thailand's most wanted fugitives will be escorted home on a Thai air force plane after being arrested on Indonesia's tourist island of Bali following months on the run in connection with several killings and drug trafficking charges in his homeland, officials said Monday.

Chaowalit Thongduang escaped from detention in Thailand while being treated at a hospital. When he was detained, he was using a fake Indonesian national identity card which he received shortly after arriving in Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh in December after a 17-hour speedboat trip from India, said Wahyu Widada, head of the Indonesian National Police's Criminal Investigation Department. Chaowalit was arrested in a raid at his apartment in Badung regency in Bali. Authorities seized four cellphones from him along with several fake identity documents.

"We are still investigating local residents who helped issue Chaowalit's fake identity," Widada said. Thai Minister of Justice Tawee Sodsong, who traveled to Indonesia to meet with Chaowalit, said he will be flown on a military plane Tuesday to Thailand, where he is wanted in the murder or attempted murder of police officers and others and drug trafficking. Tawee said Chaowalit praised the authorities for being able to trace him after he fled through several countries. Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said he was confident that the legal system which apprehended Chaowalit could bring him to justice. Indonesia and Thailand signed an extradition agreement in 1978.

## Indonesia's Mount Ibu erupts again, spewing thick, gray ash

JAKARTA (AP): Indonesia's Mount Ibu erupted again and spewed thick, gray ash 7,000 meters (16,000 feet) into the air, officials said. The volcano, which is located on an island in the eastern North Maluku province, erupted for more than six minutes, according to Muhammad Wafid, chief of Indonesia's Geology Agency.

A column of ash could be seen rising high into the sky. It spewed out material including volcanic ash and sand. At the time of the eruption, the wind was blowing to the west, and as a result the volcanic material was carried by the wind down to a site where people previously evacuated have been living, in a field at Gam Ici village, said National Disaster Management Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari. A team from the agency is headed to the affected location. Local authorities advised residents not to carry out outdoor activities and remain sheltered indoors as long as the rain of ash mixed with sand continues.

## Maldives will ban Israelis

COLOMBO (AP): The Maldives government will ban Israelis from the Indian Ocean archipelago, known for luxury resorts, as public anger in the predominantly Muslim nation rises over the war in Gaza.

The president's office said that the Cabinet decided to change laws to prevent Israeli passport holders from entering the country and to establish a subcommittee to oversee the process. It said President Mohamed Muizuw will appoint a special envoy to assess the Palestinian needs and to launch a fundraising campaign.

Israel's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Oren Marmorstein said in response that the Foreign Ministry recommends Israelis avoid any travel to the Maldives, including those with foreign passports, and those currently there to consider leaving. Nearly 11,000 Israelis visited Maldives last year, which was 0.6% of the total tourist arrivals.



KIV: A Ukrainian serviceman cries over the coffin of Ukrainian journalist and volunteer combat medic Iryna Tsybukh during a memorial service on Independence square in Ukraine.

## Earthquakes in Japan collapse five homes

TOKYO (AP): Earthquakes early Monday again struck Japan's north-central region of Ishikawa, still recovering from the destruction left by a powerful quake on Jan. 1, but the latest shaking caused no major damage. A magnitude 5.9 temblor on the northern top of the Noto Peninsula was followed minutes later by a 4.8 and then several smaller quakes within the next two hours, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There was no tsunami. Five houses that had been damaged in the Jan. 1 quake collapsed in Wajima city, but no major damage or life-threatening injuries were reported, according to Ishikawa prefecture. A quake alarm in the town of Tsubata, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) southwest of the epicenter, surprised a resident in her 60s who fell from her bed but the injury was not life-threatening, prefectural officials said.

JMA seismology and tsunami official Satoshi Harada said Monday's quakes were believed to be after-

shocks of the magnitude 7.6 earthquake on Jan. 1. Seismic activity has since slightly subsided, but Harada urged people to be cautious, especially near buildings that were damaged earlier. Shinkansen super-express trains and other train services were temporarily suspended for safety checks but most of them resumed, according to West Japan Railway Co. The Nuclear Regulation Authority said no abnormalities were found at two nearby nuclear power plants. One of them, the Shika plant on the Noto Peninsula, had minor damage, though officials said that did not affect cooling functions of the two reactors.

Hokuriku Electric Power Co. said there were no power outages. Monday's rattlings rekindled fear among residents who are still struggling to recover from damages from the New Year's quake. NHK public television showed a number of people who came out of their homes and temporary shelters to see if there were additional damage. "Many peo-

ple who have been living at evacuation centers must have been frightened," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said, urging caution against potential falling rocks and landslides in areas that were shaken strongly.

Reconstruction comes slowly in mountainous areas on the peninsula, and many damaged houses remain untouched. In Wajima, which was one of the hardest-hit areas, an inn operator told NHK that he immediately ducked under the desk at the reception when the first quake struck Monday. Nothing fell to the floor or broke, but it reminded him of the January shakings and made him worry that a big quake like that had occurred even five months later. The Jan. 1 quake killed 260 people, including those who later died due to stress, illnesses and other causes linked to the quake, with three others still missing, according to the FDMA. Damages still remain, and more than 3,300 residents remain evacuated.

## 1,000 people honor a young Ukrainian journalist and volunteer

KYIV (AP): Nearly 1,000 people attended a ceremony honoring the memory of Ukrainian journalist Iryna Tsybukh, who was killed in action while serving as a volunteer combat medic a few days before her 26th birthday. Tsybukh was killed while on rotation in the Kharkiv area, where Russia started its offensive nearly a month ago.

She had left a note describing how she wished the ceremony to be held, asking people to sing Ukrainian songs and attend in vyshyvankas - traditional embroidered shirts - instead of black clothes. "I want everyone to sing at the farewell, to learn at least 10 meaningful songs and sing them in unison, to extinguish sorrow with native songs," she wrote. And instead of flowers, she said, she asked people to make donations to the Hospitallers Volunteer Medical Battalion, in which she served. A large crowd gathered in the courtyard of Kyiv's St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery, where the memorial service was held. People later joined a column that moved to central Independence Square, a ritual that has become common during funerals of servicemen

and took turns to approach the casket. Tsybukh's close friends distributed printed lyrics of the songs that she wished to be sung during her funeral, including songs that have become symbolic of Ukraine's resistance to Russia's armed aggression. "We will sing each passing minute, in honor of how she saved the military with every minute," said one of Tsybukh's friends through the loudspeaker. For two hours, people continued to approach the casket to say goodbye. A funeral is scheduled to be held on Monday in Tsybukh's hometown of Lviv. Among those attending the memorial service were many soldiers, activists, journalists and people who followed Tsybukh on social media. "I am very grateful to everyone who is here today because it means we are united, we are strong, we will endure," said Tsybukh's friend Kateryna Serdiuk. "Her cause will live on because we are alive and we will carry on" For the past two years, funerals in Ukraine have become daily occurrences. "The realization that our best are dying shatters the heart into pieces that can never be put back together," said Serdiuk.

Before Russia's invasion, Tsybukh was part of the managing team who implemented reforms of Ukraine's public broadcaster Suspilne, she also oversaw educational projects in remote villages in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. She joined the Hospitallers, a volunteer unit, shortly after the outbreak of the war. She had previously completed several rotations since 2014, when Russia first started armed aggression in eastern Ukraine. Tsybukh facilitated the evacuation of wounded soldiers from the battlefield and provided many with first aid. In November she received the Order of Merit, 3rd class, from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"I am a young girl just like any in France or Spain. The only difference is that we have a totalitarian regime on our border that attacked the country I love dearly," she said in interview with Elle in 2022. "That is why I defend my country, and I am ready to die to have freedom in my country." At least 91 media workers have been killed since the outbreak of the war, according to the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine.

## China ready to 'forcefully' stop Taiwan independence: Defence minister

BEIJING: Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun has said the country's military was ready to "forcefully" stop Taiwan's independence, in a fiery speech at a Singapore security forum.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue conference in Singapore, Dong said the self-ruled democracy of Taiwan was the "core of core issues" for China, but claimed Taiwan's governing Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) was incrementally pursuing separatism and bent on erasing Chinese identity. China views Taiwan as its own territory and has not ruled out the use of force to achieve unification.

Last month it staged two days of war games around the island after the May 20 inauguration of President William Lai Ching-te. Lai and the DPP say it is up to the people of Taiwan to decide their future. Beijing calls him a "separatist". "Those separatists recently made fanatical statements

that show their betrayal of the Chinese nation and their ancestors. They will be nailed to the pillar of shame in history," Dong said.

"The Chinese People's Liberation Army has always been an indestructible and powerful force in defence of the unification of the motherland, and it will act resolutely and forcefully at all times to curb the independence of Taiwan and to ensure that it never succeeds in its attempts," Dong told the forum. "Whoever dares to split Taiwan from China will be crushed to pieces and suffer his own destruction." Reacting to the Chinese minister's statements, Taiwan's government said it deeply regretted the "provocative and irrational" remarks.

Dong's comments in Singapore followed the first substantive face-to-face talks in 18 months between the defence chiefs of China and the US. Dong and US Defense Secretary Lloyd

Austin met for more than an hour at the luxury hotel hosting the forum. "We have always been open to exchanges and cooperation, but this requires both sides to meet each other halfway," Dong said. "We believe that we need more exchanges precisely because there are differences between our two militaries." After the meeting, Austin said telephone conversations between US and Chinese military commanders would resume "in the coming months", while Beijing hailed the "stabilising" security relations between the two countries.

President Joe Biden's administration and China have been stepping up communication to ease friction between the nuclear-armed rivals, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken visiting Beijing and Shanghai last month. A key focus has been the resumption of military-to-military dialogue, which is seen as critical to

preventing flashpoint disputes from spinning out of control. China scrapped military communications with the US in 2022 in response to then-US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. On the South China Sea, which China claims almost entirely and where it has been involved in frequent confrontations with Philippine vessels, Dong warned of "limits" to Beijing's restraint.

China has fired war cannon at Philippine vessels in contested waters at Second Thomas Shoal and Scarborough Shoal, which Beijing seized from the Philippines after a months-long stand-off in 2012. "China has maintained sufficient restraint in the face of rights infringements and provocation, but there are limits to this," Dong said. China accuses the US of using the Philippines as a "pawn" to stir up trouble in the South China Sea. — Aljazeera

## South Africa key figures in coalition talks

CAPE TOWN (AP): South Africa's election has decided little, other than the African National Congress that liberated the country from apartheid in 1994 has lost its 30-year majority.

It remained the biggest party, though. With no one holding a majority, South Africa's party leaders are embarking on coalition talks to form a government. South Africa has never had to do this due to the ANC's long dominance. There are four major political parties and at least eight with significant shares of the vote after last week's election. It'll be complicated.

Here's a guide to some of the key figures and what might be coming next as South Africa enters uncharted territory. Once a protege of Nelson Mandela, Ramaphosa, 71, has now overseen the worst election result in the ANC's history. He is under pressure within his own party as well as with voters, but he managed to laugh when an official made a slip and referred to him as the "extinguished" president rather than distinguished. "I'm not yet extinguished," Ramaphosa said. Ramaphosa's challenge is to guide his party to a coalition he sees as best amid different factions within the ANC. The obvious choice is the main opposition

Democratic Alliance. Between them, they would have enough seats in Parliament to govern. But the DA has been fiercely critical of the ANC's policies for years and the marriage wouldn't be an easy one, even if both have said they are open to discussions.

Another option for the ANC is to join with one or both of the two other main opposition parties, the uMkhonto weSizwe party, or MK party, and the Economic Freedom Fighters. That could be damaging for South Africa's image with foreign investors given MK and the EFF have both pledged to nationalize South Africa's important gold and platinum mines and the central bank. Ramaphosa's presidency is in the balance given a coalition agreement also has to translate into reelecting him for a second term. South Africans vote for parties in elections to decide how many seats they get in Parliament. Lawmakers then elect the president and the ANC now doesn't have enough lawmakers on its own to reelect Ramaphosa. Steenhuisen, 48, is the main opposition leader as head of the centrist DA and the only white leader among the four main parties. He said his party was

also initiating talks with various parties, except MK and the EFF. The DA has drawn a line there and said it will never work with those two over ideological differences.

Getting Steenhuisen's DA and Ramaphosa's ANC together is widely viewed as the most stable coalition option by analysts. Some have suggested that other smaller parties could be brought in to create a wider coalition and dilute the ANC-DA mix. Zuma was the leader of the ANC and president of South Africa until he was replaced by Ramaphosa in both positions. They've become fierce rivals. Zuma, who is 82, was the wildcard of this election after only announcing his political comeback in December. His newly formed MK Party had a huge impact by winning 14% of the vote and taking some of the ANC's support to become the third biggest party in its first election.

Zuma's party has demanded Ramaphosa step down as a condition for a coalition, a mark of the personal animosity. The ANC rejected the condition. While it would seem there's little for them to work with to come together, MK does now have a significant vote share and seats in Parliament.

## Sao Paulo pride parade draws hundreds of thousands

SAO PAULO (AFP): Hundreds of thousands of people took over central Sao Paulo for the city's annual Pride parade, many dazzling in green and yellow as part of a campaign to "reclaim" Brazil's flag colors appropriated by the political right.

A massive rainbow flag covered the facade of the Sao Paulo Art Museum to welcome revelers in a festive atmosphere of pumping music and extravagant costumes, with banners proclaiming: "All forms of loving, all forms of being." For Eugenio dos Santos, one of those decked out in yellow and

green, participating in the event -- one of the world's biggest -- is "fighting for visibility, against violence, saying that we exist and are citizens with all the rights and duties" that entails.

Almost 20 million Brazilians, some 10 percent of the population, identify as LGBTQ+, according to the Brazilian ABGLT association. Parade participants called for their issues to be taken up by candidates for municipal elections in October. It came just days after far-right and evangelical parties in Congress managed to pass a ban on using public money for promoting

or funding measures that oppose "traditional family" values, such as abortion or gender-change surgery for minors. Organizers of this year's event had called for participants to dress in yellow and green as a form of protest against far-right former president Jair Bolsonaro and his supporters, who had usurped the national colors during his rule.

Homophobic crimes are punishable under Brazilian law since 2019, but aggressions against gay and transsexual people are registered daily. Rights groups say 145 trans people were killed in the country in 2023.



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

# Biden banking on boost from Black voters

**P**RESIDENT Joe Biden renewed his election-year pitch to Black voters, lashing out at Donald Trump’s “MAGA lies” and said the winner of this year’s White House race will make crucial decisions, including nominees for the Supreme Court, that could affect the country for decades. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, in a joint appearance at a Philadelphia boarding school, thanked Black voters in Pennsylvania and beyond for being the lynchpin to their 2020 victory and they made the case that their agenda has had an enormous impact on improving lives for Black voters.

The Democratic president also argued that an “unhinged” Trump is peddling misinformation in an effort to win back the White House.

President Joe Biden renewed his election-year pitch to Black voters, lashing out at Donald Trump’s “MAGA lies” and said the winner of this year’s White House race will make crucial decisions, including nominees for the Supreme Court, that could affect the country for decades. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, in a joint appearance at a Philadelphia boarding school, thanked Black voters in Pennsylvania and beyond for being the lynchpin to their 2020 victory and they made the case that their agenda has had an enormous impact on improving lives for Black voters.

The Democratic president also argued that an “unhinged” Trump is peddling misinformation in an effort to win back the White House.

At Girard College, which has a predominantly Black student body, Biden warned about the threat he said a second Trump presidency would pose and cited some of the racial controversies fanned by the presumptive Republican nominee during his life.

“This is the same guy who wanted to tear gas you as you peacefully protested George Floyd’s murder. The same guy who still calls the Central Park Five guilty, even though they were exonerated,” Biden told the crowd. “He’s that landlord who denies housing applications because of the colour of your skin.”

The Philadelphia visit was the start of what the Biden campaign describes as a summer-long effort to engage Black student organisations, community groups and faith centres. It reflects in part how much of their support of him has frayed as Trump aims to make inroads into the longtime Democratic constituency, according to the Associated Press. The issue of abortion rights and the judiciary also featured in the remarks from Biden and Harris. The vice president noted that Trump dramatically shaped the Supreme Court as she invoked the name of Thurgood Marshall, the high court’s first Black justice.

Trump, she said, “handpicked three members of the Supreme Court – the court of Thurgood – with the intention that they would overturn Roe vs. Wade,” the landmark abortion rights ruling. “And as he intended, they did.”

Among Black adults, Biden’s approval has dropped from 94% when he started his term to just 55%, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll published in March. The economy has been a particular thorn in Biden’s side since 2022, when inflation hit a 40-year high. But there have also been signs of discontent in the Black community more recently over Biden’s handling of the seven-month Israel-Hamas war. Turning out Black voters could prove pivotal for Biden’s chances in what are expected to be among the most closely contested states – Arizona, Georgia, Michigan Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Biden beat his predecessor and 2024 challenger, former President Donald Trump, in all six states in 2020, but he could face a more difficult climb this year, the Associated Press report adds.

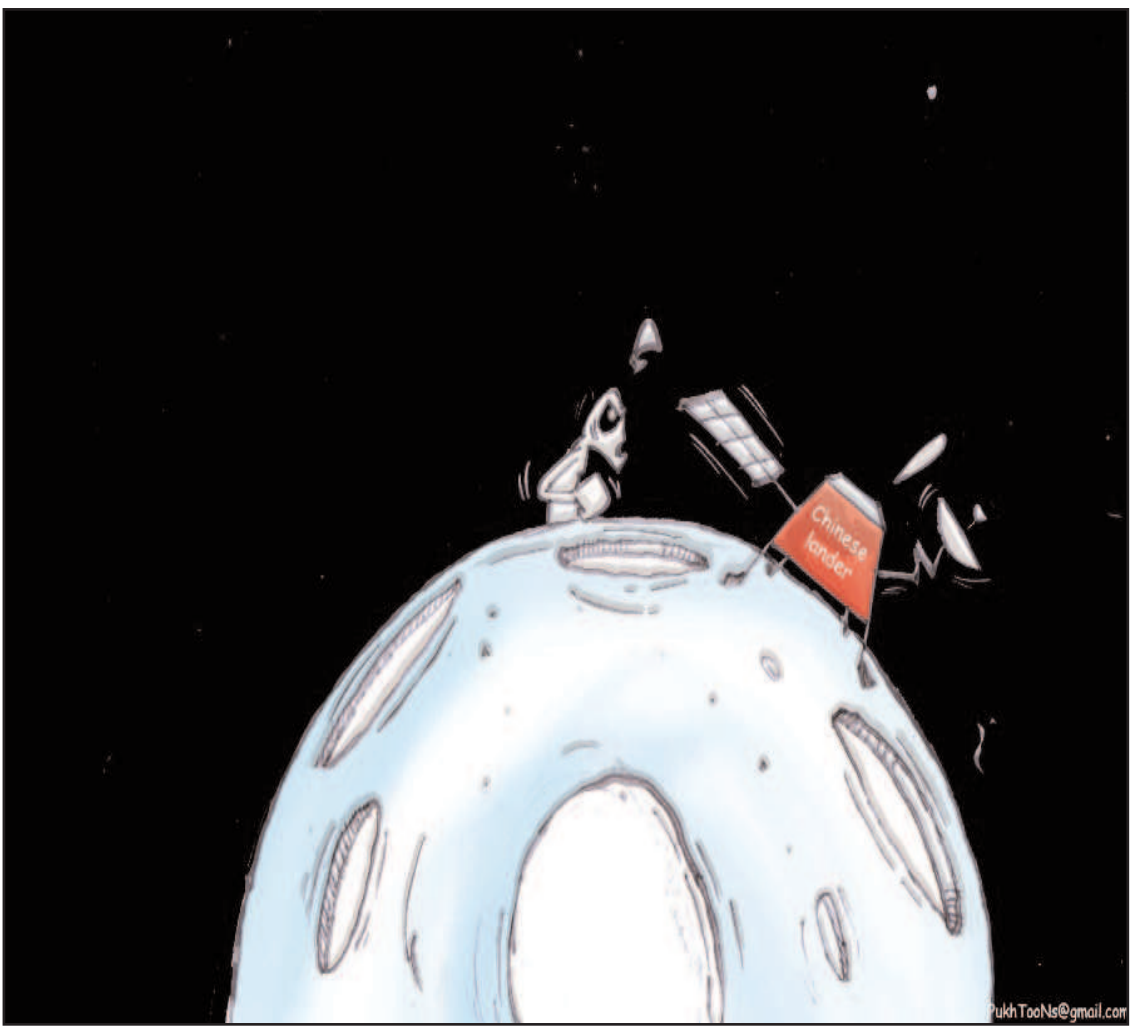
Trump has been offering himself as a better president for Black voters than Biden. At a rally last week in the Bronx, he railed against Biden on immigration and said “the biggest negative impact” of the influx of migrants in New York is “against our Black population and our Hispanic population who are losing their jobs, losing their housing, losing everything they can lose.”

The Biden campaign wants to use the new engagement effort in part to remind Black voters of some of the Democratic administration’s achievements of his term. The Black unemployment rate sits at 5.6%, according to the latest federal government data, compared to the average of about 8% from 2016 to 2020 and 11% from 2000 to 2015. Black household wealth has surged, and Biden’s effort to cancel billions in student loan debt has disproportionately impacted Black borrowers.

Biden also points to his appointment of Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first Black female justice on the US Supreme Court and his pick of Harris as the first Black woman to serve as vice president.

## 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.



# Stoking division to win India’s elections comes at a cost

Baria Alamuddin

**I**NDIA’S lengthy voting process, one of the most polarizing and divisive rounds of elections in modern times, will come to an end with the declaration of results on Tuesday.

Polls indicate that the issues concerning voters include soaring youth unemployment at nearly 50 percent and a vast wealth gap. But with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party fearing a dip in turnout, populist Hindu nationalist politicians have instead focused on demonizing and disenfranchising minorities as a means of juicing the vote.

Some of the most blatant abuses have been in BJP-governed states with substantial minority populations. Non-Hindu communities have suffered from “bulldozer justice,” with entire districts demolished for allegedly lacking proper permits, and have found themselves inexplicably removed from voter rolls.

In several locations in Uttar Pradesh, the police attacked and dispersed non-Hindus who turned up to vote. Violence against voters was even more blatant in Kashmir, where the 2019 law revoking the region’s special autonomous status has motivated higher anti-BJP voter turnout. Oppositionists accused the police of detaining and intimidating party workers and deliberately suppressing the vote.

In Assam state, a gerrymandering process known as “delimitation” has required some non-Hindu communities to travel over 100 kilometers to their nearest voting center. Opposition parties warn that delimitation has “ensured no Muslim candidate can win in the future.”

The BJP has also

aggressively gone after opposition groups, with the Congress party’s bank accounts frozen in February over tax payments and senior oppositionists jailed on a variety of flimsy charges, and there has been a purge of media outlets perceived to be insufficiently favorable, including the BBC. Meanwhile, a phalanx of supportive media institutions have been dedicated to promoting the prime minister and the BJP. These elections could also set records for the avalanche of AI deep-fake content and online misinformation unleashed by all sides.

India’s foreign policy is riven with contradictions: Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a long time looked to China as a key economic partner, until Xi’s Jinping’s own expansionist nationalism became too conspicuously detrimental to India’s sovereign interests. In the Biden administration’s desperation to cultivate India as an ally against the likes of China, Russia and Iran, there has been a tendency to turn a blind eye to the country’s democratic shortcomings. India has furthermore sought to have it both ways on Ukraine and other global threats, particularly given India’s dependence on oil from Russia and Iran. India has sought to cultivate stronger ties with GCC states, but Modi is also one of few world leaders who have pursued closer ties with Israel since the Gaza war.

Much attention has been focused on divisive and inflammatory comments made by the prime minister himself, with Modi telling one rally: “When they were last in power, the Congress said

that Muslims have the first right to the nation’s resources. What does that mean? If they come to power, that means they will collect all the wealth. And who will they give it to? Those who have more children. To infiltrators.”

Along with the demonisation of Indian Muslims as “infiltrators” and the ubiquitous slur that their families are having more children in order to displace Hindus in India, political speeches and election propaganda have repeatedly emphasized the mantra of “Love Jihad” — the myth of Hindu women being seduced and forcibly converted. Evoking this specter, BJP state governments have introduced anti-conversion legislation and encouraged police crackdowns on interfaith couples. A recent Bollywood film, “Kerala Story,” which was promoted by BJP politicians, claimed that 32,000 women in Kerala state had been forcibly converted to Islam before being recruited into the ranks of Daesh. This is one of a flood of recent propagandistic Bollywood films that have demonised non-Hindu demographics.

Although extremist Hindu nationalists have gone after secularists, Sikhs, Christians and others, India’s more than 200 million Muslims are viewed by the BJP as the primary threat to their monolithic vision of Hindu supremacy, and consequently face growing discrimination in employment and education, along with increasingly systematic barriers to social advancement.

Modi’s India is often portrayed as an economic miracle, with its massive infrastructure projects and widening citizens’ access

to technology, banking and consumer goods. Although the proportion of those living in extreme poverty has fallen, from 18.7 percent in 2015 to 12 percent in 2021, social inequalities have dangerously widened, with the top 10 percent of the population holding 77 percent of national wealth. India’s 2019 citizenship law wields the power to make millions stateless.

BJP-aligned right-wing organizations have enjoyed impunity for embarking on bouts of communal violence, and lynching non-Hindus accused of smuggling beef. BJP politicians openly celebrate notorious Hindu vigilantes accused of murderous attacks on minorities. Hate speech has soared, with one research group finding that 75 percent of recent instances occurred in BJP-ruled states.

Throughout Europe, the US, and elsewhere in the world, we also see populists and fascists whipping up communal and religious hatreds as the surest route to political power.

I had the bittersweet pleasure of interviewing Indira Gandhi in 1984, just hours before the prime minister was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguard. Gandhi told me of her love of hiking in Kashmir’s mountains, and extolled the importance of her nation’s inherent diversity: India must be a state for all its peoples, she told me, not a democracy for only one segment of the population.

Few doubt that the BJP’s tactics for maximising turnout among the Hindu majority will prevail, but when victory carries such dangerously high costs, all segments of society risk losing from the resulting social turmoil.

# What the shifting discourse on Palestine means for Israel

Dr. Ramzy Baroud

**N**OT so long ago, if one were to say that a top Spanish government official would someday declare that “from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” the suggestion itself would have seemed ludicrous. But this is precisely how Yolanda Diaz, Spain’s deputy prime minister, concluded a statement on May 23, a few days before Spain officially recognized Palestine as a state.

The recognition of Palestine by Spain, along with Norway and Ireland, is important. Western Europe is finally catching up with the rest of the world regarding the significance of a strong international position in support of the Palestinian people and in rejection of Israel’s genocidal practices in the Occupied Territories.

But equally important is the changing political discourse regarding both Palestine and Israel in Europe and all over the world. Almost immediately after the start of the ongoing Israeli war on Gaza, some European countries imposed restrictions on pro-Palestinian protests, with some even banning the Palestinian flag, which was perceived, through some twisted logic, as an antisemitic symbol.

With time, however, Western governments’ unprecedented solidarity with Israel became an outright political, legal and moral liability. Thus, a slow shift began, leading to a near-complete transformation in the position of some governments and a partial though clear shift in the political discourse among others.

The early ban on pro-Palestinian protests was impossible to maintain in the face of millions of angry European citizens, who called on their governments to end their blind support for Tel Aviv.

On May 30, the mere fact that French private broadcaster TF1 showed an interview with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu led to large, spontaneous protests by French citizens, who called on their media to deny accused war criminals the chance to address the public.

Failing to push back against the pro-Palestine narrative, the French government on May 31 decided to disinvite Israeli military firms from participating in one of the world’s largest military expos, Eurosatory, which is scheduled for June 17-21.

Even countries like Canada and Germany, which supported the Israeli genocide against Palestinians until the later stages of the mass killings, began changing their language.

The change of language is also happening in Israel itself and among pro-Israeli intellectuals and journalists in the mainstream media. On a popular podcast in March, New York Times writer Thomas Friedman attacked Netanyahu, saying that he “will go down in history as the worst leader in Jewish history, not just in Israeli history.”

Unpacking Friedman’s statement requires another column, for such language

continues to feed on the persisting illusion — at least in the mind of Friedman — that Israel serves as a representation not of its own citizens, but of all Jewish people, both past and present.

As for the language in Israel, it is coalescing into two major and competing discourses: one irrationally ruthless, as represented by far-right ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, as well as by Netanyahu himself; and the other, though equally militant and anti-Palestinian, which is more pragmatic.

While the first group would like to see Palestinians slaughtered in large numbers or wiped out by a nuclear bomb, the second realizes that a military option is not viable, at least for now.

“The Israeli army does not have the ability to win this war against Hamas, and certainly not against Hezbollah,” Israeli Army Reserve Maj. Gen. Itzhak Brik said in an interview with the Israeli newspaper Maariv on May 30. Brik, one of Israel’s most respected military men, is just one of many who are now essentially repeating the same wisdom.

Strangely, when Israeli Minister of Heritage Amihai Eliyahu suggested the “option” of dropping a nuclear bomb on the Strip, his words reeked of desperation, not confidence.

Prior to the war, the Israeli political discourse regarding Gaza revolved around a specific set of terminology: “deterrence,” represented in the occasional one-sided war, often referred to as “mowing the lawn,” and “security,” among others.

Billions of dollars have been generated throughout the years by war profiteers in Israel, the US and other European countries, all in the name of keeping Gaza besieged and subdued.

Now, this language has been relegated in favor of a grand discourse concerned with existential wars, the future of the Jewish people and the possible end of Israel, if not Zionism itself.

While it is true that Netanyahu fears an end to the war will bring a terrible conclusion to his supposedly triumphant legacy as the “protector” of Israel, there is more to the story.

If the war ends without Israel restoring its so-called deterrence and security, it will be forced to contend with the fact that the Palestinian people cannot be relegated and that their rights cannot be overlooked. For Israel, such a realization would be an end to its settler-colonial project, which began nearly 100 years ago.

Additionally, the perceptions and language pertaining to Palestine and Israel are changing among ordinary people across the world. The misconception of the Palestinian “terrorist” is being quickly replaced by the true depiction of the Israeli war criminal, a categorization that is now consistent with the views of the world’s largest legal institutions.

Israel now stands in near-complete isolation due, in part, to its genocide in Gaza, but also due to the courage and steadfastness of the Palestinian people and the global solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

# HK pearl of Greater Bay Area

Regina IP

**I**NTegration with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has been a top priority of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region’s government ever since the signing of the framework agreement for deepening cooperation between Guangdong province, and the Macao and Hong Kong SARs in July 2017.

True, the Hong Kong SAR government is pulling out all the stops to increase the city’s attractiveness. But, apart from coping with daily pressures, the government ought to sit back and think strategically about what the GBA integration means to Hong Kong. It needs to think hard especially about three questions: How will the GBA integration transform Hong Kong? What challenges and opportunities the GBA integration brings? How can the government maximize the benefits of the GBA integration?

The GBA integration will have a long-term, transformational effect on Hong Kong. Under the government’s “Northern Metropolis” development plan, three more rail-

ways will be built to connect Hong Kong’s northern districts to the mainland. After the construction of the railways is completed, many among the estimated 2.5 million residents in the “Northern Metropolis” will find it more convenient to travel to the mainland than to the Hong Kong Island. As the GBA cities on the mainland become increasingly sophisticated, more Hong Kong residents might wish to move or live there, and commute to Hong Kong on a daily basis.

While some people may be worried about the “hollowing out” of Hong Kong, the migration of Hong Kong residents to the mainland is not a bad thing. For a long time, Hong Kong residents have been stuck in congested and expensive apartments because they are boxed in by Hong Kong’s artificial boundary, and are unable to take advantage of better housing conditions in nearby suburbs. The improvement of transport links, coupled with better medical and schooling facilities in nearby GBA cities, would enable more Hong Kong residents to live

comfortably in mainland cities just across the boundary.

Such pivoting to the GBA would require a radical rethink on the part of the SAR government of its population policy, and urban and social welfare planning. The private sector will also need to adjust its development plans to adapt to the new trends of living and spending.

With a population of 86 million and combined GDP of \$2 trillion, there is high hope that the GBA will become the world’s most dynamic region. Given the barriers to the free movement of goods, services, people, capital and data because of Hong Kong’s status as a separate customs and immigration area under “one country, two systems”, Hong Kong needs to work out how to overcome these constraints to take advantage of the abundant resources of the mainland GBA cities. The process has not been easy, but the SAR government appears to have found ways to work around these constraints to achieve win-win solutions.

The key to unlocking the potential of the region lies in working out ways to complement Hong Kong and the mainland GBA cities in their development strategies. For example, Hong Kong lacks land to build residential care homes for the elderly. As such, Hong Kong as well as the GBA cities on the mainland stand to benefit by enabling more elderly people from Hong Kong to retire in any of the mainland GBA cities.

To enable more elderly people living on social security payments to retire in Guangdong or Fujian, the government relaxed the Hong Kong-residential period required under the Guangdong and Fujian retirement plans. The government has taken a further step forward by adding residential care homes jointly operated by Hong Kong and mainland service providers in Guangdong to serve as “recognized service providers” under the “Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong”.

Two more such homes, in

Foshan and Shenzhen, have been added this month, bringing the total number of such homes to four. And the government is planning to bring residential care homes operated solely by mainland service providers under this program.

The SAR government also lacks land to provide residential quarters for retired junior members of the discipline services and other civil servants. As more junior civil servants are prepared to retire in nearby GBA cities, the government should explore the possibility of buying land or readily available housing units in mainland GBA cities to provide homes for those willing to shift to the mainland after retirement.

To relieve our acute labor shortage in many occupations, the government has relaxed labor import program to enable the Airport Authority Hong Kong, transport operators and the construction industries to invite workers from the mainland. The mainland GBA cities can help Hong Kong build innovation and technology hubs in the “Northern Metropolis” by sending us their tech tal-

ents, engineers, and tech enterprises which want to use Hong Kong as a launch pad for their international operations. These tech entrepreneurs can draw on the deep pool of research in medical and life sciences and other disciplines in Hong Kong’s top universities to enhance their competitiveness.

In return, Hong Kong can help the mainland GBA cities further develop their service economies, especially in financial, business and other professional sectors. The Shenzhen government reported in January that the city’s “social and consumption expenditure” grew by 7.8 percent and topped 1 trillion yuan (\$138.40 billion) in 2023, with Fang Zhou, a leading scholar, saying Hong Kong consumers made healthy contributions to that growth.

Let Hong Kong, Shenzhen and other GBA cities grow together, complementing each other, helping each other to address their respective shortfalls and weaknesses. With their combined strengths, the GBA stands a good chance of becoming the nation’s dynamo for growth.



# Mexico’s election: A victory for organised crime

ON June 2, Mexico elected Claudia Sheinbaum as its first woman president. The 61-year-old scientist served as mayor of Mexico City from 2018 until 2023 and is the protégée of outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO), to whose Morena party she belongs and in whose shadow she will now govern.

In the largest election in Mexico’s history, Sheinbaum faced off against ex-senator Xóchitl Gálvez, head of a conservative coalition. In addition to the presidential race, Mexicans also voted for candidates contesting more than 20,700 federal and local positions countrywide.

In the run-up to the election, observers relentlessly cast the prospect of an impending female head of state in Mexico as a victory for women’s empowerment, although a glance at facts on the ground suggests the prematurity of any such celebration.

Back in 2019, Sheinbaum, the first female mayor of Mexico City, promised to eradicate violence against women. During her tenure, however, the femicide epidemic in the Mexican capital – and the rest of the country – continued to rage.

Mexico currently sees at least 10 women and girls killed on a daily basis, with tens of thousands of women missing. The vast majority of femicides go unprosecuted.

Of course, the surge in femicides occurs within a general context of violence; in the first four and a half years of AMLO’s term, Mexico registered 160,594 homicides, while the estimated number of missing people has now surpassed 111,000 – a figure AMLO has preferred to drastically lowball.

The outgoing president

has also found it prudent to accuse people overly concerned with the search for the missing of suffering from “delirium of necrophilia”.

The violence extends to the political realm, too. More than two dozen candidates were assassinated ahead of the June 2 polls, and hundreds more dropped out of their races. In April, two mayoral contenders were found dead on a single day.

Some might go as far as to call it a “delirium of

Belén Fernández

Mexican press, but the rumour in town was that “they” had warned him – “they” being the dominant drug trafficking group in the area, whose operations the mayor was apparently endeavouring to obstruct.

I left Zipolite in April but recently phoned a Mexican friend there to inquire about candidates for the mayor’s replacement. His response: “No one wants the job.”

Multiply the case of

too eager to do the gringos’ dirty work – a pattern Sheinbaum will no doubt continue.

As unprecedented numbers of asylum seekers now traverse Mexico to reach the US, drug trafficking outfits have expanded their services to include people smuggling, as well. People on the move are abused and extorted at every turn by agents of the state and organised crime groups alike, often working in cahoots.

cornered us in a car park with their pick-up truck after having been tipped off by migrant smugglers that I was interfering with business.

Disgruntled to hear that all of my pesos had already been distributed to other Mexican officials, the National Guard officers suggested that I proceed to a nearby petrol station to conduct a hefty payment on my credit card, which the station attendant would then pass along to the officers in cash.

Created in 2019, the National Guard has been accused of torture, extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances and sexual violence against asylum seekers. Now, Sheinbaum has optimistically expressed her hope that the National Guard will “be closer to the public, act like a local police, really become the first responders”.

Speaking of criminal actors, Sheinbaum also hopes to boost cooperation with the US in the realm of so-called “free trade” despite the concept’s rather sordid history in Mexico. Recall that the implementation of the US-imposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994 destroyed millions of livelihoods in the country while fuelling poverty and forcing countless Mexicans into narco-trafficking-related jobs in order to survive. That is when lethal violence against women soared.

Anyway, what is US-imposed capitalism if not very organised crime?

As Mexico now prepares for a new administration, it is safe to assume that violence, official corruption, and impunity will remain the name of the game. A woman may have won the Mexican election, but the real winner is organised crime – in every sense of the term.

# Population aging is a slowly unfolding yet insidious crisis

PICTURE the scene — a city filled with people above the age of 40, with very few young couples in sight and even fewer happy pairs pushing prams or rushing to pick up their kids from school. Some neighborhoods of Tokyo and Rome, given the two cities’ fast-greying reputation, are probably already familiar with such scenes. But in the not too distant future, if the reality of the situation in many cities and towns turns out to be a lot more chaotic or even more charmless, there would be no shortage of reasons.

For one, the global population is aging and declining at an uneven pace owing to forces that are beyond the control of intergovernmental organizations, to say nothing of policymakers and heads of government. The imbalances are triggering a surge in both legal and illegal human migration, a phenomenon that is stirring political discord and ideological polarization in several economically advanced countries, notably the United States.

For another, a shrinking pool of taxpayers and productive citizens does not bode well for the future of any country, especially one with an aging workforce and a growing cohort of people who will need social support and medical care. Young people in such countries will have fewer incentives to stay on, work hard and create jobs if they know that a big chunk of the taxes they pay will be distributed by the state in the form of pension and public health services for the aged.

To look on the bright side, the fact that people are living much longer than before is a colossal achievement. Indeed, boosting life expectancy was a strong motivation behind the development of the vaccines and drugs that wiped out smallpox, tuberculosis, leprosy, plague and polio. The problem is that lifespans have increased, or are increasing, in some countries or regions at the same time as couples there are choosing to have fewer and fewer children.

This is causing a strong imbalance in young versus older people both within a nation and across geographical borders. In numerical terms, the global population aged 60 years and above is expected to double by 2050 and triple by 2100, according to the World Health Organization. Yet, by 2100, an overwhelming majority of countries globally will not have high enough fertility rates to sustain their population size.

According to newly published research in The Lancet, the global fertility rate will drop from 2.2 births per female in her lifetime in 2021 to about 1.8 in 2050 and 1.6 in 2100.

The average fertility rate in the high-income Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development bloc is already at or below 1.6 children per woman, compared with the 2.1 births per woman needed to stabilize the population.

The number of babies born in Japan last year fell to a record low since the world’s largest creditor nation started compiling the statistics in 1899. In Italy, another OECD member country with an aging population, the number of deaths far surpasses the number of births, with the median number of children per family plunging to 1.2.

Those who argue that it is not the duty of the individual citizens to ensure that their country sustains its native

Arnab Neil Sengupta

population size have a point there. There are enough members of the human race at present to stave off population decline at the planetary level for decades to come. According to the UN’s 2022 population prospects, the world’s population will reach a peak of about 10.4 billion people during the 2080s and will remain at that level until 2100. Population aging and decline also maybe, just maybe, an acceptable price to pay so that young men and women can today exercise the right to stay single or childless.

But because “demography is destiny,” as the old maxim puts it, the voluntary depopulation of an entire country is not cost-free; it postpones problems that

February found that Americans are most likely to name immigration as the most important problem facing the country. “The imagery at the (US-Mexico) border — the wall, the Border Patrol officers, the crowded detention facilities — serves as a potent backdrop for drawing attention to the crisis or, increasingly, for seizing on the issue to attack political opponents,” said a recent report in The New York Times.

Closer to home, a 2017 report prepared by the UN Population Fund’s Arab States Regional Office and the Arab League predicted that nearly all Arab countries that entered the demographic windows — a period when the proportion of population of working age group is particularly prominent — by 2015 would have

To look on the bright side, the fact that people are living much longer than before is a colossal achievement. Indeed, boosting life expectancy was a strong motivation behind the development of the vaccines and drugs that wiped out smallpox, tuberculosis, leprosy, plague and polio. The problem is that lifespans have increased, or are increasing, in some countries or regions at the same time as couples there are choosing to have fewer and fewer children. This is causing a strong imbalance in young versus older people both within a nation and across geographical borders. In numerical terms, the global population aged 60 years and above is expected to double by 2050 and triple by 2100, according to the World Health Organization.

future generations will struggle to tackle. Stein Emil Vollset, of the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, says the world faces “staggering social change through the 21st century” due to a “baby bust” in some countries and a “baby boom” in others. The study quoted by The Lancet found that sub-Saharan Africa will account for “one in every two children born on the planet by 2100.” This means that “many of the most resource-limited countries in sub-Saharan Africa will be grappling with how to support the youngest, fastest-growing population on the planet in some of the most politically and economically unstable, heat-stressed and health system-strained places on Earth.”

The unfolding challenges faced by North America and Western Europe owing to this “staggering social change” were glossed over by President Joe Biden when he told an audience of mainly Asian American political donors in May that America’s economy was thriving “because we welcome immigrants,” adding: “Why is China stalling so badly economically? Why is Japan having trouble? Why is Russia? Why is India? Because they’re xenophobic. They don’t want immigrants.”

While it is true that all the four countries in question have suffered owing to their unwillingness or inability to attract foreign students and immigrants, they may also have dodged the bullet of polarized politics, fueled in part by mismanaged or unchecked immigration. A Gallup poll released in

more than 20 percent of their populations aged over 60 by 2050. By the same year, the Gulf Cooperation Council’s aging population is expected to be at an all-time high of 20.66 percent, the highest in the Arab region, followed by the Maghreb, the Mashreq and the Least Developed Countries.

Like their peers across the Arab world, GCC citizens will also become economically less productive and need more healthcare as they become older. But as a recent report by PwC Middle East points out, “there are good reasons why tomorrow’s highly digitalized GCC ‘knowledge economies’ can also be societies that value the region’s best traditions, ensuring that older citizens lead fulfilling lives to the end of their days.”

While governments, the private sector, healthcare providers, insurance providers and research and academia each have clear roles to play, the report says that thanks to ambitious transformation strategies, the GCC region “is well positioned to become a global innovator for developing policy and solutions to address the rapid change in the demographics.”

In 1968, American biologist Paul Ehrlich and his wife Anne became well known for “The Population Bomb,” a controversial book whose name reflected the fears of previous generations.

Today’s global economy faces a problem that is quite the opposite and more insidious: a population bomb that will not explode but keep ticking for decades until it implodes.

# How Israel’s war on Gaza could impact UK election

HOW will the Israel-Gaza crisis play out in the July 4 general election in the UK? It will be a factor, as it has been in recent by-elections and local elections. But to what extent?

This is a joker question because nobody can quite be sure. It is one thing for voters to care about events in Israel and Gaza, but quite another as to whether this will influence their vote. Let’s be clear. Foreign conflicts do not have a history of determining British elections. Tony Blair won a third successive election back in 2005 despite the Iraq war. It is hard to think of a previous British election where Israel-Palestine has been a factor. The overwhelming majority of UK politicians, including party leaders, do not make this issue a priority. They know elections are won on domestic issues.

Could 2024 be different? In some of the 650 parliamentary constituencies, it will be a factor. These include, but are not exclusive to, those with large Jewish or Muslim populations, largely in urban areas. British Muslims make up a majority in three parliamentary constituencies. Labour sources indicate they are fighting in 16 battleground constituencies where there are large Muslim communities. Half of British Muslims are aged 25 or under. This means that this is a demographic that

is likely to be ever more influential in elections to come.

But will they be an influential factor this year? The Labour Party is way ahead in the polls, typically by more than 20 points, so even an independent candidate running on a pro-Palestinian rights platform is unlikely to do more than dent a potential Labour MP’s majority. The electorate knows that independent MPs have limited power in the British parliamentary system.

Could 2024 be different? In some of the 650 parliamentary constituencies, it will be a factor. These include, but are not exclusive to, those with large Jewish or Muslim populations, largely in urban areas. British Muslims make up a majority in three parliamentary constituencies. Labour sources indicate they are fighting in 16 battleground constituencies where there are large Muslim communities. Half of British Muslims are aged 25 or under.

The influence of Gaza may be more indirect. It may be more about how Gaza has shaped overall perceptions of party leaders and parties, such as how much they are liked or respected or how poorly they are perceived.

How party leaders have dealt with the issue of this crisis is key. Neither Prime Minister Rishi Sunak nor Labour leader Keir Starmer

have impressed. And this matters. Although voters select a specific candidate in their constituency, it is the choice of leader that is uppermost in most voters’ minds. This is why the charismatic Boris Johnson fared so well in 2019 and why Theresa May, who is the polar opposite, found campaigning so tough in 2017. Gaza is a challenge for Starmer because it is more of an issue for potential Labour

only 9 percent opted for the Conservatives. Two years earlier, polls showed Labour secured as much as 86 percent of the British Muslim vote. Starmer has more to lose. He has alienated himself from supporters on several key issues regarding Gaza. It was not until February that he backed an immediate ceasefire, while more than 70 percent of the population has consistently backed that stance since October. He refused to call for an arms

embargo on Israel, while one poll found that 62 percent of voters backed that, rising to a jaw-dropping 75 percent among those intending to vote Labour.

But what is most remembered and viewed is an interview Starmer did, in which he appeared to justify Israel’s total siege on Palestinians in Gaza. He was asked whether Israel cutting off all power

and water to Gaza was “appropriate,” Starmer said: “I think that Israel does have that right. It is an ongoing situation.” He added: “Obviously, everything should be done within international law.” That Sunak totally backed the siege can be forgotten, but Sunak is not really chasing British Muslim voters. Does Starmer have an issue with Muslim and indeed ethnic minority voters? During the local elections at the start of May, a senior Labour Party source told the BBC: “It’s the Middle East, not West Midlands, that will have won (Conservative candidate) Andy Street the mayoralty. Once again, Hamas are the real villains.” Many Muslims saw this as offensive, disparaging their views.

Another accusation is that Starmer has led a purge of those candidates deemed to be too left-wing or even pro-Palestinian. At the same time, Labour has parachuted into safe seats candidates from Starmer’s wing of the party, including one extremist pro-Benjamin Netanyahu lobbyist who has called the UN antisemitic and supports illegal settlements.

Starmer’s Labour will win. But his limp positions on Gaza and lack of desire to hold Israel accountable could limit his majority and weaken him in the eyes of his party. This issue has damaged his standing before he even becomes prime minister.

Xin Ping

FOR the past hundred years, the United States has been the “city upon a hill”. One important reason is its continued hegemony in science and technology. Whenever its dominance may be challenged, the US will spare no efforts to contain those it perceives as a threat, be it a rival or an ally. The recent US sell-or-ban bill on TikTok is just another typical example. Following are the five gimmicks the US often uses to maintain its scientific and technological hegemony.

Gimmick 1: Loot a burning house

Right after the end of World War II, the US plundered many scientific and technological fruits from Germany. Under the direct intervention of President Harry Truman, a large number of German scientists and engineers were extradited to the US, who later

played an important role in US manned spaceflight, moon landing and other landmark projects.

On the eve of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the US carried out a “technological harvest” like a busy reaping machine. The American Lockheed Martin company tricked a former Soviet fighter jet design institute into providing relevant technical information with less than \$400 million only to renege on its own words and refused to pay the remainder of the promised sum after the Soviet institute provided all the information.

Gimmick 2: Bolster one and bash the other

The US is also good at playing its proxies against each other to secure its own technological lead. After the end of World War II, to counter the Soviet Union and New China in the Far East, the US vigorously supported Japan as it transferred a large number of

technologies and manufacturing industries.

However, when the rapid development of science and technology in Japan started to threaten American supremacy, the US swiftly turned to the relatively backward Republic of Korea, supporting its development of semiconductors, automobiles, ships and other industries which were also Japan’s strong suits. While these two countries competed, the United States was the one to benefit.

This time, in order to suppress China’s high-tech industry, the US has again resorted to the old trick of “supporting the weak and containing the strong”. By hiking tariffs, imposing trade restrictions and providing subsidies, the US is vigorously pushing the relevant enterprises to move their industrial and supply chains from China to India and Vietnam in an attempt to create “another China”.

Gimmick 3: Blame-

shifting

During the Cold War, when the Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite in human history in 1957, the US media lamented that the US has lost its scientific and technological advantages and how there would always be a pair of Soviet eyes in the sky looking down at the US. The American people were thus led to believe that the Soviet Union must be contained and suppressed.

The US has pulled such gimmicks not only on its adversaries but also on its allies. In the 1980s, faced with the rapid rise of the Japanese semiconductor industry, the US manipulated the media to hype up the so-called “national security threat” by Japan, stirring up resistance to its ally across the country.

Today, in the face of China’s growing scientific and technological strength,

the US has kept churning out false information, accusing China of unfair competition in boosting its high-tech industry and blaming China for job losses in some industries in the US. All of these are meant to direct the anger and frustration of the American people toward Chinese high-tech companies.

Gimmick 4: Long-arm jurisdiction

According to international law, the exercise of jurisdiction by one state over an extraterritorial person or entity usually requires a genuine and sufficient connection between the person or entity or its conduct and that state.

However, the US has arbitrarily decided that even the flimsiest connection can trigger its long-arm jurisdiction. Over the past decades, many enterprises, especially high-tech enterprises, have suffered great

ly from such US practice.

In 1987, under US pressure, the Japanese police arrested two Toshiba executives who were charged with being “spies” involved in the sale of precision machine tools to the Soviet Union. Toshiba was hit hard with its factories in the US being shut down and with the US imposing a 1 trillion yen (about \$16 billion) fine on the company. In 2013, to beat its competitor, French company Alstom, the US arrested its executive Frédéric Pierucci on the grounds of overseas bribery, and induced him to sign a plea agreement to extract more evidence and information against Alstom. In the end, the French company had no choice but to accept the acquisition by General Electric.

In 2016, the US Department of Commerce added China’s ZTE to the entity list for selling communication equipment to

Iran. In recent years, the US has made Huawei its target, using diplomatic resources to pressure its allies and even developing countries against using Huawei equipment.

Worse still, the US government also instigated Canada to detain Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Huawei, for nearly three years to push Huawei into the “US trap” as it did to Alstom.

Gimmick 5: Exclusive Groupings

Forming exclusive groupings is another tool often used by the US to suppress its competitors. In the mid-1980s, Japanese manufactured cars, semiconductors and other products occupied much of the American market.

In order to save its domestic manufacturing industry that was losing competitiveness, the US government co-opted allies such as Britain, France and Germany to curb the export

of Japanese industrial products.

In recent years, the US is playing the same gimmick on China. From the “Indo-Pacific Economic Framework” to the expansion of AUKUS to include a Pillar II, the US has been forming exclusive groupings to block China’s development and progress in related technological fields. The French philosopher Henri de Saint-Simon once said “There is only one common good for all mankind, and that is the progress of science.” In today’s globalized world, all countries are interdependent.

The Chinese people have debunked the gimmicks of the US and are not afraid of its scientific and technological oppression, because what does not kill you will only make you stronger. If the US must go against the trend of the times, it will only reap the bitter fruits of its own sowing.





# PSX lists Int'l Packaging Films with a gong ceremony

## F.P. Report

KARACHI: A gong ceremony was held at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) to celebrate the listing of International Packaging Films Limited (IPAK). IPAK is a company pioneering and specialising in manufacturing of the five-layer Biaxially Oriented Polypropylene (BOPP) films used for the purpose of packaging. Specifically, it can be used for food and beverages packaging, garment bags and bagging overwrap, as well as printing pouching and strip packaging among other types of packaging.

Present at the gong ceremony were Mr. Muhammad Amin, Chairman; Mr. Naveed Godil, CEO; directors and senior management of International Packaging Films Ltd. Mr. Aqeel Karim Dhedhi, Chairman of AKD Group, Mr. Yousaf Bashir, Managing Director Investment Banking at Arif Habib Limited, and Wajid Hussain, CEO of Intermarket Securities along with their teams were also present at the occasion. Arif Habib Limited and AKD Securities Limited were the Joint Lead Managers/Consultants to the Issue whereas Intermarket Securities Limited were the Joint Book Runners. The guests were welcomed by the MD & CEO PSX, Mr Farrukh H. Khan and senior management of PSX. The gong ceremony included a felicitating message by the Chairman SECP communicated

through a video recording played at the event.

The listing follows the Issue of 70,105,455 ordinary shares or 10.01% of the total post-IPO paid-up capital of IPAK, at face value Rs 10/- each. The method of offering was book building method at a floor price of Rs 21/- per share with a maximum price band of up to 40%, i.e. Rs 29.40 per share. The bids were placed for 100% of the Issue size. However, the successful bidders were provisionally allotted 75% of the Issue size, i.e. 52,579,091 shares, while the remaining 25% of the Issue size, i.e. 17,526,364 shares, were offered to the retail investors.

The book building phase of the Issue generated significant interest from investors with the Issue being oversubscribed by 1.73x by value with a strike price of Rs 25.20 per share being determined. Applications for an amount totalling Rs 2,540 million against the issue size of Rs 1,472 million were received. 224 investors took part in the book building, of which 138 investors became successful participants.

For the public subscription, 2018 applications for 17,566,100 shares amounting to Rs 439,956,120/- were received. The public offering received interest from varied investors from different banks with many investors applying through the PSX E-IPO system as well. The PSX E-IPO system generated interest from investors in the form of 419



applications received for 770,000 shares amounting to Rs. 18,823,200/-.

A total amount of Rs 1,763.977 million was raised from the book building and general public subscription of the Issue. The proceeds raised through the IPO will be utilized for early redemption of the long term finance facility procured by the company to expand its BOPP manufacturing capacity by its subsidiary, Global Packaging Films (Private) Limited, as well as for commissioning a BOPET manufacturing facility under its subsidiary PETPAK Films Limited.

As a goodwill gesture and to facilitate small investors, the company offered its shares at a discount to the strike price during its public subscription phase. The price for subscribers of

500, 1000, 1500 and 2000 shares was Rs 24/- per share. This step was taken by the company on the specific request made by CEO PSX to encourage retail, individual and small investors to participate in this IPO. This step sets a remarkable and admirable precedent to further augment participation by small investors in the market.

Speaking at the gong ceremony, Farrukh Khan, MD & CEO PSX, stated, "Pakistan Stock Exchange is proud to enlist another company, International Packaging Films Limited, in its paper & board sector. The company has offered creative and pioneering solutions in the packaging industry and commanded confidence from investors in the governance and strategic direction of the

company. This was evidenced by the successful book building which was oversubscribed by 1.73 times as well as the public subscription portion of the Issue. I would also like to thank and appreciate International Packaging Films for giving a discount to small retail investors and I urge other companies to follow this example as well to increase and diversify their investor base".

Mr. Khan further stated, "Given the strong performance of Pakistan's capital market, this is an opportune time for companies to list on PSX. The capital market has ample liquidity for eligible companies to enlist. The Stock Exchange provides a viable alternative to high cost bank borrowing, attracting a large number of investors and enabling

global business & investment outreach for companies that choose to list on the Stock Exchange."

On the successful holding of the IPO of IPAK, Mr. Naveed Godil, CEO International Packaging Films Limited, stated, "This gong ceremony marks a significant milestone in our journey and serves as a gesture of gratitude to the stakeholders who have been instrumental in our success. It symbolises our appreciation for the collective achievements and efforts that have propelled IPAK to new heights, marking the beginning of a new chapter characterised by continued growth, innovation, and value creation.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Pakistan Stock Exchange for providing a platform to

showcase IPAK's potential and attract valuable investors. Our appreciation goes to the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) for their regulatory oversight, ensuring transparency and trust in our operations, and to the Central Depository Company of Pakistan (CDC) for their efficient and secure electronic trading and settlement systems.

A special thank you to our lead managers, book runners, and bankers for their unwavering support and belief in IPAK's vision, which has enabled us to raise capital and expand our operations. We also acknowledge our shareholders for their faith in our capabilities and their contributions to our growth.

As we move forward, I express my deep gratitude to everyone who has been part of our journey. We remain committed to excellence, fulfilling our obligations to shareholders, and driving sustainable growth. IPAK is the largest packaging films company in the country, known for its innovation, quality, and customer satisfaction. We offer a wide range of packaging solutions for various industries, including food and beverages, pharmaceuticals, and personal care."

In his remarks, Mr. Yousaf Bashir, MD - Investment Banking, Arif Habib Limited, stated, "We are very excited about the incredible response to the IPAK IPO. The strong oversubscription shows the confidence investors have

in International Packaging Films and the robust expertise of Arif Habib Limited as a premier financial advisor and book runner".

He added, "This success is attributable to the investor confidence in the strong performance of the company itself which has significantly grown in a short span of seven years and has become the largest packaging film producer in the industry with a 38 percent market share."

Mr. Farid Alam, CEO of AKD Securities Limited, commented on this significant milestone, stating, "We are delighted with the overwhelming response to the IPAK IPO. The successful oversubscription is a testament to the strong confidence that investors have in International Packaging Films Limited and the robust capabilities of AKD Securities Ltd. as a premier financial advisor and book runner."

Alam added, "The IPO's success highlights the growing investor interest in Pakistan's manufacturing sector, and we are proud to support IPAK in their journey to becoming a key player in the industry. This achievement not only reflects our commitment to delivering exceptional results for our clients but also introduces well reputed companies to the Stock Markets."

The gong ceremony was followed by distribution of tombstones to the representatives of participating banks, CTIs, and others as well as to PSX and SECP representatives.

## PSX witnessed bearish trend, losses 303 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, loosing 303.22 points, a negative change of 0.40%, closing at 75,575.26 points against 75,878.48 points the previous day.

A total of 441,261,756 shares valuing Rs 18.634 billion were traded during the day as compared to 523,299,973 shares valuing Rs 20.574 billion the previous day.

As many as 426 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 199 of them recorded gains and 178 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 49 companies remained unchanged.

The top three trading companies were Fauji Cement with 32,835,391 shares at Rs 23.66 per share, K-Electric Limited with 31,651, 913 shares at Rs 5.01 per share and PIA Holding Company with 25,572, 549 shares at Rs 19.01 per share.

Nestle Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 154.64 per

share price, closing at Rs 7,349.19 whereas the runner-up was Sazgar Engineering Works Limited with a Rs 34.31 rise in its per share price to Rs 820.45.

Sapphire Fiber Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 72.57 per share closing at Rs 1,407.43, followed by Hallmark Company Limited with a Rs 35.23 decline to close at Rs 456.43.

**Rupee sheds 4 paisa against Dollar**

Pakistan Rupee on Monday lost 04 paisa against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.36 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.32.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.5 and Rs 280 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 44 paisa to close at Rs 301.67 against the last day's closing of Rs 301.23, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.77, whereas an increase of 62 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 353.85 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 353.23. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 01 paisa each to close at Rs 75.78 and Rs 74.21.

**Gold rates stay static at Rs240,300 per tola**

The per tola price of 24 karat gold witnessed no change in its prices and was sold at Rs 240,300 on Monday.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat and 10 gram 22 Karat also remained stagnant at Rs 206,019 and Rs 188,580 respectively, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained unchanged at Rs 2,820 and Rs 2,417.70 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market also remained stagnant at Rs 2,326, the Association reported.

## PEC body for engineering profession

### F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) is the regulatory body for the engineering profession in Pakistan. It regulates the standards of engineering education, ensures the growth and development of the engineering sector in country.

PEC is pleased to announce the IT Day 2024, scheduled for 5th June, 2024. The event aims to celebrate advancements in information technology and recognize the achievements of PEC in its automation drive. The event will feature a range of activities designed to highlight the significant contributions of IT to the engineering sector.

Attendees will include Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddique, Federal Minister for Science & technology, Engr. Najeeb Haroon, Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council, esteemed members of the Governing Body of Pakistan Engineering Council & engineering community, and other distinguished guests. The event provides an excellent platform for networking and discussing future technological advancements and collaborations.

## Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where three ships, Zhida-6, Shalamar and TRF Kobe scheduled to load/offload Rice, Furnace oil and Chemicals, berthed at Multi-Purpose Terminals, Oil Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Five more ships, MSC Positano, AU Taurus, Kypros Sea, Chem Leona and Al-Marrouna with Container, Palm oil, Canola, Chemicals and LNG also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours.

A total of 7 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, APL Miami, Shalamar, TRF Kobe and Enjnan are expected to sail on today.

Cargo volume of 133,440 tonnes, comprising 62,655 tonnes imports cargo and 70,785 tonnes export cargo carried in 3,218 Containers (364 TEUs Imports and 2,854 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 07 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them four ships, AU Taurus, Chem Leona, Al-Marrouna and MSC Positano & two more ships, MSC Subrabaya-VIII and Clyde carrying Palm oil, Chemicals, LNG, Container and Mogas are expected to take berths at respectively LCT, EVTL, PGPCL, QICT and FOTCO.

## Businessman forum leader urges govt to allow export of wheat products

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Businessman forum leader and former senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour urged the government to allow export of wheat products to ease difficulties of the farming community and safe flour industry from destruction.

In a statement issued here on Monday, the BF leader Ilyas Bilour said farmers and flour industry are on the verge of destruction

due to the prevailing scenario and stating that the only solution is export of wheat products.

The businessman forum leader recalled that the former interim government of Punjab had stored 3.5million metric ton wheat in godowns and forced poor people to buy flour at the highest rates.

Today, he added the incumbent Government of Punjab isn't procuring wheat from farmers, which

has created a crisis situation.

Ilyas Bilour emphasized that the federal government should allow export of wheat products like maida, suji and choker flour and to take a decision in this regard promptly so that dollars have come that will also come in it.

He said the country would gain a hefty revenue in the shape of foreign exchange in national kitty by enhancing the export of

wheat products and it will bring economic stability as well as ease difficulties of the farming community and safe the flour industry from destruction.

The businessman forum leader called upon the federal government to take initiatives for uplift of agriculture, flour industry and farmers because prosperous growers and agricultural development is a guarantee for economic prosperity and progress.

## Chanda-7 Kohat and Kunnar-8 Hyderabad wells OGDCL announces production commencement

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan's largest Exploration and Production company, has announced the commencement of production from the Chanda-7 well in Kohat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and successful revitalization of the Kunnar-8 well located in Hyderabad, Sindh to enhance oil and gas production.

Chanda-7, a new development well, has been successfully tested, completed, and brought into production utilizing OGDCL's in-house expertise. The well is currently producing 305 barrels per day (BPD) of oil and 2.5 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of gas. Furthermore, 3.0 metric tons per day (MTD) of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) are being recovered. The well has been connected to the OGDCL's Chanda Plant, and gas is being



injected into the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) network. The commencement of production from Chanda-7 is projected to result in annual foreign exchange savings of \$22.57 million as import substitution.

Meanwhile, OGDCL has

successfully revitalized the Kunnar-8 well in Hyderabad, Sindh, which after re-completion has revived production, adding 540 barrels of oil per day to the system. Moreover, the revival of production from Kunnar-8 is projected to result in annual foreign exchange

savings of \$15.94 million as import substitution.

The initiative not only underscores the company's commitment to optimizing production but also demonstrates the efficiency of modern recovery techniques in revitalizing mature wells.

## CPI inflation decelerates further to 11.8 per cent in May 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation came down to 11.8 percent during the month of May 2024 as compared to 17.3 percent recorded during April 2024, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Monday.

According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year was recorded at 38.0% (May 2023). On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it decreased to 3.2% in May 2024 as compared to 3.9% in April 2024 and an increase of 1.6% in May 2023.

According to data, CPI inflation Urban, increased to 14.3% on year-on-year (YoY) basis in May 2024 as

compared to an increase of 19.4% in the previous month and 35.1% in May 2023. On month-on-month basis, it decreased to 2.8% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.1% in the previous month and an increase of 1.5% in May 2023.

CPI inflation Rural, increased to 8.2% on year-on-year basis in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 14.5% in the previous month and 4.2% in May 2023. On month-on-month basis, it decreased to 3.9% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.9% in the previous month and an increase of 1.7% in May 2023.

The SPI inflation on YoY increased to 15.3% in May 2024 as compared to an

increase of 21.6% a month earlier and 43.0% in May 2023. On MoM basis, it decreased by 4.0% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.7% a month earlier and an increase of 1.3% in May 2023.

WPI inflation on YoY basis increased to 9.9% in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 13.9% a month earlier and an increase of 32.8% in May 2023. On MoM basis, it decreased by 2.5% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.7% in the previous month and an increase of 1.0% in corresponding month of last year i.e. May 2023. The urban core inflation, measured by non-food non-energy, increased to 12.3% on (YoY)

basis in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 13.1% in the previous month and 20.0% in May 2023. It increased by 0.4% in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 2.1% in previous month, and an increase of 1.2% in corresponding month of last year i.e. May 2023. The rural core inflation, measured by non-food non-energy increased to 17.0% on in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 19.3% in the previous month and 26.9% in May 2023. On (MoM) basis, it increased by 0.5% in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 2.0% in previous month, and an increase of 2.5% in corresponding month of last year i.e. May 2023.

## Court Notice

In the Court of Attaullah Senior Civil Judge/Judge Model Trail Magistrate, Court Malakand at Bathkela, Case No 1/I of 2021, Next date 14/06/2024. Mrs. Atia Bibi Vs. Mr. Bakht Zamin and others, Proclamation against legal heirs: (3/1) Salman Khan s/o Sher Zamin resident of Nowbahar Bathkela Present Saudi Arabia (KSA). In the above title case the service of you above named defendants is not possible with ordinary means, hence you are hereby informed through this proclamation to attend this Court on 14/06/2024 at 08:00 a.m. in person or through appointed agent/attorney or through counsel, otherwise you shall be place and proceed against ex-parte.

## Court Notice

In the Court of Muhammad Haroon Senior Civil Judge/Family Court, Malakand at Bathkela, Case No. 40/FC of 2024. Next date 10/06/2024, Mrs. Manahil Vs. Mr. Safdar Khan Proclamation against legal heirs: Safdar Khan S/O Nasrullah (Late) resident of Markaz Abad Chindakh Banda Bathkela District Malakand. In the above title case the service of you above named defendants is not possible with ordinary means, hence you are hereby informed through this proclamation to attend this Court on 10/06/2024 at 08:00 a.m. in person or through appointed agent/attorney or through counsel, otherwise you shall be place and proceed against ex-parte.





## In brief

## Pakistan secures victory over Canada

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan hockey team put on a stellar performance in their second match of the Nations Cup, defeating Canada by 8-1 at Poland. According to details, by the end of the third quarter, Pakistan had a 3-1 lead, and in the final quarter, they accelerated their attack, scoring five more goals against Canada. Rana Waheed Ashraf led the Pakistani team with four goals, while Ghazanfar Ali scored two, and Abdul Rehman and Hannan Shahid scored one goal each. This impressive win comes after Pakistan's first match against Malaysia ended in a 4-4 draw. Pakistan would face New Zealand in their third match of the Nations Cup on June 5. The team's outstanding performance has raised hopes for a strong performance in the tournament.

## WBSC president sees bright future

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), Riccardo Fraccari, sees a very bright future of softball in Pakistan. The successful holding of the first Inter-Provincial Women's Softball Championship at Karachi shows that softball in Pakistan was moving in the right direction and gaining popularity, said a press release. In a video message sent to Softball Federation of Pakistan President Asif Azeem, the WBSC president said this championship was an important step towards the promotion of softball throughout Pakistan, especially among women. "It was a great opportunity for the players from different provinces to showcase their skills and passion and of course they improved their game by showing their performance and sportsmanship," he said and added that he was very impressed with the hard work, passion and dedication of the Pakistani women players during the championship. Riccardo Fraccari said this championship was not just a competition between provinces but it has seen an atmosphere of learning, progress and healthy competition between the players. "I believe that this event has strengthened the ties between the softball community. In this connection, the tireless efforts and commitment of the Softball Federation of Pakistan for the promotion of softball is commendable, he said.

## Pak cyclists to feature in Almaty Competition

ISLAMABAD (APP): Eight talented Pakistani cyclists would be representing the nation at the upcoming competition in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from June 6 to 12. According to Syed Azhar Ali Shah President Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF), after a rigorous selection process, which included trials in Karachi and Islamabad, the Federation was confident in the capabilities of the chosen athletes. The selection process was designed with the convenience of players from all provinces in mind, ensuring equal opportunities for participation, he said. He said the team comprises athletes from various categories, including U-23 junior and Master divisions. The team roster boasts a lineup of skilled cyclists, including Ali Ilyas, Amjad Khalil, Abdul Wahab, Mohammad Ismail Anwar, Nisar Ali, Shayan Rizwan, Anesh Nasim, and Atif Husain Qazi Providing crucial support to the team are assistants Sajid and Rizwan, he said.



NEW YORK: Quinton de Kock was steady in the small chase, Sri Lanka vs South Africa, T20 World Cup.

## Namibia defeat Oman in T20 WC after super over thriller

BRIDGETOWN (AFP) : Namibia scored a nerve-shredding victory over Oman in their T20 World Cup Group B clash in Barbados on Sunday after a low-scoring thriller was decided by a super over. David Wiese was the hero for Namibia, contributing 13 runs in the Africans' super over total of 21 before then restricting Oman to 10 runs with the ball in hand to seal a crucial win at Kensington Oval. The match had gone to a decisive extra over after a tense duel saw both teams finish with 109 runs from their allotted 20 overs. Oman had looked to be heading for defeat after a superb four-wicket bowling display from Ruben Trimpelmann saw them all out for 109 off 19.4 overs. But Oman's bowlers responded with a disciplined performance to contain Namibia's bats, with Mehran Khan conjuring a superb spell to leave the match on a knife edge. Khan finished with figures of three wickets for seven runs off three overs. The veteran Oman

bowler took two wickets in the final over to frustrate Namibia, who had needed just five runs from the over to clinch victory. But Khan was bizarrely overlooked for the super over bowling duties by Oman, with Bilal Khan handed the ball instead. That move backfired spectacularly, though, with Wiese blasting a four off the first ball and then crushing a full toss for six off Khan's second delivery. Wiese took three more runs off the next two balls before Namibia skipper Gerhard Erasmus hit back-to-back fours to set Oman a daunting victory target of 22 off their super over. Wiese took over the bowling duties for Namibia and after conceding just two runs from his first two deliveries, took the wicket of Naseem Khushi. Two more singles left Oman needing 18 from the last delivery to win, meaning Wiese could allow Zeeshan Maqsood to blast a six knowing victory was assured. "I definitely aged a couple of years tonight," the 39-year-old Wiese said.

"And I don't have a lot of years left in me. It was an emotionally draining evening," Wiese said he had been confident of steering Namibia to victory with bat and ball in the super over. "It helped that I had a feel of the game and knew if I get a few hits out in the Super Over .... then with the ball, felt like taking the ball and executing. "The pitch was difficult and didn't play the way we thought. But we adapted well." Oman captain Aqib Ilyas was left lamenting an agonising near-miss — but defended the decision to opt for Bilal as the super over bowler over the in-form Khan. "I think Bilal is one of the best bowlers you can have at this level," Aqib said. "But there are days where you plan and it doesn't execute. "He was clear, we were clear, but maybe the ball was wet and he couldn't execute." Earlier, Trimpelmann had given Namibia a dream start with two wickets from the first two deliveries of the match, part of a four-wicket performance. Wiese also impressed in the regulation 20 overs

with 3-28 off 3.4 overs. Namibia made hard work of the run chase, however, with Jan Frylinck (45) and Niko Davin (24) top scoring as the southern Africans came up just short of their victory target.

## Highest prize money announced for ICC T20 WC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ninth edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup would see the winners of the 20-team tournament earn at least \$2.45 million, the highest prize money in the history of the tournament, along with the trophy to be lifted at Kensington Oval in Barbados on June 29. The runners-up would receive at least \$1.28 million, while the losing semi-finalists walk away with \$787,500 each from the total, historic prize pot of \$11.25 million, said a press release. The four teams that fail to make it out of the Super 8s would earn \$382,500 each, while the teams placed ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th receive \$247,500 each. Participants who finish 13th to 20th place will return \$225,000. And every team receives an additional \$31,154 for each match they win barring the semi-finals and final. The 55-match event would be played over 28 days, across nine venues in the West Indies and USA, making this the biggest ICC T20 World Cup ever. The format of this year's tournament would see 40 first round matches played before the top eight progress to the Super 8s. Four teams would then qualify for the semi-finals, which will be staged in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, ending with the final in Barbados where the 2024 men's champions will be crowned. ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said, "This event is historic in so many ways so it is fitting that the prize money for players reflects that. Hundreds of millions of fans around the world will be entertained by the players in what we're hoping to be an Out of This World event."

## Nortje takes 4-7 as South Africa beat Sri Lanka in T20 WC

NEW YORK (AFP): South Africa's Anrich Nortje took a remarkable four wickets for just seven runs as the Proteas dismissed Sri Lanka for a record low 77 on their way to a six-wicket win in the teams' T20 World Cup opener in New York on Monday. Sri Lanka's total was their lowest in all T20 cricket, with fast bowler Nortje's figures the best by a South African at a T20 World Cup, surpassing his own 4-10 against Bangladesh in Sydney two years ago. Kagiso Rabada (2-21) and left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj, who took two wickets in two balls on his way to 2-22, also damaged Sri Lanka's cause. Opener Kusal Mendis (19) and veteran all-rounder Angelo Mathews (16) were the only Sri

Lanka batsmen to pass 15 after their captain, Wanindu Hasaranga, seemingly misread conditions by opting to bat first after winning the toss in what was the first match at a Long Island ground built specially for this tournament. But South Africa too lost early wickets in their chase as their top order also struggled to time the ball on a difficult pitch for batting. They were 23-2 early in their reply but opener Quinton de Kock made 20 before, with the Proteas wobbling at 58-4, the big-hitting Heinrich Klaasen struck a six and a four off successive deliveries to ease his side's nerves. Klaasen was 19 not out as South Africa finished on 80-4 with 26 balls to spare.

South Africa fast bowler Ottneil Baartman, making his World Cup debut, sparked Sri Lanka's collapse when, with his first ball, he had Pathum Nissanka caught in the deep before Nortje dismissed Kamindu Mendis in similar fashion. Maharaj then struck twice in the ninth over as both the advancing Hasaranga, stumped by De Kock and Sadeera Samarawickrama, clean bowled by a quicker delivery, fell for nought to leave Sri Lanka 32-4 before Charith Asalanka survived the hat-trick ball. Nortje returned to dismiss Mathews in his last over. Sri Lanka were bowled out with five balls left when last man Nuwan Thushara was run out for one of four ducks in the innings.



BRIDGETOWN: Ruben Trimpelmann took three wickets in his first two overs, Namibia vs Oman, T20 World Cup.

## Sabalenka powers through to Paris quarter-finals

PARIS (Agencies): Aryna Sabalenka sent an ominous message to her rivals as she powered past Emma Navarro to reach the French Open quarter-finals. Australian Open champion Sabalenka played with controlled aggression to complete a dominant 6-2 6-3 win over 22nd seed Navarro. Belarusian Sabalenka lost to Navarro on the Indian Wells hard courts earlier this season, but she overwhelmed the American on the Paris clay. She will face Mirra Andreeva in the last eight after the Russian teenager beat Moscow-born French player Varvara Gracheva 7-5 6-2. Second seed Sabalenka could then face rival and good friend Elena Rybakina in the semi-finals, after the Kazakh comfortably beat Elna Svitolina earlier on Monday. Fourth seed Rybakina struggled for rhythm but grew in confidence and quality to register a 6-4 6-3 win over the Ukrainian. The former Wimbledon champion will face Italy's Jasmine Paolini next after the 12th seed beat Russia's Elina Avanesyan 4-6 6-0 6-1. Sabalenka and Rybakina underline dominance Sabalenka and Rybakina

are the two players expected to challenge two-time defending champion Swiatek for the title. Rybakina is the only player left who has a positive head-to-head record against the Pole, while Sabalenka lost clay-court finals to Swiatek in Rome and Madrid in the lead-up to Paris. However, Sabalenka showed great prowess in her impressive win over Navarro. She broke at the first opportunity and reeled off four games in a row, dominating Navarro with her huge serve and easy power off the forehand. Navarro looked overwhelmed and only really came to life when trailing by a set and a break, forcing Sabalenka to deuce from 40-0 up at 2-1. Rather than being troubled, Sabalenka simply sent down back-to-back 114mph aces to hold, and she lost just two more games from that point. "I was going into it wanting to fight for every point," Sabalenka said. "She is a tough opponent but I am happy to get through the match." A quarter-final against Andreeva is next for Sabalenka. Aged 17 years and 27 days, Andreeva is the

youngest female player to reach the last eight of the French Open since Bulgarian Sessil Karatantcheva achieved the feat at the age of 15 years and 288 days in 2005. Andreeva has only dropped one set so far at the tournament after coming through against Gracheva, who took French nationality last year after qualifying under residency rules. "When they were screaming 'Varvara, Varvara', I imagined they were screaming my name and it really helped," Andreeva said. "It was tough to play against a French crowd but I'm happy that I managed to get through it." Andreeva has never previously appeared in the last eight of a Grand Slam and has lost emphatically in her two previous encounters with Sabalenka, including a straight-set defeat at the Madrid Open last month. Rybakina was not quite as at ease as Sabalenka but found her rhythm to see off a tricky opponent in Svitolina. She had lost her only previous meeting on clay against Svitolina in 2020 - but that was before she was a major champion and a permanent fixture in the world's top five.

## Pakistan volleyball team moves in AVC Challenge Cup quarterfinals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan continued their impressive run in the AVC Challenge Cup 2024 by defeating Thailand in their second match of the Preliminary Round at Bahrain. According to details, the Pakistan volleyball team showcased exceptional skill and teamwork to secure a 3-0 victory, with set points of 25-22, 25-14, and 25-21. This victory not only highlights Pakistan's dominance on the court but also qualifies them for the Quarterfinal Round, set to take place on June 6. Key players delivered

outstanding performances in Pakistan match against Kazakhstan match. Murad Khan was exceptional, scoring an impressive 45 points. Murad Jehan also played a crucial role with 20 points, while Musawer Khan contributed significantly with 30 points. Their efforts were instrumental in securing this important victory. Under the expert guidance of Argentine Head Coach Ruben Wolochin, the team has displayed remarkable performance. The coaching staff, including Brazilian Physical Trainer Lucas Rodrigues, Assistant Coach

Muhammad Ismail Khan, and Analyst Juan Cobucci, have played a crucial role in preparing the team for these high-stakes matches. Sardar Muhammad Nawaz, the Manager of the team, along with Deputy Manager Mazhar Fareed, have been instrumental in ensuring smooth operations and providing unwavering support to the players. The Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) was proud of the team's accomplishments so far and remains hopeful for continued success in the upcoming rounds of the AVC Challenge Cup.

## Mourinho dreaming of winning Turkish league with Fenerbahce

ISTANBUL (AFP): Jose Mourinho said he was dreaming of winning the Turkish Super Lig with new club Fenerbahce but that he is making "no promises" during a press conference on Monday that was followed online by more than 80,000 people. Mourinho was speaking from Fenerbahce's headquarters after he was appointed coach of the Istanbul-based club on Sunday. "No promises. But it is obvious that the main target, the main dream is to win the Turkish Super Lig," said the 61-year-old. Last season, Fenerbahce missed out on the league title to arch-rivals Galatasaray by three points despite finishing on a total of 99 across the 38-game campaign. The club's last league title dates back to 2014. "But step-by-step we see, hopefully we are going to be in the new Champions League," added Mourinho, who will be tasked with guiding Fenerbahce through



announced his appointment at the Turkish club in a post on X on Saturday night from Wembley, where he was acting as a television pundit for the Champions League final. "Good evening Fenerbahce fans, see you tomorrow at Kadikoy (the Istanbul suburb where the club is based) and let's start our journey together," the self-acclaimed 'Special One' wrote. On Sunday, Mourinho was greeted at the airport by a crowd of Fenerbahce fans and later was presented at the club's stadium alongside club president Ali Koc and in front of the side's fans, decked out in Fenerbahce yellow and black. Mourinho, who enjoyed major success at Chelsea and Real Madrid, less so at Manchester United and Tottenham, was dismissed by Serie A side Roma after two-and-a-half years in January, with the club struggling in ninth place at the time.

## Hamza to defend his title in World Jr Squash C'ships

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Hamza Khan will defend his title as world leading junior squash players would descend on Houston, USA this July for the 2024 WSF World Junior Squash Championships. Almost 250 of the world's best junior squash players would feature in the championships, to be contested at Houston Squash Club from July 12 to 23. The championships would feature individual events for the men's and women's draws and, for the first time in World Juniors history, concurrent men's and women's team events, with a total of 248 athletes aged 18 and under set to compete across the four competitions, said a press release. Among the star names confirmed for this year's World Juniors are Egyptian 16-year-old Amina Orfi, who won the last two editions and has already reached World No.11 on the professional circuit, her compatriot and World No.16 Fayrouz Aboelkheir, India's Asian U17

Champion Anahat Singh, England's European U19 Champion Amelie Haworth and New Zealand's Oceania U19 Champion Ella Lash. In the men's draw, Pakistan's Hamza Khan returns to defend his title, with Egypt's Mohamed Zakaria, who lost out to Khan in last year's final, Colombia's Pan American U19 Champion Juan Torres and Egypt's Marwan Assal - younger brother to former World No.1 and two-time World Junior Champion Mostafa Assal - among those joining him. Hosts USA, meanwhile, have named a 12-strong contingent as they seek a first individual junior title since Amanda Sobhy's 2010 victory in Cologne, Germany. Among the medal hopefuls in the women's draw are World No.63 Caroline Fouts and Pan American U19 Champion Samantha Jaffe, while Pan American U19 Bronze Medallist Alexander Dartnell and US U19 No.1 Rishi Srivastava will be targeting home court victories in the men's.

In the team events, which have seen a tournament record 42 squads entered, defending women's champions Egypt - winners of the last eight editions - have named a strong side with three of last year's winners returning as Fayrouz Aboelkheir, Amina Orfi and Nadien Elhammamy are joined by Janna Galal. Defending men's champions England, meanwhile, have an entirely new squad to the one which defeated Egypt in Nancy, France in 2022, with Abdallah Eissa, Bailey Malik, Dylan Roberts and Yusuf Sheikh tasked with delivering a sixth men's title for their country. Hosts USA will be represented by Alexander Dartnell, Zane Patel, Rishi Srivastava and Rustin Wiser in the men's team event, and Caroline Fouts, Dixon Hill, Samantha Jaffe and Riya Navani in the women's.

This year's event would also see debuts for the Philippines and Macau, China, with both Federations sending a men's team for the first time.





## In brief

### 'Jatli' police arrest three robbers

RAWALPINDI (APP): 'Jatli' Police have arrested three alleged robbers, members of 'Alam' gang and recovered cash, weapons and other items from their possession, said a Police spokesman on Monday. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, Jatli Police Station managed to net three robbers namely Alam Sher, Fayyaz and Ali Haider and recovered cash Rs 80,000, weapons and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. The spokesman said the accomplices of the accused would also be sent behind bars.

### Police arrest suspect in brother's killing

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have apprehended a suspect allegedly involved in a murder case stemming from a property dispute in the Gujjar Khan area. The suspect identified as Owais have committed the gruesome act by killing his own brother, Bakhtab along with his cousin, Murtaza. Gujjar Khan police arrested both suspects and registered separate cases against them. SP Saddam Muhammad Nabil Khokhar has commended the Gujjar Khan police for their prompt action in apprehending the suspects. He emphasized the accused will be brought to justice and presented before the court with substantial evidence to ensure punishment.

### Dengue larvae found in 600 spots

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon Monday chaired a high-level meeting regarding dengue measures in the federal capital, during which officials reported finding dengue larvae at 600 locations across the city in just one week. The DC emphasized that controlling the spread of dengue required active participation from residents, said the ICT Administration's Spokesman. The meeting focused on reviewing ongoing initiatives and campaigns aimed at eradicating the larvae. Despite these efforts, one case of dengue was reported in the city last week. The deputy commissioner stressed the importance of community involvement in keeping homes and surroundings clean to prevent the breeding of dengue-carrying mosquitoes. The health department also urged all citizens to play their part in this public health effort. The district administration is taking various measures, but they highlighted that these steps would only be effective with the support and cooperation of the public.

### Bandit gang busted

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have apprehended three members of a bandit gang accused of committing numerous thefts in the Morgah area. According to police spokesman, police also recovered stolen amount of Rs 83,000, including items a grinder, pipe and wires from their possession. The arrested gang members were identified as Gul Zaman, Izzatullah, and Farman Ali who were reportedly engaged in various theft cases. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation was in progress. SP Pothohar Nasir Nawaz said the suspects would be presented before the court with substantial evidence against them and will be punished. He asserted that those who endanger the lives and property of citizens would be held accountable under the law.

# BISP, UNICEF boost efforts for women and children's health

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and UNICEF have joined hands to enhance collaborative efforts with a particular focus on enhancing the health and nutrition of women and children in Pakistan.

This was agreed during a meeting of a delegation from UNICEF, led by Country Representative Abdullah Fadil with the Chairperson BISP, Rubina Khalid here. During the meeting, Rubina Khalid emphasized her commitment to increasing awareness of the Nashonuma Programme, which aims at addressing malnutrition among women and children.

She highlighted the critical role that awareness plays in resolving various issues related to health and nutrition, particularly for

vulnerable populations.

"My focus will be on raising awareness of the Nashonuma Programme," stated Rubina Khalid.

"By doing so, we can address many issues, especially those affecting women and children. BISP and UNICEF need to collaborate closely on this front to ensure the well-being of our communities", she said.

Abdullah Fadil praised BISP's initiatives and commended the program's effectiveness in shock responsiveness, targeted assistance, and financial literacy among its beneficiaries.

He underscored the importance of BISP's role in uplifting the socio-economic status of the most vulnerable segments of society. "We need to work together to find practical solutions for the malnourished community,

especially women and children," Fadil remarked. "BISP's efforts in better targeting and financial literacy are commendable, and I look forward to our continued collaboration to further these goals", he said.

The UNICEF delegation also included key representatives: Anteneh Girma Minas, Chief of Nutrition; Sadaf Zulfiqar, Social Policy Specialist; Dr. Noreen Arshad, Nutrition Officer; Dr. Wisal Khan, Nutrition Specialist; Larissa Bruun, Chief of Resource Mobilization; and Xinyi Ge, Program Specialist.

The delegation met with BISP Secretary Amer Ali Ahmad and DG NSER/CCT Naveed Akbar, discussing the strategic direction and operational aspects of their collaborative efforts.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme, Mrs. Rubina Khalid engages in a productive dialogue with UNICEF Country Representative, Mr. Abdullah Fadil, at BISP HQ. —APP Photo

## Ashrafi calls for justice in Nazir Masih's death case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday called for justice in the death case of Nazir Masih in Sargodha.

The PUC chairman, expressing deep grief over the killing, said in a statement that taking the law into one's own hands in matters of blasphemy was both unlawful and illegal.

The issues of blasphemy and apostasy should be adjudicated by courts, not by any individual or group, he stressed.

He extended condolences to Nazir Masih's family, and called for a speedy trial of the accused involved in the crime.

Ashrafi said that the protection of non-Muslims living in Pakistan was the duty of both the state and its Muslim citizens.

## 63 gas meters removed over gas theft

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has disconnected 63 connections during its ongoing crackdown on gas pilferers in Punjab, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, imposing fines totaling Rs 1.6 million.

According to an SNGPL spokesman, in Lahore and Sheikhupura, regional teams disconnected 17 connections due to the illegal use of gas and imposed fines exceeding Rs 1 million against the offenders.

In Faisalabad and Multan, 14 connections were disconnected for illegal gas use, while in Bahawalpur and Gujranwala, 4 connections were severed.

In Peshawar, the company disconnected 28 connections for direct and illegal use of gas, booking an amount of Rs 0.2 million against gas theft cases.

## IRSA releases 301,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 301,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 267,700 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1466.14 feet and was 68.14 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. The water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 97,600 cusecs and 130,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1188.70 feet, which was 138.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 53,600 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 159,200, 149,200, 158,500 and 86,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 79,900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 7,800 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

# Gilani calls for use sports as a vehicle for positive change in society

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Monday called for making concerted efforts to use sports as a vehicle for positive change and transformation in society.

"Football is no ordinary sport, but a bridge that transcends boundaries, unites cultures, and ignites passion in the hearts of millions," he expressed these views while addressing an event arranged in honor of international football delegation at Parliament House, said a news release.

Highlighting the potential Pakistan has in the sport of football, he remarked that there is no dearth of talent and passion. "All we need is professional coaching and nurturing to produce world-class players and put Pakistan on the map of international football," he added.

Gilani expressed his excitement to see football gaining momentum in the country and anticipated a

bright future for this wonderful sport in Pakistan.

The Chairman Senate acknowledged the pivotal role of the Pakistan Football League (PFL) UK in pioneering international football in Pakistan, their visionary initiatives, including the impactful "Football 4 Hope," exemplify their commitment to social development, education, and inclusivity.

"They are not only nurturing talent but also fostering unity and resilience," Gilani observed, adding that their commitment to implementing international standards and making football accessible to all, resonated deeply with his own vision.

The international delegation of football community brings with them a wealth of experience, talent, and dedication, which could help Pakistan embark on a journey to elevate its position in the global football arena.

Gilani assured his all-out support for the promotion

of state-of-the-art football facilities and nurturing of local talent in Pakistan.

"Let us celebrate the spirit of football, embrace diversity, and work together to create a brighter future—one where every child has the opportunity to chase their dreams on the football field," he added.

In his closing remarks, the chairman senate thanked Farhan Ahmed Junejo, Chairman of Pakistan Football League UK, Ahmer Kunwar, CEO of PFL UK, and other distinguished representatives of PFL for their efforts to promote football in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Michael Owen, famous football star and official ambassador of the Pakistan Football League, observed that Pakistan has huge potential in sports and such opportunities would help explore hidden talent, bringing youth into the game of football. He thanked Chairman Senate for his remarks.

# ANF seizes over 150 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 150 kg drugs and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 5.7 kg hashish was recovered from a passenger going to Doha at Karachi Airport and 1.2 kg ice was recovered from an accused, going to Bahrain at Islamabad

Airport.

Meanwhile, 690 grams ice was recovered from a parcel sent to Bahrain at a courier office in Lahore while 23 grams weed was recovered from a parcel sent from the US at a courier office in Rawalpindi.

39 kg heroin and 4 kg ice were recovered from Jeewani Gwadar area and 68 kg hashish was recovered from Orakzai Kohat.

In an operation conducted in Dera Ghazi Khan said, ANF recovered 14 kg

hashish from the possession of an accused.

In 8th operation, 12 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects rounded up at Daska Motorway Interchange, Sialkot.

The spokesman informed that 6 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects arrested near Tin Mela Chowk, Attock.

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

# College teachers elect new central body

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Election Commissioner of Federal Government College Teachers Association (FGCTA), Dr. Fida Ul Mustafa, Monday announced the unopposed election results of the central body of FGCTA, set to serve a two-year term.

The announcement highlighted a leadership team composed of distinguished professors dedicated to advocating for the rights of the teaching community.

Dr. Rahima Rehman, an Assistant Professor at Islamabad Model College

for Girls (Postgraduate) F-7/2, has been elected as the President of FGCTA.

The role of Senior Vice President has been given to Professor Farhan Azam, an Assistant Professor from Islamabad Model College for Boys (IMCB) Sihala. Ms. Tasneem Akhter Mir, an Associate Professor at IMCG (PG) G-10/4, has been elected as Vice President.

The General Secretary position has been secured by Tahir Bhatti, a lecturer at IMCB H-9. Danish Yaseen, a lecturer at Islamabad Model Postgraduate College

H-8, has been elected as Joint Secretary.

The Finance Secretary role is now held by Zubair Uddin Memon, an Assistant Professor at IMCB F-10/4. Ms. Anum Kaleem, a lecturer at IMCG (PG) F-7/2, has been appointed as Press Secretary.

Dr. Fida Ul Mustafa said that the newly elected central body was expected to vigorously advocate for the rights and interests of college teachers, ensuring that their voices were not only heard but also that their invaluable contributions were duly acknowledged.

# Anti-Corruption awareness seminar held at AIOU

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is ready to collaborate with NAB to raise its voice against corruption at national level and to create awareness among the youth against this scourge, said Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir in his address at the anti-corruption awareness seminar held in the university.

Dr. Sahir said that we have campuses in 54 cities of the country, we can introduce short courses, organize seminars, workshops and walks with the cooperation of National Accountability

Bureau (NAB) to raise awareness against corruption.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir said that corruption is the root of all evil, so it is considered as a pest for socio-economic development. He added that by following the path of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), corruption and other crimes can be completely eradicated from the society.

This seminar was organized by the Directorate of Student Affairs, AIOU, in collaboration with NAB Rawalpindi. Other speakers included Director, NAB, Abdul Khaliq, Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr.

Mohyuddin Hashmi and Dr. Syed Imran Haider. Dr. Sadia Anwar Pasha hosted the seminar. The speakers said that corruption is as dangerous as a termite for any society. Dr. Mohyuddin Hashmi said that corruption is our internal enemy, which is causing us more damage than the external enemy.

He highlighted the moral and religious aspects of corruption in detail. Director NAB, Abdul Khaliq said that the only solution to eradicate corruption lies in raising awareness among the youth and raising their voices against corruption.



RAWALPINDI: Vendors busy in unloading sacrificial animals from a truck at Bhatta Chowk Animal Market for upcoming Eidul Azha. —APP Photo



### Delawar meets Aziz

KABUL (BNA): Acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum, Sheikh Shahabuddin Delawar, held a significant meeting with Aziz Durani, Head of CGCI Company Balochistan, Iran, in his office to discuss potential cooperation and developments in the mining and petroleum sectors. In this meeting, both sides discussed the available investment opportunities in Afghanistan's mineral resources and the overall security and conducive environment for investment in the country.

### Investment support discussed

KABUL (BNA): Acting Minister of Economy Qari Din Mohammad Hanif held a constructive meeting with several investors based in Dubai to discuss support for foreign investments and the creation of necessary facilities for investments in various sectors. Abdul Aziz Durani Molazadeh, representing the investors, shared their interest in long-term investments in energy extraction, construction of oil refineries, establishment of cold storage facilities in the agricultural sector etc.

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

## Polio vaccination drive gets underway



KABUL (Ariana News): The Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan, in cooperation with the relevant international organizations, on Monday launched the second nationwide campaign of polio vaccination for the year 2024.

The campaign will run throughout the country from June 3 to June 6. The aim of the campaign is to vaccinate more than 11.2 million children under the age of five against the polio virus.

"The Ministry of Public Health is committed to stop the wild polio virus in Afghanistan with the cooperation of its partners. We will continue polio vaccination campaigns and health services to reach the goal of completely eradicating polio throughout the country," Acting Minister of Public Health Noor Jalal Jalali said at a ceremony to launch the campaign.

"It is important for religious scholars, elders, parents and influential people in the society to support the vaccinators throughout the country so that they participate in the fight against polio and keep their children healthy," Jalali said.

There is no cure for polio; it can only be prevented by immunization. The polio vaccine, given multiple times, can protect a child for life, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

### UNICEF urges increased investment

KABUL (Khaama Press): The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), referring to the recent floods in Afghanistan, has called for increased investment to counter the threats arising from climate change, which primarily affect children.

In a report released on Monday UNICEF stated that the humanitarian community and the United Nations must prepare to confront the new reality of natural disasters and climate change.

According to this report, floods pose an immediate and ongoing threat to children in Afghanistan. This "serious warning" necessitates that the international community expand its efforts and investments to support communities in reducing the impact of climate change on children.

The recent floods in Afghanistan, particularly in the provinces of Ghor, Baghlan, and Badakhshan, have raised concerns that Afghanistan is not prepared to handle the threats posed by climate change.

UNICEF's report on the recent floods also indicates that nearly 350 people, including dozens of children, have lost their lives. Additionally, 7,800 residential houses have been completely or partially destroyed, and more than 5,000 families have been displaced due to the floods.

Meanwhile, the World Food Programme has announced that it will need at least \$14.5 million over the next seven months to assist the victims of the recent floods in Afghanistan.

### Families seek missing loved ones

MOMAND DARA, Nangarhar (TOLOnews): The families of victims of the sinking boat in Nangarhar are calling for the retrieval of their relatives' bodies.

Abdul Ghafar, 40, a resident of Momand Dara district of Nangarhar, said that three members of his family died, and three others were injured in the boat sinking incident on Saturday.

"Two of my sister-in-laws were with their children in this incident," said Abdul Ghafar, a member of the victims' families.

The bodies of two victims have not yet been recovered, and local residents are making continuous efforts to find the bodies. However, they said that the rising water level in the river has created challenges for the search operation.

Local residents asked officials in the caretaker government and related agencies to build a bridge and a road.

"My sister, who was married, was coming to our house with her children. Her children were injured, and my sister's body has not yet been found," said Homayoun Momand, a local resident.

"Our message to the government and charitable organizations is that we do not have roads, clinics, or other facilities here. Please help us," said Asadullah Khalid, another resident.

Meanwhile, officials from the Nangarhar Department of Information and Culture said that the number of passengers on the sunken boat was about 30, of which 17 were rescued, 8 bodies were found, and two bodies are still missing.

They said that efforts to find the missing bodies are still ongoing. Mohammad Ajmal Shigiwal, the district governor of Momand Dara in Nangarhar, said, "These people do not have a way to go to the market or the clinic, and the only way they have is by boat."

The head of the information department of the department of Information and Culture of Nangarhar, Qureshi Badlon, said: "Thirty people were on the boat, ten of whom lost their lives. Eight bodies have been found, and two bodies are still missing."

## Ministry marks global handwashing day



Also, a representative of the World Health Organization assured the ministry of the organization's cooperation and said the collaboration of other responsible institutions is beneficial for promoting this culture.

Jar Ahmad Ziyar, the representative of the World Health Organization, said: "This issue should be shared with the Ministry of Education and incorporated into the school system. Even a system should be created for it. Mothers should also tell their children to wash their hands with clean water and soap after going to the bathroom."

Although Global Handwashing Day is celebrated on May 5th, the Ministry of Public Health has now commemorated this day.

This day is celebrated annually to raise awareness about the importance of handwashing around the world.

## DABS signs contract with Shenzhen CLOU

KABUL (BNA): A \$2.7 million contract for single-phase and three-phase meters was signed between Mullah Mohammad Hanif Hamza, CEO of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), and the representative of the Chinese meter manufacturing company, Shenzhen CLOU.

DABS announced today that the mentioned company will produce approximately 150,000 standard single-phase and three-phase meters. These meters will be imported into Afghanistan and integrated into the network upon arrival.

Previously, DABS customers had to purchase



their required meters from the open market at various, often high, prices. Now, through this contract with the Chinese company, DABS aims to facilitate customers by providing these meters at a more reasonable cost.

The meters produced by

the Chinese company will meet DABS standards and will be used in network repair and development projects. This initiative will solve many issues faced by customers regarding electricity meters, providing them with standard meters at affordable prices.

## Retired couple struggles to make ends meet

KABUL (TOLOnews): A retired officer of the Ministry of Defense of the previous government and his wife, a retired employee of the University of Kabul's publication department, have been selling street food in PD15 of Kabul for the past seven months to meet their daily needs.

Shah Maqsood and his wife Mahbuba said they have been struggling with economic challenges recently and are demanding their retirement pensions.

Shah Maqsood, 67, who served nearly four decades as an officer in various departments of the Ministry of Defense in the previous governments, said he turned to selling bolani (a traditional Afghan street food) from the beginning of last winter due to economic challenges and not receiving his pension.

Shah Maqsood told TOLOnews: "We cooked spaghetti, made tea, and my wife brewed saffron tea; but it didn't work out until my wife started selling



bolani. We had a cart under a shade, and then a benevolent person appeared, who has not introduced himself to this day, and gave us 50,000 Afis (around \$700) to build this booth."

Mahbuba, Shah Maqsood's wife, said: "I am so grateful to the government that they allowed us to set up a booth here. This booth was also built by a benevolent person who didn't even tell us his name."

Although this elderly man has managed to expand his business to some extent, the income he

earns from it is not sufficient to support his life.

This retired officer said: "Pension is our right, it would be great if they pay it. My wife is also retired, and it has been four years since the last time I received my pension."

Due to increasing poverty and unemployment in the country, more people have turned to small jobs.

Shah Maqsood earns up to 400 Afis (around \$5) a day from selling bolani and called on organizations that support small businesses to help develop his business.

## 500-year-old caravanserai in Bamyan being restored



BAMYAN (TOLOnews): An ancient caravanserai in the center of Bamyan, which has a 500-year history, is being restored by an international organization.

Safullah Raed, head of Bamyan's Information and Culture Department, said that the construction of this

historical site will cost \$3.5 million, which will be paid by the organization.

This caravanserai, covering an area of 450,000 square meters, was built at the southern entrance gate of Bamyan city for loading and resting passengers. Over many years, large

parts of this structure have been destroyed and lost.

The head of Bamyan's Information and Culture Department said: "This caravanserai will be reconstructed as its original model. \$3.5 million dollars have been allocated for its construction, and it will be completed within three to four years."

According to Raed, this place will be dedicated to a tourism center.

"The original materials will be used to build this caravanserai to preserve its historical authenticity," said Nasir Samadi, the implementing engineer.

"Preserving historical monuments and preventing their destruction will enhance the tourism industry," said Sayed Abdul Sajjadi, a

university scholar.

In the construction of this caravanserai, around 80 workers each day earn 400 afghani.

"Our daily wage is 400 afghani (around \$5), this work is good. If this work continues, it will help meet our living needs," said Sayed Mahdi, a worker.

"The wage for constructing this caravanserai is very good for our family, we request that this work continues," said Faqir Shah, another worker.

Along with the restoration of this caravanserai, parts of the city of Zuhak were also restored in this province last year, and construction on historical sites in the Kakrak valley is also planned to begin this solar year.

## Experts warn against use of plastic bags

KABUL (Pajhwok): The use of plastic bags is equally harmful for human health, agriculture and environment. Afghanistan needs to take its cue from the countries that have restricted the use of these bags.

Afghanistan also needs to substitute them with cloth or paper bags to curb the negative effects of poly bags, experts suggest.

The Finance Ministry banned the import of plastic bags in August 2023, but officials say such pokes are now produced domestically.

### Avoid use of plastic bags for food

A doctor of internal medicine, Mujtaba Sofi, said four types of chemicals were used in making single-use dishes and plastic bags for their softness and shine. If used for hot food delivery, they can lead to sickness among humans.

According to Sofi, the use of plastic bags in this way can trigger nervous system disorders; degrade the immune system and cause headache and even cancer.

Sofi explained: "In the process of food delivery in

poly pokes, the plastic may release phenol and phthalate chemicals, substances that can harm the consumer of such food.

"As the use of plastic bags is common in Afghanistan, where the incidence of cancer is high. This can be caused by the use of plastic bags for hot food delivery."

Black plastic bags, made by recycling plastic items, were dangerous, even if used once, he said. Sofi emphasized on eschewing the use of plastic bags, even for the delivery of tea or bread.

Sofi called for increasing the level of awareness about the dangers of plastic use: "It is the duty of the government to control the use of plastic gradually and bannish such bags in bakeries must be a priority."

Industrialists should be encouraged to produce cloth bags instead of plastic ones, he suggested.

A doctor at the Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan Hospital, Syed Farid Shah Rafiye, has similar ideas about the use of plastic bags.

He said: "The use of polythene bags can be harmful, especially when used for carrying hot things, such as bread or other materials that contain acidic or alkaline compounds, like vinegar and pickle."

The doctor added: "Plastic particles can be combined with food. When they enter the human body, such particles are injurious to health."

He advised: "Everyone must try as much as they can not to use plastic bags for carrying food items, especially hot food like bread. Everyone should use paper or tote bags."

He stressed the need for a high level of awareness among the people about the harm of plastic bags. If the awareness level is not high enough, it will not be possible to prevent the use of such bags.

Rafiye views paper/tote bags as a better substitutes to plastic ones. The private sector be motivated to produce paper and cloth bags.

Oncologist Dr. Ahmad Javed Zarang said a chemical item 'Base Phenol E' is used in the production of

plastic. Mixed with food, it causes health problems.

The long-term use of plastic dishes for food also led to different ailments such as respiratory and cardiac complications, as well as cancer, he explained.

The oncologist said: "The use of plastic bags is banned in most countries around the world, because they cause illnesses and aren't biodegradable."

"Most of plastics are produced from molecules of polythene, which remain unchanged for hundreds of years. Almost all countries use paper and cloth bags instead of plastic ones, which are easily biodegradable and don't contribute to the pollution of water, air and environment."

Dr. Zarang also emphasized on promoting public awareness. He said the best alternative to plastic bags was cloth and paper bags.

He claimed: "The factories producing plastic bags can also manufacture the paper and cloth variety, which does not damage the economy of the country, but prevents pollution and diseases."

## Norwegian body to implement new projects

KABUL (BNA): The Norwegian Afghanistan Committee(NAC) is working to implement ten new development projects in Badakhshan. The committee is currently engaged in twelve other ongoing development projects in the province.

Terje Watterdal, the head of the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee, met with Mawlawi Mohammad Ayoub "Khalid", the Governor of Badakhshan, to discuss their efforts. He emphasized the committee's commitment to expanding its developmental activities in the region.

Governor Khalid praised the Norwegian Committee's work and urged them to continue implementing development projects across vari-



ous sectors in Badakhshan. He highlighted the Islamic Emirate's dedication to bringing welfare and progress to the people through these initiatives.

The Governor noted that the previous government neglected infrastruc-

ture and foundational projects, but the Islamic Emirate is now focused on addressing these critical needs. This renewed emphasis on development aims to ensure long-term prosperity and stability for the residents of Badakhshan.



# Israel-Hamas battles rage in Gaza

RAFAH (AFP): Doubts were growing on Monday about a plan for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal outlined by US President Joe Biden as heavy fighting raged for a third day since his White House address.

Biden on Friday presented what he labelled an Israeli three-phase plan that would end the bloody conflict, free all hostages and lead to the reconstruction of the devastated Palestinian territory without Hamas in power. However, Netanyahu's office stressed Saturday that Israel would push on with the war sparked by the October 7 attack by Palestinian militants on southern Israel until all of its "goals are achieved" including the destruction of Hamas's military and governing capabilities.

Israeli media have questioned to what extent Biden's speech and some crucial details were coordinated with Netanyahu's team, including how long any truce would hold and how many captives would be freed when. Israeli media quoted Netanyahu as saying on Monday that the first phase of a US-promoted plan to wind down the Gaza war could be undertaken without necessary agreement on what follows.

The leaked quotes from a closed-door parliamentary meeting, which were not immediately confirmed by officials, suggested Israel sees a possibility of entering an initial Gaza truce though it has ruled out ending the war as demanded by Hamas. Mediators the United States, Qatar and Egypt later said they called "on both Hamas and Israel to finalize the agreement embodying the principles outlined by President Joe Biden."

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Sunday that "we have every expectation that if Hamas agrees to the proposal... that Israel would say yes." US Secretary of State Antony Blinken "commended" Israel on the plan in a phone call with war cabinet member Benny Gantz and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, the State Department said. But for now, the bombardments

and combat showed no sign of easing in the Gaza war soon entering its ninth month that has devastated the Palestinian coastal territory of 2.4 million people.

On Monday the Israeli military said that over the past day its forces had struck "over 50 targets in the Gaza Strip." Gaza hospitals on Monday reported at least 19 people killed in overnight strikes. The Gaza war was sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack, which resulted in the deaths of 1,190 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures.

Militants also took about 250 hostages, 120 of whom remain in Gaza, including 37 the army says are dead. Israel's retaliatory bombardments and ground offensive have killed at least 36,439 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, the Hamas-run territory's health ministry said on Sunday. Heavy fighting has raged especially in Gaza's far-southern Rafah area near the Egyptian border, where most civilians have now been displaced once more, according to UN agencies.

Air strikes and artillery shelling were reported in Rafah, mainly in the Tal Al-Sultan neighborhood, as well as in Gaza City, witnesses said. "Troops are continuing intelligence-based targeted operations in the Rafah area," the army said. "Over the past day, the troops conducted scans and located terror infrastructure and large quantities of weapons."

Gaza's European hospital said 10 people were killed and several wounded in an Israeli air strike on a house near the main southern city of Khan Yunis. And six people were reported killed in a strike on a refugee home in the central Bureij family camp, according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital. Netanyahu — a hawkish veteran leading a fragile coalition government often described as the most right-wing in Israel's history — is under intense domestic pressure from two sides.

Relatives and supporters of hostages have staged mass protests

demanding that he strike a truce deal — but the premier's far-right coalition allies are threatening to bring down the government if he does. According to Biden, Israel's three-stage offer would begin with a six-week phase that would see Israeli forces withdraw from all populated areas of Gaza and an initial hostage-prisoner exchange.

Both sides would then negotiate for a lasting ceasefire, with the truce to continue as long as talks are ongoing, Biden said, adding it was "time for this war to end." Netanyahu took issue with Biden's presentation, insisting that according to the "exact outline proposed by Israel" the transition from one stage to the next was "conditional" and crafted to allow it to maintain its war aims.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, leaders of extreme-right parties, warned they would leave the government if it endorsed the truce proposal. But opposition leader Yair Lapid, a centrist former premier, said the government "cannot ignore Biden's important speech" and vowed to back Netanyahu if his far-right coalition partners quit. Gallant, who has criticized Netanyahu over the lack of a post-war plan for Gaza, said Sunday that Israel was "assessing a governing alternative" to Hamas to rule the territory after the war ends.

UN and other aid agencies have warned for months of the looming risk of famine in the besieged territory. At a hospital in Deir Al-Balah, 33-year-old Amira Al-Taweel said that her frail son, suffering from malnutrition, "needs treatment and milk, but there's none available in Gaza." Israel's seizure last month of the Rafah crossing has further slowed sporadic aid deliveries for Gaza's people and effectively closed its main exit point on the Egyptian border. Cairo refuses to coordinate with Israel humanitarian deliveries through Rafah, but has agreed to send some aid via Israel's Kerem Shalom crossing.



KARACHI: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani talking to media persons.

## KP Governor visits Minhaj University F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi visited central secretariat of Minhajul Quran International, Agosh orphan care home and Minhaj University in Lahore.

The Governor met with Professor Dr Hussain Mahyuddin Qadri, President Minhajul Quran and its Nazim e Aala Khurum Nawaz Gandapur and praised Dr Tahirul Qadri and Minhajul Quran's services for knowledge and peace. He said that a national conference on inter faith harmony would be held at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said promotion of inter faith harmony was inevitable for peace and prosperity.

The Governor KP said that no goal of development and peace could be achieved through intolerance and inhuman values. Barrister Amir Hassan was also present. Upon arrival at Minhaj University Lahore, the Governor KP was welcomed by Vice Chancellor Dr Sajid Mehmood Shahzad and other senior office bearers of the University. The Governor paid visit to different sections and found its teaching environment unique and objective oriented. Professor Dr Hussain Mahyuddin Qadri presented memorable shield to the governor and latest books.

The Governor also visited Orphan Care Complex working under an aegies of Minhaj Welfare Foundation and spent some times with orphan children there and made photographs with them. The Governor was pleased after seeing the facilities for orphan children there and suggested such institutions in other provinces also. Col Retd Mubashar Iqbal, Director Agosh Complex presented detailed briefing on education and other services being provided to the orphans. On requests of Col Iqbal, the Governor assured to take up the issues of Agosh Complex at the relevant forums.

The Governor also visited building of Tahfeez AlQuran Institute where he was briefed by its principal Allama Muhammad Abbas Naqash Bandi. Central leaders of Minhajul Quran's central secretariat including Raja Zahid Mehmood and others welcomed the Governor on arrival.

## PHC seeks written response from ECP

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) Election Tribunal Justice Waqar Ahmad adjourned hearing on pleas filed by unsuccessful candidates in the 8th February general elections till 24th June 24 while ordered Election Commission of Pakistan for submission of written response, on Monday.

The petitions were filed by former provincial minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Timur Salim Jhagra, Ali Zaman, Imran Khan Sonami, Hamid ul Haq, Amjad Afridi and Abbas Afridi challenging the general election results.

ECP lawyer Mohsin Kamran Siddiqui informed the court that the commission has directed the Returning Officers (ROs)

to defend themselves in the cases, as the commission will only provide assist the court. In the meantime, Justice Waqar Ahmed questioned whether the ROs were not officers of ECP and whether the commission was not responsible for their actions.

The court also directed the Election Commission to submit a written response on whether the ROs were its officers or not. The hearing was adjourned till 24th June. Former provincial minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra claimed that the opposition's lawyers were absent from the court and that the government was trying to hide the facts by issuing ordinances. This he said while talking to media personnel after hearing and claimed that the PTI had won 180 seats with 100% certainty and that the government was trying to conceal the mandate through ordinances.

**ATC acquires Adnan Qadri in 9th May vandalism:** Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Peshawar Judge Syed Asghar Ali Shah discharged provincial minister

Adnan Qadri from the case related to the attack on police check post on 9th May, 2023, due to lack of evidence.

According to prosecution, the protesters attacked Hayatabad police check post during a protest against the arrest of PTI Chairman Imran Khan, causing damage to the check post on 9th May 2023. Hayatabad police subsequently nominated 49 accused, including Adnan Qadri, in the case and submitted challan after the investigation. Earlier, ATC had discharged 42 other accused from the case due to lack of evidence.

The counsel Syed Sikandar Hayat Shah advocate argued that there was no evidence against the provincial minister on record, and therefore, the case could not be proceeded. Neither CDR nor CCTV footage or any other evidence available on record to prove the allegations, the counsel added. ATC Peshawar discharged Adnan Qadri from the case under section 265-D after conclusion of arguments.

## Iran says Israel headed for 'destruction'

TEHRAN (AFP): Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Monday praised Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack against Israel and predicted the "destruction" of their common enemy. Khamenei, 85, was speaking at an event to mark 35 years since the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic which replaced a US-backed monarchy.

He said the October 7 attack by Palestinian Islamist militant group Hamas "was a decisive blow to the Zionist regime" and put Israel "on the path that will only end in its destruction." Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran, the main Shiite Muslim power, has emerged as the bitter enemy of Israel and that country's Western allies the United States and Britain.

Iran is under international sanctions over its contested nuclear program which it insists is for civilian purposes. While Israel and Iran have long fought a shadow

war of killings and sabotage, Iran's armed allies across the Middle East have formed a so-called "Axis of Resistance" alliance.

As the Gaza war has raged, Iran and Israel came to the brink of war in mid-April when Tehran launched a barrage of rockets and missiles at Israel, most of which were intercepted. Iran has said it had no advance knowledge of Hamas's October 7 attack but has praised it since. Khamenei said the attack "happened at the right time" and "destroyed a major international conspiracy for the Middle East," a possible reference to US-led moves to broker diplomatic ties between Israel and Arab powers.

The Gaza war was sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack, which resulted in the deaths of 1,190 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures. Militants also took about 250 hostages, 120 of whom remain in Gaza,

including 37 the army says are dead.

Israel's retaliatory bombardments and ground offensive have killed at least 36,439 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, the Hamas-run territory's health ministry said on Sunday. Khamenei, who spoke to thousands gathered in the Khomeini mausoleum near Tehran, also said that "the Zionist regime is gradually melting before the eyes of the people of the world." "Sooner or later, America will have to withdraw its support," he added.

Meanwhile, Palestinian officials have applied on behalf of the "State of Palestine" at the top UN court for permission to join South Africa's case accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza.

The request published Monday says that Israel's ongoing military operation is "part of a systematic effort to wipe Palestinian society and its culture and social institutions from the map."

## Polio team comes under attack

CHAMAN (PPI): A polio team was attacked in Balochistan by the Dharana Committee members on Monday, quoting DC Chaman. According to DC Raja Athar Abbas, Dharana Committee participants attacked the polio team in Chaman with sticks that resulted in injuries to four levies personnel, who were deployed to ensure the security of the team during the anti-polio drive.

The attackers tried to snatch the vaccine and weapons from the police and levies personnel, the DC Chaman said and vowed to take action against the people involved in the attack. Meanwhile, the Balochistan government has also condemned the attack and vowed to register case under terrorism charges against the attackers.

A one-day anti-polio drive is currently underway in selected districts of Pakistan. During the campaign, anti-polio vaccine is being administered to children under five years of age. Mobile teams of health department are visiting door to door to ensure that no child is left without vaccination. Pakistan on Saturday reported the fourth poliovirus case of the current year, sources within the Ministry of National Health said. A 2-year-old boy from Bharkhan union council in Sindh's Shikarpur district became the latest victim.

## IHC orders FIA to identify people who initiated campaign against judges

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani has said those who initiated social media campaign against Justice Babar Sattar and his family should be punished.

A three-member larger bench headed by Islamabad High Court (IHC) Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard the case. Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri and Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan were also the part of the bench. During the hearing, the FIA submitted an incomplete investigation

report in the court for which justice Kayani reprimanded the agency, ordering it to file a comprehensive report, identifying the responsible who initiated campaign to defame the judges and the families.

He questioned the FIA how come the documents in the FIA systems were extracted and uploaded on the social media. The attorney general responded that only travel documents were uploaded not the whole information. Justice Sardar Ejaz disapproved the inability of the agency in

identifying the wrongdoers and questioned the agency's ability to tackle the challenging situations in the country.

Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan told the FIA that the agency had disappointed the court. The court sought a report from the Immigration DG on removal of the documents from the system and adjourned the hearing of the case for three weeks. The court informed that the date for next hearing would be fixed in a written order.



COLOMBO: A local busy to save his belonging during heavy floods in Sri Lanka.

## PM's China visit to become a milestone in relations: Chinese ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said on Monday that under the guidance of two leadership and strong support from the people of both countries, the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China would achieve complete success and become a milestone in the development of China-Pakistan relations.

The ambassador in an interview with APP, a day before the prime minister's five-day visit from June 4-8, 2024 to China, said that all preparatory works had entered the final stage, and discussions on Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were in full progress.

At the invitation of Premier Li Qiang, Prime Minister Shehbaz will pay an official visit to China. This is his first visit to China after assuming the office this year. Highlighting the components of the visit, he said the prime minister would meet and have talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji. The leaders will have an in-depth exchange of views on China-Pakistan relations and issues of mutual interest, and jointly draw up a blueprint for the growth of bilateral relations. In addition to Beijing, the prime minister will visit

Guangdong and Shaanxi.

"China stands ready to work with Pakistan through this visit to make greater progress in our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and take new steps in building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era," the envoy remarked. Calling China and Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad friends, he said "Our friendship has stood the test of time and remained rock-solid and-to use a Chinese expression-"steady as Mount Tai."

He said in recent years, both countries had close high-level exchanges, conducted fruitful and high-quality cooperation on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and maintained sound communication and coordination in international and regional affairs.

Regarding CPEC, he said the landmark BRI project brought a total of US \$25.4 billion in direct investment, 236,000 jobs, 510km of highways, more than 8000 megawatts of electricity and 886km of core transmission network, generating a strong impetus to Pakistan's economic and social development. Under the second phase of CPEC, he said both countries would implement the important consensus reached by their leaders including the strengthening synergy of development strategies

and policy coordination and accelerate progress on mega projects including upgradation of ML-1, the Gwadar Port and realignment of Karakoram Highway Phase II. Moreover, the two countries will strengthen cooperation in industry, agriculture, mining, new energy, information technology and other fields based on local conditions and further negotiate and promote trade liberalization.

"Looking forward to the second phase of CPEC, we are ready to work with Pakistan to inject new impetus into China-Pakistan cooperation with China's new development, and promote the in-depth integration of "5Cs" (5 Corridors: growth corridor, livelihood-enhancing corridor, innovation corridor, green corridor and open corridor) with "5Es" framework, to create an upgraded version of the CPEC and build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era."

He said that China was also ready to further promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with the Pakistani side, to implement the Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), and make positive contributions to building an equal and orderly multi-polar world as well as a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

About the launch of Pakistan's lunar mission ICUBE-Q satellite with Chinese cooperation, Ambassador Jiang Zaidong said that since May this year, China-Pakistan aerospace cooperation has achieved frequent success. A week after its launch, Pakistan's ICUBE-Q successfully transmitted images from lunar orbit, marking Pakistan's inaugural step from "zero to one" in deep space exploration and making Pakistan one of the few members of the "deep space club".

He said that on May 30, Pakistan's multi-mission communication satellite, PakSat MM1, was again successfully launched from China's Xichang Satellite Launch Center, which was on its way to the geostationary orbit and would bring revolutionary changes to Pakistan's telecommunications, the internet, and television landscape, contributing to Digital Pakistan. "We will enhance cooperation and knowledge transfer in more "down-to-earth" sectors such as agriculture, new energy, and information technology, to promote the building of an upgraded version of CPEC, and constantly enrich the significance and practices of the China-Pakistan community with a shared future," he resolved.

Discussing the security cooperation and efforts to thwart the enemy's attempts to undermine peace, the

envoy said that the Dasu terrorist attack on March 26 further necessitated a secure and stable environment for practical cooperation between China, Pakistan, and the CPEC.

"So far in 2024, Pakistani security forces have collectively conducted 13,135 intelligence-based operations against terrorists and their facilitators, during which 249 terrorists were eliminated while 396 were arrested. Pakistan also has made great sacrifices, with two officers and 60 soldiers sacrificing their precious lives," he said and highly appreciated Pakistan's great efforts to protect the security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan over the years.

"Just as the foreign ministers of our two countries stressed... no attempt to undermine China-Pakistan cooperation will ever succeed... We hope and believe that Pakistan will continue to handle the follow-ups of the Dasu terrorist attack, step up efforts to combat terrorism, enhance the security of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects, and such kind of terrorist attack should never take place," he remarked.

He said China would work with Pakistan to thoroughly implement the Global Security Initiative, promote all-weather strategic cooperative partnership into a more secure new stage, strengthen counter-terrorism security cooperation and unwavering-

ly safeguard the common security. Ambassador Jiang Zaidong said that China would also help Pakistan enhance its counter-terrorism capacity-building, jointly deal with the growing number of non-traditional security threats, and provide a reliable security guarantee for economic cooperation and common development between the two countries.

Commenting on the 75th anniversary of the founding of China, he said that during the period, the country had created two miracles - rapid economic growth and long-term social stability.

"Facing a new wave of technological revolution and industrial transformation, we adhere to the path of Chinese modernization, comprehensively promote high-quality development, accelerate the development of new quality productive forces, transform and upgrade traditional industries, cultivate and strengthen emerging industries, and lay out the construction of future-oriented industries." To a question, the ambassador said that the Pakistani government's "5Es" framework not only met Pakistan's current development needs, but also chimed with China's approach of promoting high-quality development through new quality productive forces, which indicated that bilateral cooperation would yield more fruitful results.