

NAB ‘begins’ probe

LAHORE (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore has initiated an investigation into the closure of Walton Airport and the subsequent use of its land for commercial purposes, sources said on Thursday. According to sources, Former DG of the CAA, Khaqan Murtaza, and other CAA officials will be investigated in connection with the case.



@thefrontierpost

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXI

No. 135

Regd. No. 241

ZIQAAD 29 1445 -- FRIDAY, JUNE 07 2024

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30



BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif being briefed on Zhongguancun Science Park.

Pak wins non-permanent seat on UNSC

NEW YORK (APP): After months of hectic campaigning, Pakistan Thursday was elected, with a massive majority, as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, the world body's power centre, pledging to make its contribution in meeting the grave challenges facing the world.

Pakistan, which was unopposed, garnered 182 votes in the 193-member General Assembly — far more than the required 124 votes representing two-third majority. Loud applause rang out in the iconic hall of the General Assembly when its president, Dennis Francis, announced the winners of the five non-permanent seats — Pakistan, Denmark, Greece, Panama and Somalia — to replace Japan, Ecuador, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland whose terms end on December 31. He congratulated them on their victory.

Pakistan will replace Japan, which currently occupies the Asian seat, on January 1, 2012, to begin a two-year term, its eighth.

Shehbaz rejoices over membership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressed his delight and congratulated the nation as Pakistan has been elected as a member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term 2025-26. "Proud moment as Pakistan receives a resounding 182 votes and is elected to the United Nations Security Council for the term 2025-26," the prime minister wrote on X (formerly twitter). "Our election to the Council with such overwhelming support of UN member states at this critical time bears testament to the international community's confidence in Pakistan's diplomatic standing as well as to our commitment to global peace & security, he said adding "We look forward to working with the international community to address pressing global challenges."

Speaking about Pakistan's priorities and goals as a member of the 15-member Council, Munir Akram, Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN, said the country's election "represents the confidence of the international community in Pakistan's ability to promote the purposes and principles of the UN Charter".

Ambassador Akram said Pakistan would actively work with other member countries of the Council to advance the shared objectives. In this regard, he especially highlighted Pakistan's ambition to

contribute meaningfully to the prevention of conflicts and their peaceful settlement in line with the UN Charter. Pakistan's earlier terms on the Council were in 2012-13, 2003-04, 1993-94, 1983-84, 1976-77, 1968-69 and 1952-53. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council in the past, Pakistan had made significant contribution to its work aimed at strengthening international peace and security. Over the last 50 years, Pakistan has been a leading contributor to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions.

Pakistan issues 962 visas to Sikh pilgrims

NEW DELHI (PPI): The Pakistan High Commission said that it issued 962 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India to facilitate their participation at events on the occasion of "Martyrdom Day" of Guru Arjun Dev.

According to a Kashmir Media Service report on Thursday, under the provision of a bilateral protocol on visits to religious shrines, Sikh and Hindu pilgrims from India visit Pakistan every year. Pakistani pilgrims also visit India every year under the protocol.

"The Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi has issued 962 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India to participate in the annual festival scheduled on the eve of Martyrdom Day of Guru Arjun Dev to be held in Pakistan from June 8 to 17," the High Commission said. It said the pilgrims would visit Gurdwara Panja Sahib, Gurdwara Nankana Sahib and Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib during their visit.

Hyderabad gas blast death toll rises to 24

KARACHI (INP): Another child succumbed to injuries on Thursday as the death toll from a blast at a liquid petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder filling shop in Hyderabad's Preetabad area rose to 24.

Two-year-old Haram breathed his last at the Burns Ward of Civil Hospital Karachi. The hospital administration said 67pc body of Haram had burn injuries and he could not survive. Four more injured are being treated at the Karachi Civil Hospital.

The cylinder blasted into a ground-floor shop which had started to spread to the top levels of the building where the families reside on May 30 The blast took place in the LPG cylinder filling shop located on the ground floor of Zacha Bacha Hospital area along Mir Nabi Bux Town Road in UC-8 of Neerunkot town. At least 60 people, mostly children, received serious burn injuries and had to be shifted to Karachi after being provided emergency treatment at the Liaquat University Hospital (LUH).

Some 18-22 injured persons with 80pc to 90pc burns were referred to a major hospital in Karachi. Sindh governor Kamran Tessori distributed cash assistance among each of the 60 families affected by the Hyderabad cylinder blast. Speaking to the families whose dear ones have lost their lives in the tragedy, Tessori said that on the request of MQM leader Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will also come to Hyderabad after his visit to China.

He said: "We didn't learn lesson from the past; minor incidents had been occurring earlier, but now this tragedy has struck us and these families." Governor Tessori said it was administration's responsibility to look into the issue of substandard cylinder.

NAB law did not apply to the judiciary and certain institutions or personalities, but no amendment was made in this regard. "Parliament could have enacted the legislation."

Khawaja Haris said all major political parties formed governments between 1999 and 2018, but no political party made such amendments to NAB rules. At this, the CJP noted that other political groups were not party [in the case], as the amendments were challenged by the PTI. "We will ask them [about it]."

Lawyer Haris argued that these NAB amendments were challenged with specific reference. He said corruption affected the fundamental rights of the people, adding that embezzlement of public funds was a violation of fundamental rights.

Country is under 'undeclared martial law', Imran tells SC

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: As the Supreme Court resumed hearing on a set of intra-court appeals against the revocation of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law amendments on Thursday, Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa remarked that apparently, former prime minister Imran Khan's government also only wanted accountability of politicians.

CJP Isa was heading the five-judge bench which also included Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi. Imran Khan, the incarcerated founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), joined the proceedings via video link from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. His request seeking personal appearance in the case is still pending with the apex court.

After Thursday's hearing which also included PTI founder Imran Khan's viewpoint on the matter which he shared through a video link from Adiala Jail, the court reserved the verdict.

Appearing before the bench, lawyer Farooq H. Naik stated that he had prepared his written submissions. He said he was supporting the note of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. At this, CJP Isa questioned whether he was adopting the arguments of Makhdoom Ali Khan, the former attorney general for Pakistan. Naik responded that the arguments were his own.

Khawaja Haris walked up to the rostrum and advanced his arguments as the court's assistant. The chief justice asked Haris to tell the court which fundamental right had been affected by the NAB amendments. He said he had explained the violation of fundamental rights in detail

in the main case, adding that NAB amendments were in violation of Articles 9, 14, 25, and 24 of the constitution.

Haris said the NAB law was promulgated in 1999 by retired Gen Pervez Musharraf and before him, there was a similar Accountability Act during the regime of Nawaz Sharif. At this point, the chief justice remarked that Pervez Musharraf had said that the purpose of the NAB was to remove corrupt politicians from the system, and the same was true of the request of the PTI founder.

The lawyer said the name of any politician was not written on that petition, on which the chief justice remarked that apparently, the government of the PTI founder also only wanted the accountability of politicians. The CJP further said the

The Frontier Post

Polio virus detected

ISLAMABAD (INP): Polio virus has reached four new districts, Dukki, Swabi, Sibi and Killa Saifullah, taking the tally for the current year to 44 districts. The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health confirmed the detection of Type-1 Wild Poliovirus in Dukki and Killa Saifullah, said a lab official on condition of anonymity.

Pakistan will be made great country

PM says Chinese model to be followed for development

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reiterated his resolve to make Pakistan a great nation and regain its position by following the Chinese development model through utmost hard work and a sharp focus on industrial and agricultural progress.

"If we follow the Chinese model, I have no doubt, Pakistan will regain its position in the comity of nations and will be respected like our Chinese brothers are done by friends and foes... We will follow your model, work hard untiringly, put in our sweat and blood, and make Pakistan a great country," the prime minister said addressing the 4th Pakistan-China Friendship and Business Reception here.

He told the gathering of Pakistani and Chinese business leaders that Pakistan would follow Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision to focus on progress and prosperity by avoiding conflicts and cited immense Chinese progress and projects like the Belt and Road Initiative, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Global Security Initiative (GSI).

The prime minister who is in China on a five-day official visit, advised the Pakistani people against being dejected or losing hope rather than standing up and accepting the challenge to reach the level of Chinese progress within a few years or decades. He said the China-Pakistan friendship had no parallel in the world which remained unshakable and unreachable even during the storms, wars, and earthquakes.

Recalling the Chinese journey of swift development to become the second biggest economic and military power under President Xi's vision, Prime Minister Shehbaz said it was achieved only through hard work and untiring efforts. "All Pakistanis will also have to pass through this thorny process. There is no other way to earn respect in the world," he remarked.

He said having come into being two years after Pakistan, China took its trade to trillions of dollars while Pakistan's hovered around \$30-40 billion in terms of exports. Besides, China has excelled in information technology and artificial intelligence. He also referred to the "wonderful" bilateral cooperation in space program as Pakistan recently sent a lunar satellite and a space satellite recently with Chinese collaboration.

Referring to the sad and gruesome attack by TTP killing five Chinese workers in Besham in April, Prime Minister Shehbaz condemned the incident and conveyed his deepest condolence to the families of those who were killed. He said the incident which sent a shock wave across Pakistan was the nefarious plot of enemies of China-Pakistan friendship and CPEC as well as those who did not want to see bilateral ties rising to the apex of glory.

"I want to make a solemn pledge that whatever is humanly possible, we will put in all measures and arrangements to protect the lives of every Chinese citizen in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, KP, GB and AJK. I want to make a solemn commitment that the security of Chinese nationals will be more than that of my own and my children," he assured.

PM invites China's NORINCO firm to invest in KCR, other communications projects: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif invited the China Northern Industry Corporation (NORINCO) to invest in Pakistan's communications infrastructure project, particularly the Karachi Circular Railway.

The prime minister, talking to NORINCO Chairman, highlighted that the government was taking measures to bring ease of doing business and had established the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for the purpose. He said that China and Pakistan enjoyed cordial and time-tested friendly relations

which were strengthening with the passage of time.

The NORINCO chairman particularly mentioned Punjab and Pakistan Speed, referring to the swift completion of development projects during Shehbaz Sharif's stint as Punjab chief minister, and also appreciated him for ensuring projects' quality under his supervision. The company head recalled that under Shehbaz Sharif's supervision, the Lahore Orange Line project was completed timely.

Later, a representative of NORINCO, in a statement, said that in the meeting with the prime minister, they discussed the Lahore Orange Train project which was an important component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and a symbol of Pak-China friendship. He said both countries worked jointly on the said project and reiterated that NORINCO would come up with new projects to continue contributing to Pakistan's development.

Govt's reform measures start yielding results with reduced inflation, public debt: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the reform measures taken by his government had already started yielding results in the form of successfully tapered food inflation, reduced current account deficit and public debt down to a more sustainable level.

The prime minister, talking to Chairman of China Export-Import Bank (EXIM) Dr. Wu Fulin here, highlighted his government's reform agenda focused on governance, taxation, and ease of doing business to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). He appreciated the EXIM Bank's continued support for the modernization of industries, agriculture and IT sectors of Pakistan.

He also discussed the possible role of the China EXIM Bank in financing Pakistan-China joint venture projects and trade financing as part of efforts to boost Pakistan's exports to international markets.



GAZA STRIP: An Palestinian man carrying an injured person towards hospital after Israeli bombardment at a refugee camp.

40 killed in Israeli strike on Nuseirat school

JERUSALEM (Reuters): The director of the Hamas-run Gaza government media office Ismail Al-Thawabta and a Gaza health ministry official told Reuters on Thursday 40 people were killed and 73 were wounded in an Israeli attack on the Nuseirat school in the Gaza Strip. The two officials added that 14 children and 9 women were killed in the strike.

Earlier, UNRWA communications director Juliette Touma told Reuters that the number of those reported killed in the Israeli offensive on the Nuseirat school was between 35 and 45, adding the number could not be confirmed at this stage. The Israeli military said it assessed that there were 20-30 fighters located in the United Nations Palestinian refugee agency school.

The Israeli army said a fighter jet conducted a "precise strike on a Hamas compound embedded inside a UNRWA school in the area of Nuseirat," referring to the UN agency supporting Palestinian refugees. The strike came after the military said it was launching new air and ground operations in central Gaza and an international medical group reported soaring casualties. The latest operations appear to mark a widening of Israel's nearly eight-month offensive, launched after

Hamas' Oct. 7 attack.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah received at least 30 bodies from the strike on the school and another six from a separate strike on a home, according to hospital records and an Associated Press reporter at the hospital. Hamas-run media had earlier reported a higher toll from the strike on the school. The Israeli military said its fighter jets struck the school run by the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, known by the acronym UNRWA. The Israeli military claimed, without immediately offering evidence, that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad used the school as cover for their operations.

UNRWA schools across Gaza have functioned as shelters since the start of the war, which has displaced most of the territory's population of 2.3 million Palestinians. "Before the strike, a number of steps were taken to reduce the risk of harming uninvolved civilians during the strike, including conducting aerial surveillance, and additional intelligence information," the Israeli military said.

Both strikes occurred in Nuseirat, one of several built-up refugee camps in Gaza dating back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation, when hundreds of thousands of

Palestinians fled or were driven from their homes in what became the new state.

The latest war began with Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into Israel, in which militants killed some 1,200 people and took another 250 hostage. Israel's offensive has killed at least 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between fighters and civilians in its figures. The United States has thrown its weight behind a phased ceasefire and hostage release outlined by President Joe Biden last week. But Israel says it won't end the war without destroying Hamas, while the militant group is demanding a lasting ceasefire and the full withdrawal of Israeli forces.

The military said Wednesday that forces were operating "both above and below ground" in eastern parts of Deir Al-Balah and the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza. It said the operation began with airstrikes on militant infrastructure, after which troops began a "targeted daylight operation" in both areas. Doctors Without Borders said at least 70 bodies and 300 wounded people, mostly women and children, were brought to a hospital in central Gaza on Tuesday and Wednesday after a wave of Israeli strikes.

FIA gets physical remand of Sarim Burney

F.P. Report

KARACHI: A local court Thursday granted a two-day physical remand of Sarim Burney to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on charges that the renowned rights activist was involved in human smuggling.

Investigation Officer Chaudhry Bilal produced Burney before Judicial Magistrate Khaleequ Zaman, a day after his arrest on charges of human trafficking. He requested the court to order the social worker's 14-day physical remand in police custody. The IO said that Burney's custody was required to record his statement, obtain the relevant record and arrest his co-accused. He also maintained that there was a risk of evidence being destroyed if the FIA was not given custody.

After hearing the arguments, the magistrate handed over the accused to FIA on a two-day remand with a direction to produce him on completion of the remand as well as a progress report on the case.

Meanwhile, the court rejected Burney's request to discharge him from the case. During the hearing of the case today, the social worker's lawyer requested the court that his client be released as there was no case with regards to the matter. His lawyers maintained that Burney's services to the society were outstanding and that he was arrested on false and baseless charges. "Sarim has received awards for social services. He cannot imagine doing anything wrong," said his lawyer.

Burney — who runs the Sarim Burney Welfare Trust International, a non-profitable entity — was taken into custody on Wednesday after he landed at the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi following his visit to the United States. According to FIA, the social worker was arrested on charges of human trafficking which includes smuggling and illegally sending children to the US after American authorities filed a complaint against him.



Sindh starts reconstruction of 2.1m houses for flood affectees, tells CM

KARACHI (PPI): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Thursday that his government had started the reconstruction of 2.1 million new houses to rehabilitate more than 12.6 million flood-affected population of the province which exceeds the population of 154 countries.

"We are also supporting WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) interventions. A funding of Rs39 billion has been secured to connect 264,250 houses with safe sanitation facilities," he said while talking to media just after reviewing the progress of reconstruction of 2.1 million houses for flood-affected people at Sindh Peoples Housing for Flood Affectees (SPHF) office, Tippu Sultan Road. Provincial ministers, Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Makhdoom

Mahbood and DG SPHF Khalid Shaikh were present on the occasion. The chief minister said that Rs550 billion was required for the construction of 2.1 million houses against which his government with the support from donor agencies had secured Rs440 billion while the shortfall of Rs110 billion would be met through foreign funding and the federal government support.

The CM said that the initiative was aimed at implementing a sustainable rehabilitation strategy after 2.1 million houses were damaged by floods 2022, affecting 12.36 million people, with 85 per cent of the affected homes being katcha houses.

Mr Shah said that the initiative was driven by the vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari who, being foreign minister, successfully mobilized

funds at the Geneva Conference in January 2023 and the Donors Conference in Sindh on February 8, 2023. The CM said: "Within one year, we have revalidated 2.1 million beneficiaries, with 525,000 houses currently under construction, meeting this year's target. Over 100,000 houses have already been completed."

He said: "At the project's inception, we received financial assistance from the World Bank amounting to \$500 million, supplemented by \$227 million from the Sindh government. To date, we have received around 70 per cent of the necessary funding for the project's successful completion, with additional support currently in the pipeline from the Islamic Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank." The CM added that by the end of next year.

Pakistan and Syria Agreed on bilateral cooperation in education sector

SYRIA(MONITORING DESK):Within the framework of educational, scientific and cultural cooperation between Syria and Pakistan, the Consul/Deputy Head of Pakistan Mission in Syria Mr Umer Hayat Khan discussed on Wednesday with the President (Vice Chancellor) of Damascus University Prof Dr Muhammad Osama Aljabban, the possibility of enhancing cooperation and exchanging experiences between Syria and Pakistan in the field of higher education and exchange of scholarships between the two sides.The Pakistan DHM briefed the President about the potential of Pakistan in education sector and how Syria can benefit from it.The two sides discussed the possibility of cooperation in the establishment of



IT centre and think tank in Damascus University. During the meeting, the

possibility of cooperation between the Damascus University and various universities of Pakistan was also discussed. The Syrian side showed interest in arranging workshops and seminars in the top ranking universities of Pakistan and also training of professors ans IT experts in Pakistan. It is pertinent to mention here that University of Damascus has already Signed an MOU with the National University Of Science and Technology (NUST) for cooperation and exchange of expert-

ise.The Damascus University is willing to sign such MOUs with other universities of Pakistan as well. In this regard, a delegation of the Damascus University is expected to visit Pakistan.The two sides agreed to cooperate through activities and programs such as the exchange of students and academic staff, the implementation of joint research activities, participation in seminars and academic meetings, and the implementation of publishing activities of common interest.

SUIT NOTICE

In the court of Miss Ambareen Navid Judge Banking Court-I Peshawar Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar

Case No: 53/1of 2024 Date of hearing: 15-07-2024 suit for the recovery of Rs.2,047,446.24/- Bank Alfalah Ltd: consumer Finance centre, Lamsay Arcade saddar road Peshawar Vs: Sabir Hayat Khan. **Notice Versus:-** Sabir Hayat Khan son of Zafar Hayat Khan R/o: H.No.360, street No.5, Sector F-6, Hayatabad, Peshawar. Office Add:- Sandy Aluminium and steel, flat No. 47, Ring Road, Peshawar. Where as the plaintiff bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs.2,047,446.24/- Against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001, you are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspapers. Failing which an exparty decree shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff Bank with costs. Issued today on 01-06-2024 under my signature and seal of the court.

Registrar, Banking Court-I Peshawar

SUIT NOTICE

In the court of Miss Ambareen Navid Judge Banking Court-I Peshawar Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar

Case No: 60/1of 2024 Date of hearing: 13-07-2024 suit for the recovery of Rs.640,505/- Bank Alfalah Ltd: consumer Finance centre, saddar road Branch Peshawar Vs: Nazir Akbar. **Notice Versus:-** Nazir Akbar son of Bahadur R/o: H.No.709, street No.6, F-8, Phase 6, Hayatabad Peshawar. Business Address:- Bara timber, Ring road, near PDA toll Plaza, Peshawar. Where as the plaintiff bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs.640,505/- Against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001, you are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspapers. Failing which an exparty decree shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff Bank with costs. Issued today on 03-06-2024 under my signature and seal of the court.

Registrar, Banking Court-I Peshawar

CORRIGENDUM

پشاور ہائی کورٹ خوں خج کی جانب سے شائع کردہ مندرجہ ذیل نئے تاریخ 2 جون 2024 میں مندرجہ ذیل گج کی تھی ہے۔

نمبر	نام	تاریخ
1	سیکریٹری جنرل (BPS-16)	30-25 سال
2	چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر (BPS-16)	30-40 سال
3	فنانس ایگزیکٹو (BPS-06)	30-18 سال
4	ڈائریکٹر (BPS-06)	35-25 سال

ایڈمنسٹریٹو سیکرٹری

پشاور، ہائی کورٹ خوں خج

INF(P)1238/24

URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY D.I.KHA

Ph# 0966-747010, Fax # 0966-747060, E-mail dda.uu@hotmail.com website: ddadik.gkp.pk

NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING 1st TIME

Urban Area Development Authority D.I.Khan, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites electronics bids from eligible firms/bidders in accordance with KPRA Procurement Rules 2014 for the following works who have deposited their renewal fee for the year 2023-24 with Urban Area Development Authority D.I. Khan.

SINGLE STAGE SINGLE ENVOLOP SYSTEM

S.#	Name of Work	E/Cost (Rs:)	E/Money (Rs:)	Stamp Duty	Bidding Documents Fee	Date & Time of receipt & Opening of tenders.	Time Limit
A. REHABILITATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD DAMAGES SCHEME 2022-2023							
1.	Rehabilitation of Existing Protection Bund in Urban Area Development Authority Dera Township D.I.Khan	50.00 (M)	Rs. 1,000,000	Rs. 40,000	Rs: 15,000	28/06/2024	12- Months
2	Reconstruction of Urban Area Development Authority Office Dera Township D.I Khan	30.00 (M)	Rs. 600,000	Rs. 40.000	Rs. 9,000	28/06/2024	12- Months

(1). The financial bidding will be online through E-bidding system. Tender form and BOQ can be filled online and downloaded from the official website of LGE&RDD (www.lgkp.gov.pk) / Urban Area Development Authority D.I.Khan after one day of publishing NIT and last time for online apply will be **27/06/2024 (12:00 PM)**. (2). The bidders are required to fill Electronic bids online and attach scan copy of Bid Security in shape of original Call Deposit in the name of Procuring Entity and submit hard copy of the same printed electronic bid form to the Procuring Entity/Executing Agency. (3). The eligible bidders must have the relevant codes for the above mentioned work as per Pakistan Engineering Council. (4). All bids must be accompanied by: (i). Bid security in the shape of call deposit (in original) equal to 2% of estimated cost in the name of Director Urban Area Development Authority D.I.Khan. (ii). Attested photo copy of Pakistan Engineering Council 2023-24 registration in relevant category. (iii). Attested photo copy of National Identity Card. (iv). Urban Area Development Authority renewal for the year 2023-24 challan copy. (5). The bidders should submit their E-bid as per KPRA Notification No.SRO(14) Vol/1-24/2021-22, dated 10/05/2022. The contractor quoting their bids more than 10% below upto 20%below on Engineer's Estimate shall submit along with their bids 8% Additional Security of Engineer's Estimated Cost in addition to 2% bid security. If the bid is not accompanied with the required amount of additional security then it will be considered as non-responsive and the 2% bid security shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the second lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly. (6). Similarly, a contractor quoting bid more than 20% below shall submit with his bid additional security on Engineer's estimated cost equal to the differential amount of submitted bid and Engineer's Estimate along with detailed rate analysis. In case of more than 20% below bids, if the bid is not accompanied by the detailed rate analysis and / or required amount of additional security, then the said bid shall be considered as non-amount of additional security, then the said bid shall be considered as non-responsive. All the securities submitted along with such non-responsive bid shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly. (7). All Bidders are required to have valid Registration with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority established under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Act 2018 (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Act. XXI of 2013). (8). The Competent Authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids at any time prior to acceptance of a bid as per Para 47(i) of KPRA Rules 2014 by assigning cogent reason. (9). The interested Firms/Contractors may obtain clarification regarding bid solicitation document. (10). Work order will be issued after release of Funds.

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS CAN BE SEEN ON THE NOTICE BOARD OF UADA D.I. KHAN

DIRECTOR

INF (P) 1268/24 Urban Area Development Authority Dera Ismail Khan

IGP prisons meets PU VC

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Prisons Farooq Nazeer visited the Punjab University on Thursday and met Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood at his office.

Director Institute of Applied Psychology Prof Dr Rafia Rafique, Director Institute of Information Management Dr Nosheen Fatima Warraich, Chairperson Department of Social Work Prof Dr Uzman Ashiq and others were also present.

The IGP Prisons said they had brought various reforms in Punjab jails and were also taking steps for mental health and counseling of the accused and convicts. He said that psychology students would be offered internships in the cells of Punjab for their capacity building.

He said it was necessary to take care of mental health of the persons released on parole. He said many of the accused had suicidal tendencies for which counseling was necessary. He said an endowment fund of Rs. 2 billion was being established to reduce the financial difficulties of families of prisoners.

He said they wanted to streamline the system of libraries in prisons because there was a tendency to read books in jails. He said that he had also requested the authorities concerned to hire assistant librarians in jails of Punjab. VC Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood appreciated the measures taken by the IG Prisons for mental health of prisoners. He said the PU would continue to cooperate with all institutions of Pakistan.

Cracks down on plastic bags started

ISLAMABAD (APP): A crackdown launched across Punjab on Thursday against the illegal manufacture, delivery and sale of plastic bags. According to a private news channel, eco-friendly bags were being distributed among the citizens by the government.

According to the spokesperson of the environment department, the purpose of distribution of eco-friendly bags is to discourage the use of plastic bags. The shopkeepers are also being made aware of the harmful effects of plastic bags and the law, he said. Fines are being imposed on those who violate the law, cloth bags are also being distributed among the carters and shopkeepers, he further said.

JI demands strict action against criminals

KARACHI (PPI): A Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi delegation, led by Ameer Munem Zafar, called on Inspector General of Police, Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, here on Thursday and discussed the deteriorating law and order situation in the mega city.

The meeting took place at his office. JI leaders Saifuddin Advocate, Raja Arif Sultan, Syed Qazi Sadaruddin comprised the delegation. Speaking on the occasion, Zafar demanded of the IGP to take strict action against street criminals and the situation was unacceptable. The JI leader expressed deep concerns over the loss of precious lives, targeted killings, organized crimes, sky rocketing street crimes and the failure on part of the police department in protection of life and possession of Karachiites. He highlighted the rapidly growing unrest among masses against the situation. He said the street criminals have not spared any one — doctors, teachers, youth, traders, industrialists, street vendors and all others have been victimized by them.

He also highlighted the gap between the police and the society and stressed the need to take concrete measures in this regard. The majority of those killed by street criminals and robbers are youth and this factor is not only painful but also increases the intensity of situation, he said, adding that it is very painful to know that youth are killed for the sake of just a cell phone, a bike or for a few hundred rupees.

CM Punjab directs to develop Murree

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif and PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif presided over a special meeting at Punjab House Murree in which it was principally decided to rehabilitate ancient and historical buildings of Murree to their original condition.

According to a handout issued here by the DGPR, the proposal to establish a 'Murree Street' on the pattern of excellent street model of the world was reviewed in the meeting. It was agreed to run the latest 'Smart Tram' and directions were issued to submit a plan within 15 days in this regard. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to prepare a new design of a

multi storey Parking Plaza which will cater to parking capacity of more than 1500 vehicles. The tourists can visit Murree through the latest tram from the Parking Plaza. A 15-day timeline was set to install digital counting cameras on the entry routes of Murree.

Murree Traffic Management Plan was approved in the meeting while Murree Cable Car Service will be linked to obtain a fitness certificate after undergoing its repair and rehabilitation. The CM directed early completion of the upgradation project of Samli TB Sanatorium. Excellent toilets will be built for the tourists at various sites of Motorway including

the Mall Road. She directed to build specific toilets for the differently-abled persons along with kids rest places. She directed to establish a wheel chair centre for the differently-abled persons and elders at the Mall Road. The proposal to establish an 'Entertainment Park and Clipping Pod Village' were reviewed in the meeting.

It was appraised during the briefing that more than 90 per cent construction and extension of 12 roads of Murree has been completed. A water supply scheme is going to be launched for the provision of clean water in Murree and in the surrounding areas from the incumbent system and River Jhelum.

DIRECTORATE OF PROCUREMENT (NAVY)

OPEN TENDER

DP (NAVY) NEAR SNID CENTER, CDA MARKET, AT NAVAL RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX, E-8, ISLAMABAD

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED BY DP (NAVY) FOR PURCHASE OF FOLLOWING ITEMS:

S.#	IT.NO	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME	OPENING DATE & TIME
1	2383064/R-2311/380177/A	NIV Lab Kit (05 x Items)	14-06-2024 11:00 AM	14-06-2024 11:00 AM
2	2390288/R-2402/310341	HOLTER MONITOR (Qty: 04)	15-06-2024 10:30 AM	15-06-2024 11:00 AM
3	2313075/R-2403/340372	CAMOUFLAGE NETS SIZE 26 X 26 FT (Qty: 60Each)	20-06-2024 10:30 AM	20-06-2024 11:00 AM

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Complete details and specifications of the tender can be downloaded from PPRA website.
- Only registered supplier on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) of FBR are eligible to participate in the Tender and submit quote.

PID (I) 7596/23

ٹیڈنڈر برائے نیلامی ناکارہ سکریپ

۱۔ ہیڈ کوارٹر غیر کوئٹہ بختونخواہ (ناٹھ) پشاور کی جانب سے مندرجہ ذیل ناکارہ سکریپ کی نیلامی کے لئے سہ ماہی ٹیڈنڈر مطلوب ہیں۔ جو کہ ای ایم ای آر کھانا پکھا شاکس ضلع خیر میں موجود ہے۔ مورخہ 26 جون 2024ء بوقت 10:00 بجے سے 12:00 بجے تک نیلامی "جہاں ہے جہاں ہے" کی بنیاد پر پبلک ٹینڈر کی صورت میں ٹیڈنڈر رکس میں ڈال کر کھولے جائیں گے۔ کوئی ٹیڈنڈر مقررہ تاریخ اور وقت کے بعد وصول نہیں کیا جائے گا۔

(۱) بیٹریاں (مختلف سائز اور اقسام)

(ب) نائٹریج ٹیڈ (مختلف سائز اور اقسام)

(ج) مختلف گاڑیوں کے پیئرس اور شاپ ڈولز

۲۔ ٹیڈنڈر مقررہ کردہ کفالتات پر وصول کئے جائیں گے جو کہ مبلغ 6000/- روپے فی سیٹ (ناقابل واپسی) کے عوض مورخہ 9 جون 2024ء سے لے کر 25 جون 2024ء تک ای ایم ای آر کھانا پکھا شاکس ضلع خیر سے اصل کیے جاسکتے ہیں۔ ٹیڈنڈر کی تمام شرائط کفالتات میں درج ہیں۔

۳۔ ہر ٹیڈنڈر کے ہزار ایک ڈرافٹ ٹیڈنڈر کی مالیت کے 10 فیصد کے حساب سے منسلک ہونا چاہیے۔ بینک ڈرافٹ منسلک نہ ہونے کی صورت میں ٹیڈنڈر پرنٹیکسل تصور ہوگی۔

۴۔ تمام خواہش مند ٹیڈنڈر وہ ہندگن متعلقہ جگہ پر مورخہ 9 جون 2024ء سے لے کر 25 جون 2024ء تک دفتری اوقات کار کے دوران ناکارہ سکریپ کا معائنہ کر سکتے ہیں۔ معائنے کے لئے اصل کفالتات دکھانا لازمی ہے۔

۵۔ تمام خواہش مند ٹیڈنڈر وہ ہندگن ٹیڈنڈر میں جتنی قیمت درج کریں گے۔ رائج آفٹ نگیں اس کے علاوہ ہوں گے۔

۶۔ انسپکٹر جنرل ہیڈ کوارٹر غیر کوئٹہ بختونخواہ (ناٹھ) اس بات کا محفوظ رکھتا ہے کہ ایک ایک باقیمانہ ٹیڈنڈر کو PPRA Rules کے مطابق مسترد کریں۔

۷۔ خواہش مند ٹیڈنڈر وہ ہندگن اپنے ساتھ ناکارہ اصل کی شناختی کارڈ ضرور لائیں۔

۸۔ مندرجہ بالا ٹیڈنڈر فٹس ویب سائٹ www.ppra.org.pk سے بھی ڈاؤن لوڈ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

یفٹنڈنڈر کرکل

برائے انسپکٹر جنرل غیر کوئٹہ بختونخواہ (ناٹھ) خیر بختونخواہ پشاور

PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Atif Shah with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Sulaiman Shah citizen number 1330232421979 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Ashraf Aman (Daughter) 2. Nazia Aman (Daughter) 3. Asad Aman (Son) 4. Rubia Aman (Daughter) 5. Yasmin Bibi (Spouse) 6. Noman Aman (Son) 7. Toba Aman (Daughter) 8. Salman Khan (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HARIPUR-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Nizam Muhammad with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Chushtan Pari citizen number 120105767100 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Bashir Ahmad (Son) 2. Faqir Muhammad (Spouse) 3. Gul Banu (Daughter) 4. Nizam Muhammad (Son) 5. Fazal Ahmad (Son) 6. Jabeen (Daughter) 7. Khunza Mass (Daughter) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHITRAL-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Hamza Ilyas with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ilyas citizen number 1730181250370 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Noreen Begum (Spouse) 2. Amir Hamza Khan (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Liqat Zaman with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Shamm Akhtar citizen number 1730181250370 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Liqat Zaman (Brother) 2. Liqat Zaman (Brother) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RHO PESHAWAR-SFU
PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Nizam Muhammad with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Chushtan Pari citizen number 120105767100 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Bashir Ahmad (Son) 2. Faqir Muhammad (Spouse) 3. Gul Banu (Daughter) 4. Nizam Muhammad (Son) 5. Fazal Ahmad (Son) 6. Jabeen (Daughter) 7. Khunza Mass (Daughter) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHITRAL-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Hamza Ilyas with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ilyas citizen number 1730181250370 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Noreen Begum (Spouse) 2. Amir Hamza Khan (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Liqat Zaman with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Shamm Akhtar citizen number 1730181250370 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Liqat Zaman (Brother) 2. Liqat Zaman (Brother) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RHO PESHAWAR-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Liqat Zaman with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Shamm Akhtar citizen number 1730181250370 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Liqat Zaman (Brother) 2. Liqat Zaman (Brother) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RHO PESHAWAR-SFU
PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Hamza Ilyas with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ilyas citizen number 1730181250370 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Noreen Begum (Spouse) 2. Amir Hamza Khan (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHARSADDA-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Liqat Zaman with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Shamm Akhtar citizen number 1730181250370 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Liqat Zaman (Brother) 2. Liqat Zaman (Brother) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RHO PESHAWAR-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Liqat Zaman with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Shamm Akhtar citizen number 1730181250370 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Liqat Zaman (Brother) 2. Liqat Zaman (Brother) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RHO PESHAWAR-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Liqat Zaman with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Shamm Akhtar citizen number 1730181250370 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Liqat Zaman (Brother) 2. Liqat Zaman (Brother) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RHO PESHAWAR-SFU



PESHAWAR: US Consul General in Peshawar Shante Moore in a group photo after meeting with PML-N leader Arbab Khizer Hayat and PPP leader former Federal Minister Arbab Alamgir Khan and MPA Arbab Zarak Khan .

Ayub asks LG govts to benefit from China experience



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Arshad Ayub Khan, highlighted the vast opportunities for cooperation between the local governments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and various provinces of China. He emphasized the desire for local governments to fully benefit from China's experience.

Minister Arshad Ayub Khan expressed these views during his visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural center established in Peshawar. During the visit, he toured various galleries, signed the friendship wall, and recorded his comments in the guest book. Speaking to the media, he

noted that Peshawar and Urumqi, as well as Abbottabad and Kashgar, hold the status of twin cities. He expressed a desire to organize events that facilitate cultural exchanges, sending representatives from local governments and cultural delegations to China and inviting Chinese delegations to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Arshad Ayub Khan praised the strong Pakistan-China friendship and underscored the importance of advancing technological transformation to further strengthen this bond. He affirmed that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project would play a crucial role in the transfer of modern technology.

Describing the Chinese

Cultural Center in Peshawar as a remarkable symbol of Pakistan-China friendship, he commended the center's efforts in fostering ties between the two nations. He particularly praised the Chinese language teaching program at China Window, highlighting its role in enhancing cultural understanding and communication. On behalf of the provincial government, he assured full support for enhancing Pakistan-China relations, especially in public relations.

Earlier, the provincial minister received a briefing about China Window, where it was conveyed that Chinese institutions are eager to collaborate with the provincial government in promoting education.

Saif inaugurates tree plantation drive

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, inaugurated a tree planting campaign for the expansion of Garhi Chandan forest in Peshawar in commemoration of World Environment Day.

On this occasion, he said that the Garhi Chandan forest is considered one of the largest man-made forests in the world. It was established in 2014 under the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government's environment friendly flagship Billion Tree Tsunami project. So far, 4 million trees have been planted in the forest, which covers an area of 22,000 hectares.

He mentioned that due to this forest, the local temperature has been decreased by three percent, making the environment more pleasant. This initiative has also attracted wildlife, particularly birds, to the area. The local population has gained economic and financial benefits from the forest.

The project has provided employment opportunities to the youth as forest guards, and many people have started beekeeping businesses. The area has also attracted a large number of local tourists.

Barrister Dr. Saif stated that this lush green forest is a result of Imran Khan's vision and the efforts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. He added that the provincial government has previously taken significant measures to reduce environmental pollution and remains committed to this cause. Issuing a message on World Environment Day on June 6, he said, "Plant trees for yourself, for future generations, for Pakistan, and for Imran Khan."

Khuli Kacheris announced

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: On the special instructions of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur, the government has launched robust initiatives to eradicate corruption across the province. As part of these efforts, it has been decided to hold regular Khuli Kacheris on a monthly basis. The Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Anti-Corruption, Brigadier (R) Muhammad Mossadiq Abbasi, announced that the first Tuesday of every month has been designated for these Khuli Kacheris. The sessions will take place at the Anti-Corruption Department Office in Hayatabad and will be presided over by Brigadier (R) Muhammad Mossadiq Abbasi himself. During these Khuli Kacheris, the Anti-Corruption Department will address complaints against officers and staff. Citizens are encouraged to submit their complaints at the regional offices of the Anti-Corruption Department on the day of the Khuli Kacheri.

Governor meets delegation of SCCI Industrialists are backbone of country's economy: Kundi

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: During a meeting at the Governor House in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi expressed that industrialists are the backbone of the national economy. He emphasized that the progress of industries is synonymous with the progress of the national economy. These views were expressed openly during a meeting with a delegation from the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The delegation included

the President of the Chamber, Fawad Asghar, Ghazanfar, Ijaz Afzal, and others. The delegation members briefed the Governor about various issues and challenges faced by industries in the province, including the recent increase in electricity and gas prices, as well as load shedding affecting industries.

The delegation also presented recommendations to the Governor for the promotion of industries in the province. They expressed hope that Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, not only as a representative of the federal

government but also through his personal efforts, would address the issues faced by the province's industrialists and business community.

Furthermore, the delegation extended an invitation to the Governor to visit the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which he readily accepted.

Governor Kundi acknowledged the significant role played by the business community in strengthening the national economy. He assured that the federal government is taking serious measures to address the issues and chal-

lenges faced by industrialists.

He emphasized that the growth of industries will not only create numerous job opportunities but also strengthen the national economy. He pledged to take initiatives in consultation with leaders of all political parties, business community, and industrialists to address the overall issues and challenges of the province.

Governor Kundi assured to present the issues of the province's industrialists and business community before the federal government with confidence.

Honest officers facing systemic hurdles: Justice Shakeel

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Justice Shakeel Ahmed of Peshawar High Court (PHC) expressed his dismay over the systemic hurdles faced by honest officials, who are often stifled by political pressure. He made these remarks during hearing of a case regarding dumping site near a housing society at Warsak Road, on Thursday.

Justice Shakeel Ahmad voiced concern over the plight of residents affected by the dumping of waste and ordered the prepara-

tion of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for redressal of the issue. He lamented that political interference was eroding the country's institutions, forcing honest officials to turn a blind eye which leads to destruction of institutions.

The counsel Rab Nawaz advocate and Commissioner Riaz Mehsud as Acting Chief Executive Water and Sanitation Services Company Peshawar (WSSP) appeared before PHC during hearing.

The counsel Rab Nawaz advocate informed that

WSSP is dumping thousand of ton wastes near housing society at Warsak road which had created problems including health issues to the residents. He added that the Dumping Site is shifted from Urmor after protests from local population.

Commissioner Peshawar Riaz Mehsud informed that the site is property of WSSP acquired for dumping but also admitted that the administration is aware about residents' grievance and assured that SOPs would be followed as per PHC's directions in this regard.

However, Justice Shakeel Ahmed further observed that hundreds of Housing Societies were established while obtaining permissions after completion of the project. He also directed the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a site visit and submit report in this regard.

PHC divisional bench comprising of Justice SM Attique Shah and Justice Shakeel Ahmad disposed of the petition, acknowledging the difficulties faced by residents and the need for a solution.

UET Peshawar and APCEA ink MoU

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: UET Peshawar and All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association (APCEA) signed a memorandum of understanding the other day. The MoU is aimed to promote Gems & Minerals trade and export through APCEA and conduct academic expertise and commercialization of specialized services through UET, Peshawar to achieve help towards economic development of Pakistan and pursue their mutual interests in finding solutions through Research and Development.

Secretary Industries Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah said, with this MoU, we government will be able to approach TDAP and set up regulations and policies to ensure certification of precious gemstones for export. Chairman APCEA Mr. Minhajud Din thanked the university and business community for their cooperation and interest in developing research and development with UET Peshawar. Director Center of Gems and Jewellery UET Peshawar Dr. Khan Muhammad said the center is engaged with the Gemological Institute of Thailand and National Productivity Organization (NPO) to acquire state

of the art equipment for establishing an internationally recognized National Level Gemstone Lab that will offer gems cutting and polishing services. Through this MoU, an online trading studio will also be established that will allow our traders to do online gemstone trading and marketing to the international markets.

The VC UET Peshawar Prof Dr Qaisar Ali also appreciated the efforts and ensured full cooperation with the government and business community. Later on, he presented souvenirs to the Secretary industries and chairman APCEA.



Qasim commends role of medical transplantation regulatory authority

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Provincial Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah addressed a gathering at Khyber Medical Girls College on the occasion of World Transplant Day, lauding the efforts of the Medical Transplantation Regulatory Authority in curbing illegal organ transplant activities in the province. The Authority has initiated the registration of hospitals with facilities meeting international standards for transplantation.

The event was attended by notable figures including Islamic Scholar Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Deputy Director FIA Saadullah Mehsud, Dean of Khyber Medical College Dr. Zahid Aman, and Administrator of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Transplantation Regulatory Authority Dr. Asif Malik, among others.

In his speech, Minister Shah highlighted the successful collaboration between the police and FIA, which has effectively prevented illegal organ transplants and the trade of organs. He noted the increasing trend of kidney and liver transplants, with kidneys often failing due to diabetes and high

blood pressure. To address this, an initiative named "Live Well" is being launched.

Minister Shah emphasized the high prevalence of liver diseases in Pakistan, often necessitating liver transplants due to hepatitis. He pointed out that approximately 10,000 patients require transplants annually in Pakistan, while only 1,500 to 2,000 transplants are performed. This disparity highlights the urgent need for a posthumous organ donation program to bridge the gap between organ supply and demand.

Speakers at the event mentioned that countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran have established posthumous organ donation programs. There is optimism that the transplant team will soon introduce an organ donation program in the region. The government is working diligently to modernize hospitals with intensive care units to support successful posthumous organ transplant programs. The implementation of a donor card scheme has already taken place, and the public is encouraged to participate actively in making this initiative successful.

Meanwhile, To provide facilities for

children with clubfoot, a Clubfoot Clinic was inaugurated at Bacha Khan Medical Complex (BKMC-MTI), Swabi. The clinic was inaugurated at Chal Foundation within the hospital, with the support of Paraplegic Center Peshawar (PCP) and Miracle Feet (USA).

The inauguration ceremony took place yesterday at BKMC-MTI, Swabi, CEO PCP Dr. Ilyas Syed, Hospital Director Dr. Amjad Mahboob, Medical Director Dr. Shahid Nisar Khalid, Dr. Amir Zeb PT (Director Rehab/Clubfoot Program Coordinator PCP), and Associate Professor Orthopedics and Clubfoot Coordinator Dr. Muhammad Saqib and other officials were present at the occasion.

CEO PCP Dr. Ilyas Syed and MD BKMC-MTI Dr. Shahid Nisar Khalid cut the ribbon to officially inaugurate the clinic, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was also signed between the hospital administration and the supporting organizations. CEO PCP assured that PCP will provide all the materials and technical support to BKMC to ensure free-of-cost clubfoot services to the end users.

Chief Secretary visits Frontier Foundation Blood Transfusion Center

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: During his visit, the Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary interacted with the patients and inquired about their well-being. Frontier Foundation administration gave a comprehensive briefing to the Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa about the activities and services of the organization. On this occasion, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was informed that Frontier Foundation was established as a charitable organization in Peshawar in 2003. The aim of this organization was to provide free blood and blood components to patients suffering from various chronic blood diseases. Frontier Foundation Blood Transfusion Center stands as a ray of hope for Thalassemia and Hemophilia sufferers, providing them with the necessary treatment and support along with blood transfusion. Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa appreciated the role of the institution for providing free blood supply to patients suffering from various chronic blood diseases and providing important services in the health sector.



In brief

Youth shot dead in court premises F.P. Report

MANSEHRA: Four armed men killed the youth who came to appear in Mansehra district court on Thursday. According to the Mansehra police, the deceased Aqib was present in the court for pre-bail arrest in the girl's abduction case. The Police said a case of abduction of a girl was registered against the deceased Aqib in Lasan Nawar police station. After the firing, the assassins fled from the premises of the court without any resistance from the law enforcers present there. The police started searching for the accused and shifted the dead body of the deceased to King Abdullah Teaching Hospital for post-mortem.

13 family members faint

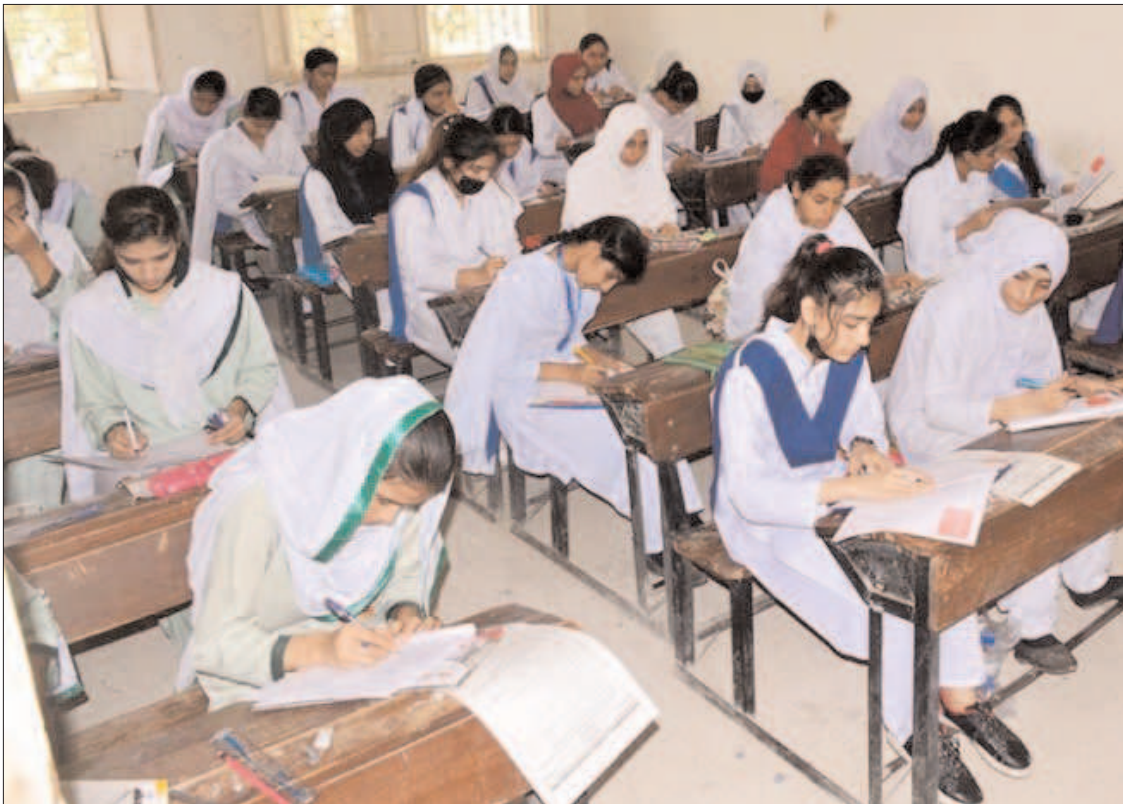
KASUR (INP): At least 13 members of the same family fainted after eating toxic food in Basti Eid Gah, Khudian Khas area of Kasur on Thursday. According to rescue officials, Asghar's family got sick after eating the food and 13 people of the house were shifted to the hospital due to their deteriorating condition. Among those who ate poisonous food include 65-year-old Gaman, 22-year-old Sajda, 11-year-old Ghulam Murtaza, 22-year-old Muhammad Ashraf, 10-year-old Ayesha, Tobiah, 9-year-old Ali Asghar, 8-year-old Hasnain, 5-year-old Ayesha, 4-year-old Tayba and 3-year-old Fatima. According to doctors, samples are being taken from the stomachs of all persons, including children, and are being sent to Lahore for forensics, but the condition of all persons is out of danger.

One killed on resisting dacoity F.P. Report

SHAHADADKOT: The gunmen who were standing near Magnija Larro, area of Qamber Shahdadkot district near Waggan, shot and killed Haji Sikander Ali Bhangar, a resident of Bukeja, and escaped easily after stealing money and other belongings. On receiving the information, the relatives kept the body on the main Wagan-Karachi Indus highway of Wagan city and raised slogans against the police and blocked the road to arrest the murderers. Speaking to the media, Bhangar Hussaini said that the condition of my son suddenly worsened late at night. The gunmen fired directly at the car, as a result of which my father, Haji Sikander Ali Bhangar, died. DIG Larkana and Senior Superintendent Police Qamber Shahdadkot have demanded that legal action should be taken against the murderers immediately, otherwise the scope of the protest will be increased in Sindh basis.

Cub Foot clinic starts F.P. Report

SWABI: Medical Teaching Hospital (MTI) Bacha Khan Complex Shah Mnsoor has opened a club feet clinic in with the cooperation of Paraplegic Centre Hayatabad and Miracle Feet. The clinic was opened in Chapel Foundation established in the hospital for facilitation club feet patients. The inauguration ceremony of the clinic was also attended by Chief Executive Paraplegic Center, Dr. Muhammad Ilyas, Director Bacha Khan Complex, Dr. Amjad Mehboob and Club Foot Coordinator, Dr. Muhammad Saqib.



HYDERABAD: Students solving question paper during annual examination of HSSC (part-I) 2024 at Degree Girls Collage at Latifabad.

First ever digital agri census to begin in Sept

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The district administration has planned to start the first ever digital agriculture census in 123 villages of the Lower Dir district in the month of September. The decision was taken during a meeting chaired by deputy commissioner Wasil Khan here the other day to review the preparatory steps regarding the census.

The Bureau of Statistics divisional coordinator Shaukat Ali, district coordinator Bakht Alam, representatives of the agriculture, livestock, education, population welfare and police departments attended the meeting. The meeting was informed that the district had been divided into four tehsils; Lal Qila, Adenzai, Timergara and Samarbagh and census would be carried out in a total of 123 villages. Briefing the participants the district coordinator said that 62 enumerators and 9 supervisors would be appointed to carry out the process. He said the staff

would be provided with relevant training.

Speaking on the occasion the DC said the exercise was meant to properly devise planning for distribution of resources. He said that effective planning and justified distribution of resources were essential for development. He directed the police department to ensure foolproof security to the census staff. He said the administration was committed to making the process easy and successful.

NGOs documents: The Lower Dir administration has asked all nongovernmental organizations working in the district to share their valid documents and profile and sectors of work with it soon. In this regard a meeting with the NGOs was held at Timergara with Additional Deputy Commissioner Tariq Hussain in the chair.

The participants were also directed to regularly share their progress report and field activities with the administration. The NGOs were asked to submit their

plans so that joint activities could be launched in the near future. It was decided that monthly coordination meetings would be conducted on a regular basis.

Lawyers support: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa legal fraternity announced to fully support the legal battle regarding the death of Musa Khan, a student of the University of Malakand, who died in a road accident due to his alleged expulsion from the varsity hostel on May 30. The lawyers from Peshawar, Mardan, Dargai, Charsadda, Lower Dir, Upper Dir and Malakand visited the University of Malakand and met with the students' jirga here the other day.

They condoled the death of Musa Khan and announced to fully support the victim's family and the varsity students. A meeting in this regard was addressed by Alam Khan Adenzai of the Peshawar High Court Bar, Asadullah of the Chakdara Bar and Chairman Students' Jirga Maaz Khan.

Punjab govt to join hands with US for Agri development

Saqib Mushtaq

MULTAN: Punjab Agriculture and Livestock Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani met US Consul General Kristin K. Hawkins. In the meeting, promotion of mutual cooperation in agriculture and livestock sectors was discussed, on Thursday.

Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftekhar Ali Sahu and Vice Chancellor Agriculture University Faisalabad Dr. Iqar Ahmed Khan were also present. US Consul General Christine K. Hawkins said in the meeting that introducing modern technology and quality seeds in the agricultural sector of Punjab. American private companies are ready to assist in the preparation. He said that agricultural experts and scientists from California State Department of Agriculture will soon visit Punjab. Agriculture Department

Punjab Agriculture and Livestock Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani



said that USAID Under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the focus of the Punjab government is on the development of the agricultural sector, for which vigorous measures are being taken. He said that "Transforming Punjab Agriculture Program" is being implemented with a huge sum of 400 billion rupees, under which interest-free loans of 300 billion rupees will be provided to farmers in two years.

He said that steps are being taken to promote agricultural machinery and to switch farmers' electric tubewells to solar. So we need the help of California State. Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani said that 60% of our agriculture is based on the livestock sector. Punjab

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved several programs for the development of the livestock sector. He further said that Punjab government's focus is on increasing meat exports, increasing milk production and bread improvement.

Punjab Agriculture Secretary Iftekhar Ali Sahu said on the occasion that Punjab government's first priority is agriculture. Punjab has seen a tremendous increase in wheat and rice production per acre. Iftekhar Ali Sahu further said that there is a need for mutual communication and regular dialogue between the Punjab government and California State on the issues of supply of large machinery, seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

Laborer's son secures 1st position in innovative ideas

F.P. Report

HYDERABAD: In a heart-warming tale of courage and determination, 11-year-old Ubaid Ullah Khaskeli has emerged as a beacon of hope in the remote city of Matli, Badin district, Sindh, some 60 kilometers from Hyderabad. Despite facing numerous challenges, Ubaid Ullah has shown unwavering dedication to pursuing quality education and has inspired many with his remarkable story.

The son of a laborer, Babu Khaskeli, Ubaid Ullah studies at Government Boys High School in Nizamni Mohala. He recently made headlines by securing first position in a project-making competition at a 3-day STEM educational confer-

ence in Sujawal. His innovative electric ringing school bell, which can ring automatically without human support, impressed judges and attendees alike. Ubaid Ullah's achievement is all the more remarkable considering the numerous obstacles he faces daily. He grazes sheep and goats after school to support his father and collects scrap from rubble to sell in the local market.

Despite his hard work, he often goes without two meals a day. Neighbors and social activist Advocate Muzamil Aslam provide some support to Ubaid Ullah and his father with food. Ubaid Ullah's friend, Wajid, described him as a dedicated and hardworking student who actively participates in all events. "He is a

blue-eyed student in his class due to his dedication and hard work," Wajid added. Social activists and public speakers have praised Ubaid Ullah's quest for education, urging authorities and social organizations to extend support to needy students like him. Noted columnist and social analyst Hameed Alwani emphasized the need for the education department to facilitate needy students across Sindh.

Advocate Asifa Khawaja called on civil society to uplift the lives of poor students like Ubaid Ullah. Ubaid Ullah's story serves as a reminder that hope and courage can bring revolutionary change in one's life, even in the most desolate of circumstances.

Two shot dead in Swabi F.P. Report

SWABI: At least two people were killed when unknown armed men fired at them in Kala Kandao area of Swabi district, police informed on Thursday.

Police said two men identified as Ishtiaq and Asim were on their way to market on a motorcycle when they were fired at in Kala Kandao. The assailants escaped the area after committing the crime while police shifted both the bodies to hospital for post-mortem. Police said the incident was a result of an old enmity between the two families adding that investigation has been started to nab the culprits.

460 goats distributed F.P. Report

LARKANA: As many as 460 goats were distributed among women of poor families living in 230 vulnerable houses of Union Council Tajoo Khoso, Union Council Tanvri on behalf of Redds Pakistan Jacobabad.

Benjamin participated in these events before and during the distribution of the goats, the beneficiary women fully inspected the goats and additionally weighted the goats respectively with an average weight of 25 to 29 kg.

In Keg, the event was also attended by dignitaries of the area. Ample shade and lemon water were provided to the beneficiary women and their accompanying persons. Around 400 men, women and children participated in the heatwave training, with a shaded open space and drinking water available for all participants.

Six alleged culprits held: On the instructions and orders issued by SSP Larkana Mir Ruhail Khan Khoso, under the supervision of DSP Hydari Madam Paras Bakhrani, search and combing operation in different areas of Larkana police, during the search and combing operation, hotels, tea houses, travelers Suspicious persons and vehicles were checked at various places including houses, wagons and bus stands.

While four suspects involved in serious cases have been arrested from different police stations. Arms, hashish, five stolen motorcycles and two valuable mobile phones were also recovered from the arrested accused. According to the details, the accused Shah Nawaz Jatoi, a drug dealer, was arrested from the Pir Sher Road area of police station Ali Goharabad. Irfan Jatoi, an accused involved in social evils (gambling case) has been arrested from Gharwa area of police station Ali Goharabad. The accused Riyaz Khakhani has been arrested along with uncensored repeater and cartridges, more than 15 serious cases including murder, robbery, theft, police encounter and illegal weapons have been registered against the arrested accused. Wajid Kosh, the accused involved in gambling, has been arrested.

Meanwhile, DSP Hydari Madam Paras Bakhrani has identified the three motorcycles recovered during the ongoing operations against the criminals, belonging to the original owners Amit Kumar, Ashfaq Ahmed, Didar Ali and two valuable mobile phones.

ANP hold protest against load shedding, gas outage

F.P. Report

MARDAN: The workers of Awami National Party (ANP) Urban, led by President Malik Elyas, staged a protest demonstration against load shedding and gas outages outside the Press Club. The protesters chanted slogans and warned that if the unannounced load shedding was not stopped, they would not allow WAPDA officials to enter the city.

Speaking at a crowded press conference, Malik Elyas, flanked by other party leaders, said that electricity and gas are the province's resources, but the people are being subjected to load shedding. "People wake up in the morning to find no gas, and children are forced to go to school without breakfast," he said. ANP leaders criticized the provincial government for its failure to address the issue and accused the rulers of indulging in luxuries while the province was drowning in debt. They demanded that the government should abolish the health card scheme and use the allocated funds to reduce medicine prices and provide relief to the people.

The party leaders expressed complete confidence in the leadership of central president Emal Wali Khan and provincial president Mian Iftekhar Hussein and vowed to take the party's message to every doorstep. They claimed that their party's leadership was free from corruption and that none of their leaders were named in the recent Dubai leaks. The protesters warned that if the govern-

ment failed to address their demands, they would take to the streets and fight for the rights of the people. They also vowed to protect the constitution, which they termed a consensus document for the rights of the province.

World Environment Day observed: World Environment Day was observed in Mardan, to raise awareness about environmental protection and the challenges faced by the region. The event was organized by the civil society of Mardan, in collaboration with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and the Salik Development Foundation.

A walk was held from Shamsi Road to the Mardan Press Club, where participants carried banners and placards highlighting the importance of environmental protection. Speakers at the event included Haji Jahanzeb Salik, Chairman of the Salik Development Foundation, Muhammad Parvez, Chairman of the Zamung Welfare Society Mardan, Muhammad Arif of the Saba Development Organization, Hassan Hussain of the Labour Education Organization, Fiazul Islam of the ParT Organization, and others.

The speakers emphasized that Pakistan is among the top 10 countries most affected by climate change, with rising temperatures and extreme weather events becoming more frequent. They stressed the need for effective government policies and individual actions to mitigate the effects of climate change. Experts warned that tackling cli-

mate change requires not only stopping deforestation and water waste but also addressing other sources of pollution, including plastic waste.

Wife held for alleged involvement in death of husband: Suspects involved in blind murder of well-known property dealer Ismail arrested, his own wife was involved in the murder of the victim. In this regard, SP Investigation Arshad Khan, SP City Shafiu Rehman, DSP City Ijaz Ahmed, DSP Sheikh Maltoun Izhar Shah, SHOs Murad Khan, Bakhtzada told a press conference along with police officers. He said that last week, property dealer Ismail Awan was attacked late at night by unknown persons in which he was killed.

The accused shot indiscriminately at Ismail Awan who was lying on a cot in the lawn by climbing the wall and killing him were. The Mardan police team gained access to the real suspects and arrested his own wife Nazish and Umar Farooq Residents of Baghdada in the murder of the deceased, while a team has been formed to arrest the other hidden accused, Bilal, who will be arrested very soon.

The victim's wife had planned with her friend Umar Farooq to get Ismail out of the way. The alleged murderer Umar Farooq and Bilal along with Nazish killed the deceased with the request to remove Ismail from the path and establish marriage. The murder weapon and the motorcycle used in the incident were also recovered from the arrested accused.

Three bakeries sealed, 27 arrested for overcharging

QUETTA (PPI): Quetta District Administration on Thursday sealed three bakeries and arrested 27 owners of different bakeries in Quetta city on the charges of defying price control list.

The district administration team under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lt (R) Saad Bin Saeed inspected 55 bakeries in different areas of the provincial capital to review whether bakery items were being sold in accordance with the price list issued by district price committee.

During the raid, three bakeries were sealed while owners of 27 different bakeries were detained on the charge of defying price lists in different areas including Kasi Road, Mecongy Road, Prince Road, Jinnah Road, Joint Road, Sariab Road, Samungli Road Kuchlak.

Talking to PPI, Deputy Commissioner Saad Bin Saeed said that district administration Quetta was striving to provide relief to the people in view of the decrease in the prices of daily commodities, adding that crackdown against profiteers would continue on a daily basis.

Korea interested in investing Balochistan: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said on Thursday that a conducive environment and protection to the investors of Republic of Korea for investment in fisheries, livestock, mines and minerals and tourism sectors of Balochistan province would be provided.

These views were expressed by him while talking to the Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Pakistan, Mr Park Kijun

who called on him at the Chief Minister's Secretariat. Bugti said Balochistan occupied a pivotal position in future's national economy, adding that technical and vocational training would be imparted to 30000 youth of Balochistan.

He lauded the initiative taken by the government of the Republic of Korea for establishing IT Park in Quetta. Bilateral cooperation for investment in tourism, IT, livestock and other sectors of the province and other issues of bilateral interest came under discussion during the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Kijun said that Republic of Korea was interested in investing in different sectors of Balochistan, including tourism and IT sectors.



HYDERABAD: In Hala Naka, city dwellers gather around hand pump, filling their pots with clean water for drinking.

Forest dept to purchase Rs4m equipment: DFO

F.P. Report

BUNER: District Forest Officer (DFO) Buner Arshad Khan said that Rs4 million worth Forest Firefighting Equipment (FFE) would soon purchase to protect precious forest and wildlife during forest fire season.

This he claimed while talking to The Frontier Post and added that in wave of the increase in the number of forest fires due to the hot weather in May to July, the forest department to purchase

forest firefighting equipment worth four million rupees. He added the tenders have been opened and after scrutiny by other committee members including DFO Malakand, the one most experienced firm out of the four firms which meeting the criteria has been declared successful.

DFO Arshad Khan has further informed that the decision of the committee will be sent to the higher authorities for approval and after the approval, the work order will be issued

to the successful firm and the necessary equipment will be provided in due time. He further said that the forest protection staff and during firefighting rescue and national volunteers will be provided the equipment so that they can deal with the forest fire in a better way with safety and comfort and control the fire in a short time to prevent the fire from spreading further and by extinguishing the vegetation, valuable forests and wildlife can be saved.



TOKYO: Foreign visitors in traditional Japanese 'kimono' stand at Sensoji Temple at Asakusa district.

Ethnic army foe Myanmar's military govt denies allegations

BANGKOK (AP): A spokesperson for Myanmar's military government denied accusations that army troops and their local allies killed 76 people when they entered a village last week in the western state of Rakhine, state-controlled media reported.

Rakhine has become a focal point for Myanmar's nationwide civil war, in which pro-democracy guerrillas and ethnic minority armed forces battle the country's military rulers, who took power in 2021 after the army ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The fighting there has also raised fears of a revival of organized violence against members of the Muslim Rohingya minority, similar to that which drove at least 740,000 members of their community in 2017 to flee to neighboring Bangladesh for safety.

The accusations of a massacre in Byine Phyu village in northern Rakhine were made by the Arakan Army, an ethnic armed organization that has been on the offensive against army outposts in Rakhine since November last year. They have gained control of nine of 17 townships in Rakhine and one in the adjacent Chin state. Byine Phyu village is on the outskirts of Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine, in a strategic location with easy access to the Bay of Bengal. The Arakan Army is the well-trained and well-armed military wing of the political movement of the Buddhist Rakhine minority, which seeks autonomy from Myanmar's central government. However, it has also been accused of major human rights violations, most notably in connection with its capture of the town of Buthidaung on May 18. It was accused of forcing the town's estimated 200,000 residents, mostly from the Rohingya ethnic minority, to leave and then setting fire to most of the buildings there.

It denies the charges, blaming the army for burning the town, but residents interviewed by phone since the incident told The Associated Press that the Arakan Army was responsible. The competing claims could not be verified independently, as tight restrictions on travel in that region make it virtually impossible to verify details of such incidents firsthand. Details of the incident in Byine Phyu village were similarly disputed. Maj. Gen.

Zaw Min Tun, the spokesperson for the ruling military council, was quoted in the state-run Myanma Alinn newspaper as saying the army's troops went to the village on May 29 to look for members of the Arakan Army and detained about 20 people for interrogation. He said the security forces were forced to shoot three male suspects who were not village residents as they tried to seize a gun from an army officer, but there had not been any mass killing. An Arakan Army statement released said about 170 soldiers from the military regional command headquarters based in Sittwe, accompanied by armed members of a pro-army Rakhine group and local Muslims recruited by the army, arrested everyone in Byine Phyu village and killed 76 people.

It claimed the army raiders treated their captives brutally and raped three women. Only one of 20 residents from the area contacted by AP was willing to speak about the incident. Several said they would not talk because they were concerned about friends of family members who had been taken into custody. One woman said her younger brother was among those arrested, but she did not know how many people had been killed or even if her brother was still alive. She spoke on condition of anonymity to safeguard her personal security. The UN human rights office on May 24 warned of "frightening and disturbing reports" about the impact of new violence in Myanmar's western state of Rakhine, pointing to new attacks on Rohingya civilians by the military and an ethnic armed group fighting against it.

The fighting in Rakhine has evoked particular concern because it suggests that the Rohingya minority may face new violent persecution. The Rohingya were the targets of a brutal counterinsurgency campaign incorporating rape and murder that saw an estimated 740,000 flee to neighboring Bangladesh as their villages were burned down by government troops in 2017. They have lived in Myanmar for generations, but they are widely regarded by many in the country's Buddhist majority, including especially members of the Rakhine minority, as having illegally migrated from Bangladesh.

Four killed, dozens hurt in Czech train crash

PRAGUE: Four people have been killed and more than two dozen injured after a passenger train crashed into a goods train in the Czech city of Pardubice, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) east of the capital Prague. The head-on collision took place, as the train with more than 300 passengers was heading east towards Ukraine, officials said.

"I can confirm that four people suffered injuries incompatible with life," Alena Kisiala, a spokeswoman for local emergency services, told broadcaster Czech TV. The train was on its way from Prague to the western Ukrainian town of Chop close to the border with Slovakia, and many foreigners were among those on board. Of the 24 people injured, three were reported to be in serious condition. The Czech Republic's Prime Minister Petr Fiala offered his condolences for what he described as a "great disaster" on social media platform X.

"We are all thinking of the victims and the injured," he wrote. Dozens of police, fire and emergency service units were sent to the scene of the accident, helping evacuate passengers from the carriages. Footage shared on news website idnes.cz showed at least one carriage off the track, while other photos suggested the front of the train had been crushed. Services between Prague and the smaller cities of Brno and Ostrava were suspended for several hours.

Czech Television quoted a fire brigade spokesperson saying the goods train was carrying the industrial chemical calcium carbide, although the first two wagons were empty, so there was no leak. An investigation is under way into the cause of the collision. — Aljazeera

Dozens of gold miners trapped

NIGER (BBC): Dozens of gold miners are trapped underground after a pit collapsed in central Nigeria. The incident happened after heavy rainfall in Niger state but news was slow to emerge because of the country's general strike, which was called off. Niger state emergency service agency spokesman Hussaini Ibrahim told the BBC that one person has been confirmed dead and they think over 30 people are still trapped as rescue efforts continue.

Officials believe the collapse was caused by the torrential rains which softened the soil. "We believe over 30 people are still trapped, we can't give you exact figures because even those on site didn't know," said Mr Ibrahim. "One person has been confirmed dead and six persons were rescued and rushed to the hospital."

He said that four excavators and rescue workers were at the scene trying to help those trapped. Nigeria's Minister of Solid Minerals Dele Alake said that officials of the Mines Inspectorate had been sent to mining site in Galadima Kogo. "Rest assured, we will investigate the causes of the disaster to prevent a recurrence and ensure the safety of all Nigerians," he said in a statement.

Famine 'likely' already stalking northern Gaza, new report warns

GAZA: Famine is likely already under way in northern Gaza, an independent group of experts has warned in a new report. "It is possible, if not likely," that famine is already stalking the enclave, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) said as it released its report.

The continuing conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas, and the restrictions on humanitarian access to the enclave, have impeded the data collection to investigate the issue, the report, the first technical assessment by an international organisation, said. Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), FEWS NET is an internationally recognised authority on famine that provides evidence-based and timely early warning information for food insecurity.

It also helps inform decisions on humanitarian responses in some of the world's most food-insecure countries. A declaration of famine could be used as evidence at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and/or International Court of Justice (ICJ), where Israel faces allegations of genocide. The group stated that for a formal declaration to be made, the data must be available, but it cautioned that data collection would likely be impeded as long as the war continues.

However, it noted that people are dying of hunger-related causes across the territory and that these conditions will likely persist until at least July if there is not a fundamental change in how food aid is distributed. The report cautioned that efforts to increase aid into Gaza are insufficient, and urged Israel's government to act urgently. It was joined in this push this week by former statements calling for improved humanitarian relief from international agencies. UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said that delivering aid into Gaza "has become almost impossible". "We are nowhere near where we need to be. We need all border crossings open. We need safe and unimpeded access. We need to prioritize humanitarian aid," he wrote on X.

Hanan Balkhy, the World Health Organization's Eastern Mediterranean regional director, said on the same day that some Gaza residents have been reduced to drinking sewage

water and eating animal feed. "Children are barely able to eat, while the trucks are standing outside of Rafah," he said. The UN has long warned that famine is looming in Gaza, with 1.1 million people - about half of the population - facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity. The UN humanitarian agency OCHA said access constraints "continue to undermine the safe delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza", and conditions "further deteriorated" in May.

Meanwhile, dozens of Palestinians have been killed in heavy Israeli bombardment of the central Gaza Strip, as US, Qatari, and Egyptian mediators plan to resume talks on a proposed ceasefire and captive release deal.

Urban combat and shelling rocked Gaza's southern city of Rafah near the Egyptian border, as fighting also flared again in central areas, where the Israeli army said "troops have started targeted operational activity in the areas of Bureij and eastern Deir el-Balah, both above and below ground". A medical source told Al Jazeera that at least 75 people were killed by Israeli attacks on central Gaza over the past day. Sources also told Al Jazeera that the morgues in the central city of Deir el-Balah were full while the local Al-Aqsa Hospital was working at three times its capacity.

In a statement, the Israeli army said it struck "terror targets" in the area, killing "several" members of the Palestinian group Hamas. Almost eight months into Israel's war on Gaza, global outrage has spiralled over the soaring death toll - exceeding 36,500 - and the destruction in the besieged and bombed territory, where United Nations data suggests more than half of all buildings are destroyed or damaged. On May 31, US President Joe Biden outlined what he called a three-phase Israeli plan, proposing to halt the fighting for six weeks while Israeli captives held in Gaza are exchanged for Palestinian prisoners and aid is stepped up in the first phase.

Regional and international powers have backed the proposal, although sticking points remain - Hamas insists on a permanent ceasefire and full Israeli withdrawal, demands Israel has rejected. Biden has urged

Hamas to accept the deal and deployed CIA chief Bill Burns to mediator Qatar for a renewed push after months of back-and-forth negotiations. A source with knowledge of the talks told the AFP news agency that Burns would "continue working with mediators on reaching an agreement between Hamas and Israel on a ceasefire in Gaza and the release of hostages".

Brett McGurk, Biden's top Middle East adviser, was also headed to Qatar, according to news site Axios, which quoted sources as talking of a "full-court press ... to get a breakthrough". Egypt's state-linked Al-Qahera News said an "Egyptian security delegation will meet with its Qatari and US counterparts in Doha to discuss the mechanism of restoring the truce talks". Qatar said it had yet to see statements from either side "that give us a lot of confidence", but added that it was "working with both sides on proposals on the table".

Biden earlier told Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani that "Hamas is now the only obstacle to a complete ceasefire", and "confirmed Israel's readiness to move forward" with the terms he set out last week. A senior Hamas official in Beirut accused Israel of seeking "endless" truce negotiations and repeated the group's position rejecting any deal that excludes a permanent ceasefire. Sultan Barakat, a professor of public policy at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, said the situation remains "very confusing" days after the US president's proposal.

"Biden has announced something that some Israelis say that he should not have announced, some say he announced it without our approval and there's an opinion that maybe he's announced it with Gantz's approval as opposed to Netanyahu and Gallant, the other two members of the war cabinet," Barakat told Al Jazeera. "That shows that there may be a split within Israel as to which direction they can take," he added. Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7 have killed at least 36,586 people and wounded 83,074, with thousands more missing under the rubble and presumed dead, according to health authorities. Israel launched its assault on Gaza after a Hamas-led attack in southern Israel killed about 1,140 people. — Aljazeera

Japan's birth rate falls to a record low

TOKYO (AP): Japan's birth rate fell to a new low for the eighth straight year in 2023, according to Health Ministry data released. A Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters that it's "a critical situation." The next six years, until the 2030s, will be "the last chance for us to possibly reverse the trend," he said. Hayashi noted economic instability, difficulties in balancing work and childrearing and other complex factors as main reasons why young people have a hard time deciding to get married or raise children.

The data was released as Japan's parliament approved a revision to laws designed to beef up financial support for childrearing parents or those expecting babies, as well as to widen access to childcare services and expand parental leave benefits.

The government earmarked 5.3 trillion yen (\$34 billion) as part of the 2024 budget for this, and is expected to spend 3.6 trillion yen (\$23 billion) in tax money annually over the next three years. Experts say the measures are largely meant for married couples who plan to have or who already have children, and are not addressing a growing number of young people reluctant to get married. Takahide Kiuchi, an executive economist at Nomura Research Institute, said the measures fall short of addressing the problem. "Simple economic measures such as increase of subsidies are not going to resolve the serious problem of declining births," Kiuchi wrote in an analysis report, adding that a conservative mindset espousing traditional gender roles at home and at the workplace also needs to change.

Surveys show that younger Japanese are increasingly reluctant to marry or have children, discouraged by bleak job prospects, the high cost of living - which rises at a faster pace than salaries - and a gender-biased corporate culture that adds an extra burden only on women and working mothers. Japan's population of more than 125 million people is projected to fall by about 30%, to 87 million by 2070, with four out of every 10 people 65 years of age or older.

nantly traditional Japanese society, out-of-wedlock births are rare as people prize family values. Chief Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters that it's "a critical situation." The next six years, until the 2030s, will be "the last chance for us to possibly reverse the trend," he said. Hayashi noted economic instability, difficulties in balancing work and childrearing and other complex factors as main reasons why young people have a hard time deciding to get married or raise children.

The data was released as Japan's parliament approved a revision to laws designed to beef up financial support for childrearing parents or those expecting babies, as well as to widen access to childcare services and expand parental leave benefits.

The government earmarked 5.3 trillion yen (\$34 billion) as part of the 2024 budget for this, and is expected to spend 3.6 trillion yen (\$23 billion) in tax money annually over the next three years. Experts say the measures are largely meant for married couples who plan to have or who already have children, and are not addressing a growing number of young people reluctant to get married. Takahide Kiuchi, an executive economist at Nomura Research Institute, said the measures fall short of addressing the problem. "Simple economic measures such as increase of subsidies are not going to resolve the serious problem of declining births," Kiuchi wrote in an analysis report, adding that a conservative mindset espousing traditional gender roles at home and at the workplace also needs to change.

Surveys show that younger Japanese are increasingly reluctant to marry or have children, discouraged by bleak job prospects, the high cost of living - which rises at a faster pace than salaries - and a gender-biased corporate culture that adds an extra burden only on women and working mothers. Japan's population of more than 125 million people is projected to fall by about 30%, to 87 million by 2070, with four out of every 10 people 65 years of age or older.

Fico says he was targeted for Ukraine views

BRATISLAVA (AP): Slovakia's populist Prime Minister Robert Fico said he believes he was targeted for having a Ukraine position contrary to the European mainstream but bears no malice toward the gunman who seriously wounded him three weeks ago.

The prerecorded speech posted online by Fico, who opposes military aid to Ukraine, was his first appearance since the assassination attempt and came just days ahead of his country's polling Saturday in European Parliament elections. Fico, who took office last fall after campaigning on a pro-Russian and anti-American platform, has been recovering from multiple wounds after being shot in the abdomen as he greeted supporters on May 15 in the town of Handlova. The assailant has been arrested, but not named by authorities, who at first said he acted alone but later said they were searching for a "third party."

Seemingly in good shape as he spoke, Fico pledged to be back at work in about a month and said he felt "no hatred" towards his attacker and planned no legal action against him. "I forgive him," he said during the 14-minute speech. Still, he slammed the opposition and others, saying: "After all, it's evident that he only was a messenger of evil and political hatred." Fico, considered a leftist populist leader, suggested that his views on Russia's war on Ukraine and other issues that sharply differ from the European mainstream made him a victim. Fico ended his country's military aid for Ukraine after his coalition government was sworn in on Oct. 25. He also opposes EU sanctions on Russia, and wants to block Ukraine from joining NATO. "It's cruel to state this, but the right to have a different opinion has ceased to exist in the European Union," he said, blaming unspecified Western countries for the alleged situation.

ANC eyes national unity govt after election loss

CAPE TOWN (BBC): South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) has suggested forming a government of national unity after losing its parliamentary majority in last week's elections. It says it has reached out to all parties but negotiations are still underway.

"The results indicate that the South Africans want all parties to work together," ANC spokesperson Mahlangi Bhengu-Motsiri told journalists. The ANC got about 40% of the vote, with the centre-right Democratic Alliance (DA) on 22%, the MK party of former President Jacob Zuma on 15% and the radical Economic Freedom Fighters on 9%. This was the first time the ANC has lost its majority since

Nelson Mandela led it to victory in the first democratic elections following the end of the racist system of apartheid in 1994.

Under South Africa's proportional representation system, any government would need to be formed of parties which together got more than 50% of the vote. Ms Bhengu-Motsiri said the ANC has had discussions with the DA, the EFF and other smaller parties. She revealed that despite reaching out to MK, there has been no positive response.

The ANC spokesperson added that the ANC would like to resolve this quickly as parliament convene in less than two weeks. Its first priority will be to elect a president to form the next government. Since the

results were announced, there has been feverish speculation in South Africa about what sort of coalition could be formed. Forming a government of national unity would allow the ANC to sidestep the dilemma of who to work with.

A coalition with the DA would have angered many party activists who see it as representing the interests of the white minority - a charge the party denies. The DA also opposes two of the ANC's core policies - its black empowerment programme, which aims to give black people a stake in the economy following their exclusion under apartheid, and the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill, which promises universal healthcare for all.

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

Enhancing Pakistan-China Economic Ties for a Prosperous Future

PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to China marks a significant milestone in strengthening the economic ties between Pakistan and China. The trip, encompassing meetings with key Chinese financial and technological stakeholders, underscores the strategic importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the broader bilateral relationship. This editorial will appreciate the trip's importance, its benefits, and how Pakistan can leverage its relationship with China to boost its economic prospects.

During his visit, Prime Minister Sharif met with Dr. Wu Fulin, President of China Exim Bank, in Beijing. The discussions revolved around enhancing governance, expanding the tax net, and ensuring ease of doing business in Pakistan to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). The prime minister highlighted that these reforms had already yielded positive results, notably controlling inflation in the food sector, narrowing the current account deficit, and bringing public debt to a more sustainable level. These are significant achievements for Pakistan, providing a solid foundation for attracting more Chinese investment.

One of the most anticipated aspects of the visit was the potential inauguration of the second phase of the CPEC project. The CPEC, a flagship initiative under China's Belt and Road Initiative, has already brought substantial investments to Pakistan, improving infrastructure and creating jobs. The second phase promises to further integrate the economies of the two nations, fostering greater trade and investment opportunities.

Prime Minister Sharif's emphasis on business-to-business cooperation between Pakistan and China is a forward-thinking approach. By inviting technology giant Huawei to invest in Pakistan's taxation and e-governance sectors, the prime minister aims to modernize and streamline these critical areas. Huawei's involvement in Safe City projects across Pakistan further highlights the potential for enhanced security and technological advancement. The signing of 32 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) between the two nations during this visit underscores the commitment to deepening economic ties and fostering a robust investment climate.

The upgradation of the Main Line-1 (ML-1) cross-country rail line is another significant project ready for investment. This project, along with the revival of the Karachi Circular Railway, symbolizes Pakistan's commitment to improving its transportation infrastructure. By learning from China's expertise in agriculture, Pakistan can also enhance its agricultural productivity, ensuring food security and economic stability.

The meeting between Prime Minister Sharif and China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) Chairman Luo Zhaohui further highlighted the importance of the ML-1 project. China's continued support for the modernization of Pakistan's industries, agriculture, and IT sectors is crucial for the country's development. The strategic partnership between China Exim Bank and Pakistan, particularly under CPEC Phase II, is expected to boost Pakistan's exports in international markets, fostering economic growth and stability.

The benefits of Prime Minister Sharif's trip to China are manifold. Firstly, the visit has strengthened the strategic partnership between Pakistan and China, ensuring continued support for critical development projects. Secondly, it has opened new avenues for investment in key sectors such as transportation, agriculture, and technology. These investments will create jobs, improve infrastructure, and enhance productivity, contributing to Pakistan's economic growth.

Moreover, the focus on modernizing governance and expanding the tax net will create a more business-friendly environment in Pakistan. This, in turn, will attract more FDI, boosting the economy and creating more opportunities for the Pakistani people. By leveraging China's expertise and investment, Pakistan can enhance its agricultural productivity, ensuring food security and reducing poverty.

The collaboration between Pakistan and China under CPEC Phase II is particularly promising. This phase focuses on industrial cooperation, socio-economic development, and agricultural modernization, which are critical for Pakistan's long-term economic stability. By fostering closer ties with China, Pakistan can access new markets, enhance its technological capabilities, and build a more resilient economy.

In conclusion, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China is a significant step towards enhancing Pakistan's economic prospects. The trip has reinforced the strategic partnership between the two nations, opened new investment opportunities, and laid the groundwork for sustained economic growth. By continuing to improve governance, expand the tax net, and ensure ease of doing business, Pakistan can attract more FDI and leverage its relationship with China to build a prosperous future. The benefits of this collaboration are immense, promising a brighter, more stable economic future for Pakistan.

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.



How does the US antiwar movement today differ from that of 1967-1968

Jim Laurie

SCHOOLS are out, summer vacations fixed. But if the past is any guide to the future, United States university campuses come autumn will again erupt in demonstrations with inevitable violence and arrests if Israel continues its war on Gaza.

I covered my first antiwar demonstration on October 21, 1967. Then a 19-year-old cub reporter for a local Washington, DC, radio station, I marched with nearly 100,000 people across the Arlington Memorial Bridge into Virginia and on to the Pentagon. They were a mixed lot. Most just wanted to end the Vietnam War and bring home the more than

portrayed as anti-Semites and terrorist sympathisers.

Radical right Republicans and a segment of the Israel lobby define the narrative, pushing a conflated logic. The attacks on today's antiwar demonstrators are magnified in the era of social media and a much more radicalised traditional media.

On May 19, Rupert Murdoch's New York Post ran a story with the headline " Hamas flag proudly waved at NYC anti-Israel demonstration: 'Marching for terrorists'."

Pictures of a single masked figure waving a

versities have burst into anti-Semitic chaos, ... a powder keg of pro-terror campus fervour, a shocking spectacle for the American public." Foxx read in her opening statement.

While the three college presidents defended their actions in trying to end campus protests peacefully without police intervention, none questioned the committee's stated premise.

Fox News amplified the exchange: "Congressional hearings accuse university presidents of capitulating to 'antisemitic, pro-terror encampment organisers'".

ins and were most vocal in denouncing the false equivalency of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism.

Several Jewish students at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, walked out of a speech this year by Greenblatt.

They denounced him for embracing "political Zionism". Such an ideology, they argued, had "negative impacts on the lives of millions". The students wrote that such Zionism "cannot be separated from the ethnic cleansing of 750,000 Palestinians in 1948, the sustained violence for the last 75-plus years or the current genocide in Gaza."

Whatever the beliefs of the protesters, they have become, as their parents or grandparents had been in the 1960s, a critical element in a close and bitter presidential campaign.

The radical right aligned with Christian fundamentalists and led by former President Donald Trump now claim to be the true defenders of Israel.

They embraced Netanyahu's denunciation of student demonstrations in April. They predictably condemned the increasingly large percentage of progressives and Democrats who identify themselves as antiwar and pro-Palestinian rights.

The senior leader of the progressives, 82-year-old Senator Bernie Sanders, came out swinging last month. "No, Mr Netanyahu, it is not anti-Semitic or pro-Hamas to point out that in a little over six months, your extremist government has killed 34,000 Palestinians."

"I am a Jew whose father's family was wiped out by Hitler," Sanders continued, "and I find it outrageous that Netanyahu wants to hide outrageous military behaviour behind the terrible image of anti-Semitism."

The Gaza war puts US President Joe Biden in a lose-lose position. Sanders warned Biden last month that he may lose young voters. Pollsters reported he may have already lost the Palestinian-American vote in the key battleground state of Michigan. He may also be in danger of losing critical older Jewish voters in Pennsylvania, another battleground state in November's presidential election.

Unlike 56 years ago, the 2024 election will not be decided by the fractures caused by a foreign war alone. The fractures in today's America are arguably deeper and more dangerous. But what is remarkable in 21st century America is the ease with which political operatives and their social and mass media supporters set the narrative, distort facts and create false equivalencies to the detriment of all.

Europe's marginalization of conservatives is counterproductive

Khaled Abou Zahr

IN a strange coincidence or a sign of things to come, this year's European Parliament elections coincide with the anniversary of D-Day. Thursday marked the start of polling, while dignitaries from across the globe also remembered and celebrated a decisive moment in history.

Gen. Dwight Eisenhower launched Operation Overlord on June 6, 1944, and the paratroopers and airborne commandos started the action at about midnight. The landing of the Allies in Normandy was the largest of all time, but also the "longest day," according to German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. It changed the course of the Second World War in favor of the Allies and helped bring down Nazi Germany.

Since then, Europe's security and economic prosperity have been linked to the US and the transatlantic alliance. This has been a source of stability that, along with the creation of the European Economic Community, the ancestor of the EU, has brought peace to the old continent following centuries of wars.

Today, we see that the fundamentals of both the alliance and the European construction are at risk. Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

world, there have been two intrinsic answers. The progressive thinking, by which most media abide, has fallen into an acceptance of defeat and retreated into an apologetic position for everything Western societies achieved. They have renounced competition and given up on all the values that brought them and their children prosperity and stability. On the other hand, the conservative parties believe Europe and the West need to roll up their sleeves and face these challenges — and that success is still possible.

And so, as frustration has grown decade after decade, we are now seeing proposals for smart, efficient policies both on security and finance being depicted as populist, just because they are proposed by conservatives. The reality is that progressives are the ones who push real populist policies that distribute money that will be earned by future hard-working people.

While many are expecting a huge victory for the right and far right in this week's European elections, I would be surprised if this happens. I would expect a mitigated, unclear parliament, which might force even more transactional politics rather than visionary and long-term policies. This scenario will continue feeding even more into people's frustrations and fears. Even if I am proven wrong on this result, things will not be as grim as some pundits claim, as I believe the EU and the transatlantic alliance will stay strong even if the right wins in Europe and/or Donald Trump wins the US presidency. It might even be the best outcome for both.

What is needed is to reestablish a real political dialogue and to go back to sound and realistic fiscal policies, as well as a long-term vision. Thankfully, voices from across various parties are starting to wake up to this reality and understand that marginalizing conservatives is counterproductive.

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and has successfully integrated and boosted new adherents. Yet, the war in Ukraine has unveiled the EU's military unreadiness. Moreover, it faces core issues, with an aging population and slowing gross domestic product growth, which is expected to be below 1 percent for 2024, while the US will exceed 2 percent.

Not everything is grim

Europeans are heading to the polls amid a changing world order with unclear new equilibriums. In response, Europe has doubts, while the US faces unprecedented domestic divisions. The EU has been a great success, as it has brought stability and

What is behind the Western media’s obsession with Rwanda?

THESE days, newspapers and television channels across Europe are filled with negative stories about my country, Rwanda, and its government.

Produced by an international reporting consortium made up of 17 media outlets – including Germany’s Der Spiegel,

Gatete Nyiringabo Ruhumuliza

the 30th anniversary of this genocide, and happen to be only a few weeks from crucial presidential and parliamentary elections, we are not at all surprised that the Western media has decided to increase its one-sided, unjust criticism of our country now.

monies of Rwandans in exile, including known genocide enablers, deniers and perpetrators, who have ample reason, personal and political, to demonise the government.

There is, it appears, a concerted effort in the West to deny the reality

towards reconciliation, rehabilitation and recovery following the horrific 1994 genocide against the Tutsis. But it is in no way the hellscape ruled by a murderous regime the Western media paints it to be.

Thankfully, it is not difficult to expose the dishonesty of the Western media discourse on mass slaughter in history, it is now a confident, dynamic democracy, looking at the future with hope. It has long laid claim to being one of the most stable countries on the continent. Every year it is visited by thousands of tourists, businesspeople, politicians and world leaders. It has hosted major sports competitions, tech and investment summits among countless other regional and global gatherings. It is home to several prestigious international higher education institutions, such as Carnegie Mellon University – Africa and the University of Global Health Equity, which is affiliated with Harvard Medical School.

Under Paul Kagame’s leadership, in 30 short years, Rwanda rebuilt itself and became a land of business, investment and opportunity. It is now a well-functioning welfare state with universal healthcare, education and housing heavily subsidised by the state. It rightfully earned a reputation for holding onto its best and brightest, and at the same time attracting international talent. The World Economic Forum ranked it first in its list of African countries able to retain their top talent. There are more than 1,000 dollar millionaires in Rwanda today. In its 2024 Africa Wealth Report, British investment consultancy Henley and Partners said it expects that number to increase by a whopping 80 percent in the next decade.

The Western media efforts to create in the eyes of the international community a false perception of Rwanda as a repressive and hostile country will all fail eventually, especially as more and more people visit Rwanda and see the truth of our country with their own eyes.

Waves of biased critical reports published by Western media organisations will not turn the Rwandan people against President Kagame and his government, either. Kagame was democratically elected as Rwanda’s president in 2010 and 2017, both times with more than 90 percent of the vote. He will do so again this July, not because he is repressing dissent, but because Rwandan people continue to believe in him – despite all the accusations the West directs at him. In fact, the Western media’s “hit jobs” on the president only contribute to Kagame’s ever-increasing popularity in Rwanda and wider Africa. After the latest wave of articles critical of Rwanda in the Western media, an African colleague wrote to me, jokingly congratulating us Rwandans “for whatever we have done to give the world’s elite such sleepless nights”.

The Western media is targeting Rwanda because it struggles to accept that this tiny African nation, which has been through unspeakable horrors not so long ago, has managed to find peace, democracy and stability, in its own terms, under a government of its choosing, and is refusing to reshape itself in the West’s image or to its liking.

But these attacks will only serve to make Rwanda more united.

.....
This message, however detached from reality, is not new or surprising to Rwandan ears. Similar stories aimed at exposing the imagined “dark side” of Rwanda routinely appear in Western media, especially near important dates on the Rwandan calendar, such as April 7, when we began our annual 100-day commemoration of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. As we are still commemorating the 30th anniversary of this genocide, and happen to be only a few weeks from crucial presidential and parliamentary elections, we are not at all surprised that the Western media has decided to increase its one-sided, unjust criticism of our country now. We are, however, very much surprised by the immense scale of the current wave of attacks on the country in Western media. We have seen dozens of stories critical of Rwanda in a matter of weeks. With hundreds of bloody conflicts raging across the world, a global cost-of-living crisis devastating families, and the threat posed by climate change at an all-time high, it is indeed very surprising to us that the West’s leading news organisations have this much time and space to platform one-sided accusations against the government of a tiny African nation which is, by most measures, doing rather well. We are also surprised to see that journalists producing these stories relied for most of their claims solely on the testimonies of Rwandans in exile, including known genocide enablers, deniers and perpetrators, who have ample reason, personal and political, to demonise the government. There is, it appears, a concerted effort in the West to deny the reality of Rwanda’s rebirth, present the impressive post-genocide progress of our country as an empty facade, and create the impression that President Paul Kagame, who is expected to win the upcoming election comfortably, is a ruthless despot who does not have the support of his people. The issue is not that there are critical reports about Rwanda in the Western press, but that there are “only” critical reports, and ones that are heavily biased against the government, concocted based on the testimony and alleged experiences of a few people in the diaspora with a clear agenda. Of course, Rwanda is not “perfect”. It has its problems and challenges like any other country. Furthermore, it is facing unique obstacles as it continues to work towards reconciliation, rehabilitation and recovery following the horrific 1994 genocide against the Tutsis. But it is in no way the hellscape ruled by a murderous regime the Western media paints it to be.
.....

Britain’s Guardian and Le Monde of France – and named “Rwanda Classified”, all these articles and news reports appear to be communicating a single message: “Rwanda is not what Rwandans say it is. It is not a dynamic democracy with a welcoming society but a repressive country where everyone lives in fear, journalists and opposition are silenced, and even killed.”

This message, however detached from reality, is not new or surprising to Rwandan ears. Similar stories aimed at exposing the imagined “dark side” of Rwanda routinely appear in Western media, especially near important dates on the Rwandan calendar, such as April 7, when we began our annual 100-day commemoration of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. As we are still commemorating

We are, however, very much surprised by the immense scale of the current wave of attacks on the country in Western media.

We have seen dozens of stories critical of Rwanda in a matter of weeks. With hundreds of bloody conflicts raging across the world, a global cost-of-living crisis devastating families, and the threat posed by climate change at an all-time high, it is indeed very surprising to us that the West’s leading news organisations have this much time and space to platform one-sided accusations against the government of a tiny African nation which is, by most measures, doing rather well.

We are also surprised to see that journalists producing these stories relied for most of their claims solely on the testi-

of Rwanda’s rebirth, present the impressive post-genocide progress of our country as an empty facade, and create the impression that President Paul Kagame, who is expected to win the upcoming election comfortably, is a ruthless despot who does not have the support of his people.

The issue is not that there are critical reports about Rwanda in the Western press, but that there are “only” critical reports, and ones that are heavily biased against the government, concocted based on the testimony and alleged experiences of a few people in the diaspora with a clear agenda.

Of course, Rwanda is not “perfect”. It has its problems and challenges like any other country. Furthermore, it is facing unique obstacles as it continues to work

Rwanda. The Rwandan government has been inviting citizens of the world to “#Visit Rwanda” and see the truth about the country with their own eyes for at least a decade. With its relaxed visa and settlement policies, and under the expert leadership of the Rwanda Development Board, the country is working hard to become a global destination for tourism and business.

Would a country that has so much to hide, a country where citizens live in fear of a repressive regime and are routinely subjected to violence, try so hard to attract as many foreign visitors – and permanent residents – as possible? Of course not.

Rwanda is one of Africa’s, and the world’s, most impressive success stories – just 30 years after it experienced one of the worst episodes of

The silent settler coup that took over Israel

TRICKY business, democracy. For confirmation of that, if he were still alive we could ask Edmund Burke, the 18th-century Anglo-Irish statesman and philosopher who did much to establish the tenets of modern conservatism.

Burke is no longer with us, obviously, but fortunately his words live on. And what words they are: his maiden speech in the House of Commons in 1765 was “spoken in such a manner as to stop the mouths of all Europe,” according to William Pitt the Elder.

In November 1774, having been elected member of Parliament for the Bristol constituency in southwest England, Burke delivered what became

known as the “Speech to the Electors of Bristol at the Conclusion of the Poll,” in which he told them what they might expect of him as he carried out his duties.

Having promised voters that their views would always carry great weight with him, Burke then gave it to them with both barrels. An MP’s “unbiased opinion, his mature judgment, his enlightened conscience, he ought not to sacrifice to you, to any man, or to any set of men living,” he said. And in case his meaning was unclear, he continued: “Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays instead of serving you if he sacrifices it to your opinion.”

In political science ter-

minology, Burke was rejecting the constituent-imperative form of democracy in favor of the representative mandate version. In plain English, he told voters: “If you think I’m going to Westminster to do your bidding, you have another think coming.”

For 250 years, Burke’s brave words have been used by democratic idealists in support of the “perfect” representative assembly, populated by people of intelligence and integrity beholden to no vested interests, and therefore empowered to enact laws for the benefit of the whole of society rather than only those who elected them.

It is a noble thought. However, such idealists rarely mention what happened to Burke. What he

had done, in effect, was to offer the voters of Bristol a choice at any subsequent election: either elect an MP who would do what they told him or elect an MP who would do what he thought was right. Overwhelmingly, at the next general election in 1760, they opted for the former and the hapless Burke was booted out of office.

Now, you may think there is little in common between Burke, a man of profound wisdom, erudition and integrity, and the shameless probate currently masquerading as the prime minister of Israel. In fact, they are connected by a 250-year-old historical thread. Leaving aside for now his venality, his cor-

ruption and his bloody-minded determination to cling on to power and office like some sort of malign barnacle regardless of the damage caused to other people and his own country, Benjamin Netanyahu — like Burke before him — is in hock to the people who elected him. And they have made it crystal clear what it is they expect him to do.

Not only that, but they have also elected a couple of enforcers to hold Netanyahu’s feet to the fire should his resolve weaken, in the form of Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich.

Of the two, Ben-Gvir is the pantomime clown. He is a man who once hung a portrait on his living-room

wall of the Jewish extremist mass murderer Baruch Goldstein and then wondered why he was arrested and convicted of inciting support for terrorism. Smotrich is another matter altogether. He is that most dangerous of creatures — an intelligent fundamentalist religious bigot.

While Ben-Gvir craves and obtains publicity with his interminable, provocative stunt marches through Palestinian areas of Jerusalem, Smotrich is quietly using his ministerial power to get on with his life’s work: in his own words, this is “flooding the areas of Judea and Samaria with settlements and Jewish settlers. When this happens, the Palestinians are supposed to understand that they have no chance to get a

state of their own, and they would have to choose between one of the three options — a life of subjugation under Israeli rule, emigration, or a martyr’s death.”

It is easy to be appalled by people such as Smotrich, Ben-Gvir and Netanyahu, but they are easy targets, low-hanging fruit. Israel’s tragedy, I think, is not that such grotesque figures hold public office: as Burke showed, elected representatives can be unelected. My question is, what possessed the people of Israel to elect them in the first place?

Part of the answer may lie in a devastating report in The New York Times last month, entitled “The Unpunished: How Extremists Took Over

Israel.” It describes “a sometimes criminal nationalistic movement that has been allowed to operate with impunity and gradually move from the fringes to the mainstream of Israeli society ... how voices within the government that objected to the condoning of settler violence were silenced and discredited ... and how the occupation came to threaten the integrity of Israel’s democracy.”

In other words, in a silent coup, Israel has effectively been taken over by the settler movement, using the tools of the country’s own democracy to do it. It has been a coup a long time in the making and I fear it will take a great deal more than the removal from office of Netanyahu to reverse it.

Western-led world order under threat 80 years on from D-Day

Mohamed Chebaro

With war raging on Europe’s borders and an open NATO-Russia clash increasingly possible after US President Joe Biden approved the use of American weapons against targets inside Russia, the 80th anniversary of D-Day on Thursday should carry special resonance for the leaders gathered in Normandy, France. They should know that anything less than a common resolve to defend Ukraine and the Western-led world order could leave them vulnerable to the many forces that today are less than keen to uphold them.

Western nations, or the countries of the so-called Global North, are undeniably under pressure as they undergo tests of their democracies domestically and face growing and open adversities from competing rising powers. Those that call themselves the “global majority” are bent on diluting, if not neutralizing, the Western powers and their tenets of peace, security and prosperity, as set up after the Second World War. And the war in Ukraine has no doubt served only to reveal the scale of the geostrategic discord, which will, if not kept in check, disrupt the achievements born from the suffering of the Second World War.

In a strong act of symbolism, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky will attend the commemoration of the Allies’ landing on the beaches of Northern France, but not the Russian leader Vladimir Putin or any other Russian officials. Paris has opted to reverse its plan to host lower-level Russian representatives, claiming that the conditions for Moscow’s participation are not there, given the war of aggression it launched against Ukraine in 2022.

But as Western leaders pay their respects to those who fought in the Second World War, the all-too-modern war that has raged for more than two years will be uppermost in their minds. As, short of a significant increase in help for Kyiv, Russia may well gain the upper hand in Ukraine again.

Despite French President Emmanuel Macron’s constant efforts to break taboos by refusing to rule out sending troops or military instructors to Ukraine and Biden indicating US approval for Ukraine to use its weapons to strike targets inside Russia — a position that unsettled some EU allies — the scale of the existential threats facing the Western world is unlikely to be mediated by the drip-drip approach to backing Ukraine as witnessed until now.

The list of Ukrainian needs is proving larger than what the Western nations can provide. Italy this week announced it will soon send a second air defense system capable of intercepting Russian ballistic missiles, but this should have been operational already.

Germany’s new plan to

increase its production of artillery shells, fuses and charges ought to have been carried out in the earlier stages of the war. The Ukrainians are also still waiting for F-16 fighter jets to be delivered. These are expected by the end of the year but, if recent Russian advances turn the table on the outnumbered and outgunned Ukrainian military units, that could be too late.

On the Russian side, Western experts have, since early 2024, been pointing out that its latest

stoking communal hate, racial tensions and discord in their respective societies. These include incidents reported in France of hurtful antisemitic images or racist symbols being painted in public places. And on Saturday, coffins draped in the French flag were left in the middle of Paris by individuals linked to Russia, with the aim of reminding the French that their troops would perish if their leadership sent any of them to fight in Ukraine.

The collusion between

.....
In a strong act of symbolism, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky will attend the commemoration of the Allies’ landing on the beaches of Northern France, but not the Russian leader Vladimir Putin or any other Russian officials. Paris has opted to reverse its plan to host lower-level Russian representatives, claiming that the conditions for Moscow’s participation are not there, given the war of aggression it launched against Ukraine in 2022. But as Western leaders pay their respects to those who fought in the Second World War, the all-too-modern war that has raged for more than two years will be uppermost in their minds.
.....

attacks against Ukraine have been carried out using weapons with technology from China, missiles from North Korea and drones from Iran. They point out that these three countries have become critical enablers of Moscow’s war machine in Ukraine. And their support has been crucial in strengthening Russia’s position not only on the battlefield, but also in other areas of geostrategic interest to the Kremlin. Though the cooperation between these four countries predates 2022, their political, economic and technological ties have accelerated since then.

And where Russia, China, North Korea and Iran have been firmly aligning their interests, matching their rhetoric with overt or covert actions and coordinating their military and diplomatic activities, Western nations look increasingly in disarray. The latter are only reacting to the growing disparate but targeted efforts by rogue or state actors against the Western principles, rules and institutions that have underpinned the prevailing international system for decades.

Western nations are only just linking the dots to reveal the scale of the pushback against them. These include reports of China using artificial intelligence to sow division in the US in a crucial election year, as revealed by Microsoft in April, or Sweden claiming that Iran is using Swedish criminal gangs to target Israeli interests on its territories.

Other EU countries have reported increased levels of criminal activity that carry the seeds of

China, Iran, North Korea and Russia has been clear for a few years now. This has been fueled by their shared opposition to the Western-dominated global order, which does not accord them the status or freedom of action they claim they deserve. The collaboration between these four countries has been transactional, covering trade, sanctions evasion, military development and politics. They are always hoping to erode the existing order, which is dominated by the US and other Western countries, or rejig it to serve their own ascending power and spheres of influence.

As Western countries mark the anniversary of D-Day, their near disregard for how severe the threat has become needs to be changed. In the past, policies of containment and the tools of international institutions might have worked to preserve their interests and models of governance. But the level and multifaceted type of the emerging threat means it is proving to be a generational one that could eliminate the achievements of those who fell in Normandy and elsewhere.

There needs to be a major strategic shift in how democratic states run their affairs, taming where possible their ultra-capitalist and extreme neoliberal states and societies. A renewed common resolve must be found in order to push back; otherwise, the US and its Western allies could soon wake up with not only Ukraine lost, but also the foundations of the international order they set in motion from 1945.



SCCI chief demands reform initiatives

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: President, Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fuad Ishaq said it is essential for success of Tajir Dost Scheme that this scheme should be approved by Parliament of Pakistan for next 20 year, along with giving sovereign guarantee that there will not impose any new tax on business community after implementation of the scheme.

The SCCI chief demanded further reform initiatives to simplify the taxation system and bring the tax rate to single digit. Besides, elimination of double taxation, traders should be facilitated under one-window operation, he stressed.

He also called for promoting close liaison and

coordination between chambers, business community and tax-collection authorities to take joint measures for amicable resolution of the traders' issues.

Fuad Ishaq was speaking to members of the business community during the visit of Chief Commissioner, Regional Tax Office Peshawar Zafar Iqbal here on Thursday.

Chief Coordinator Tajir Dost Scheme, Naeem Mir, Commissioner RTO Peshawar Dr Syed Farooq Jamil, Additional Commissioner Aisha Dilshad, DC Headquarters Riaz Ahmad Khan were accompanied by the Chief Commissioner RTO Peshawar.

The meeting was also attended by SCCI Vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi, former presidents Haji

Muhammad Afzal, Zahid-ullah Shinwari, Sherbaz Bilour, former senior vice presidents Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, Imran Khan Mohmand, executive members Javed Akhtar, Hamza Ibrahim Butt, Muhammad Ismail Safi, Kashif Amin, and Nadeem Rauf, Saddar Gul, Ishtiaq Muhammad, Bakht Zaman, Atif Shahzad, Malik Khalid Farooq, Ihsanullah, Aftab Ahmad, traders importers and exporters.

On the occasion, Chief Commissioner RTO Zafar Iqbal and other officials briefed participants about important points, importance and benefits of Tajir Dost Scheme, which according to the officials, aimed at broadening the existing tax net.

Pakistan is annually paying Rs8trillion on head of

debt servicing for internal and external loans and the same amount generated through various taxes, which is insufficient for the country's progress, Fuad Ishaq said.

The SCCI chief asked for broadening the tax base by avoiding imposition of new taxes on the existing taxpayers. He said the business community wants to see Pakistan in the rank of developed nations but we should redirect policies and make them favorable and friendly for business, trade and industry.

Fuad Ishaq suggested Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Industry, chambers, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan and economic wing of Army should jointly prepare the fiscal budget.



PESHAWAR: President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce & Industry Fuad Ishaq presenting a shield to Chief Commissioner Regional Tax Office Peshawar Zafar Iqbal. Vice President SCCI Ejaz Khan Afridi also present on occasion.

Yasin elected as ICMA vice president



F.P. Report

KARACHI: The National Council of ICMA, in its 413th session, elected Muhammad Yasin as Vice President of ICMA Pakistan. Muhammad Yasin is a fellow member of ICMA, CIPFA (UK) & PIPFA.

He has also served as a member of ICMA's National Council (2018-2020) and has been re-elected to the National Council for the term (2024-2026). During his earlier tenure, he was Chairman Research and Publications Committee, Honorary Treasurer, and President of PIPFA's Board of Governors and has also been involved in various committees of the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA).

With over 24 years of diversified experience spanning across sectors including Textile, Oil & Gas, Media, Aviation, Supply Chain, and Education, he is currently the Group CFO at The Superior Group and a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) from Toastmasters International USA.

CCP invites UK-Alumni

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) held an exclusive session on Competition Law for UK Alumni. The session provided an opportunity to engage directly with the Commission and gain insights into core components of Competition Law.

The participants included seasoned professionals from different sectors who graduated from UK based various universities. Officials from academia, legal fraternity, banking, and public & private sector entities attended the session.

Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu (Chairman, CCP) while addressing the alumni emphasized on policing the cartel to enhance competition in various sectors of economy.

Dr. Sidhu further said that the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) strives to ensure free and fair competition with the aim to open up sectors, leading to better services and products for the consumers.

PSX stays bearish, losses 356 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Thursday, losing 356.51 points, a negative change of 0.48 per cent, closing at 73,862.93 points against 74,219.44 points the previous day.

A total of 352,738,992 shares valuing Rs12.312 billion were traded during the day as compared to 348,549,582 shares valuing Rs 16.389 billion the previous day.

As many as 450 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 134 of them recorded gains and 249 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 67 companies remained unchanged.

The top three trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 17,606,340 shares at Rs 1.31 per share, Kohinoor Spinning with 14,855,744 shares at Rs 4.43 per share and Dewan Motors with 13,692,244 shares at Rs 39.44 per share.

Hallmark Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 14.98 per share price, closing at Rs 435.12 whereas the runner-up was Sapphire Textile Mills Limited with a Rs 13.26 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,292.72.

Sazgar Engineering Work Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 52.72 per share closing at Rs 787.49, followed by Services Industries Limited with a Rs 45.50 decline to close at Rs 929.74.

Another 90 connections disconnected by SNGPL

F.P. Report

LAHORE: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 90 connections; Rs 1.28 million fine imposed.

In Lahore, the team disconnected 12 connections on illegal use of gas. The team also lodged 1 FIR against gas pilfer.

In Multan the team disconnected 15 connections on illegal use of gas.

In Peshawar the compa-

ny disconnected 41 connections on account of direct use and illegal use of gas and amount of Rs 0.07 million have been booked against gas theft cases.

The regional team of Shiekhupura disconnected 04 connections on illegal use of gas and also booked an amount of Rs 0.19 million against gas theft cases.

In Faisalabad the team disconnected 02 connections on illegal use of gas and also imposed a fine of Rs 0.05 million against gas theft cases.

In Mardan the team disconnected 11 connections on illegal use of gas and also booked an amount of Rs 0.75 million against gas theft cases.

In Bahawalpur the team disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas while another 02 on use of the compressor.

The regional team of Sahiwal disconnected 02 connections on illegal use of gas.

In Gujranwala the team booked an amount of Rs 0.22 million against gas theft cases.

PEC successfully hosts IT Day at Headquarters

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) successfully hosted IT Day at the PEC Headquarters in Islamabad. The event, attended by over 120 esteemed guests, showcased the latest advancements in information technology and recognized the significant achievements of the PEC in its automation drive.

The event commenced with a recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by a warm welcome note from the Head of IT. The Registrar of PEC delivered remarks that highlighted the importance of IT in modern engineering practices.

A major highlight of the event was the IT Documentary, which provided an insightful look into the various IT projects undertaken by PEC. The documentary underscored the Council's commitment to integrating cutting-edge technology into its operations.

The inauguration of the Automation Drive marked a significant milestone in PEC's journey towards digital transformation. This



initiative aims to streamline PEC's processes and improve overall efficiency. Shields were distributed to honor distinguished guests and key contributors, including the Chief Guest Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddique, Federal Minister for Science & Technology, Engr. Dr. Nasir Mehmood Khan Registrar, PEC, Mr. Mubashar Ahmad Senior Director and the Head of IT and Mr. Aamir Waqas Director MIS. Certificates were also awarded to the dedicated officials for their outstanding work.

Remarks by Engr. Muhammad Najeeb Haroon, Chairman of PEC and Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddique, Federal Minister for Science & Technology, further emphasized the critical role of IT

in driving innovation within the engineering sector.

The event concluded with a networking session over Hi-Tea, providing an opportunity for attendees to exchange ideas and discuss future technological advancements and collaborations.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, Maersk Cape Town, MSC ABY, Opera and Simaisma carrying Container, Chemicals and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Engro Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile another containers ship 'Southern Anoa' also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day.

Eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Maersk Hartford and AU Taurus left the port on today morning, while six more ships, Maersk Capetown, MSC Aby, Clyde, Lima Trader, Zhida-6 and Tarsus-M are expected to sail on today afternoon. Cargo volume of 253,491 tonnes, comprising 189,531 tonnes imports cargo and 63,960 tonnes export cargo carried in 5,323 Containers (2,065 TEUs Imports and 3,258 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

PCAA sign contract for reconstruction of JIAP main runway

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The contract was signed in a ceremony held at the PCAA Headquarters by the Director Planning & Development, PCAA, and Director of Umar Jan and Company.

The reconstruction of main runway, starting soon after Eid, will enhance airside infrastructure bringing about significant advantages. The advantages include the ability to seamlessly accommodate wide body aircraft up to category 4F (including A380),



improved safety, reliability, and the capacity to handle the growing passenger and aircraft traffic. This upgrade is expected to attract

both domestic and international airlines to operate at JIAP in the future.

Upon completion of the upgrade, it will feature the

latest energy-efficient LED CAT-I Airfield Lighting System with Runway Centreline Lights. The upgrade project also includes extension of runway by 1000 feet making it 11500 feet. Reconstruction of taxiways and overruns at both ends, and asphaltic overlay of four taxi links near 07L end.

The upgrade also includes installation of control and monitoring system of the proposed energy efficient LED type CAT-I AFL System in the control tower.

BSCHH celebrates 25th anniversary

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Bait-ul-Sukoon Cancer Hospital & Hospice (BSCHH) proudly celebrates its 25th anniversary, marking a quarter-century of dedicated free services to cancer patients. This significant milestone coincides with the completion of the hospital's 100th Tumor Board Meeting, a testament to its unwavering commitment to excellence in cancer care.

Founded in 1999 by Ms. Zainab Ali Raza Ebrahim, Chairperson of BSCHH, the institution began as Pakistan's first Hospice providing solace and care with palliative treatment to patients suffering from

stage IV Cancer.

Ms. Ebrahim recognizing the pressing need for comprehensive healthcare services constructed the hospital to also ensure the treatment of cancer, including tests and therapies that are unaffordable for the common person.

In 2009, BSCHH moved to its state-of-the-art, purpose-built facility, offering 73 beds for inpatient care and equipped with cutting-edge diagnostic tools including mammography, ultrasound, radiography, a fully equipped pathological laboratory, etc. and an in-house pharmacy while outsourcing its surgical needs until 2021, when a state of the art Operation Theatre was established. These facilities ensure that patients receive quality and latest treatment options, entirely free of cost.

BSCHH provides both palliative and curative

treatments, with a team of top professionals some of whom offer honorary services mainly, Prof. Dr. Syed Tipu Sultan, a leading anesthesiologist who has been instrumental in completing and keeping the operation theatre functional.

Surgeons, Prof. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman and Emerita Prof. Dr. Shaista Khan, who also performs reconstructive breast surgery for younger patients. Dr. Abdul Qayyum, Medical Director, BSCHH, leads an excellent team that includes Dr. Gulam Haider, Consultant Oncologist along with many other renowned and dedicated doctors, surgeons and oncologists.

The hospital's MoU with Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) allows it to benefit from the expertise and its esteemed faculty, further enhancing BSCHH's quality of care. Additionally, collaboration

with DRM-Pharma & Diagnostik GmbH in Germany facilitates advanced medical research and access to cutting-edge Pharma & Diagnostic Products Services in the near future.

On this momentous occasion, Jameel Yusuf S.St., Co-Chairperson & Managing Trustee of BSCHH, stated: "Cancer is a disease that even those with substantial incomes struggle to afford. Bait-ul-Sukoon is a Ray of Hope, standing firm in its commitment to providing completely free treatment to all cancer patients with dignity and without any financial anxiety. We are proud to be the first private sector hospital to offer 100% free cancer treatment in Pakistan, thanks to the generous support of blessed individual donors, private institutions and corporates with the media identifying BSCHH to be that ray of hope.

Ballot ceremony of Marina Sports City held

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Al-Jalil Developers proudly hosted the highly anticipated ballot ceremony for Marina Sports City. This event represents a significant milestone for the company and its valued customers.

The ceremony commenced with a recitation of the Quran e Kareem. The host warmly welcomed the distinguished chief guests, Chairman Al-Jalil Group of Companies Chaudhary Nasrullah Warraich and CEO Al-Noor Orchard Malik Khalid Dhudi.

Land Director of Al-Jalil Developers, Kashif Chattha, initiated the random computerized ballot

process for Marina Sports City in the presence of sales partners and company team members.

The grand ballot was also live-streamed on Al-Noor Orchard's social media channels, allowing customers to witness the event in real-time.

The detailed map of Marina Sports City was revealed followed by a presentation by Marina Sports City's Urban Planning partner, the globally renowned firm Meinhardt's representatives Director Philip Ym Tan and Country Director Operations Samad Wazir, showcasing advanced planning and design. The Marketing Head, Abdullah

Hashmi and GM Urban Planning Umar Khalid then delivered a comprehensive presentation that highlighted the master plan, which received widespread acclaim from all attendees.

The Managing Director Al-Jalil Developers Fraz Hassan Warraich addressed the sales partners and management team, praising the amazing masterplan of Marina Sports City, he ensured that we are on our way to realising this dream project to reality.

The ceremony concluded with an elaborate dinner, allowing attendees to network and discuss the promising future of Marina Sports City.

Cheeziious certified by WWF-Pakistan



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Cheeziious,

a renowned Pakistani fast food brand has been awarded the prestigious certi-

cate by the World Wide fund for Nature Pakistan (WWF) for becoming

Pakistan's first-ever Eco-Diner restaurant. This remarkable achievement marks Cheeziious as a pioneer in sustainable dining practices within the country.

World Wide fund for Nature Pakistan (WWF) and Cheeziious are thrilled to announce the launch of the Eco Diner program at the Cheeziious. This initiative aims to promote sustainable dining practices, reduce environmental impact within the restaurant sector of Pakistan.

The Eco Diner Certification program encourages

restaurants to adopt sustainable practices to significantly reduce their carbon footprint. The focus areas include Minimizing Food Loss and Waste, Enhancing Sustainable Practices & Efficient management of natural resources to pave the way towards net-zero emissions.

Head of Marketing Cheeziious Zohaib Hassan said that "This WWF-Pakistan certification is a huge honor, and it underscores our commitment to sustainable practices throughout our operations. We're proud to be

leading the way for environmentally friendly future in Pakistan's restaurant industry, and we hope to inspire others to join us on this cheesy, eco-friendly journey!"

Cheeziious is a food chain that began its journey in 2014 with a single branch, and it started off, just like any other fast-food chain, to be the best in the game. That's why Cheeziious opted for the tagline "Spreading Cheezy Khushiyan". With Over 35 restaurants in Pakistan, it is one of the fastest-growing national fast-food chains.



In brief

Committee to oversee KBBA affairs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) has announced a three-member committee to oversee the affairs of the Karachi Basketball Association (KBBA). This step follows the decision taken during the recent General Council meeting held here, where the long overdue elections of KBBA were discussed at length, said a press release. The newly formed committee includes former basketball players Mahfooz Ul Haq, Ashfaq Ahmed, and Waseem ur Rehman. These well-regarded individuals have been recognized for their significant contributions to basketball and are expected to bring their wealth of experience to the administration of the KBBA. The committee's mandate includes conducting a thorough scrutiny of the clubs associated with the KBBA and organizing elections within the next 90 to 100 days. This move aims to ensure a transparent and fair electoral process, fostering a more organized and efficient basketball framework in Karachi. The PBBF's decision to form this committee underscores its commitment to revitalizing basketball at the grassroots level and promoting fair governance within the sport. The basketball community in Karachi and beyond eagerly anticipates the positive changes this committee is expected to bring. The PBBF urges all stakeholders to cooperate with the committee to facilitate a smooth and effective transition leading up to the KBBA elections.

Indian batters to solve New York pitch challenge

NEW YORK (Agencies): India's batters have the skills and experience needed to navigate the challenge of playing on a tricky pitch in New York, batting coach Vikram Rathour said after their Twenty20 World Cup victory over Ireland on Wednesday. India captain Rohit Sharma led from the front with an impressive half-century to guide his team to an eight-wicket victory over Ireland in their opening group match. However, batters found it tough going, with the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium's drop-in pitch offering a lot of movement and bounce, leading to a low-scoring match after Ireland were bundled out for 96 with four overs to spare. "It was a challenging wicket and we were expecting a challenging wicket because we played a practice game here. So, we knew what to expect," Rathour told reporters. "It is what it is. We need to find a way to deal with it and I think we have enough skills in the team and enough experience in the team to deal with it. We should be fine..." "We have enough good batters who can manage to bat well on any kind of surface, I think that has been our strength for many, many years. I think we can adapt really well to different conditions." The stadium in New York has seen few runs in the two World Cup games it has hosted so far, with South Africa defeating Sri Lanka by six wickets on Monday after dismissing their Asian opponents for their lowest-ever T20I score of 77. The pitch has drawn widespread criticism, with former England captain Michael Vaughan saying in a post on social media platform X: "Trying to sell the game in the States is great. Love it. "But for players to have to play on this sub standard surface in New York is unacceptable. You work so hard to make it to the (World Cup) then have to play on this."



DALLAS: USA beat Pakistan in the first upset of the World Cup.

Pakistan, France seal semifinal spots in Men's Nations Cup

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and France joined New Zealand in the semifinals of the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup in Poland after playing out an 11-goal thriller.

Pool B saw France finish first, followed by Pakistan. Malaysia finished third after defeating Canada in the first game of the day.

France topped Pool B with a third straight win, beating Pakistan 5-6 in a nail-biter. The Olympic hosts turned on the heat from the word go and came prepared to exploit the weaknesses in Pakistan's backline.

It was Victor Charlet who broke the deadlock in the seventh minute. With a minute to go for the first quarter, Eliot Curty found Blaise Rogeau, who sent a rocket that bounced off the bar for their second.

There was no coordination at the back as Gaspard Baumgarten made it 0-3 with seven minutes to go

in the first half. Two minutes later, Charlet got his second through another penalty corner.

For all their defensive frailties, Pakistan has been one of the most exciting teams to watch while attacking. One such attempt in the 26th minute led to a penalty stroke that was converted with ease by Abu Mahmood. Suddenly, the French were not as organized as they were before, allowing Pakistan to get under their skin. A penalty corner in the 29th minute saw Sufyan Khan's initial shot saved only for Murtaza Yaqoob to score the rebound.

The third quarter was all France again as Charlet delivered from the penalty corner yet again with an emphatic finish for his hat-trick in the 39th minute. Pakistan responded in the first minute of the final quarter thanks to Ashraf Rana Waheed who finished a superb ball from Amad Butt, who found him from a

long way out. Pakistan continued to threaten Les Bleus and Butt was sensational in the build-up for the fourth, as Rehman Abdul made it 4-5 in the 52nd minute.

Pakistan were all over France and a penalty corner in the 56th minute made it 5-5 as Hannan Shahid reacted quickly after Mahmood's initial shot was saved. Everyone believed the comeback was complete, but Pakistan switched off and Charlet, who started the scoring, finished it with another penalty corner.

Victor Charlet of France was full of praise for Pakistan after winning the match and said, "It's hard to describe this game - lots of goals. Against a huge hockey nation like Pakistan, you have to be good as they have many great players. You have to be focused and defend well as they are skillful. It's not our best game but we are happy with the win."

PCB announces tender process for Int'l Media Rights

LAHORE (PPI): The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced details of its Invitation to Tender (ITT) for International Media Rights across broadcast television, digital, audio, web and mobile platforms for all global territories for the period from August 2024 to December 2026.

Interested parties or their authorised representatives can obtain the ITT documentation or relevant details by emailing pcb.bidding@pcb.com.pk during office hours (9am-5pm Pakistan time) until 1 July 2024. The last date for submitting proposals in sealed envelopes is 10 July 2024 at 10.30am (PST).

The technical proposals will be opened on 10 July at 10.30am at the PCB offices, while the PCB will communicate the opening date of the financial proposals of the qualified bidders directly to them.

From August 2024 to December 2026, Pakistan will host women's international matches, which will be announced in due course. In the same period, Pakistan Men's team are scheduled to host the following teams/series:

August-December 2024
August – Bangladesh (two Tests)
October – England (three Tests)
January-December 2025
January – West Indies (two Tests)
February – New Zealand and South Africa (ODI tri-series)

May – Bangladesh (three ODIs and three T20Is)

August – Afghanistan (three T20Is)

September/October – Ireland (three ODIs, three T20Is)

October/November – South Africa (two Tests, three ODIs, three T20Is)

November – Sri Lanka (three ODIs, three T20Is)

January-December 2026

February/March – Australia (three T20Is, three ODIs)

April – Zimbabwe (three ODIs, three T20Is)

October – Sri Lanka (three T20Is)

October – England and Sri Lanka (ODI tri-series)

November – Sri Lanka (two Tests).

Sidra to attend Young Olympic Ambassadors

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Taekwondo Athlete Syed Zadi Sidra Batool, has been selected to attend the 64th International Session for Young Olympic Ambassadors. The prestigious event would be organized by the International Olympic Academy (IOA) which was taking place in Athens, Greece from June 8 to 23, said a press release.

The said athlete has been selected on merit and duly approved by POA. This seminar would be highly beneficial not only for the athlete but also for our National Sports which surely have great impact on other female athletes.

Pakistan Taekwondo Federation was thankful to Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination and Pakistan Sports Board for timely issuance of NOC for her to participate in the seminar.

USA stun Pakistan in T20 World Cup super over

DALLAS (Agencies): The United States pulled off one of the biggest shocks in cricket history by beating former champions Pakistan in a super over in Dallas.

Pakistan looked to be avoiding embarrassment at the T20 World Cup before Nitish Kumar hit the final ball of the US innings for four to tie the scores at 159.

Sloppy for large parts of the game, Pakistan fell apart in the added time. Mohammad Amir bowled three wides, one of which the co-hosts also pinched two extra runs from.

The US scrambled to 18-1, leaving Pakistan to chase 19 off left-arm seamer Saurabh Netravalkar. With 14 needed off four, Kumar made another stunning intervention, this time holding a magnificent catch at long-off to dismiss Iftikhar Ahmed.

With seven required from the last ball, Shadab Khan could only take a single, sparking joyous celebrations among the American players and supporters. All this at the end of a riveting contest, one which fluctuated in the burning Texas sunshine.

Pakistan recovered from 26-3, including an astonishing catch from America's Steven Taylor, to post 159-7. The US were cruising in the chase, at one stage needing only 56 runs from seven overs with nine wickets in hand.

Pakistan forced the super over and should have escaped, but the US completed the first upset of this expanded World Cup, one that gives them every chance of reaching the Super Eights. After beating Canada in their opening game, they may now need only one win in their remaining group matches against India and Ireland in order to qualify.

Pakistan, winners in 2009 and beaten in the final by England in 2022, are already at risk of an early exit and must somehow regroup for a showpiece clash with fierce rivals India in New York on Sunday.

Super over ignites World Cup and US cricket

This tournament was taken to the US in a bid to finally raise the profile of cricket in America. If a match like this and a per-

formance like this from the home team does not do the job, one wonders what will.

Monank Patel's team showed they are worthy of the support of the nation and that they belong at cricket's top table. The United States only played their first T20 international in 2019, have never before played in a T20 World Cup and have not previously played Pakistan in an official international.

Here, they were outstanding, expertly drilled by coach and former Australia batter Stuart Law. The American bowlers rarely erred, their fielding was immaculate and their batting was composed.

It was only the greater experience of Pakistan that kept them in the contest and somehow forced the super over. Instead of grasping their second chance, Pakistan imploded. Aaron Jones, who ended the match 36 not out, cut the first ball for four, leading to Amir spraying the ball to all parts. The US, who ran well all day, pinched runs from some comical Pakistan fielding.

Tottenham's Son scores twice as South Korea rout Singapore 7-0



SINGAPORE (AFP): PSG's Lee Kang-in and Tottenham's Son Heung-min both scored twice as South Korea trounced Singapore 7-0 on Thursday to seal their passage into the final round of Asian qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Watched by a crowd of 49,097 at Singapore's National Stadium, the visitors took the lead after nine minutes when Son was denied by a fine save by Hassan Sunny but Joo

Min-kyu retrieved the loose ball and laid it off for Lee to fire home a fierce right-footer.

Singapore twice went close to levelling the score as Hani Syahin's header forced a save from Jo Hyeon-woo and Ikhsan Fandi headed over from close range.

But the Koreans extended their lead in the 20th minute when Kim Jin-su's cross from the left was headed in by an unmarked Joo.

Singapore came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with China in their last home game but the South Koreans put the game away with a spell of three goals in four minutes at the start of the second half.

Son made it 3-0 in the 53rd minute when he received the ball on the right flank and cut inside Harhys Stewart before firing a low shot past Hassan.

Lee then capitalised on poor defending a minute later to add his second before Son got Korea's fifth shortly afterwards in a near carbon copy of his first goal.

Son was denied a hat-trick when Hassan tipped aside another curling effort.

But late goals by substitutes Bae Jun-ho and Hwang Hee-chan sealed an emphatic win for the South Koreans who sealed top spot in Group C with a game to spare.

Swiatek downs Gauff to reach French Open final, Djokovic has surgery



PARIS (AFP): Iga Swiatek closed in on a third successive French Open title Thursday as she defeated Coco Gauff 6-2, 6-4 in the semi-finals, while Novak Djokovic said surgery on his injured knee "went well".

World number one Swiatek extended her winning run in Paris to 20 matches and advanced to a fourth Roland Garros final in five years, with 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva or Italy's Jasmine Paolini standing between her and another title.

Swiatek, who had won 10 of her previous 11 meetings with Gauff in straight sets, wasted no time in grabbing the initiative as she broke the US Open champion in the opening game of the match.

The Pole withstood break points in her first two service games, before striking again to move up a double break at 4-1.

She closed out the first set without trouble, but third seed Gauff threatened a fightback when she nosed

3-1 ahead in the second set after wiping away tears following an argument with the chair umpire over the timing of a line call.

Swiatek though responded the very next game and won four in a row to surge to the cusp of victory.

Gauff saved two match points to make Swiatek serve it out, which the top seed eventually did at a fourth time of asking.

"It was intense. In the second set it was tight because we were breaking each other," said Swiatek.

"I was consistent with my tactics, didn't overthink stuff and just went for it in the end." Swiatek improved to 34-2 at the French Open after beating Gauff at Roland Garros for the third tournament in a row.

She has won all four of her previous Grand Slam finals and could become only the fourth woman to win four Roland Garros titles in the Open era -- after Justine Henin, Chris Evert and Steffi Graf.

Swiatek is also on track to join Serena Williams as

the only women to complete the treble of French, Madrid and Rome Open titles in the same year.

Surprise semi-finalists Russian Andreeva, the youngest Grand Slam semi-finalist since Martina Hingis in 1997, takes on the unheralded Paolini in the other last-four encounter.

Andreeva stole the headlines in the quarter-finals with a shock victory over world number two Aryna Sabalenka, who was hit by a stomach bug, becoming the youngest woman to reach a Slam semi-final since Hingis at the US Open 27 years ago.

She will now bid to back up that statement performance against 12th seed Paolini, who also got through with a surprise win against former Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina.

Both Andreeva and Paolini had never reached the quarters at a major tournament before this week, but are now just one match from the final. With another win, Andreeva will also be the youngest Slam finalist since Hingis, who won the 1997 US Open aged 16.

The pair met for the only previous time earlier this year in the Madrid Open last 16, when Andreeva came out on top in two tight sets. "I remember our match in Madrid. I remember that it was tough," said Andreeva. "She played really good tennis, and after I was able to catch up a little bit.

"I'm sure that it will a great match."



BRIDGETOWN: Marcus Stoinis tonked four sixes in a single over.



In brief

Bike lifter arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested a bike lifter and street criminal and recovered four stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession, said a Police spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, Kalar Syedan Police Station managed to net a bike lifter namely Usama bin Waleed and recovered four stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Saddar, Muhammad Nabeel said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind bars.

Police rescue missing citizen

ISLAMABAD (APP): Police has rescued a citizen safely who had lost his way on Trail 5 on Thursday. According to police, a rescue operation was immediately launched on the call of a missing citizen on emergency helpline 15, a private news channel reported.

3 killed in firing incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least three people died and six were injured in a firing incident occurred in the Mianwali on Thursday, police said. According to a private news channel, a personal feud led to a tragic incident where opponents fired on a van, resulting in the deaths of three people and injuries to six others. The assailants fled the scene following the attack. Spokesperson for the Mianwali Police confirmed that the shooting occurred within the limits of the Isa Khel police station. The police stated that the clash appears to stem from a personal grudge between Nazli Khel, a resident of Mandakhel, and the Kalo community. District Police Officer (DPO) Mianwali, Matiuallah Khan, promptly reached the scene upon receiving the information and has formed teams to ensure the immediate arrest of the culprits. The bodies have been shifted to a hospital for post-mortem examinations, and the injured are receiving medical treatment.

Power suspension

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Thursday issued 2-day power suspension programme for Friday and Saturday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period on Friday from 07:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Rawalpindi City Circle, Ghousia Colony Feeder, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Media Town-I Feeder. On Saturday From 07:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Rawalpindi City Circle, E-Block Feeder, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle S.Garden-I Feeder and surrounding areas.

CDA recovers state land

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) has reclaimed 15 Kanal of state land from illegal occupants in a drive against encroachment and illegal construction launched in ICT. In the operation, CDA's enforcement staff, ICT officials, and others took part. They sealed an illegal petrol pump constructed on state land in Sanjani, as well as 15 shops and a hotel built on state land.

Ministry taking steps to introduce climate friendly buildings

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam on Thursday said that her Ministry under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was taking steps to combat plastic pollution and collaborating with provincial governments to introduce climate-friendly buildings for enhancing urban landscapes.

She said that green and sustainable building practices in the country's housing and construction sector will promote sustainable living and moderate consumption to conserve energy and limited natural resources.

She said the present government has been at the forefront of promoting sustainable construction practices in the country through various policies and regulations.

Replying to a question, she said that with the green building codes, the ministry will try to increase tree cover and improve air quality, adding, the construction of green buildings will also support in achieving certain benefits, in line with the sustainable development goals.

Talking about the heat-wave she said that the prime minister already notified committees with the collaboration of provincial governments, adding, NDMA and experts were also being taken on board to discuss the solutions and to move forward for urban forestation.

She said the government is committed to overcoming the challenge of growing plastic pollution and all the stakeholders concerned are being approached and taken on board to make Pakistan a plastic-free country.

Romina Alam said that plastic pollution was a major cause of environmental degradation but tackling it was a daunting challenge because of the massive use of plastic goods in the country, adding that the Climate Change Ministry also launched awareness drives in schools with the theme of My water My bottle to overcome the use of plastic bottles.

She also mentioned that her ministry has also introduced a newsletter on the website related to the overall performance of the department where our upcoming and ongoing projects will also be highlighted.

The government is also pursuing a zero-tolerance policy against timber mafia and forest fire incidents and no one will be allowed to cut even a single tree in the future, she added.

PIC orders to disclose inquiry report

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) on Thursday has ordered to public inquiry report concerning the alleged negligence and mistreatment of doctors at a renowned private medical hospital Rawalpindi, which purportedly led to the death of 26-year-old Zahoor Ahmed's son.

This directive comes after the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) withheld the information, citing confidentiality under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017.

According to details, Zahoor Ahmed, a resident of Gujjar Khan, Rawalpindi, filed a complaint with IHRA in July 2021, accusing the hospital's doctors of negligence resulting in his son's death.

A citizen Nadeem Umer filed an information request to the IHRA on February

14, 2024, seeking the current status and a copy of the inquiry report.

Umer's request was denied by the public body, leading him to appeal to the PIC. Upon receiving the appeal, the Commission issued a notice to the IHRA.

The IHRA, represented by a law officer, maintained that the information was confidential and exempt from disclosure under section 7(h) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, which pertains to personal treatment records.

However, the Commission disagreed with this exemption claim while citing section 5 of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, highlighted that inquiry and investigative reports, once finalized, must be proactively published by public bodies.

The Commission asserted that the inquiry into the

death of Zahoor Ahmed's son should be made accessible to ensure transparency and accountability.

The Commission's ruling emphasized the importance of handling matters related to public health and safety with utmost care and diligence. Recognizing the case's significance, the Commission ordered the Chief Executive Officer of IHRA to provide certified copies of the inquiry report to both the appellant and the Commission within ten days.

The next hearing is scheduled for June 16, 2024, to review the compliance and implementation of the Commission's order.

This decision underscores the Commission's commitment to upholding transparency and ensuring that public bodies are held accountable, particularly in cases involving public health and safety.

Electricity supply to Park Enclave ordered

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa Thursday ordered for immediate supply of electricity to Park Enclave Phases II and III.

He directed the establishment of a separate grid station for Park Enclave to guarantee an uninterrupted power supply. The Chairman directed the Member Finance and Member

Engineering of CDA to promptly contact officials from the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO).

Muhammad Ali said the final date for submitting dues for Park Enclave Phase-I has been set as June 30.

The Chairman CDA announced that plots for hospitals, schools, and other basic amenities in Park Enclave should be allocated according to regulations.

The CDA chief warned

that plots of allottees who fail to pay their dues by this deadline will be cancelled and the cancelled plots in Phase-I will be put up for auction, he added.

He said instructions have been issued to enhance the beauty of green belts and parks in the Park Enclave.

Ali said the measures are part of the ongoing efforts to develop Park Enclave and provide better facilities to its residents.

Residents demand actions against beggars

ISLAMABAD (APP): The child beggars and alms seekers have increased manifold especially in shopping centers and cattle markets in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

The people of two cities demanded strict actions against those who were involved in child begging and alms seeking. A citizen namely Muhammad Ashfaq said that alms seekers sometimes became a constant nuisance specially in shopping centers, and traffic signals. He observed that no one was taking

action against the professional beggars.

Similarly, another citizen, Muhammad Imran said that professional child begging was a serious issue in this society as minors were involved in beseeching and imploring the citizens especially in markets. He said that when people tried to ignore them, they cursed or abused them and escape.

When contacted to ICT Spokesman, he said that the ICT administration continuously conducted raids against the child begging. In recent action, Assistant

Commissioners has initiated an operation to curb professional beggars in the Federal Capital.

During the operation, 27 beggars were apprehended and identified as professional beggars.

All of them were promptly transferred to police custody, while minors among them were directed to the Edhi Center for appropriate care.

The move underscored authorities' commitment to maintaining order and addressing social issues in the capital city, the spokesman added.

NIH issues advisory on Cholera

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Institute of Health (NIH) has issued an advisory for the prevention and control of Acute Watery Diarrhea (Cholera).

The Center for Diseases Control (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH) Islamabad issued this advisory urging healthcare providers and the public to be vigilant in preventing and controlling the spread of Acute Watery Diarrhea

(cholera). Cholera is an acute diarrheal illness caused by infection of the intestine due to bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*.

Pakistan like other Asian countries is endemic to cholera with cases being reported from different parts of the country.

Poor personal hygiene and lack of safe drinking water provide more favorable conditions for the pathogen to cause outbreak

in the vulnerable areas.

Although the disease may present throughout the year but peak of cases may be observed from May to November, in hot, humid and rainy season.

The NIH emphasized the individual preventive measures including washing hands frequently with soap and water, especially after using the toilet, changing diapers, and before preparing or eating food.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan poverty alleviation fund (PPAF) and Environment Directorate of Capital Development Authority (CDA) Islamabad jointly organized a walk to raise awareness on climate change to mark World Environment Day.

ANF recovers 373 kg drugs in operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover 373 kg drugs and arrested 15 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that 117 kg hashish and 36 kg opium were recovered from three suspects arrested near M-1, Attock. 121.2 kg hashish and 26.4 kg opium were recovered from five accused netted in Faisalabad.

In two operations near M-1 Islamabad, 31.2 kg hashish was recovered from five suspects.

18 kg ice was recovered from Panjgur and 15 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near Super Highway Karachi.

7.2 kg hashish and 1 kg ice were recovered from the possession of an accused arrested in Dera Ismail Khan.

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

IRSA releases 302,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 302,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 299,500 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1463.50 feet and was 65.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. The water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 111,600 cusecs and 115,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1188.60 feet, which was 138.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 55,000 cusecs each.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 184,300, 147,600, 124,300 and 84,100 cusecs respectively.

Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 88,600 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 14,300 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

PDU, PIPS organize orientation program

ISLAMABAD (APP): An orientation program was organized by Senate Secretariat's Parliamentary Development Unit (PDU) and Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS) to familiarize the new elected senators with critical parliamentary processes and tools essential for their legislative duties.

Deputy Secretary Legislation, Senate of Pakistan, Muhammad Azam Sulehri, conducted an informative session on the various parliamentary oversight tools available to senators said a news release issued here on Thursday.

These include Questions, Motions under rule 60, calling attention notices, Motions under rule 218, adjournment motions, Zero hours, and resolutions.

He emphasized that these tools are crucial for

maintaining transparency and accountability in government operations, enabling senators to hold the government accountable and ensuring it acts in the best interests of the people.

Rabea Anwar, legislative expert and the Joint Secretary at the Senate Secretariat, provided a comprehensive overview of the legislative process. She detailed the journey of a bill from its introduction to its final enactment as an act.

She highlighted the importance of each step, including debate, discussion, and deliberation on the House floor, in enactment of effective and meaningful legislation.

Additional Secretary Hafeez Ullah Sheikh briefed the senators on the formation, types, powers, functions, and roles of

Senate committees, often referred to as the mini parliament or an extension of the House.

He explained that these committees are essential for the proper implementation of policies, acting as powerful oversight mechanisms to monitor the work of relevant departments.

The Senators took a keen interest in the presentations, asking questions and engaging in discussions. Their inquiries were answered to their best satisfaction, reflecting their commitment to understanding and effectively utilizing their legislative roles.

Secretary Senate, Major(R) Husnain Haider in his concluding remarks expressed his optimism that the senators would actively participate in ensuring the smooth and effective functioning of the House.

Supporting young people essential: Rana Mashood

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Prime Minister's Youth Program, Rana Mashood on Thursday said supporting young people and their inclusion into policy-making to combat climate change was not just important but essential.

The Chairperson was delivering his keynote address at the roundtable titled "Empowering Young People to Shape Inclusive Climate Policies Through Policy Research Challenge. Under the umbrella of Generation Unlimited", organized by the Youth Policy Lab (YPL) platform that has emerged, bringing together UN agencies—UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP—and the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) in a synergistic collaboration with the School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF).

This coalition introduced the Policy Research Challenge (PRC) in 2023, marking a significant stride in involving young people at the policy level. Through the PRC, the YPL gives young people a platform to have their voices heard in policy decisions, ensuring their unique needs are considered during important developmental stages.

Rana Mashood said, "Their (youth) innovative ideas and unique perspectives are crucial in developing effective and inclusive climate policies that will shape a sustainable future."

Dr. Rubina Ali, Assistant Representative of UNFPA, remarked, "Combating climate change requires innovative and community-based solutions. It requires a new perspective, and who better to offer these solutions than young people who have only known a world grappling with its consequences."

Inoussa Kabore, Deputy Representative (Programmes) UNICEF Pakistan, highlighted how these researchers have taken a transdisciplinary approach to the topic of climate adaptation and have explored issues faced by them and their communities with regards to water, education, health, smog, agriculture, and community resilience.

A highlight of the roundtable was the Policy Interface Matchup, where adolescent and youth researchers engaged directly with ministry representatives, facilitating a constructive dialogue to align adolescents and youth-driven research with governmental policies, ensuring inclusivity, responsiveness, and efficacy in meeting the needs of Pakistan's diverse communities.

Professor Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, VC National Skills University, concluded the event with remarks highlighting, "The

active involvement of young researchers in the Policy Research Challenge has demonstrated their immense potential to drive meaningful change. By aligning their innovative research with governmental policies, we ensure that the voices of the youth are not only heard but also integrated into our national strategies, paving the way for a more inclusive and resilient future."

The Policy Research Challenge was meticulously crafted to empower young individuals to critically evaluate and contribute to inclusive climate change policies. This initiative welcomed the perspectives of young people in policy formulation around the domain of Climate Adaptation, honing their research capabilities and encouraging active community involvement. This initiative has enabled young individuals to contribute significantly to shaping a more equitable, resilient, and promising future for society.

The PRC 2023-24 not only scrutinizes climate change mitigation policies but also advocates for inclusivity by identifying gaps, optimizing institutional arrangements, bolstering capacities, and mobilizing support from diverse stakeholders, including the private sector.

While highlighting the key development initiatives by the Punjab government, the minister said chief minister added 32 new field hospitals in the health care system in 100 days, including delivery dispensary pharmacies where 35 thousand people approximately are receiving free treatment on daily basis.

Moreover stern actions are being taken against complaints of harassment of women. In the E-bikes project, 20 thousand students will be given motorbikes without interest, on two years installments. All 7500 female applicants will be provided e-bikes.

He informed that almost all government institutions of the province have been digitized. The files of the certificated vehicles will be

delivered at the doorstep under Dastak project. A fee of Rs.900 has been fixed, out of which 100 rupees will be charged as a token fee by the Government of Punjab.

The minister strongly rejected false propaganda of political victimisation. We do not believe in politics of vandalism. The claim of the opposition of stealing the election is now a story of past, he said. He went on saying that the previous government had increased inflation in the country.

In the year 2022, the IMF agreement was breached which caused a heavy burden on people in the shape of electricity and gas bills he said. However the minister said the current government would cut the electricity and gas prices in consultation with the IMF.

Rawalpindi E-Bus service to be functional next year: Minister

RAWALPINDI (APP): The E-Bus service in Rawalpindi will be functional next year. The projects aims to resolve commuting issues being faced by the citizens. There will be six routes including, one from Taxila, Wah Cantt, IJ Principal Road to Octori 26, and another connecting Daultala with Rawalpindi. Maintenance work on Metrobus tracks will be carried out from June to December this year.

This was disclosed by Provincial Transport Minister, Bilal Akbar Khan during a press conference here on Thursday.

He informed that he was regularly paying visits to Rawalpindi on the special instructions from Chief Minister Mariam Nawaz Sharif to solve prevailing issues of transportation and traffic management in the

city. He said that consultation with the members of the national and provincial assemblies was also underway in that regard. Suggestions have been taken from local MNAs and MPAs to review the routes.

The minister noted that the Metrobus service was provided in the city eight to nine years ago, but the previous government did not invest a single penny on its functionality and repair. The repair work of Metrobus track will start from June and will be completed by December.

The minister said successful Metrobus service has rejected the negative propaganda which was launched against PML-N for building metrobus, he said adding that millions of citizens travel by metro bus at present. Without Metrobus, the road condi-

tions would have been worsened, he added.

While highlighting the key development initiatives by the Punjab government, the minister said chief minister added 32 new field hospitals in the health care system in 100 days, including delivery dispensary pharmacies where 35 thousand people approximately are receiving free treatment on daily basis.

Moreover stern actions are being taken against complaints of harassment of women. In the E-bikes project, 20 thousand students will be given motorbikes without interest, on two years installments. All 7500 female applicants will be provided e-bikes.

He informed that almost all government institutions of the province have been digitized. The files of the certificated vehicles will be

Hanif meets Terje

KABUL (BNA): The Acting Minister of Economy of Afghanistan Qari Din Mohammad Hanif held a significant meeting with Terje Watterdal, the Director of the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee, in his office. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the activities and accomplishments of the Norwegian Committee. The Director of the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee outlined their ongoing activities across various provinces.

The Frontier Post

Ziqaad 29, 1445 — Friday, June 07, 2024

CARE help Afghan schools

KABUL (BNA): CARE Afghanistan Organization has donated office supplies and educational equipment to six schools in Rashidan District, Ghazni province of Afghanistan. Mawlawi Nasir Ahmad Hosseini, the Director of Education in Ghazni province of Afghanistan, said to Bakhtar News Agency that the supplies and equipment include office desks and chairs, tents, solar panels, drinking water storage, and carpets.

IEA seeks global cooperation to combat crisis



KABUL (TOLONews): World Environment Day was commemorated in a program attended by high-ranking officials of the Islamic Emirate and several international organizations in Kabul.

A number of officials from the Islamic Emirate said during this program that due to the exploitation by some industrial powers, the environment worldwide is facing a crisis, which has also caused serious damage to Afghanistan.

Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Islamic Emirate's deputy prime minister for administrative affairs, referring to the Islamic Emirate's efforts in constructing large and small water canals and check dams, called on countries and international

organizations to also strive to combat the environmental crisis in Afghanistan.

Hanafi said: "Continuous droughts, floods, earthquakes, and other natural disasters contribute to the destruction of the environment in Afghanistan; however, the role of humans is even more significant."

Representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC), who participated in the program, also emphasized addressing the environmental crisis in Afghanistan.

Development Programme Resident Representative for Afghanistan, Stephen Rodrigues, said: "Afghanistan contributes very, very little to global climate change but is one of the countries most severely impacted by it."

Richard Trenchard, FAO Representative in Afghanistan, said: "Everywhere one goes one sees the inescapable mark of climate change. One feels the thirsty grip of drought. One sees once fertile lands that are now dry, parched hillsides once thick with trees now bare, and wells that are pumping deeper and deeper, year after year."

Terje Watterdal, the country director of the Norwegian Afghanistan

Committee, said: "An important problem is climate change knows no geographical or political boundaries. As a result, Afghan children, youth and adults from the north in Badakhshan to the south in Nimroz have been affected by the unpredictable climate changes."

Meanwhile, officials from the National Environmental Protection Agency said that although Afghanistan is a member of 16 international environmental conventions and agreements, it currently does not receive any financial or technical support from international organizations for implementing these agreements. Furthermore, environmental and climate change projects in the country have been suspended.

Aziz Rahman, head of the National Environmental Protection Agency, said: "Rehabilitating the land through forest development, land use planning, and management helps us reduce poverty and misery and mitigate climate change and climate risks."

The National Environmental Protection Agency said it has significant plans for expanding forests and creating national parks in various provinces.

The agency said that by the year 2031 (1410 solar year), 25 million saplings will be planted annually across the country.

University entrance exam held

KABUL (Khaama Press): The National Examinations Authority of Afghanistan has announced the commencement of the first round of the nationwide university entrance exam (Kankor exam) in 16 provinces.

This authority mentioned in a statement that the first round of the 1403 Kankor exam began on Thursday.

In the first round, students from the provinces of Logar, Parwan, Kapisa, Panjshir, Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika, Zabul, Bamyan, Samangan, Nuristan, Badghis, Herat, Ghor, Maidan Wardak, and Kunar will be taking the exam.

The National Examinations Committee had previously announced that the 1403 nationwide Kankor exam would be conducted in five stages. The second stage, which will include students from Kabul and its districts, is scheduled for June 21st and 22nd.

The third stage of this exam, scheduled for June 27 and 28, will be taken by students from the provinces of Takhar, Kunduz, Balkh, Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Faryab, Uruzgan, Baghlan, Daikundi, and Badakhshan.

The fourth stage of the Kankor exam is announced for July 4, 5, and 6. It will include students from the provinces of Nangarhar, Laghman, Khost, Kandahar, Helmand, Farah, and Nimruz.

The fifth stage of this exam, which is allocated to students outside the country and those who missed previous stages, will be held on July 12.

Notably, for the second consecutive year, the Kankor exam in Afghanistan is being held without the participation of female students.

Since the Taliban took power in Afghanistan, this is the second consecutive year that girls have been barred from participating Kanko exam.

It has been the third consecutive that girls' and women's access to education beyond the sixth grade has been barred. These policies prohibit girls from continuing their education past elementary school, effectively barring them from pursuing higher education and professional opportunities.

Russia supports SCO membership

KABUL (TOLONews): Zamir Kabulov, Russia's special envoy for Afghanistan, stated that if the Islamic Emirate is recognized, Moscow will support Afghanistan's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The TASS news agency, quoting Kabulov, reported that if the current government of Afghanistan is recognized, this support from Moscow will be effective.

According to TASS report "Moscow will support Afghanistan's accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) if the Taliban movement, currently outlawed in Russia, is recognized, Zamir Kabulov, Russian special presidential envoy for Afghanistan and director of the Foreign Ministry's Second Asia Department, said at a briefing."

"I think we will," he said in response to a question. "However, it's not only about recognition," Kabulov added.

The Islamic Emirate, praising this move by Russia, stated that they expect regional countries to expand political and economic relations with the interim government.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, said, "These are positive steps being taken, and the only solution to the issues between Afghanistan and regional countries is that expanding economic and diplomatic relations will benefit both sides."

Zamir Kabulov also added that since the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an economic organization, Afghanistan must first organize its economy so that other members of the organization see Afghanistan's membership as logical.

"Afghanistan should also put its economy in



some kind of order for other SCO members to view its accession as reasonable," Kabulov noted.

Masood, an economic expert, said, "The Afghan government can take actions among the eastern and western powers for our national interests and define the interests of the East and West based on our national interests. I think this is beneficial for us."

China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, India, and Pakistan are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Afghanistan and four other countries are invited as observers in this organization.

some kind of order for other SCO members to view its accession as reasonable," Kabulov noted.

Masood, an economic expert, said, "The Afghan government can take actions among the eastern and western powers for our national interests and define the interests of the East and West based on our national interests. I think this is beneficial for us."

China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, India, and Pakistan are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Afghanistan and four other countries are invited as observers in this organization.

Unveiling of fourteen works by Supreme Court official in Kabul

KABUL (TOLONews): Fourteen works by Abdul Rahim Rashid Haqqani, the Head of Foreign Affairs, Public Relations, and Press of the Supreme Court, were unveiled at a ceremony in Kabul.

Abdul Sattar Saeed, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Office of the Prime Minister, stated that the country's writers are the most deprived segment of society.

At the unveiling ceremony of Haqqani's fourteen works, he emphasized the need for collaboration in the publication of books.

The Deputy Chief of Staff said, "They have no means to publish; they collect money, publish, and then have no market to sell. This matter needs

attention."

Abdul Rahim Rashid Haqqani said, "My request to all writers is to offer something to society that brings them a good name because we also have books whose authors are respected, but their books are poorly regarded."

In this meeting, the Chief of the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court added that for the stability and survival of the system, in addition to other areas, scientific, intellectual, and ideological efforts are also necessary.

Atiqullah Darwish, Chief of the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court, said, "For the survival of a system, military struggle is necessary. For the stability and survival of

the system, scientific, intellectual, and ideological struggle is also essential."

Meanwhile, the Head of Human Resources of the Presidential Palace stated that in the current situation, there are more opportunities for research and education, and these should be better utilized.

Mohammad Daud Mohammadi, Head of Human Resources of the Presidential Palace, said, "Now we should use this blessing; good opportunities for research and education have been provided."

Rahim Jan Saqib, Deputy of the Academy of Sciences, said, "What is achieved through the pen, all the wise people of the world agree, cannot be achieved by the gun."

3,000 Afghan refugees deported

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations of the Taliban administration reported the deportation of nearly three thousand Afghan migrants from Pakistan and Iran.

The ministry announced in a press release on Thursday, that 805 migrants were deported from Pakistan and 1,640 from Iran.

According to the press release, the returnees entered the country on June 5.

The press release stated that the deported migrants entered Afghanistan through the Islam Qala, Torkham, and Spin Boldak borders.

Afghan migrants are being deported from Pakistan at a time when the deportation of Afghan migrants from neighboring countries, especially Iran and Pakistan, has seen a significant increase in recent months.

Forced deportations are taking place amid a dire humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, where many returnees face severe challenges in securing basic necessities such as food, shelter, and healthcare.

Iranian Consul General and scholars call for Islamic unity

MAZAR-E-SHARIF (TOLONews): The Iranian Consul General and several religious scholars in a gathering in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif called on Islamic countries to maintain their unity and solidarity against Western countries.

They described Western countries as blind and called for an end to the war and genocide in Palestine.

Hamid Reza Ahmadi, the Iranian Consul General in Mazar-e-Sharif, said, "Every day, dozens of defenseless and oppressed people are martyred, and nothing changes. It's as if nothing has happened; no one comes, no one goes, nothing. Everyone has accepted these conditions and says they can't do anything."

Mehrabuddin Joya, a religious scholar, said, "Jews and Christians are committed to each other in many issues. Why are you Muslims, with your unity of word, unity of Qibla, one God, and one Prophet, engaged in internal conflicts? These disputes benefit the enemy, not Sunnis or Shiites, but those who have planned



this enmity." Participants and organizers of this meeting called on Islamic nations to seriously fight against the genocide in Palestine and accused Western countries of causing destruction in Palestine.

Skandar Hosseini Bamdad, the

organizer of the gathering, said, "Today, the issues that the Islamic community and Islamic countries are grappling with, the issue of Jerusalem and Palestine, have become a serious concern for Muslim nations, and genocide is ongoing."

Development of Afghan banking sector discussed

KABUL (BNA): In a meeting between Hedayatullah Badri, the Acting Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), and Stephen Rodrigues, Head of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), development of Islamic banking in Afghanistan was discussed.

During the meeting, Badri highlighted the management of the banking sector by Da Afghanistan Bank, emphasizing the institution's substantial strides in the field of Islamic banking.

The bank has imple-

mented effective electronic payment measures and established regulations that have significantly improved small enterprise financing. These achievements have positively contributed to Afghanistan's economic development.

He further expressed the bank's dedication to enhancing relations with donor institutions. He urged aid organizations to prioritize initiatives aimed at reducing unemployment and creating job opportunities, recognizing the critical role employment plays in the country's overall

growth and stability.

Stephen Rodrigues, Head of the UNDP, applauded Da Afghanistan Bank's accomplishments in stabilizing the currency, controlling inflation, and effectively managing the banking sector. He also commended the bank's efforts in promoting economic growth.

The UNDP expressed its unwavering commitment to collaborating with Da Afghanistan Bank in various areas such as banking, Islamic banking development, small enterprise financing, and electronic payments.

Why is Afghanistan among top 10 most vulnerable to climate change?

KABUL (Khaama Press): Climate change has become a serious concern among scientists and experts worldwide in recent years and is referred to as a global disaster and threat. Afghanistan is ranked among the top ten countries most vulnerable to climate change. Experts believe that floods and droughts are two natural disasters that have significantly affected Afghanistan.

In a broader sense, climate change refers to long-term changes in the Earth's climate that result from human use of oil, gas, and coal for homes, greenhouse gases, transportation factories, and industrial production, including the production of nuclear equipment

and weapons.

Najibullah Sadeed, a climate issues researcher, described Afghanistan as a country severely affected by climate change in a conversation with Khaama Press. He mentioned that climate change in Afghanistan has several major impacts, including increased temperatures above the global average, forest fires, glacier melting, dust storms, and particularly droughts and floods.

According to Mr. Sadeed, the average annual temperature in Afghanistan is about 1.8 degrees higher than normal, and in the summer, the temperature is about 6 degrees above average.

Sadeed noted that

Afghanistan, being a mountainous and agricultural country, needs more water due to rising temperatures.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN, the European Union, and several international organizations have warned about climate change's impacts on Afghanistan, emphasizing that this phenomenon will increasingly exacerbate humanitarian crises and natural disasters in the country.

Droughts and floods are two other factors of climate change in Afghanistan. According to Mr. Sadeed, climate change disrupts the water cycle, leading to droughts in some cases and

severe floods in others.

Sadeed added that water disruption due to climate change significantly harms Afghanistan. He highlighted the importance of reducing reliance on the water sector, using effective irrigation technology, high-yield crop cultivation, and increasing the country's water capacity as crucial parts of the solution.

On a larger scale, he called for a comprehensive plan to control climate change in Afghanistan. This plan should include various methods, such as creating small dams, large dams, and catchment areas to manage water effectively.

The climate issues researcher warned that balancing the country's water

disruption is time-consuming, especially given the low public awareness, limited resources, and lack of long-term government plans.

Additionally, the type of rainfall and increased temperatures in Afghanistan have led to intense rainfall and flooding as climate change impacts the country.

Sadeed mentioned that the rise in temperature has changed snow precipitation to rain, disrupting water storage.

Mohammad Ajan Naseri, an agricultural expert in the country, stated that Afghanistan relies heavily on agriculture, with over 80% of the population engaged in farming and agriculture in rural areas

and provinces.

Mohammad Ajan noted that climate change damages in Afghanistan, including increased temperatures, droughts, and floods, severely impact agriculture, leading to the destruction of plants, crops, agricultural lands, and livestock.

He emphasized that floods and strong winds destroy crops and ruin agricultural lands, requiring years of restoration for farming.

According to the agricultural expert, rainfall and temperature fluctuations due to climate change occurring at inappropriate times have affected Afghanistan's agriculture in recent years, destroying most agricultural yields.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) stated that Afghanistan is among the top ten countries most vulnerable to climate crises, experiencing severe climate changes and natural disasters.

The organization mentioned, "Severe droughts are intensifying, destroying livelihoods and increasing hunger. The temperature is rising faster than the global average. Environmental degradation threatens agricultural and endangers livelihoods."

Meanwhile, droughts, agricultural land destruction, and lack of resources in Afghanistan have increased people's needs, leading to poverty for mil-

lions in the country.

According to reports, 3.2 million people in Afghanistan, including children, suffer from acute malnutrition, and 28.8 million people, two-thirds of Afghanistan's population, require humanitarian assistance.

Rosa Otunbayeva, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, also stated on World Environment Day that Afghanistan's beautiful environment is under threat.

According to statistics from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), recent floods in Afghanistan destroyed about 10,000 hectares of land.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of members of Gilgit-Baltistan Council called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Zardari calls for GB's socio-economic uplift

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari today underlined the need for focusing on the socio-economic uplift of Gilgit-Baltistan as investment in the region would bring economic prosperity to the area.

He expressed these views while talking to members of the Gilgit-Baltistan Council, who called on him in Islamabad. The President assured the delegation that steps would be taken to develop health, education and road infrastructure to provide basic facilities to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan at their doorsteps. He highlighted the need to expand the airport in Gilgit, besides finding new ways and means

for the development of the region.

He said Gilgit-Baltistan is the gateway to China, having immense vast economic potential that needs to be fully capitalized upon for the people's benefit. Asif Ali Zardari informed the delegation that the issue of compensation to the affectees of the Diamer-Bhasha dam would be taken up at the appropriate forum. The delegation told the President that the discontinuation of the Sehat Sahulat Programme is causing problems as the people of Gilgit-Baltistan are unable to avail health insurance services.

The President suggested that the Sehat Sahulat Programme should be included in the Benazir Income Support

Programme so that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan can avail medical treatment. The delegation thanked the President for taking interest in the development of Gilgit-Baltistan and the resolution of its issues.

The President assured the delegation of his cooperation and support for addressing the problems of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan. The delegation apprised the President about the developmental and financial needs of Gilgit-Baltistan. Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Amir Muqam, Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Gulbar Khan, members of the Gilgit-Baltistan Council, and senior government officials attended the meeting.

Senate polls in KP: PHC reserves judgment

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprised of Justice SM Attique Shah and Justice Shakeel Ahmad reserved verdict on a plea challenging the postponement of the Senate elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on Thursday.

The counsel Ali Zaman advocate argued that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) decision to postpone the elections was illegal, unconstitutional, and biased. He added that ECP had imposed condition to the Senate elections with the oath taking of members provincial assemblies on reserved seats, which was not required by law.

The plea stated that this decision violated petitioner's constitutional right to contest elections and Azam Swati is a candidate for Senate from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The petitioner also argued that the Election Commission's decision was in violation of the court's earlier order.

ECP's lawyer argued that the commission's decision was lawful and in accordance with the constitution. He added that Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa did not obtained the required oath from members on reserved. He added that Supreme Court of Pakistan will pick-up reserve seats appeal on 24th June for hearing on regular basis.

The petitioner's lawyer argued that the Election Commission's decision would affect the transparency of the elections and that the commission was trying to delay the elections to favor certain candidates. PHC reserved verdict after hearing the arguments from both sides which is expected to have significant implications for the Senate elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Spain joins SA's case at UN court

MADRID (AFP): Spain said on Thursday that it will join South Africa's case at the UN's top court in which Pretoria has accused Israel of "genocide" in the Gaza Strip. "Our sole goal is to put an end to the war and to advance on the road of applying the two-state solution," Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares said at a press conference.

His statement came a week after Spain, along with Ireland and Norway, recognized the state of Palestine, sparking fury from Israel. South Africa brought the case before the International Court of Justice last year, alleging that Israel's Gaza offensive, launched in retaliation for an unprecedented Hamas attack on Israel, breached the 1948 UN Genocide Convention.

Israel has strongly denied the accusation. Set up after World War II, the Hague-based ICJ rules in disputes between states. The ICJ on Friday ordered Israel to ensure "unimpeded access" to UN-mandated investigators to look into allegations of genocide.

In a ruling on January 26, the ICJ also ordered Israel to do everything it could to prevent acts of genocide during its military operation in Gaza. But South Africa has since returned several times to the ICJ arguing that the dire humanitarian situation in the territory compels the court to issue further fresh emergency measures. On May 24, the court ordered Israel to "immediately" halt its military offensive in the city of Rafah and keep open the key border crossing there for "unhindered" humanitarian aid.

NAACP asks Biden to halt weapons to Israel

WASHINGTON (Reuters): The NAACP urged President Joe Biden on Thursday to "indefinitely" halt all weapons deliveries to Israel and pressure the US ally to end its war in the Gaza Strip, sending a reminder that his support for Israel could hurt him among Black voters in November's election.

The NAACP's call was a rare instance of the influential civil rights organization taking a position on US foreign policy towards a country without a significant Black population. It appeared likely to deepen the Democratic president's election-year challenges as he tries to back a key ally abroad and temper unrest among his supporters at home. The 115-year-old civil rights group said Israel had a right to defend itself after the Hamas militant attacks on Oct. 7 that Israel says killed some 1,200 people and took more than 250 hostages.

The NAACP urged Hamas to return the hostages and "stop all terrorist activity." It also urged Israel to "commit to an offensive strategy that is aligned with international and humanitarian laws." Israel faces accusations at the International Court of Justice that it has violated the genocide convention, which it denies.

The NAACP, which has advocated for racial justice and rights for Black Americans, said the US must use its influence with Israel to bring a permanent ceasefire to Gaza. According to health authorities in the Hamas-run enclave, Israel's campaign has killed more than 36,000 Palestinians, caused widespread hunger and displaced most of the population from their homes.

"The NAACP calls on President Biden to draw the red line and indefinitely end the shipment of all weapons and artillery to the state of

Israel and other states that supply weapons to Hamas and other terrorist organizations. It is imperative that the violence that has claimed so many civilian lives, immediately stop," the organization said in a statement first provided to Reuters.

The NAACP stance represents the latest warning sign that Biden may pay a price at the ballot box among Black voters on Nov. 5 for his staunch support of Israel. Black voters have long been a loyal Democratic constituency, and they played a significant role in Biden's victory in 2020 when he beat Republican Donald Trump, whom he faces again this year. But polls show a lack of enthusiasm for Biden among Black voters.

Earlier this year, a group of more than 1,000 Black pastors called on Biden to secure a ceasefire in the crisis. A poll by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in March found that 59% of Black Americans believe US military aid to Israel should only be used for self defense and in accordance with human rights standards. Biden's re-election campaign is not as concerned that Black voters will shift toward Trump as they are that too many of them may sit out the election due to lack of enthusiasm, campaign officials have told Reuters.

After growing domestic pressure and international outrage, Biden paused a shipment of bombs last month to avoid their possible use in Israel's assault on the Gaza city of Rafah. But the pause was limited, and the US remains the top supplier of military aid to Israel. Biden on Friday said Israel proposed a fresh Gaza ceasefire in exchange for the release of hostages. He called on Hamas to agree to the new offer, saying it was

the best way to end the conflict. "It's time for this war to end and for the day after to begin," Biden said.

In an interview with Reuters, NAACP President Derrick Johnson said the US needs to show moral leadership and stop sending weapons to Israel because of civilian deaths. Israel says it takes care to avoid civilian casualties and blames Hamas for, it says, hiding its fighters and command centers among civilians. Johnson said the NAACP's decision to speak out was driven in part by young Black Americans horrified by the images of dead Palestinian civilians on their smart phones.

"It's raising a lot of questions around why our tax dollars are being used to harm civilians," Johnson said. Democrats are deeply divided over Biden's handling of both the war in Gaza and the US campus protests against it, a May Reuters/Ipsos poll found. Some 44% of Democratic registered voters said they disapproved of Biden's handling of the crisis. Those who disapproved were less likely to say they would vote for Biden.

The conflict has also stoked US antisemitism, Islamophobia and xenophobia that Johnson said will continue to grow as the fighting continues. Human rights advocates have reported a global rise in Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian bias and antisemitism since Oct. 7. Johnson said the NAACP does not believe Biden's support for Israel is responsible for the trend but wants the US to more forcefully advance peace by withholding weapons. "We believe ... it's the responsibility of this nation to chart a course to de-escalate what we are seeing so that there can be a peaceful resolution," Johnson said.

Kundi directs third-party audit of all KP Varsities

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi has instructed the Governor's Secretariat to gather details from all universities regarding the completion status of third-party audits. This directive was issued during a meeting at the Governor House where Governor Kundi chaired a formal briefing by the Governor Inspection Team.

Governor Kundi directed to ensure that investigative processes, including fact-finding inquiries, are conducted in accordance with the law and merit, reaching a completion based on solid

legal and merit-based foundations. He also emphasized simplifying the investigative process in universities to ensure compliance with 70% legal and merit standards.

In the meeting, Chairman Governor Inspection Team, Mr. Mian Muhammad, provided detailed briefings to Governor Kundi regarding the responsibilities, structure, objectives, preparatory and approval of investigative reports, and the legal status and rules and regulations of the department.

During the briefing, the Chairman of the Inspection

Team informed that in the past four years, reports of 54 inquiries into various public sector universities have been completed. On this occasion, Governor KP stressed the importance of the Governor Inspection Team and emphasized the need to strengthen the department's capacity. He emphasized providing all possible means to strengthen the department at the financial and administrative levels. He stated that action should be taken on inquiry reports promptly and that investigative reports should not be subject to delay year after year.

Seeing fall of govt, new election this year: Omar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Leader of Opposition Omar Ayub has said he is seeing the fall of the government and elections this year. Talking to media PTI leader said, "the winds direction is changing but still it requires to be changed completely".

"It is a compromised government with no one have trust over it, neither it could take strong decisions," opposition leader in the National Assembly said. Omar Ayub demanded immediate new elections, a level playing field and withdrawal of cases against the PTI leadership. "One day they will open the jail's door and told the PTI founder that they want to hold talks with him". "They have to tell the PTI founder that come and assume the charge of government, we could not run it," Omar Ayub said. "It will be good for the country, this government changes as early as possible," he said.

"Drastic reforms required in the country could only manage by the PTI's founder," Ayub said. "It is the establishment or the government, they all have to sit and hold talks," he said. "Return us our mandate, then we will talk with these political parties," Omar Ayub said. He said the PTI's founder had made a three-member committee for talks with the establishment. "No one has talked with this committee, neither we are overly eager for it. PTI founder had formed the committee for someone saying that you didn't talk with us".

Omar Ayub referred a senior People's Party leader saying to him that "either the PML-N will stab us in back or we to them". PTI leader said that there is no reference of a hybrid system in the constitution, "if it is running currently, it is unconstitutional and illegal". "Those calling it a hybrid system, they are talking on an unconstitutional matter, which requires Article 6 to be invoked," he said.

"This system and the government could not run, and the government will collapse soon," he predicted. "The days of the government are numbered". "They are deferring the budget's date". Opposition leader said that the IMF has told them to consult over the budget with the opposition, but they didn't do so. "A new election could be avoided, if they return our mandate and withdraw cases against us," PTI leader said.

"We have passed through the furnace of fire to become solid iron, now none of us will return back. We are facing cases and go to jail if the bail cancels," he said. "If the IMF contacted us, we will only demand supremacy of the constitution and the law in the country," he added.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Sharjeel Inam Memon posing a photo with Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

‘Up to 100’ killed in RSF attack on Sudan village

KHARTOUM: An attack by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on a village in central Sudan has killed "up to 100" people, according to local pro-democracy activists. The Wad Madani Resistance Committees reported on social media that the RSF, which has been at war with the regular army for more than a year, attacked the village of Wad al-Noura in Gezira state "in two waves", deploying heavy artillery.

The committees shared photos of dozens of bodies wrapped for burial in what they described as a "mass grave" in the public square, claiming that the Sudanese army had not heeded a request for help. It said it was "waiting for a confirmed toll of the dead and injured".

Women, children, and elderly were among the victims of the attacks, said Mini Arko Minawi, governor of Darfur province, confirming the massacre with a video showing the shrouded bodies on social media platform X. The RSF has repeatedly laid siege to and attacked entire villages across Sudan, particularly in the agricultural state of

Gezira, where it took control of the capital Wad Madani in December.

In a statement on Wednesday, the group said it had attacked army and allied militia bases around Wad al-Noura but did not acknowledge any civilian casualties. But the Wad Madani Resistance Committees accused it of deadly attacks on civilians, looting and driving women and children to seek refuge in the nearby town of Managil. The army-aligned Transitional Sovereign Council condemned the reported attack. "These are criminal acts that reflect the systematic behaviour of these militias in targeting civilians," it said in a statement.

As the reports of the killings emerged, Clementine NkwetaSalami, the UN's Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, called for a full investigation and accountability. "Even by the tragic standards of Sudan's conflict, the images emerging from Wad Al-Noura are heart-breaking," the UN officials said in a statement. "Human tragedy has become a hallmark of life in Sudan. We cannot allow

impunity to become another one," she said.

Sudan's civil war erupted in April 2023, when a rivalry between Sudan's army chief, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and his deputy and RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo exploded into an all-out conflict. While much of the early fighting took place around the capital, Khartoum, it quickly spread to other parts of Sudan, including the southwestern state of Darfur where it quickly took an interethnic dimension as old rivalries linked to a previous war that began in 2003 resurfaced.

The RSF emerged out of what rebel groups call the Janjaweed, an Arab force which killed thousands of non-Arabs in Darfur during a war that ended with a peace deal in 2020. The war over the past 14 months has killed tens of thousands of people, destroyed infrastructure and crippled Sudan's economy. Some 8.3 million people have been displaced, with many forced into neighbouring Chad and South Sudan, while hunger and starvation are spreading. — Aljazeera

Young generation real asset of country: KP CM

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has termed the young generation as real asset of the country, adding that our talented youth would have to come forward in order to steer the country out of prevailing crisis and they have the potential to do so.

PTI government in the province, will provide ample opportunities to our talented youth in all fields including politics so as to enable them to showcase their talents, he said and added that the skilled youth from across the province, would be provided with interest free loans for initiating their own business in addition to providing them employment opportunities in the various potential sectors; the provincial government has allocated sufficient funds in the budget of new fiscal year for providing soft loans to about one lac youth of the province.

These views, he expressed while talking to a

delegation of Insaf Students Federation (ISF) led by it's provincial president Ashfaq Marwat, which called on him here at Chief Minister's House Peshawar on Thursday. Touching upon his overall governance strategy, the Chief Minister said that incumbent provincial government is going to start the process of new legislation which is aimed at to improve governance system as well as to curb the corruption, bribery and other malpractices in the provincial entities. He said that corruption is a social scourge that kills the merit and talent as well, and we will never allow to do that.

He asked the public especially educated youth of the province to identify wrong doings and corruption practices in the departments and their respective areas; the government will take stern action against the responsible ones. He maintained that work is also in progress on web portal at Chief

Minister's Secretariat, which will be utilized to tracking of public complaints and issues.

Condemning the prevailing rampant corruption in the country, the chief minister said that the same people have been imposed on the nation, due to their incompetence and corruption, the country is suffering from current economic crunches.

He said that those so called politicians have always preferred their personal interest instead of prioritizing national integrity and prosperity. He said that the constitution has been violated time and again, thereby protecting a specific gang of corrupt politicians; whereas purpose of the article six of the constitution was to protect the constitution, under which no one has the right to violate or abrogate the constitution at any circumstances.

Ali Amin Gandapur said that Imran Khan is the only leader who can unite the whole Muslim Ummah, and has the ability to raise voice against the injustice and oppression. Incompetent rulers cannot say even a single word against brutal killing of innocent Muslims in Palestine, he added.

Protestors thrash DC office in Chaman

CHAMAN (INP): Protesters in Chaman, Balochistan, on Thursday retaliated against the eviction of their protest camps and the reopening of the Chaman-Quetta highway by vandalizing the Deputy Commissioner's office.

The incident occurred after Levies personnel cleared the protest camps and reopened the highway, which had been blocked for several days. While the protesters initially dispersed, they later regrouped and attacked the Deputy Commissioner's office, resulting in damage to the building. The Deputy Commissioner of Chaman, Raja Athar Abbas, was targeted during the attack, but escaped unharmed. Levies personnel swiftly apprehended the perpetrators, preventing further violence. An anti-terrorism FIR has been registered against the attackers.

The protest, which began several days ago, was sparked by the arrest of seven individuals and the filing of terrorism charges against 10 others. The pro-

testers are demanding the release of the arrested individuals and dropping of the terrorism charges. The situation in Chaman remains tense, with internet services partially suspended. The protesters have set up a new camp outside the Deputy Commissioner's office.

The incident follows a recent attack on polio workers in Chaman, where two Levies personnel were injured and two female polio workers were assaulted. The attack highlighted the ongoing security challenges in the region. The reopening of the Chaman-Quetta highway, a crucial trade route between Pakistan and Afghanistan, was short-lived. The highway remains blocked, halting all trade and travel between the two countries.

The Balochistan government has taken action against protesters in Chaman after they disrupted public order and challenged the authority of the state. The district administration reported that protesters had closed banks,

locked down the passport office, shut down the press club, and blocked major roads, creating widespread chaos in the city. To restore peace and order, Levies forces took action against the disruptive elements.

The district administration also confirmed that the Chaman-Quetta highway has been reopened to traffic after the removal of illegal roadblocks. A spokesperson for the Balochistan government stated that the government had repeatedly attempted to resolve the issue through dialogue. Chief Minister Balochistan, Sarfraz Bugti, instructed ministers and the speaker to visit Chaman and engage with the protesters. However, the protesters remained unwilling to negotiate, creating a stalemate. The spokesperson further stated that the protesters had repeatedly challenged the law and the authority of the state over the past month, including attacks on the FC fort, polio teams, and the Deputy Commissioner's complex.

Re-polling on four polling stations on 26th

QUETTA (PPI): Re-polling on four polling stations of PB-09 Kohlu will be held on June 26, 2024. A notification issued by Election Commission of Pakistan said the re-polling could not take place due to law and order situation, so the Election Commission of Pakistan would conduct the same on four alternate Polling Stations.

ons of Constituency PB-09, Kohlu as proposed by the Returning Officer on 26th June, 2024.

The polling will be held on 71 Improvised Polling Station in Sham at Nessao-I (Combined), 72 Govt P/S Sham at Nessao (Combined), 73 Improvised Polling Station in Sham at Nessao-II (Combined) and

74 Improvised Polling Station in Sham at Nessao-III (Combined).

The notification further said, "The Returning Officer shall personally supervise the conduct of re-polling at alternate Polling Stations with adequate resources and security personnel to ensure smooth completion of re-polling process.