

Usman Dar granted bail

RAWALPINDI (PPI): Rawalpindi anti-terrorism court (ATC) was on Saturday granted bail to PTI leader Usman Dar in 12 cases. ATC's Judge Malik Ijaz Asif heard the 12 cases of May 9 against PTI leader Usman Dar. A court of Rawalpindi has approved the bail in 12 cases against Usman Dar. It is pertinent to note that court reserved the verdict on cases against Usman Dar on Friday after hearing arguments of lawyers.

 @thefrontierpost

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Earthquake jolts Swat
F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: An earthquake of magnitude 4.8 on Richter scale jolted Swat and its adjoining areas in KP province on Saturday. The quake's epicenter was Tajikistan border, with a depth of 195 kilometers. However, no loss of life or damage to property was reported from any part of KP so far. People came out of their homes in fear by reciting Kalma-e-Tayyaba.

Vol. XXXIXI No. 137 Regd. No. 241 ZIL-HAJJ 02 1445 -- SUNDAY, JUNE 09 2024 PESHAWAR EDITION 12 PAGES PRICE. 30



BEIJING: Deputy Governor of Shaanxi Province, Mr. Chen Chujiang bid farewell to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on his departure from Xi'an for Islamabad.

Waiting for Imran's call to come on roads: KP CM

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali

Khan is the name of an ideology and he cannot be defeated. Our leader is being convicted in fake and fabri-

ruining our country and its institutions. We'll not obey the decisions of individuals," said Gandapur. Senior PTI leaders Barrister Gohar, Asad Qaiser, Senator Faisal Javed and others also addressed on the occasion.

Addressing the rally, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan concurred with Gandapur, saying the country couldn't be governed without the Constitution and law. "What type of law it is that people are picked up from their homes," he said. Gohar expressed optimism that the jailed PTI founder will soon be among his supporters.

Speaking at the rally, PTI leader Asad Qaiser said that the party founder would be out of jail if his trial in the cases held on merit. "We did a clean sweep despite the PTI founder being jailed," Qaiser said while referring to the party's performance in the February 8 general elections. The politician then called for providing rights to the people of the former federally administered areas.



Amin Gandapur said that the people of KP are silent just because of the PTI founder Imran Khan.

Addressing a PTI power show in Swat on Saturday, CM Gandapur said that the opponents would be silenced forever if the people of KP come on the roads on the call of Imran Khan. "We are silent and only waiting for the call of Imran Khan. We know very well how to snatch our rights," the firebrand KP CM said.

He added that Imran

cated cases, he said. According to CM Gandapur, he would not allow anyone to impose taxes on Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) and Provincially Administered Tribal Area (PATA). "The Pashtuns always gave sacrifices for this country," he added. The chief minister was of the view that Pakistan was dismantled only to bring Bhutto in the government and history is being repeated once again. "The decisions of individuals are

Zartaj Gul named SIC's parliamentary leader in NA

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: PTI's Zartaj Gul has been nominated the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) parliamentary leader in the National Assembly, according to a report on Saturday.

PTI's founder has given approval of the name of the party's MNA from Dera Ghazi Khan for appointment as the parliamentary leader in the lower house.

The party had proposed four names for the parliamentary leader of the SIC in the NA. The names of Zartaj Gul, former climate change minister in the PTI government, Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan, Zain Qureshi and Ahmed Chattha were forwarded to the PTI founder for the parliamentary post. The Sunni Ittehad Council's head will formally inform the Speaker National Assembly on Monday about nomination of Zartaj Gul as the parliamentary leader of the SIC.

Dar calls for Gaza truce

ISTANBUL (PPD): Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday described the situation in Gaza as worrying and said Palestinian civilians in the enclave were facing barbarisms.

In his address to an extraordinary meeting of D-8 foreign ministers, he said even aid workers were being targeted in Gaza, adding that the whole state of affairs was a tragedy. Demanding an immediate ceasefire, Dar, who is also the country's deputy prime minister, noted that over 40,000 had so far been martyred since October – when Israel started using brute force against more than two million civilians living in the narrow Gaza Strip which is located along the Mediterranean Sea.

Bordered by Israel in the east and north, Egypt is located in its south. That's why it is often described as the world largest open air prison. Earlier in the day, the foreign minister landed in Istanbul directly from China where he was accompanying Prime Minister Shehbaz during a five-day visit.

The D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, also known as Developing-8, is an organisation for development co-operation among Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkiye. Headquartered in Istanbul, the group was formed on July 15, 1997 through the Istanbul Declaration of Summit of Heads of State/Government. The idea of cooperation among major Muslim developing countries was mooted by the then Turkish Prime Minister, Prof Dr Necmettin Erbakan, during a Seminar on "Cooperation in Development" which was held in Istanbul in October 1996.

The Frontier Post

Pak, China reaffirm to strengthen ties

Leaders vow to safeguard common interests, promote socio-economic development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China on Saturday reiterated that they would continue to view the relationship between the two countries from a strategic height and a long-term perspective, take effective measures to safeguard the common interests of Pakistan and China and promote socio-economic development and well-being of the two peoples.

The two sides agreed to work together to jointly uphold regional peace, stability, development and prosperity, and accelerate the building of an even closer 'Pakistan-China Community with a Shared Future in the New Era', said a joint statement issued between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the People's Republic of China at the conclusion of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's five-day visit to China.

The two sides had candid and in-depth exchanges of views on the entire spectrum of bilateral relations as well as regional situation and international landscape and reached extensive consensus on further strengthening the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and promoting practical cooperation in various areas, and on international and regional issues of mutual interest, a press statement of the Foreign Office said. The two sides agreed that Pakistan and China are All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners and ironclad friends, and the two countries have always understood, trusted and supported each other.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 73 years ago, Pakistan-China relations have stood the test of changing international environment and have been as solid as a rock, and as unshakable as a mountain. The Chinese side reiterated that the Pakistan-China relationship is a priority in its foreign relations. The

Pakistani side underscored that the Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy. The two sides enjoy unbreakable strategic mutual trust, fruitful practical cooperation in various fields, and maintain close coordination on international and regional affairs.

The Chinese side congratulated Pakistan on holding successful general elections, and expressed best wishes for the new Pakistani government in leading the Pakistani people in their endeavors to achieve socio-economic development, prosperity, unity, stability and security. The two sides will explore avenues to deepen experience-sharing in state governance and synergize their development strategies.

The Pakistani side spoke highly of China's major development achievements in the New Era, and expressed good wishes to the Chinese people that under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, China will realize the second century goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in every dimension. The Pakistani side spoke highly of and supports China's all-round efforts to advance the building of a strong country and achieve national rejuvenation through a Chinese path to modernization, believes that the Chinese path to modernization provides a new option and practical solution for developing countries to achieve independent development.

The two sides reaffirmed their unyielding support for each other on issues concerning their respective core interests. Both sides stressed that the authority of the UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 brooks no dispute or challenge. Pakistan reaffirmed its firm commitment to the one-China principle, and reiterated that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China's terri-

tory, and that Pakistan firmly supports the Chinese government's every effort to achieve national reunification and opposes any form of "Taiwan independence." Pakistan firmly supports China on issues concerning Xinjiang, Xizang, Hong Kong and the South China Sea.

The Chinese side reiterated its steadfast support for Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity, in pursuing a development path suited to its national conditions and in its efforts to safeguard national security, stability, development and prosperity, in firmly combating terrorism, and in playing a bigger role in regional and international affairs. The two sides strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the Chinese convoy of the Dasu Hydropower Project in Pakistan on March 26, 2024, and emphasized that no attempt to undermine Pakistan-China friendship and cooperation will ever succeed.

The Chinese side appreciated the Pakistani side's active pursuit and conduct of the investigation and its findings, and hoped that the Pakistani side would continue to make every effort to hunt down any perpetrators and make sure they receive deserved severe punishment. The Pakistani side was committed to enhancing security forces deployment and taking more effective security measures, and making all-out efforts to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan. The two sides reiterated their commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with a "zero tolerance" attitude, and agreed to further strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism and security through a comprehensive approach.

(Continued on Back Page)

Nawaz: You, the PTI, damaged democracy. Don't blame us

F.P. Report

MURREE: PML-N President Nawaz Sharif on Saturday again questioned why his democratically-elected governments were removed and said the life of poor people in Pakistan had been miserable by pushing inflation to a record high due to the policies followed by the PTI government.

He questioned how the problems faced by the poor won't be multiplied if the conditions set by the IMF (International Monetary Fund) were accepted. Nawaz asked the PTI founder, Imran Khan, not to blame the PML-N, as they, not his party, were responsible for damaging democracy.

Talking to PML-N parliamentary party members in Senate, the former three-time prime minister called for a probe to determine the actions committed by different individuals during the country's history. He mentioned the Charter of Democracy (CoD) signed with former premier Benazir Bhutto of PPP, say-

ing the two parties had decided to follow the democratic principles and respect the people's mandate, which was the beauty of democracy.

Nawaz praised the federal and Punjab governments led by Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz for ensuring a rapid decline in inflation, while stressing the need for slashing the energy tariffs. He specially mentioned Maryam for a marked decline in flour prices and noted a continuous decline in food prices.

Nawaz was full of praise for Shehbaz who, he said, working hard to provide relief to the masses – the main target of the ruling PML-N. The former prime minister recalled that he had left the government by ending power outages and much lower electricity tariffs. At the same time, Nawaz described Shahid Khaqan Abbasi as a wonderful person who served jail time bravely and stood by him during a challenging period.

Nawaz Sharif also called for reduction in rates of

electricity and gas. Addressing members of PML-N parliamentary party in Senate in Murree, Nawaz Sharif said: "Our party is behind every major development work carried out in the history of the country. Can any other party tell any mentionable project they have implemented?"

He said those who had called Metro Bus project a "jungla bus" had now disappeared after wasting billions on their own "jungla bus". Nawaz Sharif said it goes to the credit of the PML-N to execute mega development projects in the country. The former prime minister also expressed satisfaction over the reduction in prices of essential commodities. He appreciated the efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz in this regard. Nawaz Sharif was confident that Pakistan would soon come out of crises. "The rates are coming down and the stock exchange is going up.

Cop among two injured in Dera blast

F.P. Report

D I KHAN: At least two, including a police constable, were injured in a blast that occurred in Tehsil Kulachi near Dera Ismail Khan.

As per details, the incident occurred when a road-side exploded as the DSP and other police personnel were on the way for polio duty. The police officials said the blast injured the driver of elite forces and a constable whereas a bomb disposal squad reached the spot of the incident and examined the situation.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Saturday condemned attack on Police mobile in Dera Ismail Khan. In his message Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi condemned the incident and expressed his best wishes for the recovery of the injured policemen.

The Governor expressed concern and regret over the successive attacks on police personnel in Dera Ismail Khan Khan and other districts. Meanwhile, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur also condemned the attack on Police mobile, injuring two policemen.

LHC fixes Imran's plea

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Saturday fixed for hearing on June 10 a plea filed by PTI founder Imran Khan against Punjab Cabinet's decision to file serious cases against the former prime minister. A two-member bench headed by Justice Farooq Haider will hear the petition on June 10.

The court has directed the Punjab government to submit its reply. PTI founder Imran Khan has challenged the cabinet's decision to file cases, in the Lahore High Court. In May, the Punjab Cabinet of Maryam Nawaz had approved a 'fresh legal action' (new cases) against PTI founding chairman Imran Khan and other party leaders for their alleged involvement in manufacturing a 'narrative of hate' against state institutions, especially the army.

Govt to send students to Yangling Base for training

XI'AN (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the government would send a batch of 1,000 students to Yangling Agricultural Demonstration Base, China for seeking the latest training in agriculture field.

The prime minister decided that the government would bear their expenses and directed the Ambassador of Pakistan in China and other relevant officials to give a final shape to this decision in consultation with the Chinese authorities, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister also invited the North West Agriculture and Forestry University to open its campus in Pakistan and in this regard, assured it of all possible support from the government.

The prime minister also issued directive to the ambassador of Pakistan and other relevant officials to finalize the mechanism. The prime minister visited the Yangling Agricultural Demonstration Base and took round of its different sections and the Pakistani Pavilion, showcasing Pakistani products. The prime minister was accompanied by Federal Ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Dr Musadik Malik and Rana Tanveer Hussain.

During a briefing, he was apprised of that a total of 26 countries were cooperating over agricultural research being carried out in the base, Pakistan was the pioneer country that cooperated in the base, it was further told. The prime minister was also apprised of the Pakistani scientists and the Pakistani universities participating in the research work. During the visit, the prime minister said that Pakistan was an agricultural country and they were keen for innovations to increase their agri-yield per acre.

He said that increasing country's exports by enhancing agriculture products and their processing were among the top priorities of the government. The prime minister was also taken to the latest plant production factory where different practical mechanisms in agriculture subject were presented.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, accompanied by the Pakistani delegation visited the historical site of China, Terracotta Warriors Museum. The visit was part of an invitation extended by the Chinese President Xi Jinping to the prime minister to visit the museum in

his hometown, Xi'an. During the visit the prime minister and the delegation were briefed on the preservation and restoration of historical heritage and the promotion of tourism.

PM Shehbaz visited various sections of the museum and commended the beauty of ancient Chinese heritage and the skill of Chinese artisans. "Great nations protect and take care of their historical assets like the Chinese do", he said adding that the skill of the Chinese craftsmen of 200 BC was admirable.

The prime minister also appreciated the Chinese government's efforts in preserving and restoring the historical site saying that Pakistan was also rich in historical and cultural heritage. He said the government would also restore and promote its own historical sites as tourist destinations.

He also thanked the President Xi for inviting him to visit the museum. Federal Ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Dr Musadik Malik, Sardar Awaish Khan Leghari, Rana Tanveer Hussain also accompanied the prime minister during the visit.

Morover, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif underlined the need to leverage sister-city relationships of Xi'an with Lahore and Multan through practical cooperation at city-to-city level to promote bilateral cooperation in trade, technology, agriculture, and tourism.

The prime minister, along with his delegation met Party Secretary of Shaanxi province in Xi'an, China Zhao Yide. In the meeting, Prime Minister Shehbaz and Party Secretary Zhao discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in various sectors, including trade, technology, agricultural and cultural exchanges.

They reaffirmed commitment to further deepen Pakistan-China strategic cooperation, including through promotion of B2B linkages and cultural exchanges. They agreed to strengthen local and provincial level cooperative partnerships between Pakistan and China for mutual prosperity. Underscoring Xi'an's historical significance as a center of cultural and economic exchanges between the East and the West in the Ancient Silk Road, the prime minister emphasized continued collaboration between Pakistan and Shaanxi province in people-to-people exchanges particularly in the culture, tourism and education domains.

Murad orders action against private security companies

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while taking notice of a scavenger boy's death by a security guard of a private security company has ordered to arrest the culprit immediately and submit a report to him in this regard. According to a CM's Spokesman, the Chief Minister had ordered to take action against private security companies that hand over arms to under-training or recruited new guards. The Sindh Chief Minister directed the Home Department to inspect private security companies. Murad said that the companies should also work on mental health and development of security guards during and after recruiting process.

Event held at The City School

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The City School Hayatabad Campus Peshawar organized a prestigious event to honor the outstanding academic achievements of its students.



The event celebrated the students' academic successes. The ceremony was graced by Vice Principal Ms. Romana Anjum and included active participation from the Junior Section Headmistress Ms. Saima Saeed, the school's teachers, and the students' parents.

The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran. On this occasion, the school children also performed the national anthem and the City School's song. Vice Principal Ms. Romana Anjum, along with the Junior Section Headmistress, distributed honorary shields and certificates to the top-performing

students, acknowledging their significant achievements at the school.

In her address, Vice Principal Romana Anjum stated that The City School continues to improve its educational standards each year and equips students with the latest technology,

which is why it surpasses other schools in the academic field. She offered some key advice to the successful students, wished them well, and encouraged them to continue participating with the same diligence and enthusiasm in their educational endeavors.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER GULKADA DISTRICT SWAT TENDER NOTOICE

1. District Health Officer swat Invites sealed and postal Bids for the supply of following items through TWO envelopes bidding procedure as per KAPRA Procurement Rules 2014 from reputable, registered and authorized dealers/firms and supplier having sound financial position and market experience of similar work for the supply of the following Assistive and rehabilitative products/instruments items for the budget provided by the Federation handicap International (ReLAB.HS) USAID Project.

S No	Name of work/items	Quantity	S No	Name of work/items	Quantity
1	CANES	200	11	SPARE PART: TIP FOR ELBOW ADULT SIZE	520
2	TRIPOD	100	12	SPARE PART: TIP FOR AXILLARY CRUTCHES CHILDREN SIZE	120
3	QUADRIPOD	300	13	SPARE PART: TIP OF AXILLARY CRUTCHES ADULT SIZE	320
4	AXILLARY CRUTCHES CHILDREN SIZE	60	14	SPARE PART: WALKING FRAME WITH 4 TIPS	240
5	WALKING FRAMES WITHOUT WHEELS	200	15	SPARE PARTS: WALKING FRAME TIPS	800
6	FOLDING WALKING FRAMES	60	16	SPARE PART: TIP FOR CANE	200
7	ROLLATORS	60	17	PAIR OF ELBOW CRUTCHES:CHILDREN SIZE	100
8	SHOWER CHAIRS	200	18	PAIR OF ELBOW CRUTCHES: ADULT SIZE	260
9	TIOLET CHAIRS	200	19	PAIR OF AXILBRY CRUTCHES ADULTS	160
10	SPARE PART: TIP OF ELBOW CRUTCH CHILDREN SIZE	200			

- Financial to be valid up to 31/08/2024 must to be delivered at the address given below on or before 25/06/2024 and shall be opened in the presence of the bidder or their authorized representative, at the address below at 11 hour on the same day.
- The Bid security 2% (Details of item/amount is available in bidding documents) in the shape of Pay order (PO)/demand Draft (DD)/Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) in the name of district Health Officer Swat shall be required, which will be confirmed from the concern bank.
- Detailed description of items and other conditions can be obtained from the coordinator national program swat in office hours.
- The bidders are requested to give the most competitive lowest rates as no negotiation will be made in this regard.
- In case of substandard supply / none matching with the specification, observation by the end user, the bidder will be responsible for its replacement on his own risk and cost.
- Make made and country of origin, etc. be clearly mentioned in the bid.
- Sample will have to be produced if the committee deems it fit.
- All applicable taxes& stamp duty shall be deducted as per Govt rules.
- Quantity of items can be increased or decreased subject to availability of the budget.
- Supply will be on FOR (Fright on Road) basis.
- The advertisement is also available on KAPRA as well as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health Department website. www.healthkp.gov.pk or www.DHIs.gov.pk.

Note: The competent authority has the right to reject all bids by given reason under rules 47 of the KAPRA rules 2014, any errors, omission shall be subject to rectification.

Dr Muhammad Saleem Khan
District Health Officer, Swat at Gulkada
Address: District Health Officer Swat At Gulkada.
Phone: 09469240139, Fax: 09469240215, Email: edohswat@yahoo.com



SHUTDOWN OF GAS SUPPLY

In order to carry out a hookup of the newly laid 12 inch dia operational phase against segmentation to isolate the SMS Dhamtore from SMS Abbottabad. The gas supply will remain suspended or low pressure may be observed in the following and adjacent localities from 08 PM, 11 June 2024 (Tuesday) to 05 AM, 12 June 2024 (Wednesday).

Areas

PMA Kakul, PMA Head Quarter Company, Lalik Jan Camp, Depo Camp Kakul, Kakul Village, Ilyasi Masjid, Thanda Choha, Askari Flats, Nawansher Township, Nawansher City, Dhamtore City, Dhamtore Village, Narrian, Bilal Town and surrounding areas. The consumers of above stated localities are requested to make alternate arrangements and keep their appliances shut off during the shutdown of gas to avoid any accident.

PID (L) 3908
To get your e-bill, please register yourself at www.sngpl.com.pk

HEADQUARTERS PAKISTAN RANGERS (SINDH) MUSLIM JINNAH COURTS DR.ZIA-UD-DIN AHMED ROAD KARACHI-4

No. 1617/PRO/415/2024 Dated 6-June-2024

PAKISTAN RANGERS (SINDH) FOUNDATION JOB OPPORTUNITY

1. Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) Foundation is looking for following experienced Staff:-

Ser	Staff	Eligibility Criteria
a.	Clerks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Age<ul style="list-style-type: none">Not over 45 years for Civilian CandidateNot over 60 years for Retired Armed Forces / Civil Armed ForcesQualification<ul style="list-style-type: none">FA/FSc or equivalentExperience<ul style="list-style-type: none">Computer Skills (MS Power Point, MS Words & MS Excel)Be able to manage routine Office WorkHave 10 years experience in Office Work (with no red entry for Retired Armed Forces / Civil Armed Forces personnel)Medical Category<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fit (No disability) AYE
b.	Rangers Welfare Store / Canteen Staff (Supervisor Cum Cashier, Sales Man, Receiver / Purchaser, Waiter Cum Helper, Tea Maker)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Age<ul style="list-style-type: none">Not over 43 years for Civilian CandidateNot over 50 years for Retired Armed Forces / Civil Armed ForcesQualification<ul style="list-style-type: none">Primary - FA/FSc or equivalentExperience<ul style="list-style-type: none">Experience in running commercial shops /stores and martsMedical Category<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fit (No disability)
Retired Rangers Employees will be preferred.		
Pay Package. Attractive / market competitive pay package will be offered		
Candidates to drop CVs at following Addresses within 10 days from date of this Advertisement, for short listing/ interview.		
POSTAL ADDRESS Director Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) Foundation HQ Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) Muslim Jinnah Court Building Dr Zia Ud Din Ahmed Road, Karachi-4		
Contact 02199205285-7		

Assistant Director
(Welfare) Rangers Foundation
(Shahzad Anjum)

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Madeha Rahman Khan Senior Civil Judge (Family) Buner at Daggar.Suit No 90 /FC Institution 3/5/2024. Date of hearing. 10/6/2024.Mst Sumaya VS Yaqoob Khan. Notice to Yaqoob Khan s/o Amnesh Khan resident of Musakhel Torwarsak tehsel Daggar district Buner at present in Malaysia.whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore , proclaimed that if the said defendant will /shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8 am dated 10/6/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte.Given under my hand and seal of this Court

HYDERABAD ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY (HESCO) CORRIGENDUM

The HESCO Tender No. GSC-27/2024 was published in News Paper on dated 02.06.2024 under PID/ H.No.434/23 & on website of PPRA vide PPRA Reference No. TS541000E. The following corrigendum has been issued for information to all concerned.

	Already Published	Now Consider As
1.	Valid PEC License renewal for the year 2023-24 in at-least C-5 Category and field of specialization "CE10" & "EE05"	Valid PEC License renewed for the year 2023-24 in applicable category and field of specialization "CE02" , "CE10" and "EE05"
2.	The firm which failed to complete already awarded work in GSC directorate as per bidding document shall not be eligible.	"Deleted"

All other particulars of publication remains unchanged.

PROJECT DIRECTOR
GSC HESCO HYDERABAD

PID(H)#441/2023

PAKISTAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL GOVERNING BODY ELECTIONS-2024

ATTENTION ENGINEERS

All engineers are informed that under provision of Pakistan Engineering Council Act 1976, Elections for various Offices of PEC Governing Body (Term 2024-27) are to be held in August 2024.

Only those engineers will be eligible to participate in the Elections who hold valid registration as on 30th June 2024. Therefore, it is advised to apply/ obtain registration or get the registration renewed by 30th June, 2024, so that your name can be included in the valid voters list. Engineers possessing life time subscription can get their membership renewed without fee.

Any application/ request pertaining to registration or renewal received after 30th June, 2024 shall not be considered for participation in Elections.

Engineers registered with PEC must check their membership status at <https://verification.pec.org.pk>

For registration or renewal of membership, please visit PEC Online Registration Portal at <https://portal.pec.org.pk/Login>

For further details regarding PEC Elections-2024, please visit official website: <https://www.pec.org.pk/elections2024>

Secretary / Registrar
Pakistan Engineering Council
Ataturk Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad.
UAN: (+92-51) 111 111 732
www.pec.org.pk

HEADQUARTERS PAKISTAN RANGERS (SINDH) MUSLIM JINNAH COURTS DR.ZIA-UD-DIN AHMED ROAD KARACHI-4

No. 1617/PRO/415/2024

Dated 6-June-2024

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Contact 02199205285-7		

PID(K) 3508/23

Assistant Director (Welfare) Rangers Foundation
(Shahzad Anjum)



PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for SAFRON, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam administering oath of newly elected cabinet of District Bar Association Mardan.

Governor, CM condemned attack

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Saturday condemned attack on Police mobile in Dera Ismail Khan wherein two policemen were injured. In his message Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi condemned the incident and expressed his best wishes for the recovery of the injured policemen. The Governor expressed concern and regret over the successive attacks on police personnel in Dera Ismail Khan and other districts. It is worth mentioning here that some unknown terrorists attacked the police in Dera Ismail Khan.

Meanwhile, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur also condemned the attack on Police mobile, injuring two policemen. The Chief Minister expressed his best wishes for the recovery of the two policemen injured in the firing. Directing the district administration to ensure timely provision of medical aid to the injured officials. Police have made eternal sacrifices for the protection of people's life and property. Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur said in his separate message. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police has fought terrorism with great courage and bravery, Chief Minister Ali

Amin Gandapur said. The government and people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are with the forces in this war, Ali Amin Gandapur added. Such cowardly incidents will not demoralize the Policemen, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur said. The war against terrorism will continue until the establishment of complete peace, Ali Amin Gandapur said. The current provincial government is spending huge resources to strengthen the police, Ali Amin Gandapur. All the resources required by the police to effectively deal with terrorism will be provided on a priority basis, said the Chief Minister.

Major drug bust in Nowshera

Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR: In a significant crackdown against drug dealers and facilitators, the Excise Department, under the special directives of Secretary Excise Syed Fayyaz Ali Shah and Director General Ahmed Zaib, continues to deliver notable successes. In a recent operation at Ajab Bagh Check Post by the Excise Police Station in the Mardan Region, a major attempt to smuggle drugs worth millions of rupees was thwarted.

During a routine search on the Nowshera-Peshawar GT Road, officials stopped a vehicle with registration number BW 954. Upon inspection, they discovered a staggering 120,000 grams (120 kilograms) of hashish and 1,000 grams of ice (crystal methamphetamine). This seizure marks one of the largest drug hauls in recent months, showcasing the department's vigilance and commitment to combating drug trafficking.

Three suspects were apprehended at the scene. The individuals have been identified as Sadiq Hayat, son of Niaz Mir, resident of Zareenabad Chamakani; Zubair Khan, son of Sartaj, resident of Daman Korona Mitha Mughal Khel, Sadar Ghari Shabqadar; and Gul Khattar, son of Hukum Baz, resident of Shah Kas Jamrud. These arrests are expected to provide significant leads in the ongoing investigation into the drug network operating in the region.

A case has been registered at the Excise Police Station, Mardan Region, and further investigations are underway. Legal proceedings will follow to ensure that those involved in this illicit trade are brought to justice.

This operation is a testament to the dedication and effectiveness of the Excise Department in its mission to safeguard the community from the scourge of drugs. The department reiterates its commitment to continue such efforts to dismantle drug networks and ensure public safety.

Appointment of doctor rejected

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: President Naseerullah Khan Babar Memorial Hospital Paramedical, Asif Akhunzada has said that the Faculty of Paramedical and Allied Health Sciences reject the re-appointment of a doctor on the post of Controller of Examination for paramedics in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that we also reject the appointment of the illegally appointed lady doctor on the post of Registrar.

All the Allied Health Professionals of Sidhu Teaching Hospital and Allied Units will be with the Provincial Union. They said that if our demands are not accepted, there will be a strong protest across the province. The decision taken by the government is unfair.

It is synonymous, we demand the government to reconsider its decision, otherwise a protest movement will be started throughout the province, in which the government will be responsible.

Muqam urges lawyers to support movements work for constitution, democracy

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for SAFRON, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam on Saturday urged lawyers to support movements aimed at upholding the constitution and democracy. Addressing Mardan Bar Council at Alhamra Hall, Engineer Amir Muqam emphasized the pivotal role of the nation's founding fathers, particularly acknowledging the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his legal acumen.

Expressing concern, the Minister highlighted how some individuals are exploiting the nation's resources for personal gains, urging for a collective effort to thwart such endeavors. Amir Muqam while stressing on the importance of upholding the sanctity of institutions, called upon lawyers to support movements aimed at upholding the constitution and democracy and prosperity

of people. He reiterated the principle that judicial decisions should transcend personal preferences and biases, emphasizing the need for the judiciary to work impartially for the betterment of the nation. He said that expectations were voiced for the judiciary to operate free from anger, focusing on delivering justice rather than succumbing to emotions. Minister Muqam underscored the significance of making decisions based on merit rather than personal preferences, advocating for a united approach towards national development. Reflecting on the tragic events of May 9th, the Minister condemned the desecration of martyrs and the damage inflicted upon national assets, calling for accountability and justice. He emphasized the need for institutions to remain resilient against individual influences, asserting that weakening institutions only serves the interests of

adversaries. Addressing concerns regarding national security, the Minister highlighted the importance of strengthening the country's defense against external threats. He praised the resilience of the nation in the face of natural disasters, emphasizing the solidarity displayed during times of adversity. The Minister credited the resilience of the nation in combatting terrorism to the collective efforts of the people and security forces. Warning against the propagation of misinformation and divisive narratives on social media, the Minister labeled such actions as detrimental to national interests. Concluding his address, the Minister emphasized that discussions regarding the constitution and laws should stem from sincerity and conviction rather than mere rhetoric. He acknowledged the mandate given by the people to KP government, urging for collaboration and

service-oriented governance. On this occasion, Federal Minister Amir Muqam administered oath of newly elected cabinet of District Bar Association Mardan. The oath taking also attended by President PML-N Mardan Advocate Inayat Shah Bacha, Ex MPA General Secretary PML-N Mardan Jamshed Momand, Mayor Mardan Himayatullah Mayaar, High Court Bar President and other senior Advocates attended the meeting. The Federal Minister congratulated newly elected cabinet of District Bar Association and expressed hope that newly elected cabinet work for the welfare of lawyers community. The cabinet office bearers were include President Noor Badshah Toru, Vice President Sajjad Ahmad, General Secretary Zahir Muhammad Advocate, Finance Secretary Javed Iqbal, Joint Secretary Hazrat Ibrahim Toru.

Sikandar warn govt against undoing 18th Constitutional Amendment

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) provincial Chairman Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao on Saturday warned the government against undoing the 18th Constitutional Amendment.

He was speaking at the condolence reference for party leader Asad Afridi Advocate. Paying tributes to the late party leader, Sikandar Sherpao said the deceased rendered services for the cause of Pakhtuns.

He said the QWP lost a committed leader, who had deep understanding of the geopolitical situation of the region and worked for the welfare of the poor.

Commenting on the challenges facing the

province, Sikandar Sherpao said a conspiracy was being hatched against provincial autonomy. "We will foil the conspiracy against the 18th Amendment," he said.

Sikandar Sherpao said the 1973 Constitution guaranteed provincial autonomy. He said a conspiracy was also being hatched against the National Finance Commission Award, which was against the spirit of the Constitution.

He said a hybrid regime was imposed on the country after the 2018 general election, adding that now a hybrid plus government was brought in as a result of the 2024 polls. He said that experiments with the political system should be stopped so that democracy could thrive in the country.

He said all state institutions must function within their constitutional ambit.

Criticizing the provincial government, he said that irregularities were committed in the wheat procurement process, which belied

the claims about fighting corruption and ensuring good governance. He said the provincial government committed injustice against the local farmers by not purchasing wheat from them.

Peshawar Bar Association condemns attack of Zaman

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Bar Association Saturday condemns attack on Ali Zaman Advocate and demands from the Police to arrest the attackers soon.

In a press statement issued by the Peshawar Bar Association, demanded that those attacked on Ali Zaman Advocate should be arrested. Government should take notice of negligence of security agencies, the Bar Association said.

Implementation of the Lawyers Protection Act should be ensured in true sense, Peshawar Bar Association said. The Bar Association also prayed for the recovery of Ali Zaman Advocate.

Businessmen assured of allowing transit goods transportation

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Businessmen dealing in Pak-Afghan trade have been assured allowing of transit goods transportation under Temporary Admission Document (TAD) plan.

The assurance has been held out by Ms. Maria Kazi, Joint Secretary Ministry of Commerce while speaking virtually at a seminar on Implementation of Temporary Admission Document (TAD) held at Peshawar, said a press release issued on Saturday.

Pakistan on June 2, 2024 started implementation of a plan that allows Afghan transporters to enter on the Temporary Admission Document (TAD) at border points to facilitate speedy bilateral trade between the two countries.

The agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan on TAD had reached as

transporters' documentation and visa condition were complicated issues that led to the closure of Torkhem border for several days in January 2024.

Currently transportation of bilateral trade between the two neighboring countries under TAD are allowed for a period of one year starting from June 2024. Joint Secretary Commerce gave this assurance in response to demands of business community seeking approval for transportation of transit trade goods under TAD.

The seminar organized by Trade Development Authority and was attended by Noman Bashir, Director TDAP, Arbab Qaisar, Director (Transit Trade), Custom Deptt. Peshawar, Coordinator Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi, Commercial and Transport

Attaches of Afghan Consulate, former SVP SCCI, Engr. Manzoor Elahi, President Transporters Association Torkhem, Haji Azeemullah Khan, Deputy Director TDAP, Zahid Mehmood and others.

In the seminar, Director Transit Trade Custom Department, Arbab Qaisar gave a presentation about working of TAD and its objectives and benefits.

He informed that government took this decision for facilitation of business community of both the countries and to improve volume of trade between the two countries and in this entire region.

Currently the plan is implemented for one year and its future would be decided on evaluation of its progress and benefits, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Coordinator PAJCCI, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi hailed

the decision taken by Pakistan for removal of a hurdle in Pak-Afghan trade.

He said the condition of getting visa for drivers was a very daunting task and created a lot of hardships in trade between the two countries.

Zia said the business community presented this suggestion of issuing special passes to drivers dealing in Pak-Afghan trade and be exempted from obtaining visas after a gap of few months.

He also demanded expansion of TAD on transit trade because hundreds of trucks cross border on daily basis and drivers still are facing the same problem of visa restriction.

Currently TAD is confined to bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan and it should also include transport carrying goods under transit trade, Zia reiterated.

Empowerment, not power, says Faiq Shah

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chairman, Amun Taraqqi Party Muhammad Faiq Shah said that the agenda should only be people as solutions to economic and political issues are laying in it.

The party leader said if the establishment, judiciary, parliament, businessmen, media, think tank, ulema and public segments will make decisions by setting together so it is possible to frame policies and economic stability within hours and no one will restrict peace and progress.

On Saturday, Shah while responding to a number of online queries from different segments of the society said a practical solution of all issues has been comprehensively prepared by his party.

We don't have an interest in power but only in public authority and justice. The session 'Awam ki Adalat' and 'Accountability' was well-attended by the party central leaders Awais Khan, Ishtiaq Elahi and other senior activists.

Large number of questions from various segments belonging from Balochistan, Sindh, Southern Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other parts of the country were asked various questions during the session.

The party leader urged participants to stay engaged in consultation with ATP and send their proposals for resolution of issues.

Shah said the manifesto of political parties only in person, family and gaining power, saying that rulers consistently betray people.

Public again and again come into their fake promises and empty slogans.

One has to change the attitude and thinking, he stressed.

In parliament and outside, the ATP chief said films are shown to people which are a step forward from the world leading and successful film industries like Bollywood and Lollywood.

The party leader said no work on development on education, health and agriculture, but only focused on IMF slavery, imposition of taxes on the poor people.

Where does the national wealth and public tax-money go?

Faiq voiced concern over rising corruption and bribery, erecting properties abroad and amassing assets.



In brief

Excise tax on tobacco rejected F.P. Report

SWABI: Pakistan People Party, Swabi District through a resolution rejected the decision of PTI provincial government to impose excise tax on tobacco and decided to strongly oppose this illegal tax. The emergency meeting of PPP district Swabi was held under the Chairmanship of Ali Khan, PPP District Swabi President. President of Tehsil Swabi Jhangir Afsar, General Secretary of Tehsil Swabi Rahim Taz Khan, President Tehsil Chottha Lahore Sikandar Khan, General Secretary Tehsil Lahore, Malik Nawaz Khan President Tehsil Topi Zarin Gul Haji, General Secretary Tehsil Topi and office-bearers participated. On this occasion, it was unanimously decided to oppose this tax at all levels by rejecting the cruel decision of the provincial government to impose excise tax on tobacco cess through a resolution. The resolution was also passed that the tobacco cess funds should be allocated for the people of Swabi to get education. The people of Swabi are not ready to accept this decision in any way, the speakers at the meeting said. The Pakistan People Party Swabi is unanimously hostile to such farmers and rejects anti-people decisions.

Female teacher killed for honour F.P. Report

MARDAN: Armed men gunned down a young female teacher for honour here on Saturday and fled the scene, police said. According to details, the culprits forcefully stopped school van in main Taragram Chowk of Mardan, took out the 22-year-old female teacher and shot her dead. Sources said that the female teacher had entered in court marriage nine months earlier. The culprits fled the scene after committing the murder. The police reached the scene of crime and shifted the body to hospital for post-mortem. A case was registered into the incident and raids were being conducted to arrest the culprits.

TMA setup cattle market F.P. Report

BANNU: Under the patronage of the provincial minister, tehsil municipal administration Bannu is afraid of losing crores of rupees by setting up a livestock market in comparison to the official market. After the presence of the official market, starting the market without the rules and regulations is not only against the rules, but it is equivalent to harming the local government. These views were expressed by Hamid Khan, Government Contractor of TMA Bannu Mall Cattle Market, told the media representatives. That under the patronage of Provincial Minister of Public Health Engineering Malik Pakhtun Yar Khan, Cattle Market Merakhel has been established illegally without permission due to which the Government Cattle Market Kala Khel approved by TMA Bannu has caused a loss of crores of rupees. The government party's MPA and the provincial minister's offer has been made to Parmaal Cattle Market, although FIR was formally registered by the anti-corruption officers in the illegal cattle market in Merakhel, Director Anti-Corruption Khyber said in this regard. According to the FIR registered against Pakhtunkhwa Mall Cattle Market Merakhel, he said that despite the clear orders of the Peshawar High Court Bannu Bench, the illegal and private market has been made on political pressure, which has cost the government treasury crores of rupees.

DPO assures internal accountability

Saqib Mushtaq

LODHARAN: District Police Officer (DPO) Lodhran held 'Kuli katcheri' in the three tehsils of Lodhran district to directly understand the issues and gave immediate orders for justice on the spot. Approximately 140 complaints made related to political cases, domestic violence, violation of privacy, misconduct of police, police brutality, and corruption.

Following the 'Kuli Katcheri', DPO mentioned that these sessions were held under the special instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Inspector General of Punjab Police Usman Anwar. The purpose was to address public complaints related to the police promptly. He emphasized a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, ensuring strict action against any complaints of corruption within the police force.

DPO Lodhran Mumtaz Kamran also highlighted the modernization of the investigation process and instructed all cases to be handled based on merit. Regarding social media, he encouraged its positive use to eliminate negative activities from society and emphasized the importance



of confirming news before sharing it.

A school teacher against police way of performing their duties while DPO assured justice and apologized for any past mistreatment by a previous officer. He also mentioned that if anyone is unsatisfied with an ongoing investigation, they can discuss it with the SP of Investigation and the District Investigation Board DIB.

After the open court sessions, DPO interacted with the citizens, especially showing respect for the disabled

and elderly, by leaving his chair to listen and address their concerns. Representatives of the Civil Society and Central Association of Traders expressed satisfaction with DPO efforts and commended his capability and honesty. Furthermore, Malik Asghar Arain, the President of Central Anjuman Tajran, and Sardar Kamran Khan Advocate, a senior lawyer, praised DPO for his effective leadership and the reduction in false cases and corruption within the police.

Youths asked to take active part in sports

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The Lower Dir district youth officer has asked youth to take active part in positive activities and avoid wasting time on social media and using drugs. He was addressing a prize distribution function at the conclusion of the first Isaf Youth Cricket tournament at Danwa here on Saturday.

Earlier the Baron Cricket Club won the final match against the Danwa Eleven and left the trophy. A large number of local youth watched the final match. The additional deputy commissioner Bashir Khan, district youth officer Malik Shahzad Tariq, PTI leader Hujaj Khan and regional secretary of the Insaaf youth wing Rahat Farooqi distributed trophies, medals and shields among the winner, runner up teams and best players.

Malik Shahzad highlighted the importance of sports and said that youth should display their hidden talent on the ground. He also appreciated the district administration for cooperating with the youth affairs department in arranging such events in the district. The youth officer said that sports events would also be held in other tehsils with the help of district administration and sports department.

Meanwhile an inter-district cricket tournament continued in the district on Saturday during which the Munda Eleven won its third match scoring 335 runs in 40 overs. Wiqar Daud, a batter of the club, scored 101 runs. The rival team scored only 197 runs for all

out.

Meanwhile the social and political circles in the Lower Dir district demanded the district administration to immediately stop the Timergara Gala and Festival. Talking to local journalists they said that masses would be brought onto the roads if the event was not stopped. They complained that vulgarity among youth was being promoted and the area people would not let it happen.

School classroom: The adviser to Chairman Sir Foundation Rahim Shah Akhunkhel on Friday inaugurated a classroom constructed by the Foundation at Government High School, Toormang. The Foundation local representative Tahir Sultankhel, general secretary Syed Ahmad Sahil, Principal Rehmanullah, SDO Akbar Ghani, ASDO Adalat Khan, ASDO Sultan Haidar and area elders were also in attendance.

The school Principal thanked the Sir Foundation and its chairman Rahim Shah Akhunkhel for constructing an additional class room for the students. He said the students of one class had no room and they were forced to read in the open.

M.Phil defence: Mr. Raham Diyar, an M.Phil scholar in the Department of Mathematics, University of Malakand (UoM) has successfully defended his M.Phil thesis titled 'Analysis of a fractional order mathematical model for the omicron; a new variant of Covid-19' at the UoM here the other day. His thesis was supervised by Dr Nigar Ali and Dr

Imtiaz Ahmad, Associate Professor of the said department.

The external examiner was Dr Faiz Ullah, associate professor at the department of Mathematics, National University of Science and technology (NUST) Islamabad who appreciated the hard work of the scholar.

Employees flay posting on nepotism F.P. Report

MARDAN: Political interference should be stopped in transfer and posting. The appointment of junior doctor on the seat of controller paramedics in Medical Faculty Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is not approved the salaries of government employees should be increased by 100%.

The employees of various projects working in the health department should be made permanent. According to the details, a meeting of Paramedical Association district Mardan was held under the chairmanship of district President Fazal Qayyum All the members of the cabinet participated in it.

General Secretary Sami-ur-Rahman while presenting the agenda said that some elements in DHO office Mardan create problems for the paramedical staff and the staffs are harassed unnecessarily in various ways, which we strongly condemn and punish them.

SIAL deciphered as catalyst in Pakistan's economy

Muhammad Umair Khan

SIALKOT International Airport, nestled in the heart of Punjab, Pakistan, stands as a beacon of progress and innovation, representing a milestone in the country's aviation history. As the first private sector airport in Pakistan, it has not only revolutionized air travel for the people of Sialkot and its surrounding regions but also significantly contributed to the nation's economic growth. Inaugurated in 2007, Sialkot International Airport was the brainchild of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

This ambitious project was driven by the collective vision of local business leaders who recognized the need for an efficient and accessible transportation hub to support the region's thriving industries, particularly the export-oriented sectors. The private sector's initiative to develop and manage an airport was unprecedented in Pakistan, showcasing a unique model of public-private partnership. Sialkot, renowned globally for its production of sports goods, surgical instruments, leather products, and textiles, required a robust logistics network to enhance its export capabilities. The establishment of Sialkot International Airport addressed this need by providing direct access to international

markets, thereby reducing transit times and costs for exporters.

This strategic advantage has bolstered Sialkot's reputation as a critical node in the global supply chain. The airport's impact on the local and national economy has been substantial. By facilitating the swift movement of goods, Sialkot International Airport has amplified export volumes, leading to increased revenue for local businesses and higher foreign exchange earnings for Pakistan.

The airport has also created numerous employment opportunities, from direct jobs within the airport to ancillary services in transportation, hospitality, and retail. Moreover, the airport has spurred infrastructure development in the region, attracting investments in roads, hotels, and industrial zones. This ripple effect has contributed to the overall economic upliftment of Sialkot and its neighbouring areas. Sialkot International Airport has rapidly expanded its connectivity since its inception.

It now serves numerous international destinations, including key hubs in the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. Airlines operating from the airport provide passenger and cargo services, ensuring that both people and products can reach global destinations efficiently. The airport's continuous expansion plans include the

enhancement of passenger facilities, the extension of runways, and the development of new cargo terminals.

These improvements are designed to accommodate growing demand and ensure that Sialkot remains at the forefront of Pakistan's aviation sector. The success of Sialkot International Airport serves as an inspiring model for future infrastructure projects in Pakistan. It demonstrates the potential of private sector initiatives in driving economic development and improving public services.

The airport's journey from a visionary concept to a thriving transportation hub underscores the transformative power of collaboration between private enterprise and public interests. Sialkot International Airport is more than just an aviation facility; it is a testament to the ingenuity and determination of the people of Sialkot. As Pakistan's first private sector airport, it has set new benchmarks for efficiency, connectivity, and economic impact.

Looking ahead, the airport is poised to continue its trajectory of growth, contributing to the prosperity of Sialkot and the broader Pakistani economy. Through innovation and strategic expansion, Sialkot International Airport will undoubtedly remain a pivotal player in the region's development for years to come.

PPP leader cheats with Rs34.4m in land vending F.P. Report

PABB: Former president Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Sardar Ali Khan filed First Information Report against Syed Baqar Shah for provision of bounce cheque of Rs 34.4 million in land purchase, on Saturday.

According to details, the accused had given a check of Rs34.4 million to Sardar Ali Khan as payment for a piece of land, but the check bounced due to insufficient funds in the account.

The police have registered a case against the accused under section 489-F and are conducting raids to arrest him. The accused is currently at large. Sardar Ali Khan has also sent notices to PESCO and Sui Gas Department to disconnect the electricity and gas connections of the illegally constructed houses.

Awareness seminar held in Kohat F.P. Report

KOHAT: In connection with World Food Safety Day, a one-day awareness seminar was held at the office of Kohat Food Safety Authority here on Saturday.

The seminar was held under the supervision of Assistant Director Food Muhammad Bilal and Safety Officer Musab Javed, Waheed Dawood and Kashif Khan. The Union Officials of Our Food Safety Authority staff participated.

Speakers said that 40 percent of food items are wasted before they reach the table. Therefore, landowning and food storage institutions should make efforts to preserve food and prevent its wastage, the experts at the seminar said.

Research skills development course arranged for students

Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: A Training Course titled "Basic Research Skills Development Course" designed to develop research conduction and reporting skills among the BS level students of Higher Education Institutions was held at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Foundation. Sixty (60) Girl-students and Five (05) Faculty members were imparted training.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, Former Vice Chancellor Khushal Khan Khattak University and Prof.Dr.Sareer Badshah, former Dean Islamia College University were the Resource Persons. Arif Shah, Director KPEF Academy while speaking on the occasion told that KPEF upon need based has launched this course for the youth studying in the

HELs of KP province to promote Quality Research Culture in the province. Prof. Dr. Naseer ud Din, Vice Chancellor Kohat University of Science & Technology (KUST), the Chief Guest has awarded certificates among the successful trainees.

VC lauded the efforts of KP Education Foundation for its remarkable activities in promotion of Higher Education. Trainees and faculty members have termed the training much beneficial.

Meeting on preparation for Eid-ul-Azha held: In pursuance of the direction of the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a high-level meeting was held regarding the arrangements and cleanliness situation during Eid-ul-Azha with Deputy Commissioner Kohat Dr. Azmatullah Wazir in the chair.

The meeting beside the DPO Kohat and ADC was also attended by the authorities concerned of District Administration, TMAS, WSSC, Rescue 1122, PESCO, Health, Livestock, Social Welfare and other related departments. Deputy Commissioner Kohat specially directed all the TMAs and WSSC Kohat to take special care of cleanliness on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha and dispose off the animal waste at designated places in time.

He directed the PESCO authorities to ensure uninterrupted power supply during Eid-ul-Azha while other related departments have also been assigned their duties so as to ensure provision of best facilities to the public while performing the great religious obligation.

Several warehouses looted in Agri park

F.P. Report

WANA: In a shocking incident in Wana, thieves looted the Wana Agri Park in the presence of police, making off with goods worth millions. The brazen theft has raised allegations of police complicity and corruption.

According to Malik Bokhan, a local elder, the thieves targeted multiple shops, warehouses, and a hotel within the park, stealing millions of rupees worth of fertilizers, pesticides, and other agricultural supplies. He alleged that certain officials from the civil government and brokers from the markets were involved in the theft, and that police complicity cannot be ruled out.

Broker Lal Muhammad claimed that some officials and brokers are trying to

sabotage the Agri Park, and that higher authorities have been informed about the situation. Another broker, Haji Usman Wazir, expressed concerns about the safety of fruit market owners and others, given the lack of security at the park. The incident has sparked an investigation, with high officials deploying additional security measures to prevent future thefts.

The Wana Agri Park incident highlights the need for improved security and oversight to prevent such incidents in the future. Malik Bokhan's son's shops were among those looted, and the incident has raised questions about the effectiveness of the police and the administration in preventing such incidents. Evidence of police negligence includes

the fact that the thieves were able to enter and exit the park without being detected, despite the presence of police personnel there.

Meanwhile, Inspector General Frontier Crops South, Major General Haroon Hameed Chaudhry, held a jirga with the Ahmadzai Wazir tribe in Lower Wana, South Waziristan. The jirga was attended by tribal elders, youth, scholars, traders, and members of the civil administration.

Major General Chaudhry praised the Ahmadzai Wazir tribe for their role in maintaining peace and their cooperation with security forces. He emphasized the importance of stability in the region and discussed various economic measures for the development of South Waziristan.

Politicisation of health and education: A threat to progress

Dr Imtiaz Ahmad

THE recent incident of the demise of a student at the university of Malakand is indeed a great loss. Students are the future of the nation and their education and security should be the most priority of the government, politicians and the university officials. It's indeed the cream of the society who are assumed to be the main pillars of society. The sad incident has raised many questions. Some of them are being discussed in social media, some are in students and teachers circles and some aspects of the same are raised on the floor of the assembly and main roads.

Too many mouths, so many sounds, but unfortunately all the mouths of the cannons are focused on self-made weakness of the university to try our clearance and to make responsible others. Even teachers are being targeted to make them responsible for the same road accident and are being justified on a notification wherein its allotment is being cancelled for having a guitar. Indeed each university is being run on some rules and regulations wherein students are

binding to ensure discipline to provide a peaceful environment to the students especially in semester exams as studious students can't afford music and disturbances in the late nights and especially in preparation of exams.

Suspension or Cancellation of allotment is the lonely tool to implement rules on students and ensure a peaceful environment to many. Many other tools could also be opted but in this specific case it was exercised that was not aiming to push him to death as the same was only notified and conveyed to the Shaheed Mousa Khan to control the unwanted activity who is obviously not liked by all in semesters exams timings. He was served with an explanation and showcase and subsequently by the notice for ban on hostel. Indeed it's maybe harassing but aimed just to immediately control him and the activity of late night music and disturbances in the hostel and university premises to which he was answerable.

Now come to the real facts, the statement and notifications submitted to PIT and GIT by the wardens shows the shaheed student was guided to clear his status to the provost, which is a

routine in almost each university and all government departments. He leaves the hostel with two other students on a bike without helmets and had a road accident while coming back to the university. A car coming on the wrong side hits the bike and he along with other friends becomes severely wounded as is recorded in the FIR. (Note here the facts, three students on a bike without helmets, license, coming back to university, hit by a moving car on the wrong side).

The sad story becomes more complicated which is being completely kept hidden being the prime duties of politicians who cry in the Parliament, and floor of the provincial assembly who gets credits of health cards and best health facilities in the province while having 1 million in his card.

When the critically injured student, a valuable member of society, was taken to DHQ Hospital Bathkela, no specialist was available to provide emergency care, such as stemming internal and external bleeding or arranging a timely referral to LRH after stability or knowing ABC. Astonishingly, doctors at the reputed A-category hospital referred him to HMC in

Peshawar, a distant facility with no available beds. The glaring question remains: why did DHQ Bathkela fail to provide basic first aid, including bleeding control, blood grouping, and transfusions, during the referral process, despite the critical nature of his condition, which are fundamental requirements in such cases?

Moreover, can any political party investigate why a bed was not made available to him at HMC Peshawar? Was the MS Bathkela informed officially, and did they book a space or confirm treatment availability, or is there a lack of such a mechanism, resulting in injured citizens being referred blindly from one hospital to another without a guarantee of care?

The government, the students and the politicians don't say a single word about the same but are blaming the university for this incident. If I say university is not a priority of the government but is only a target for politicians to pressurise the same to make it obedient to recruit only their mamas chachas I shall not be wrong as can prove these bad intentions of the politicians. Non availability of service structure, Bans only on university

recruitment for 5 years Non proper funding, no appointments of Vice Chancellors to 28 universities are some examples of the bad politics on universities for which teachers have approached the Supreme Court, positive politics must be for resolving these issues.

Furthermore, Why the A-B category hospitals are not being targeted wherein no bed was available even for a student of the university being cream of the society and only the university and its teachers are being targeted on roads and floor of the assembly of such a university that has gained first position in ranking for many years. The teachers make it clear in their two consecutive meetings that if politics on university continues, a damages suit shall be filed soon for restoration of the dignity of the highly esteemed institution.

With local Aman jirga an agreement on request of the students was signed in presence of AAC and local SHO but then the settlement was breached at night is extremely worrisome as it shows high politics and nothing else to sabotage the dignity of the university and get ill willings. Being a senior teacher, having an endless list of mega

contributions to reach the university to this level I request the government, the public and the students to be United to save this high learning institution and resolve all issues while understanding the real situation and make responsible few students who breaching agreements after settlements, politicising the matter and can hold the politicians who have bad intentions while knowing and ignoring the real facts.

In fact a university can't grow with bad and blind politics. Ultimately, the students shall suffer if educational activities are being stopped and conduction of exams is being sabotaged, the exams could be delayed for September and many innocent students shall suffer which shall have no remedy. The timely actions of the Vice Chancellors and administration must be appreciated and a mature and responsible response is expected ahead to safeguard the dignity of the institution and restore its honor.

The writer is a PhD from the University of Essex, UK and serving the university of Malakand as associate Professor of Mathematics since its establishment.



Danish PM suffers minor whiplash from assault

COPENHAGEN: Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen has suffered a light whiplash injury after she was assaulted by a man in central Copenhagen, her office has said. The 46-year-old was “shocked by the incident” in the capital’s Kultorvet square, the office said in an initial statement. Providing an update on Saturday, the office said Frederiksen had been taken to Rigshospitalet for a medical check-up following the assault.

“The assault caused a minor whiplash injury,” it said, adding that the prime minister was “otherwise safe but shaken” and that her Saturday schedule had been cancelled. Danish police said on Saturday a 39-year-old man would appear in front of a judge for preliminary questioning in relation to an assault on the prime minister.

Police said the man would be brought before the Copenhagen City Court for questioning at around 1pm (11:00 GMT), but declined to provide more detail. It was unclear in what context the assault happened, but it came two days before Danes head to the polls to vote in European Union parliamentary elections, which conclude across the bloc on Sunday. Frederiksen has been campaigning with the Social Democrats’ EU lead candidate, Christel Schaldemose. Media reports said the attack was not linked to a campaign event.

Two witnesses, Marie Adrian and Anna Ravn, told newspaper BT that they had seen Frederiksen arrive at the square while they were sitting by a nearby fountain just before 6pm (16:00 GMT). “A man came by in the opposite direction and gave her a hard shove on the shoulder, causing her to fall to the side,” the newspaper quoted the women as saying. They added that while it



was a “strong push”, Frederiksen did not hit the ground. According to the witnesses, the prime minister then sat down at a nearby cafe. They described the man as tall and slim, and said he had tried to hurry away but had not gotten far before being grabbed and pushed to the ground by men in suits.

Another witness, Kasper Jorgensen, told newspaper Ekstra Bladet that he had seen the man after he was tackled to the ground, saying that one of what he presumed to be part of the security service had put a knee on the man’s back. “They had pacified him, and as he lay there, he looked confused and a little dazed,” Jorgensen told the newspaper.

A resident told Reuters news agency Frederiksen was escorted away by security following the assault. “She seemed a little stressed,” Soren Kjergaard, who works as a barista on the square, said. News of the assault was received with shock and condemnation by politicians across

the political spectrum inside Denmark and abroad.

European Council President Charles Michel said he was “outraged by the assault” while European Parliament President Roberta Metsola urged Frederiksen to “keep strong” while adding in a post on X that “violence has no place in politics”. EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen also condemned what she called a “despicable act which goes against everything we believe and fight for in Europe”, in a statement to social media.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said that “an attack on a democratically elected leader is also an attack on our democracy”, while French President Emmanuel called it “unacceptable” and wished Frederiksen “a speedy recovery”. In 2019, Frederiksen became Denmark’s youngest prime minister and kept the post after emerging victorious in the 2022 general election. — Aljazeera

MSF recovers 11 bodies from Mediterranean off Libya

NAIROBI: The aid group Doctors Without Borders has reported recovering 11 bodies and rescuing dozens of people off the coast of Libya as it criticised the migration policies of the North African country and European countries.

In a statement, the group, known by its French initials MSF, said its Geo Barents rescue vessel managed to recover the bodies following a search operation lasting more than nine hours after being alerted by German nongovernmental organisation Sea-Watch, which also rescues refugees and migrants. “As we cannot determine the reason behind this tragedy, we know that people will continue to take dangerous routes in a desperate attempt to reach safety, and Europe must find safe and legal pathways for them,” MSF said in a post on X. “This catastrophe must end!”

Sea-Watch said it is unclear whether the bodies were victims of a previously unknown shipwreck, adding that they tried to contact Libya’s coastguard to go and retrieve the dead, but received no reply. “The so-called Libyan coastguard – financed by the EU – ignored our call demanding that the bodies be recovered,” the group said.

Thousands of people trying to head from Africa to Europe use Libya as a departing point, with the Italian island of Lampedusa the nearest European destination as they undertake the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean to escape war, poverty and persecution. Italy, which wants to put a stop to the migration stream, has said Libya and neighbouring Tunisia must do more to stop people from going to sea.

It has also clamped down on the operation of the rescue ships, arguing that they encourage people to head to Europe, a charge that is denied by the charities. Emphasising its policy on the rescue ships, Italy said that it forced the MSF rescue vessel to take the 165 people that it had saved from boats in the Mediterranean operation to the northern port of Genoa. — Aljazeera

22 Chinese nationals sentenced

LUSAKA (AP): A Zambian court sentenced 22 Chinese nationals to long prison terms for cybercrimes that included internet fraud and online scams targeting Zambians and other people from Singapore, Peru and the United Arab Emirates.

The Magistrates Court in the capital, Lusaka, sentenced them for terms ranging from seven to 11 years. The court also fined them between \$1,500 and \$3,000 after they pleaded guilty to charges of computer-related misrepresentation, identity fraud and illegally operating a network or service. A man from Cameroon also was sentenced and fined on the same charges. They were part of a group of 77 people, the majority of them Zambians, arrested in April over what police described as a “sophisticated internet fraud syndicate.”

Director-general of the drug enforcement commission, Nason Banda, said investigations began after authorities noticed a spike in the number of cyber-related fraud cases and many people complained about inexplicably losing money from their mobile phones or bank accounts.

Unity govt is S Africa’s best option: Ramaphosa

CAPE TOWN (BBC): South Africa’s African National Congress (ANC) will invite other political parties to form a government of national unity, its leader President Cyril Ramaphosa has said.

It comes after last week’s election in which the ANC lost its majority for the first time since the end of the racist system of apartheid 30 years ago. Mr Ramaphosa called for a national dialogue to help rebuild social cohesion, after a “toxic and divisive” election campaign. Political parties have just over a week to form a government before parliament convenes to elect the president.

Under South Africa’s proportional representation system, for a government to have a guaranteed majority it would need to be formed of parties which together got more than 50% of the vote. The ANC took a 40% share, with the centre-right Democratic Alliance (DA) getting 22%, the MK party of former President Jacob Zuma won 15% and the radical Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) 9%.

Mr Ramaphosa spoke after the ANC’s National Executive Committee (NEC) held a marathon meeting in Johannesburg, saying the party acknowledged people’s complaints. “We agreed to invite political parties to form a government of national unity as the best option to move our country forward,” Mr Ramaphosa said.

His announcement came after days of speculation about the ANC’s options, such as pursuing a minority government or a coalition with one or two parties. In the end the president invited all the ANC’s political opponents to engage in talks on co-governing the country. This is a looser arrangement than a coalition, which is a formal agreement among participating parties to work together and usually involves trade-offs in policies and positions.

A national unity government, on the other hand, would include any party that agreed to a broad set of principles. The idea is that they would support the ANC on key votes such as the budget, but retain their own political and ideological agendas. Analysts say taking this broad approach could allow the ANC to avoid choosing a coalition partner that may be unpopular with its base. This is particularly true of the white-led DA. Its free-market agenda makes it the preferred option of the private



sector and investors, and is seen as an important signal of stability to the markets.

But its policies are at odds with the ANC’s social welfare programmes and especially anathema to the party’s left-wing base. “A government of national unity creates this impression that it is a collective working group coming together,” political analyst Sanusha Naidu told the BBC. It could also “look at how you bring in the DA without necessarily saying we’re working directly with the DA”.

Mr Ramaphosa framed the proposal for a national unity government in the historical precedent of South Africa’s first democracy. That saw the ANC’s Nelson Mandela as president working with his former enemies in the National Party, which had implemented apartheid.

It also included the Inkatha Freedom Party, a conservative party with an ethnic Zulu base, whose supporters had frequently clashed with ANC activists, leading to thousands of deaths.

“In establishing a government of national unity, we will be drawing on an experience with which South Africans are familiar and which served our country well at a time of great difficulty,” he said. But the challenges are different. The ANC is no longer in the majority, and the untested hope of three decades ago has been replaced by splits within the party and starkly different visions of the country between the main parties.

Mr Ramaphosa said negotiators had already held “constructive dis-

cussions” with the DA and the IFP, as well as the EFF, an ANC breakaway party that advocates seizing white-owned land and nationalising banks and mines. The DA has said it will not participate in any government that includes the EFF. But Mr Ramaphosa said ideological and political differences would not “preclude the possibility of working with any party so long as it is in the public interest” and in keeping with a set of basic principles, such as respecting the constitution and rule of law, shared values of national building and social cohesion and a focus on building an inclusive economy.

The ANC’s five-member negotiating team will now be meeting with a “broad range of parties” to discuss the proposal. That will include Mr Zuma’s uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) party. He has refused to accept the election result or join a coalition as long as Mr Ramaphosa remains president. But the MK issued a statement late saying it had held an initial engagement with the ANC and a meeting would follow shortly.

Mr Ramaphosa has a reputation as a skilled negotiator and is one of the architects of the historic settlement that led to the 1994 election and the government of national unity that followed. His counterpart at the time, National Party negotiator Roelf Meyer, told the South African news channel eNCA that Mr Ramaphosa “has all the ability to handle this situation”. The next week will prove to be one of the biggest tests of those skills.

Russia alleges US to blame for civilian deaths

MOSCOW: Russia has ramped up its rhetoric against the West, blaming the United States for Ukraine’s alleged use of US-supplied weapons against civilians on its soil and accusing France of fuelling tensions across Europe. Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that the US’s decision last week to greenlight Ukraine’s firing of US-supplied weapons into Russia amounted to “a confession ... for the murder of children and women in the Belgorod region”.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken confirmed on May 31 that President Joe Biden had agreed for the first time to let Ukraine use the weapons so it could defend its north-eastern Kharkiv region, which lies adjacent to Belgorod. The US still bars Ukraine from firing US-made weapons deeper into Russia. In her comments, Zakharova said the alleged strikes had taken place last week in the Belgorod region.

“Fragments of HIMARS [rockets] will serve as direct proof,” she told reporters, without presenting images of any rocket fragments or saying how many people had been killed in the alleged incident. Her claims could not be independently verified, while Ukraine and the US have yet to comment.

Separately, the state RIA Novosti news agency reported that Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov accused French President Emmanuel Macron of stoking tensions across Europe after promising to transfer Mirage fighter jets to Ukraine and help train Ukrainian pilots. “Macron demonstrates absolute support for the Kyiv regime and declares readiness for France’s direct participation in the military conflict,” Peskov was quoted as saying on the sidelines of the Saint

Petersburg International Economic Forum. “We consider these statements to be very, very provocative, inflaming tensions on the continent and not conducive to anything positive.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned in recent weeks that the West risks a global conflict if it wades deeper into the Ukraine war. In remarks to foreign editors, he hinted at the possibility of heightened tensions – and even “asymmetrical” military steps – if Western countries like Germany and the US were to supply Ukraine with weapons used on Russian soil. He explained that the use of certain weapons, including the use of advanced missile technology, would be tantamount to participation in Russia’s war with Ukraine. “That would mark their direct involvement in the war against the Russian Federation, and we reserve the right to act the same way,” he said.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked France for its support and said he hoped to see French jets in Ukrainian skies soon, following Macron’s pledge. Speaking at the French Parliament, after attending D-Day commemorations in the country the previous day, Zelenskyy said Europe was a continent at war and warned that Russian aggression could spill over the borders of his country.

“We live in a time when Europe is no longer a continent of peace, unfortunately,” Zelenskyy said in an address to French lawmakers. “Again, Europe’s cities are being destroyed and villages are burned,” he said of Russia’s bombing of Ukraine. “This is against Ukraine now. But this can be aimed at other countries tomorrow, and we already see clearly the direction of the

aggression – the Baltic countries, Poland, the Balkans,” he added.

Even Europe was not enough, Zelenskyy alleged, pointing to Russian military actions in Syria and Moscow’s growing footprint in the Sahel region of Africa. The Ukrainian president said the world was too “afraid” to forcefully respond to Putin and that he hoped a summit hosted by Switzerland this month on bringing peace to Ukraine could hasten a fair end to the conflict.

His comments came as fighting continued in the war that began in February 2022, when Russia launched a full-scale invasion of neighbouring Ukraine. The Ukrainian Air Force said on Telegram that Moscow’s forces had fired 53 combat drones and five cruise missiles at Ukraine, saying that air defences shot down all but five drones. Ukrainian officials also said drone attacks overnight caused damage in Kyiv, causing a fire in an industrial plant near the capital. The city of Odesa and other parts of Ukraine were also hit.

In Russia, Belgorod Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said a woman had been killed in a Ukrainian drone attack, which hit a car she was travelling in with her parents. And in the Russian-controlled eastern Ukrainian city of Luhansk, the Russian Defence Ministry accused Ukrainian forces of firing five US-supplied ATACMS missiles in an attack it said had wounded 20 people, including children. The ministry said in a statement that four of the five missiles had been shot down by air defence systems, but that one of the missiles had damaged two residential apartment blocks, something it alleged was deliberate. There was no immediate comment from Ukraine about the alleged attacks. — Aljazeera

Slovaks and others go to polls in EU elections

PRAGUE (AP): Voters in Slovakia, Italy and other European Union nations are casting their ballots Saturday on the third day of elections for the European Parliament, with populist and far-right parties looking to make gains across the 27-member bloc.

In Slovakia, the election was overshadowed by an attempt to assassinate populist Prime Minister Robert Fico on May 15, sending shockwaves through the nation of 5.4 million and reverberating throughout Europe. Analysts say the attack could boost the chances of the premier’s left-list Smer (Direction) party, the senior partner in the governing coalition, to win the vote. 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 in the town of Handlova.

He recovered in time to address the nation in a pre-recorded video, his first public statement since the attack, just hours before the start of

the preelection silence period. Although Fico didn’t talk directly about the vote, he attacked the European Union, suggesting he was a victim because of his views that differ sharply from the European mainstream.

Fico strongly opposes support for Ukraine in its war against Russia’s full-scale invasion. He ended Slovakia’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. Mainstream media, non-governmental organizations and the liberal opposition were also to blame for the assassination attempt, according to Fico, an allegation repeated by politicians in his governing coalition.

Sona Szomolányi, a political science professor at Comenius University in Bratislava, said the timing of Fico’s message was “no coincidence.” “It only confirms that the ruling coalition has been using the assassination (attempt) expeditiously and apparently effectively,”

Szomolányi said. As a result, “a mobilization of the supporters of Smer (at the election) can be expected,” she said.

After voting in a hospital in Bratislava on Saturday, Fico said on his Facebook this election is important because “it is necessary to vote for MEPs who will support peace initiatives and not the continuation of war.” In Italy, citizens aged 18 and above are casting ballots over two days to fill 76 European parliamentary seats, starting Saturday.

Premier Giorgia Meloni is expected to be the big winner, reflecting her far-right Brothers of Italy’s growth, mostly at the expense of her coalition partners, the populist, anti-migrant League and the center-right Forza Italia. While the vote is not expected to affect the balance in the governing coalition, the result could expand Meloni’s influence in the European Union, as European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has not ruled out a coalition with her group.

US re-establishes Gaza aid pier damaged in bad weather

WASHINGTON: The United States military has announced it has reinstated a temporary aid pier in Gaza that had been damaged in bad weather, saying humanitarian assistance will flow through the floating dock in the “coming days”. The US military’s Central Command (CENTCOM) said that the pier will enable the delivery of “much-needed humanitarian aid” to Gaza.

The Palestinian territory has been brought to the verge of famine due to a suffocating blockade by Israel, a top US ally that receives billions of dollars in aid from Washington every year. “In coming days, CENTCOM will facilitate the movement of vital food and other emergency supplies, in support

of the US Agency for International Development,” the US military said in a social media post.

Aid groups have long warned that the US pier is an ineffective way to deliver aid and cannot be a substitute for opening land routes, which had been blocked or severely restricted by Israel. Late in May, 20 aid organisations, including Amnesty International and Doctors Without Borders, called the US-installed dock part of “cosmetic changes” that fail to address the crisis adequately.

“As Israeli attacks intensify on Rafah, the unpredictable trickle of aid into Gaza has created a mirage of improved access while the humanitarian response

is in reality on the verge of collapse,” the groups said in a statement. “The ability of aid groups and medical teams to respond has now all but crumbled, with temporary fixes such as a ‘floating dock’ and new crossing points having little impact.” To critics, the \$230m pier has come to symbolise the failures and contradictions of US policy in Gaza.

The administration of President Joe Biden denies that Israel is blocking aid to Gaza while regularly urging the US ally to allow more assistance into the territory. The US also provides Israel with billions of dollars in military aid, including heavy bombs and artillery shells that Biden has admitted have killed Palestinian civilians. — Aljazeera

Failed ‘coup plotters’ go on trial in DR Congo

D R CONGO (BBC): The trial of 51 individuals, including three Americans, accused of attempting to overthrow the president of the Democratic Republic of Congo last month, has begun. The hearing is being broadcast live on national TV and radio from N’dolo military prison in the capital, Kinshasa.

The defendants were ushered into the military court wearing blue-and-yellow shirts, marking their first appearance in public since the failed coup. Arrested during attacks on the presidential palace and the home of an ally of President Félix Tshisekedi, they face multiple charges, including financing terrorism, murder and attempted assassination.

They have not yet been asked to

plead in the case, which is being held under a marquee in the grounds of the jail. The US State Department says it has not been given access to its citizens in custody. Six people were killed during the attempted coup on 19 May, including the suspected leader of the plot Christian Malanga.

The rest of the defendants were detained after the attack on the Palais de la Nation and the home of Vital Kamerhe, who is the parliamentary speaker. Local media reports said the assailants were members of the New Zaïre Movement linked to Malanga, a formerly exiled DR Congo politician who had acquired US citizenship.

His son Marcel Malanga is among the US nationals who were

arrested. Another is 21-year-old Tyler Thompson, whose family told the BBC this week they had “zero idea” how he had become entangled in the plan. Videos taken in Kinshasa after the incident show Mr Thompson being hit with the butt of a rifle and repeatedly struck in the head by Congolese security forces.

Other individuals of different nationalities were also involved and are on trial, according to army spokesman General Sylvain Ekege. One is a Congolese man who holds Belgian nationality and there is also a Canadian citizen originally from DR Congo. According to the AFP news agency, there is also an investigation into the conduct of the soldiers who foiled the

coup for allegedly committing executions after the operation.

President Tshisekedi was re-elected for a second term in disputed elections last year in December. He won about 78% of the vote. Nearly 20 people were killed in election-related violence in the run-up to the vote. DR Congo is a country with vast mineral wealth and a huge population, but despite this, life has not improved for most people, with conflict, corruption and poor governance persisting. Much of the country’s natural resources lie in the east where violence still rages despite Mr Tshisekedi’s attempts to deal with the situation by imposing a state of siege, cease-fire deals and bringing in regional troops.

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Visit lays firm foundation for CPEC

THE large business delegation Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has brought with him on his five-day visit to China, that started on Tuesday, indicates deepening pragmatic economic cooperation is a key part of the agenda for his second visit to China since he took office in March. Apart from Beijing, where the Pakistani prime minister and the Chinese leadership will burnish the traditional friendship between the two countries, Shehbaz and the business delegation he leads will also visit Xi'an and Shenzhen, regional growth engines in Northeast and South China, respectively, with the aim of exploring new opportunities for cooperation.

High inflation and unemployment have exerted considerable downward pressure on Pakistan's economy. That's an important reason why the Shehbaz government attaches tremendous significance to upgrading the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The CPEC is a flagship program of the Belt and Road Initiative that has stimulated Pakistan's economic growth and brought tangible benefits to local people since it was launched in 2015. Reportedly, the two sides are looking to raise the CPEC to a higher level by promoting industry, energy, technology, innovation, green transition and opening-up of the Pakistani market to provide sustainable impetus for the country's socioeconomic development over the next decade.

Both sides have expressed the hope that Shehbaz's visit will help lay a solid foundation for the second phase of the program, which is expected to yield further economic benefits for the two countries, by building on the achievements of the first phase. During that process, the two sides should encourage more Pakistani companies to cooperate with Chinese enterprises, and more Chinese businesses to invest in the South Asian country.

That the Pakistani business delegation consists of representatives of 79 enterprises in industry, agriculture, mining, energy and information technology shows the fields in which Pakistan is seeking to strengthen its cooperation with China. And aerospace, science and technology, education and cultural and people-to-people exchanges are reportedly other sectors in which the Shehbaz government would like to tap the potential for expanded cooperation.

To facilitate the broadening and deepening of cooperation, Pakistan should formulate more reasonable pro-investment policies and implement related reforms to substantially improve the country's business environment so as to attract more Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan. Meanwhile, as urged by Beijing, Islamabad should take more concrete actions to ensure the safety of Chinese people living and working in Pakistan.

How to further strengthen bilateral anti-terrorist cooperation has likely been a focus of Shehbaz's meeting in Beijing. Shortly before Shehbaz's China visit, eleven militants were put in custody. They were accused of being involved in carrying out a deadly suicide attack at Dasu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, on March 26 that killed five Chinese engineers, along with their Pakistani driver. It is expected that the Pakistani military will step up its crackdown on militants in the coming months in a bid to show its resolve to address the safety concerns of the Chinese people working and living in Pakistan.

China is also willing to strengthen cooperation with Pakistan within the framework of the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to strengthen counterterrorism cooperation, promote regional unity and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries. It is to be hoped that under the leadership of the Shehbaz government, Pakistan will enter a new stage of political unity, social stability, controllable security and sustainable development. Shehbaz's visit shows that China and Pakistan will continue to support each other, and work hand in hand to push the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to a new level.

Taiwan-US Defense Industry Forum

THE so-called Taiwan-US Defense Industry Forum, being held on Thursday, is positioned as being unofficial. Ostensibly, it is organized by the Taipei-based "Taiwan Defense Industry Development Association" and the so-called US-Taiwan Business Council. While the members of the US delegation participating in the forum are supposedly all representatives of 27 US defense contractors, accompanied by a retired US Marine Corps officer. But even taking that at face value, the intent and security consequences are such that it cannot be viewed as business as usual for the US arms merchants.

It might be tempting to those unwilling to face squarely the intent to view the forum as merely a continuation of what was already in place under the preceding Tsai Ing-wen authorities of the same ruling Democratic Progressive Party on the Chinese island — an impression reinforced by the participating US defense contractors being basically the same group that had presented themselves at last year's event, along with Steven Rudder, the commanding general of the US Marine Corps Pacific until September 2022.

At the just-concluded Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, China's Defense Minister Dong Jun made it clear, beyond any room for misunderstanding, that Beijing could not, and will not tolerate the island edging toward independence. His words may have sounded harsh or hyperbolic to some ears. But they reflect Beijing's resolve to not let the Lai authorities push the envelope on the island's status with the increasingly overt support from "external forces".

Beijing has already clearly established its "redline" on the Taiwan question. Unfortunately, the US administration seems intent on skirting around it, claiming that it still honors the commitments the US has made to not act in a way that would cross that redline. Yet it requires a tremendous stretch of the imagination to believe that the defense forum qualifies as "unofficial" or upholds the one-China principle in its true form. As a result of the pernicious collusion of Taipei and Washington, Beijing has had to reiterate in no uncertain terms that it cannot renounce the use of force in the face of the threat to China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

US President Joe Biden made clear the provocative intentions of his administration's encouragement of the separatists on the island in an interview with Time on Tuesday, in which he said he does not rule out the possibility of US military intervention in the event of a cross-strait conflict. But no pressure or threat can shake the Chinese government and people's strong determination, firm will and strong ability to defend the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said. The dangerous potential of the incremental approach Washington and Taipei seem to have embraced lies precisely in such seemingly innocuous moves as Thursday's defense forum.

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China to uplift CPEC...



International assistance to Afghanistan needs to adapt to the 'new normal'

Alexander Matheou

TRUCKS painted bright blue, yellow, and purple dot the arid emptiness of Spin Boldak in southern Afghanistan. Their roofs are laden with the entire possessions of families who have returned from Pakistan after decades of displacement. Hundreds of thousands have preceded them in recent months following a ruling that undocumented migrants must leave or face deportation. Most have never been to Afghanistan before. They must build new lives from scratch.

Many are so poor that they don't know where their next meal is coming from. They certainly don't have the capital needed to start a livelihood. When they arrive in Spin Boldak, they receive medical care, some food, and a little cash from humanitarian agencies. They are grateful, but when I ask them what they want, they all underline the same thing — jobs, start-up capital — a chance to survive economically.

Very few will get such help. Not because humanitarian agencies don't want to support them but because international aid in Afghanistan is still largely geared towards survival, not resilience. This is true for returnees from Pakistan and for responses to floods and earthquakes. As a result, there is a growing divergence between donor strategies and the expressed needs of Afghans facing climate and poverty-related exclusion and displacement risks.

That there is divergence is not surprising. Many of the major donors of international aid are from Europe and the United States. Memories of conflict are still fresh. On top of that, clashes in values with Taliban authorities, particularly regarding access to work and education for women and girls, make tension inevitable and necessary.

What is disappointing though is that the framing of much international assistance remains essentially negative, the emphasis being on not helping the Taliban. Whereas, what is needed is a people-first, positive framing that asks what institutions, struc-

tures, skills, and attitudes are most likely to contribute to sustained wellbeing and peace in Afghanistan, given the specificity of the context. Some will protest that such a framing is impossible while half the population is excluded from education and the workforce. There are two main flaws to this argument.

Heavy rains and flooding have killed dozens of people in both southern and northern provinces of Afghanistan over recent weeks. Cattle, agricultural land, trees, and bridges have been destroyed, pushing thousands of some of the world's poorest people into destitution. Relief aid is needed, but so are check dams and early warning systems. Yet such development support that may provide sustainable protection remains unacceptable to many donors who see it as somehow aiding the de facto authorities. Such policies are helping no one. Fourth, it would focus on all possible learning opportunities. There is rightly indignation at the lack of secondary education for girls, but we should not give up on learning altogether. Every feasible opportunity for alternative education, vocational education, skills development, and learning should be supported for both men and women.

The first is that it is not entirely true. While restrictions on women are unacceptable and severe, there are exceptions and workarounds that can support women, and these are opportunities to help. The second is that restricting aid hurts everybody, including women and girls, who, as well as aspiring for themselves, also want their fathers, brothers, and husbands to have an income and an education. In other words, everybody loses from non-engagement, including those the nonengagement is intended to support.

What would a more positive framing consist of in practice? For a start, it would consider the institutional capacity in Afghanistan to provide social protection and

opportunities for its citizens rather than focusing on parallel, international structures. For the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, this means supporting the country's leading national, humanitarian institution — the Afghan Red Crescent. But there are plenty of other institutions critical to the well-functioning of the

have been destroyed, pushing thousands of some of the world's poorest people into destitution.

Relief aid is needed, but so are check dams and early warning systems. Yet such development support that may provide sustainable protection remains unacceptable to many donors who see it as somehow aiding the de facto authorities. Such policies are helping no one.

Fourth, it would focus on all possible learning opportunities. There is rightly indignation at the lack of secondary education for girls, but we should not give up on learning altogether. Every feasible opportunity for alternative education, vocational education, skills development, and learning should be supported for both men and women. Of all the crises Afghanistan is experiencing, the least visible and most severe may well be a mental health crisis rooted in trauma from the past and a lack of hope in the future. Relief aid is a weak strategy to address that. Supporting self-development is a strong one.

Finally, even a new framing must distinguish between engagement and endorsement. There are many good reasons why endorsement is problematic, but engagement to enable the right sort of investment that works in the best interests of the people of Afghanistan is critical.

After August 2021, many donor countries didn't know how to respond to the shock of the change in leadership in Afghanistan. To their credit, some continued to respond to humanitarian imperatives even if they did hold back any development financing and engagement. As we approach the third anniversary of the Taliban's return to power, and begin to witness a relatively stable "new normal" under the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan leadership, it is time for more donors to move from a reactive strategy to a proactive one. One that aims, as much as possible and despite daunting challenges, to lay foundations not just for bare survival, but for wellbeing and hope.

Luke Coffey

Russia has made minor territorial gains in the direction of the city, but no major breakthrough has happened. While Russia might not be able to capture Kharkiv, the goal will be to advance close enough to the city to place it within the range of its artillery. This would make Kharkiv uninhabitable for the locals living there and spark another wave of refugees.

However, it seems that Ukraine's recent territorial losses served as a wake-up call for the White House. After months of saying no, the White House U-turned and finally agreed that targets near Kharkiv inside the Russian Federation could be hit using American-made weapons. While this is a welcome development, it is a continuation of President Joe Biden's dangerous "too little, too late" approach when it comes to supporting Ukraine.

Russia-China axis growing in importance for Türkiye

Sinem Cengiz

OVER the past decade, as disagreements with the US over security in the Middle East, especially in Syria, have intensified, coupled with frustrations regarding its EU membership process and criticisms of the Western order, Türkiye has gradually leaned toward closer ties with non-Western powers, particularly Russia and China. Although Beijing does not have the same significance as Moscow in Turkish foreign policy, the Turkish government has recently been busy cultivating closer ties with its Chinese counterpart.

Last week, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan made an official visit to China, where he spoke of his country's pursuit of new opportunities for cooperation with different partners in platforms like BRICS. He added that he would attend the China-led BRICS foreign ministers meeting in Russia on June 10-11. His statement from Beijing received a positive response from Moscow, where a Kremlin spokesperson stated that Türkiye's interest in the economic bloc would be on the agenda at next week's summit.

BRICS is a bloc of emerging economies that is made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. It recently admitted Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE as full members. This is not the first time that Ankara has expressed a desire to formally join BRICS. Now, however, the timing is significant. Fidan's visit and his statement came after China had raised its voice about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Beijing, which had previously kept a relatively low profile in relation to the conflict, unlike its major rival the US, last week called for a Middle East peace conference.

Fidan, who has been busy with a diplomatic blitz on Gaza in cooperation with counterparts from the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, said he would work with China for a ceasefire in Gaza. Fidan also said that, during his visit, he extended President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's invitation for Xi Jinping to visit Türkiye this year.

As a NATO member, Türkiye has come under fire from its Western allies in recent years over its ties with Russia and China. Ankara has rejected the claim that its "axis" is shifting away from the Western military alliance, saying that it remains a committed member of NATO and maintains its goal of full membership of the EU. However, the scale at which Türkiye is developing its relations with non-Western powers — in the political, economic and security dimensions — has been a concern for Western states, particularly since the outbreak of the Ukraine-Russia war.

This month, Türkiye reiterated its support for the continuation of aid to Ukraine and for its efforts to secure its sovereignty, but it warned that it would refuse to support any NATO involvement in the war against Russia. Russia had already become a significant player for Türkiye in the initial post-Cold War period. However, Türkiye was firmly aligned with the Western alliance at that time. Ankara's foreign policy stance underwent a noticeable change after both the

EU and the US showed disregard for Türkiye's political and security concerns. Frustrations with the Western powers have evolved into a tangled dilemma, which Erdogan has leveraged for Türkiye's benefit.

For Ankara, the dual aspects of its foreign policy — the NATO alliance/EU membership and involvement with organizations that oppose the West — are not conflicting but complementary. They are integral components of the country's foreign policy, which seeks strategic autonomy and flexibility, while aiming to revive Türkiye's historical significance as a global power bridging East and West.

For instance, Erdogan's September 2022 statement on the possibility that Türkiye might join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a defense bloc led by China, can be read within this broader context. A few days after this statement, Erdogan delivered a speech to the UN General Assembly arguing that Türkiye is a core part of NATO and Euro-Atlantic security. Therefore, Türkiye under Erdogan's leadership tries to balance between two blocs by leveraging its status. Fidan's statement on his China visit also echoed Erdogan's strategy. "While we have a customs union with the EU, we also explore new opportunities for cooperation with several partners in different platforms, such as BRICS," he said.

This statement about being part of BRICS is significant and it goes beyond a mere desire. Türkiye joining BRICS would provide new opportunities for trade and investment. It would also be part of the multipolar interdependency that means states today want to diversify their diplomatic and economic partnerships. Besides the economic reasons, which are the key motivator for membership, being part of BRICS would also assert Türkiye's status on the international stage and enhance its bargaining power vis-à-vis the Western powers.

There is already energy cooperation between Türkiye, Russia and China over major projects like the TurkStream pipeline and the Belt and Road Initiative. A week before Fidan's visit, Turkish Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar was in China for talks involving a third nuclear power plant that Türkiye has been planning to build in the country's northwest region. Bayraktar subsequently said that the two countries were close to a deal on the plant. Türkiye also seeks closer cooperation with Moscow and Beijing over regional issues, such as the Syrian conflict and tensions in the South Caucasus.

Needless to say, the shrinking of the US' position in the region has created an opportunity for Russia and China to strengthen their relations with Middle Eastern countries in several aspects, even if it cannot totally fill the American void. Beijing and Moscow provide both Türkiye and other regional states with an opportunity to lessen their dependence on the US as the only heavyweight in the region, while also developing a multifaceted relationship with them. They use platforms such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization effectively, bringing regional states closer to them and further from the US.

Time for US to end the delays on arming Kyiv

IN the early weeks of this year, the first reports began to surface about a Russian troop buildup in the Belgorod Oblast, located just across the border from Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv. But thanks to the Biden administration, the Ukrainians could do nothing about it but watch and wait.

Kharkiv's proximity to the Russian border meant that it was one of the cities Moscow had hoped to capture quickly in the opening days of the war in February 2022. A stiff defense of the city by Ukrainians stopped the Russians. Therefore, it is not surprising that Russia had set its sights on Kharkiv once again. With the availability of commercial satellite imagery, the Russian military buildup just across the border from Kharkiv was no secret. For months, it was common knowledge that the Ukrainians had requested permission to use American-

provided weapons to strike the Russian military buildup before it had a chance to attack across the border.

The White House denied each request out of a fear that Ukraine using American weapons to strike inside Russia would be too escalatory. This was a curious argument for it to make considering that Russia uses Iranian and North Korean weapons to hit targets inside Ukraine. These restrictions by the Biden administration placed the Ukrainians in a deadly and difficult situation. The restrictions allowed Russia to build up forces in proximity to the Ukrainian border without the threat of American-provided long-range rockets or artillery being used against them. It does not take a military strategist to see how this was a problem for Kyiv.

After months of building up its forces, Russia commenced its much-anticipated military operation against Kharkiv last month. So far,

Whether it was Ukraine's requests for advanced artillery systems, long-range missiles, drones, tanks or infantry fighting vehicles, the White House would almost always first say no to Kyiv, only to later say yes after the pressure mounted. But by then, it was often too late. For example, from the beginning of Russia's invasion, Ukraine was asking for advanced air defense capabilities, like the Patriot missile system, to protect major population centers such as Kyiv and Odesa. Repeatedly, the White House said no. It was not until Russia ramped up its air strikes in October 2022, targeting Ukraine's electrical grid, that the US finally agreed to provide Kyiv with the Patriots.

Perhaps the most consequential White House delay was over the delivery of the Army Tactical Missile System to Ukraine. These ballistic missiles, with a

range between 165 km and 300 km, could allow Ukraine to hit Russian targets far from the front lines. This capability is desperately needed. The Ukrainians have been begging for these missiles since 2022. Even Ukraine's supporters in Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, have called on the White House to provide them. Only recently has Ukraine started to receive them in meaningful numbers.

In one single attack that lasted only a few minutes, the Ukrainians destroyed about 24 helicopters, including a significant number of Ka-52s. In fact, one estimate claims that 11 percent of Russia's total Ka-52 helicopter fleet was destroyed or damaged in that single attack. Had the missiles been provided to Ukraine in the spring, before their counteroffensive began, the outcomes last summer would likely have been different. Again, this was too little, too late from the Biden administration.

Decisions taken in the Oval Office have a significant impact thousands of kilometers away on Ukraine's front lines. Had the US granted Ukraine permission to strike the Russian military buildup in Belgorod, Moscow's attempt to take Kharkiv would have been seriously hampered before troops even crossed the border. Had the US provided Patriots and other missiles earlier than it did, it is possible that the war could now be on a different trajectory. According to a famous phrase, "you can always count on Americans to do the right thing, after they have tried everything else." There is no greater example of this than with the White House's current approach to Ukraine. It is time for the US to give Ukraine what it needs, when it needs it. President Biden needs to end the delays and understand that arming Ukraine to win, and not just to survive, is the fastest way to bring this war to an end.

Spivak, politics of pronunciation, and the search for a just democracy

Ilan Kapoor

GAYATRI Chakravorty Spivak, the noted post-colonial scholar and global public intellectual, is perhaps best known for her piece, “Can the subaltern speak?,” in which she claims that elite systems of knowledge filter out subaltern (marginalised group) voices so that even when the subaltern does speak, it’s not heard. Now, Spivak’s admonition of a young scholar for mispronouncing African-American sociologist WEB Du Bois’s name at a lecture she recently gave at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi has caused a brouhaha for allegedly silencing the very subaltern voice she claims to valorise. But it’s more complicated than that.

Spivak’s May 21 lecture on Du Bois’s “vision of democracy” was aimed at underlining the norms required for a more just democracy, one that prioritises not individual interests (“my rights”) but the rights of “other people”, especially those of the subaltern. When he was writing, Du Bois had in mind the downtrodden and racialised Blacks of the early 1900s in the United States, but Spivak’s implication was that his concerns might reasonably be extended to all marginalised people today (ie, the poor, gender and sexual minorities, Dalits, the disabled, Palestinians, etc).

Given Du Bois’s own status as a marginalised Black-American scholar of Haitian origins, Spivak’s lecture repeatedly returned to the importance of correctly pronouncing his name: Du Bois himself insisted on the English, not French, pronunciation – “dew-boys”, not “dew-bwah”. But in the Q&A that followed Spivak’s lecture – a video of which has gone viral – things went sour. A graduate student, Anshul Kumar, tried to ask Spivak a question about her own privileged status in talking about the subaltern. But he was unable to complete his question because Spivak repeatedly interrupted him, first asking him who he was (to which he responded, “I am found-

ing professor of the Centre for Brahmin Studies”), and then correcting him three times on his insistent mispronunciation of Du Bois’s name, reproaching that he should know better as someone doing Brahmin studies.

Things further deteriorated when Kumar audaciously accused Spivak of herself being a Brahmin (something she refuted) and then asking: “If this triviality is over, can I move on to the question?”

The incident may seem like a storm in a teacup, but I think it has important broader social and political implications. At one level, it appears as an illustration of the long-held practice of the “politics of pronunciation”, under which social elites assert their dominance over lower classes through language (“correct” diction, “polite” address, “proper” accent). But the twist in this case is that Spivak’s politics of pronunciation at the lecture is aimed at validating, not elite power, but subaltern voice – Du Bois’s explicit desire to be recognised as a Black Haitian-American. Whether deliberately or mistakenly, Kumar fails to appreciate this key point, since it would align well politically with his pro-subaltern and anti-Brahmanical stand.

Spivak responded with, “I’m an 82-year-old woman in public at your institution, and you are rude to me.” At the chair’s beckoning, Spivak then proceeded to take another audience member’s question without answering Kumar’s.

An internet firestorm erupted in the wake of this incident, with people either taking the student’s side for being bullied and silenced or Spivak’s for insisting on the pedagogical and political need for correct pronunciation. Kumar took to X to vent his anger against Spivak, even resorting to (inexcusably) misogynist insults, writing “This B*****d and B***h Lady had the audacity to interrupt me thrice on my pronunciation of Du Bois. Can the Subaltern Speak?”

Then, in the light of the news that Kumar is a Dalit, Spivak felt the need to defend herself, declaring that “Anshul Kumar had an identified himself as a Dalit [at the lecture]. Therefore, I thought he was a Brahminist, since he was

saying that he was the founder of a Brahmin Studies Institute ... As an old female teacher confronting a male student ... my wounded remark that I did not want to hear his question was a gesture of protest.”

The incident may seem like a storm in a teacup, but I think it has important broader social and political implications. At one level, it appears as an illustration of the long-held practice of the “politics of pronunciation”, under which social elites assert their dominance over lower classes through language (“correct” diction, “polite” address, “proper” accent). But the twist in this case is that Spivak’s politics of pronunciation at the lecture is aimed at validating, not elite power, but subaltern voice – Du Bois’s explicit desire to be recognised as a Black Haitian-American. Whether deliberately or mistakenly, Kumar fails to appreciate this key point, since it would align well politically with his pro-subaltern and anti-Brahmanical stand.

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Yet while Spivak may come out looking good at the level of the explicit political content of her message, we cannot forget the implicit power dynamics at play here. As a prominent and influential intellectual whose work (and word) is the centre of attention at this event, she is positioned as an authority figure, taking full advantage of it in her attempt to admonish the younger scholar, Kumar. At

this implicit level, Spivak has hoisted with her own petard, falling prey to the very dangers of the “dialogue of the deaf” that she has warned against: elites ignoring and muting the subaltern’s voice.

True, it may be debatable whether Kumar is the subaltern he claims to be: While he is a Dalit, he is also a graduate student at a prestigious, elite Indian university that is JNU, a position reserved for the very few. Spivak says as much in a recent interview: “Subaltern and Dalit are not interchangeable words. The upwardly class-mobile Dalit person – and the academy is an instrument of upward class-mobility – should certainly use his/her new privilege to work for the entire Dalit community, especially the subaltern Dalits, who do not get into elite universities.”

Nonetheless, Kumar still occupied a subordinate position at the lecture. And given Spivak’s pro-subaltern politics, her rich experience as a university professor and trainer of elementary teachers (she has run schools for Indigenous or adivasi children in Bangladesh and India for some 40 years), was it not incumbent on her to engage her audience with a certain respect and humility? Could she not have politely corrected the student’s pronunciation and still engaged with the content of his question? This is all the more true under the circumstances: She had just completed a talk on Du Bois about how to be critically democratic, to ethically open up to the other, no matter their identity or position (why should Kumar have had to identify as a Dalit for Spivak to listen to him?).

In fact, to be true to such a Du Boisian democratic norm, the very fact that the (implicitly) subordinate audience member was trying to challenge her (through his mispronunciation, his question) needs to be seen as a boon, not a barrier. It should be seen as revealing of a refusal from below, an anti-authoritarian ethic – the very ethic that requires encouragement and support if we are to work towards a just democracy today.

To normalize or not to normalize with Israel?

THE question of the normalization of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel has been headline news since President Joe Biden visited the Kingdom in July 2022. The main purpose of this visit was to convince Riyadh to increase its oil production to lower global oil prices following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February of that year. However, the OPEC+ group, which is led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, decreased oil production by 2 million barrels following his visit in order to stabilize prices.

In response, the Biden administration shifted to a new strategy, reportedly offering the Kingdom a NATO-like defense pact and a civilian nuclear plant in exchange for Riyadh limiting its cooperation with China and Russia and normalizing its relations with Israel. The Biden administration believes that the US Congress would not agree to a pact with the Kingdom that includes security commitments, the transferring of high-tech military equipment and giving the Kingdom a nuclear plant capable of enriching uranium unless it included the normalization component.

This background is important, as it provides context and the origin of the idea of Saudi normalization with Israel. Understanding the difficulties of making peace with an extremist government in Israel, whose concern is to appropriate and annex Palestinian lands, the Kingdom did not initially seek normalization with Israel. However, it was offered as part of a wider pact with the US, which the Kingdom did not reject, provided that Israel was willing to end its occupation of Palestinian land and accept the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Historically, Saudi Arabia has never rejected the idea of normalizing relations with Israel. The Kingdom supported the Palestinians when they joined the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991 and when they signed the Oslo Accords. When the Second Intifada erupted following the failure of the 2000 Camp David Summit, it was the Kingdom that proposed the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative. This stated that 57 Arab and Muslim countries were willing to normalize relations with Israel should the latter agree to withdraw from the Palestinian and Arab lands it

occupied in 1967.

While the world hailed the Kingdom for its genuine proposal for peace, Israel chose to ignore it and instead erected a separation wall in the West Bank, appropriating almost 10 percent of Palestinian lands, and unilaterally disengaged from Gaza. In other words, it was Israel that turned its back on the Arab and Muslim countries’ offer of normalization.

That being stated, for the last 18 months, since the US started negotiations with the Kingdom about a defense pact that includes normalization with Israel, the Biden administration’s problem was not with the Kingdom. Rather, it was with the Israeli government, which has refused to accept the principles of a two-state solution and land for peace. Israel wants economic peace alone, thus avoiding the essential issues underlying the conflict with the Palestinians.

The Israelis are not willing to commit themselves to ceasing the expansion of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem or to establish a definitive time-frame for resolving the various aspects of the conflict, as outlined by UN Security Council resolutions and international law. One Israeli official explicitly stated: “The Americans are not doing Israel a favor; Israel will do them a favor if they reach an agreement with Saudi Arabia because it will try to enhance the chances of Republicans voting in favor of it.” The official added: “We have nothing to give the Palestinians ... we will not freeze the settlements, not even for one second.”

In other words, Israel is torpedoing US efforts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as part of a broader agreement between the Kingdom and the US, confirming Biden’s conclusion that the current Israeli government is “one of the most extreme” he has ever seen.

Then came the events of Oct. 7, 2023, which reinforced the Kingdom’s view that normalization with Israel should be a consequence of the end of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, not a precursor to it. This position has been expressed repeatedly by Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, who stated in February, following a meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, that: “The Kingdom has communicated its firm position to the US administration that there

will be no diplomatic relations with Israel unless an independent Palestinian state is recognized on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.”

This position was reiterated at the joint Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh last November, when the region’s leaders called for the launch of “a genuine and serious political process to achieve permanent and comprehensive peace, in accordance with the recognized international references.” And at the Arab League Summit in Bahrain this month, member states expressed their support for the Palestinian Authority’s call to “take irreversible steps to implement the two-state solution in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and the resolutions of international legitimacy.”

Martin Indyk, a former US ambassador to Israel, last week expressed dismay that the Israeli government had “rejected a full-fledged offer of peace from Saudi Arabia,” which he viewed as a significant development considering Saudi Arabia’s position as “the leader of the Arab and Muslim worlds.” He added in a post on X: “Wake up Israel! Your government is leading you into ever greater isolation and ruin.”

Indyk is right. He should add that Israel has become a moral and security burden for the US and its Western allies. It has lost its deterrence; after more than seven months of its war on Gaza, it is unable to declare victory. It is incapable of protecting its northern borders and it needed the US, the UK and France for protection last month during its first direct confrontation with Iran. Israel has been accused of carrying out a genocide and the International Criminal Court will most likely issue arrest warrants for its leaders on charges of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity. On the other hand, the Palestinians are gaining the hearts and minds of people worldwide and more countries are recognizing their right to an independent state. Israel is no longer in a position to turn its back on the Kingdom’s call for genuine peace based on the principles laid out in the 2002 Arab Peace initiative. Yet, the extremist government that rules Israel is still refusing to acknowledge the new realities that make it impossible to achieve peace during the first term of the Biden administration.

Arab News

Japan is the ‘destroyer of peace and stability’

Wang Xu

THE Chinese Coast Guard carried out rights protection patrols in the territorial waters of the Diaoyu Islands, on June 7, in order to safeguard national sovereignty, security and maritime rights and interests in accordance with the law. However, the Japanese side once again hyped it up.

Since the second decade of the 21st century, Japan has continuously changed the status quo of the Diaoyu Islands and created tensions in the East China Sea. China, in line with its responsibility as a major country, has continuously worked to maintain regional and maritime peace and stability. Japan’s unreasonable hype will not help control and resolve disputes. Instead, its efforts will only backfire on it, exposing the fact that Japan is the “destroyer of peace and stability.”

The Diaoyu Islands are an inherent territory of China. China was the first to discover, name, and utilize the Diaoyu Islands, and has implemented long-term jurisdiction over them. From a historical, geographical, and legal perspective, China has indisputable sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands. Japan occupied the islands as a result of the Sino-Japanese War of Jiawu (1894). According to international legal documents such as the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Declaration, the return of the Diaoyu Islands to China is undisputed. Before Okinawa was reversed to Japanese control under the Okinawa Reversion Agreement on May 15, 1972, China had already expressed opposition to including the Diaoyu Islands in the “Reversion zone”. No country has the right to question China’s sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands.

China has always exercised restraint in its maritime actions for the sake of regional peace and stability. It is Japan that is the “status

quo changer” and “destroyer of maritime peace and stability”. The older generation of Chinese and Japanese leaders reached a consensus on “setting aside disputes”, but Japan has been lying and refusing to admit that there is a dispute between China and Japan over the sovereignty and territory of the Diaoyu Islands and its affiliated islands. After the boat collision in 2010, Japan violently arrested the Chinese captain. In 2012, the Japanese government “ridiculously announced the “purchase of islands” and implemented the so-called “nationalization”. This is a serious violation of China’s territorial sovereignty and a severe trampling on historical facts and international law. China’s strengthening of patrols and safeguarding its rights on the Diaoyu Islands is aimed at countering Japan’s unilateral strengthening of actual control.

In recent years, the Japanese authorities has, from time to time, been creating trouble over the Diaoyu Islands issue, and has stepped up its involvement in the South China Sea situation, providing maritime capability assistance to the Philippines, deepening maritime operations cooperation with the United States and the Philippines, and even openly and rudely interfering in China’s internal affairs, and repeatedly making irresponsible remarks such as “if there is trouble in the Taiwan Strait, it is Japan’s trouble.” Japan’s actions have seriously violated the four-point principled consensus between China and Japan, greatly undermined the peace and stability of the East China Sea, the South China Sea, and the Taiwan Strait, and have become a source of danger in the region.

Japan’s protest against China’s patrol in the Diaoyu Islands is a typical case of the thief crying “catch thief”.

Since 2020, Japan has allowed fishing boats to go to the waters of the Diaoyu Islands and hyped it up on the internet, breaking the tacit understanding between China and Japan to stabilize the situation in the East China Sea and the Diaoyu Islands. For some years now, such fishing boats have been getting closer to the islands and even staying longer there. Once an extreme situation occurs, it will deal a great blow to regional peace and stability. At the end of April this year, five Japanese parliamentarians participated in the “investigation team” organized by the Ishigaki city government and sailed into the territorial waters of the Diaoyu Islands. Among them was Tomomi Inada, acting secretary-general of the LDP of Japan, who served as Japan’s defense minister during the Abe administration. The political connivance of the Japanese authorities with the farce at sea is evident. It is worth pointing out that every time Japanese “fishing boats” and the “investigation boat” go to the waters of the Diaoyu Islands, they are “escorted” by the Coast Guard ships, which are equipped with weapons. And the Ishigaki city government is even clamoring to “land on the islands”. It is self-evident as to which side, China or Japan, is “changing the status quo” and “escalating tensions”. China’s strengthening of patrol and law enforcement in the waters of the Diaoyu Islands in accordance with the law is conducive to maintaining regional maritime security.

China does not provoke a threat, but we are not afraid of any. China’s actions are a legitimate and reasonable response to Japan’s unilateral escalation and provocation, demonstrating its determination to resolutely counter illegal acts that infringe upon China’s sovereignty and resolutely safeguard our national territorial sovereignty.

The China Daily

Biden’s remarks on China flout basic facts

WHEN US President Joe Biden suggested recently that China’s economy is on the brink, he appeared to overlook the fact that his previous “ticking-time-bomb” characterization from August last year had fizzled, given the persistent improvement in the world’s second-largest economy.

In a recent interview with the TIME magazine, the US president conveyed his opinions on China in a sarcastic tone. He accused China of xenophobia and disparaged the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). All of these negative remarks blatantly disregard basic facts and serve as rhetoric aimed at belittling others to elevate oneself and garnering support from the voters.

Last year, China achieved an annual economic growth rate of 5.2 percent, surpassing other major economies. In the first quarter of this year, the Chinese economy grew by 5.3 percent year on year, contrasting sharply with the US annual rate of 1.3 percent during the same period. In late May, the International Monetary Fund raised its projection for China’s 2024 growth from 4.6 percent to 5 percent. With China advancing new quality productive forces and planning major reform measures, more vitality will be unleashed to sustain the economy’s high-quality growth. So, where is this supposed brink?

Xenophobia should not be used to describe contemporary China. The country’s economic success can be attributed in part to its opening-up policy over the past decades. China remains committed to broadening its global engagement, aiming for mutual development by reducing restrictions on international firms, fostering a law-based international business environment, and encouraging domestic companies to expand overseas.

China’s actions align with its words. It continues to enhance high-level openness in industry and information technology, introducing measures to eliminate restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector and piloting initiatives to further open up in value-added telecommunications services. In the January-March period, China granted over 1.98 million foreign travelers visa-free entry, up 266.1 percent year on year.

In the first four months, the tally of newly established foreign-funded companies surged by 19.2 percent year on year to reach 16,805. In late May, Tesla commenced construction on a large-scale factory in Shanghai aimed at producing its energy-storage batteries, known as Megapacks, a development lauded by the company as a significant “milestone.” In light of such trends, the question arises: If the Chinese are indeed xenophobic, how can

one account for the notable growth in foreign investors and travelers flocking to China?

As a matter of fact, it is the United States, not China, that is witnessing a surge in xenophobic sentiment. Issues deeply entrenched in exclusion and discrimination against immigrants, coupled with recent substantial tariff increases on imports of Chinese goods spanning from electric vehicles to medical equipment, serve as a testament to the escalating xenophobia, protectionism and isolationism within the United States.

In his remarks on Belt and Road cooperation, Biden dismissed it as a “nuisance graveyard initiative.” The BRI, pioneered by China, has spurred the development of ports, railways and industrial parks across partner nations, catalyzing substantial enhancements in local infrastructure and the generation of hundreds of thousands of employment opportunities. Through a plethora of flagship projects and meticulously designed people-centric programs, the initiative ushers in convenience and vitality on a global scale.

The overwhelming participation of over 150 partner countries underscores the initiative’s resonance and acclaim as a global public good. Amid this widespread acclaim, one may wonder: Where does the notion of “nuisance” emerge?

What the US president said

exposes the true mindset of the United States. It is perhaps really a nuisance to the United States in the sense that it has facilitated the independent development of other nations, thereby potentially impacting traditional US interests. In essence, the BRI boosts the ascendance of countries in the Global South, a development that the United States appears apprehensive about confronting.

Actually, the reason for the president’s intentional denigration of the BRI might be found in a congressional testimony by Daniel F. Runde, a senior vice president at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, on May 16. Admitting that the BRI is an ambitious and hopeful project that speaks to the aspirations of partner countries, Runde said the United States needs an alternative positive narrative as the BRI threatens to constrain “America’s ability to project power.”

Employing the “China card” has become a common tactic for US politicians seeking to garner votes during election cycles or divert attention from domestic issues. However, distorting facts to mislead the public and tarnish the reputation of others in international affairs is highly irresponsible, unethical and detrimental. In particular, such behavior is unbecoming of a major global power.

— Xinhua



SCCI praises SECDIV steps for curbing export of unregulated items

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fuad Ishaq praised initiatives of Strategic Export Control Division (SECDIV), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad during a visit to the chamber house, said in a statement here on Saturday.

The SCCI chief stressed the need for awareness among exporters about international rules, conditions and relevant Act to halt export of unauthorized and unregulated items/products. The SCCI Acting Secretary General Muqtasid Ahsan and Secretary Sohail Anjum and other officials

sustainable progress.

Fuad Ishaq was talking to a four member team of Strategic Export Control Division (SECDIV), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad during a visit to the chamber house, said in a statement here on Saturday.

SECDIV team consisted of Deputy Director Hafiz Wasif Mehmood, Deputy Director Zeeshan Khalid, Assistant Director Jsias Arshad, DC Customs Usman Butt.

On the occasion, the SCCI Acting Secretary General Muqtasid Ahsan and Secretary Sohail Anjum and other officials

were also present.

Members of the SECDIV team briefed the president Fuad Ishaq regarding the basic objective of the institution and said the unit's basic purpose is to control and curb unauthorized and unregulated export of those items/components, which can be directly or indirectly used in the preparation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Government of Pakistan established the division in the light of a resolution of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). An Act to this effect was promulgated in the year 2004, the participants informed.

Officials furthermore explained the role and responsibilities of the Strategic Export Control Division. The officials urged SCCI president to disseminate about SECDIV among its members, especially those who are engaged in export of those materials which are considered sensitive in this regard.

The delegation provided the list of all items that are regulated by SECDIV.

Fuad Ishaq appreciated the efforts of SECDIV and said that if exporters are aware of the conditions and regularities of this Act, they can save themselves from a lot of unnecessary hurdles and bottlenecks.

Pakistan Digital Awards 2024:

Jubilee Life bags two accolades marking sixth consecutive win



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector insurance company, secured another win at the Pakistan Digital Awards 2024. The company was honored with the prestigious awards for Best Digital Marketing Communication Videos - Jubilee Life Micro-insurance and Best Digital Campaign - HBLPSL 8 Cricket, marking its sixth consecutive win at this

event. The awards were received on behalf of Jubilee Life Insurance by members of the brand and agency team.

The Pakistan Digital Awards are renowned for recognizing brands that demonstrate creativity, innovation, and effectiveness in their digital campaigns. Each nomination undergoes a rigorous evaluation process, guided by the strict and transparent criteria set by the Pakistan Digital Awards. Jubilee

Life Insurance's campaigns stood out for its ability to engage and resonate with the target audience, showcasing the company's leadership in the digital marketing landscape. This year's accolade celebrates Jubilee Life Insurance's outstanding achievements in digital marketing through its innovative and engaging campaign, Jubilee Life Micro-Insurance Documentary and HBLPSL 8 Cricket campaign. The campaign

effectively showcased the power of digital platforms to engage with customers, promote essential consumer solutions, and highlight the company's commitment to supporting national developments.

Farhan Faridi, Group Head - Retail Operations, Marketing & Administration, expressed his delight at the recognition, stating, "We are immensely honored to be recognized once again at the Pakistan Digital Awards. These awards are a testament to our unwavering dedication to revolutionizing the insurance industry through innovative digital solutions and creative marketing strategies. At Jubilee Life Insurance, we are committed to delivering excellence in all our endeavors, and this award reflects the hard work and passion of our entire team."

Jubilee Life Insurance's consistent success at the Pakistan Digital Awards underscores its position as a trailblazer in the insurance sector, continually setting new benchmarks in digital marketing and customer engagement.



PESHAWAR: President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce & Industry Fuad Ishaq talking to team members of SECDIV lead by Deputy Director Hafiz Wasif Mehmood at Chamber's House.

Gold rates dip by Rs3,600 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.3,600 and was sold at Rs.239,400 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs.243,000 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.3,086 to Rs.205,247 from Rs.208,333 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.188,143 from Rs.190,972, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs.50 to 2,750 whereas that of ten gram silver went down by Rs.42.86 to Rs.2,357.68.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$70 to \$2,292 from \$2,362, the Association said.

FPCCI stresses investment friendly policies

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Shaikh on Saturday said that investment friendly policies should be introduced to protect the economy.

President FPCCI has said that electricity and interest rates should be reduced, said a press release issued here.

Atif said that inflation has reduced to 11.8% and the 22% interest rate also needs to be reduced for smooth business in the country. He said that by reducing the interest rate, the government can save 3 trillion rupees in interest payments.

Talking about the textile sector, Atif Ikram said that for the last four months, cotton imports from the US and Brazil have been blocked at the port, which has led to a significant financial burden due to the increase in demurrage charges, which are now Rs 50 million. He said that these charges are being paid to foreign companies in dollars, which is increasing the economic pressure on the country.

The government should take notice of this issue and resolve it immediately. Atif Ikram said "We believe in the determination of the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to promote a favourable environment for business and trade in Pakistan."

CCP sign MoU with Chin's SAMR

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China's State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) during the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China.

The MoU aims to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of competition law and policy, marking a significant milestone in Sino-Pakistani relations, said a press release issued here on Saturday. The SAMR, a ministerial-level agency under China's State Council, is responsible for enforcing anti-monopoly laws and regulating markets. The MoU signifies a new era of collaboration in anti-trust activities between the two nations.

On October 19, 2023, a high-profile Chinese dele-

gation led by Dr. Gan Lin, Vice Minister of SAMR visited the CCP.

Discussions between CCP Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu and Vice Minister Gan Lin highlighted the strategic importance of a partnership focusing on enhancing market regulations, providing training and capacity building, sharing expertise in cartel detection, and collaborating on research projects to improve regulatory efficiency.

The China's substantial investments in Pakistan, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), are expected to increase significantly with the second phase of CPEC. To accommodate this growth, the CCP is developing a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework. The MoU outlines a framework for cooperation through

bilateral meetings, training programs, workshops, research collaborations, and information exchange.

The MoU aims to ensure sound and effective enforcement of competition law, which is crucial for market efficiency and consumer welfare. By fostering technical collaboration and information sharing, this partnership will strengthen bilateral ties and create favourable conditions for economic development.

This is the first international MoU in the Commission's 16-years history. Moreover, the CCP will soon be signing MoUs with competition agencies of Russia, Turkey, and Egypt. This MoU heralds a new chapter in Pakistan-China relations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is Published Through This Notice That LShahid Rehman Son of Mohammad R/o Mohallah Alshirazi Tehsil & District Hangu is The owner of Plot no 3270 Size 5 Marla Registration no 1366 PHA Hangu Town Ship Tehsil & District Hangu Has Appointed as Mr Muhammad Sami Son of Sohail Nisar R/o Dihah Bahadar Tehsil District Peshawar Through (Special) Deed no 113 Bahi no 04 Volume no 29 Dated 21/09/2021 which is Registered in The office of Tehsilidar/Sub Registrar District Hangu The Attorney Holder now wants to Transfer The Above Said Plot If any Bank/ Institution/Firm/ Person Has Any objection About The Transfer He Should Contact The Hangu PHA office Kohat Within 15 Days in Writing with Proof otherwise Plot will be Transfer and no objection will be Accepted (Manager RFC Kohat PHA Hangu Town Ship Phone:0922-514515)

Turkish envoy calls for increasing bilateral trade to \$5b

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan and Turkiye must adopt a focused approach to enhance cooperation particularly in the field of IT, AI, education, health and tourism to increase bilateral trade from \$1 billion to \$5 billion, said Turkish Ambassador in Pakistan Dr Mehmet Pacaci.

Addressing the business community in the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) here on Saturday, he said that both countries enjoy exceptional cordial relations at government to government, people to people and business to business level but despite all these plus points, the volume of the bilateral trade is dwindling at only 1 billion dollar. "We must collaborate with each other to utilize the untapped potential", he asserted.

He also mentioned the humanitarian aid extended by Pakistan during the earthquake in Turkiye and said that both countries are supporting each other particularly in Kashmir and Cyprus issues.

He said that Turkiye was also doling out liberal educational scholarships to Pakistani students while steps are also being taken for the exchange of faculty members.

Earlier, Dr Khurram Tariq, President FCCI, welcomed the Turkish Ambassador and his team. He briefly introduced Faisalabad and said that FCCI was playing its role in resolving issues being faced by its members in addition to striving hard for the socio-economic development of Faisalabad.

"We intend to create an

IT and AI conducive ecosystem which could not only benefit this city but to Pakistan and even to the Islamic world also", he added.

About Pak-Turkiye relations, he expressed satisfaction but urged to enhance the volume of bilateral trade proportionate to friendly relationships. He said that Istanbul airport is one of the busiest airports in the world while Turkiye is making tremendous progress in the field of technology.

He said that he was trying to promote Turkish technology in Faisalabad and hence there must be a Turkish Commercial Office in Faisalabad to give quantum jump to Turkish technology.

He also mentioned the joint venture of Ralle Cheese Unit in Faisalabad

and said that its entire production is exported.

Senior Vice President FCCI, Dr Sajjad Arshad, in his concluding remarks, thanked the Turkish envoy and urged to introduce liberal visa regime for FCCI members and their families.

Mian Muhammad Arees, former President FCCI and FPCCI, also endorsed the idea and said that the visa recommendation mechanism could be implemented initially for a few months on a trial basis to further fine-tune it in accordance with the requirements of the Turkish embassy.

Dr Khurram Tariq said that FCCI was already implementing a visa recommendation regime with the Chinese embassy and on the same pattern, it could be launched with the Turkish embassy.

Politics, integration and coordination

Murtaza Rafiq Bhutto

Recently, the chairman Bilawal Bhutto has presided the meeting of PPP Members of the Provincial and National Assembly to oversee the progress of the governing members. The message of this meeting was that under any circumstances, the current cabinet has to follow the party policy and members have to forget the internal differences between the members of the party in order to achieve the party motives.

Previously, the complaint was raised by the domestic workers of party over portfolio distribution of current Sindh cabinet.

The chairman has stated rigorously to follow the party rules, regulations & emphasized upon the avail-

ability of cabinet members in their respective offices and strictly ordered to stay in contact with their respective constituency's members and public to enhance the vote bank & to resolve the issues of the public on priority.

The supervision of the progress by the chairman is nonetheless reflects as a masterstroke to keep a hold on the internal matters of the party and domestic issues of the public.

In a recent meeting with People's Student Federation President Mansoor Shahani, I have asked couple of questions related to the internal politics and coordination with domestic party members, he categorically stated that there is no coordination neither support in order to implement the policies nor the domestic MPA's or MNA's helps them out. The PSF presi-

dent has to request the provincial president of the party Nisar Khuhro to intervene in the local matters and he is the one who helps them out, calls the concerned MPA to listen to federation issues and resolve it on priority.

We all know that the politics is the only medium to revolutionize the current political system. Unfortunately, the student politics and all over dynamics of the politics has changed in the country, but to some extent PPP tried and still trying to revive it. Whereas, the other political parties did not shown any interest in mobilizing the youth to join the politics.

The perception of the politics has been changed with time and to youth it has become a worthless path to lead in future. They believe that the only way

leading the political path and to stay in the political arena is to spend the money, have to be sharp minded street smart, and knows the way of hook & crook. However, I believe it is not true.

There is a need to create opportunities for the general public & especially students to join the politics and the political parties must train them the real meaning of politics and empathy. The youth is lost to fulfill their dreams in different sectors of the society but they are certainly not willing to serve the society.

Most of us contribute in the local debates at cafes and drawing rooms that he or she is the great leader and most of the leaders are judged by the perception. Whereas, in the real politics

it is a part of the game. Politics not only teaches you to enhance the power of tolerance, but the visible harsh realities of the society & the reasons behind the political divisions. Whereas, it also teaches you the several ways to serve the societies and educate to help the underprivileged people.


Youth must come forward and join the politics according to their respective views and the political parties should enhance the opportunities & emphasize to create ways for them.

For now, the Pakistan People's Party has won another battle from administration point of view. Whereas, the PML (N) has wrote a letter to their respective members for the suggestions & amendments in their political party constitution. Similarly, I would request all the political par-

ties to oversee their code of conduct and constitution in order to amend it according the current circumstances & issues.

The Sindh student's union bill, 2019 have been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh in 2022, and serves as an Act of the Legislature of Sindh. However, Government did not make any rules for carrying out the purpose of this act, neither properly implemented in colleges and universities nor the government shown any further interest in the implementation of this act.

It is mandatory to create a proper hierarchy, integration and coordination with sub divisional wings of the political parties. As we all know that the issues of the public are divided according to the age groups.

**PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)**
تہذیب و امن

TENDER NOTICE

1. Applications are invited for tenders in sealed cover by Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority duly supported with documentary evidence from contractors having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Category C-6 or above for the work mentioned below:

Name of Work	Tender Cost	Earnest Money	Date of Opening
Rehabilitation of Boundary Wall and Provision of Barbed Wire Fence DI Khan Airport	Rs. 3,000/-	Rs. 350,000/-	25-06-2024 at 11:30 hours in under mentioned office

2. Bidding document, for above mentioned work on will be issued to those contractors / firms having valid PEC certificate in category C-6 or above with specialization code CE-10.

3. The bidding process shall be based as per PPRA Single Stage-Single Envelop bidding procedure.

4. The firm shall have valid registration with FBR having active NTN certificate. The firm shall also submit declaration as sole proprietor / partnership deed and copy of CNIC of owner (s) / proprietor.

5. Tender documents shall only be issued to authorized representative of the contractor / firm / company having valid and genuine proof of authorization of the firm / company which he represents against a written application on letterhead of firm.

6. Tender documents will not be issued to those firms / contractors whose past performance with PCAA at any airport / location is found unsatisfactory or currently under litigation / debarring / blacklisting process with PCAA.

7. Tenders will be received in the office of the **DIVISIONAL ENGINEER ES (CIVIL) BKIAP PESHAWAR ON 25-06-2024 AT 11:00 A.M AND WILL BE OPENED ON THE SAME DAY AT 11:30 A.M.**

8. Earnest money amounting to **Rs. 350,000/- (Three Hundred Fifty Thousand)** shall be deposited in the shape of Call Deposit / Bank Draft prepared in favour of Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority.

9. Tenders can be purchased from the office of the undersigned on payment of prescribed tender Fee (Non-refundable) as mentioned against above work.

10. No tender document shall be issued by post or on the opening date of tenders.

11. The authority may reject all the tenders as per PPRA rule in vogue.

12. Tenders are also available at PPRA Website www.ppra.org.pk and CAA Website www.caapakistan.com.pk.

13. "WARNING" Pay orders / Bank Drafts or any other financial instruments to be submitted by Bidders and Contractors as Tender Cost, Earnest money / Bid Security and Bank Guarantees, if found fake or dishonoured by issuing bank / financial institution at any pre / post contract stage of the case, would call for blacklisting and legal action as per law of the land."

14. The tender notice published for the subject work dated 19-01-2024 has been cancelled by the Competent Authority due to non-responsive bids.

DIVISIONAL ENGINEER ES (CIVIL)
BKIAP PESHAWAR
www.caapakistan.com.pk

PID K.3513/23



In brief

Ronaldo's experience key

LONDON (Reuters): Portugal will benefit from the wealth of experience veteran Cristiano Ronaldo brings to their squad, manager Roberto Martinez said ahead of this month's European Championship in Germany. Ronaldo, the leading scorer in men's international football with 128 goals in 204 official matches, will be playing in his sixth Euros, having reached the final in his tournament debut in 2004 and winning the competition in 2016. The 39-year-old's move away from the European elite to Saudi Arabia in 2023 has raised questions about whether his career is nearing an end, but Martinez said the Al-Nassr attacker still had a lot to offer. "Cristiano had very consistent performances at his club. There is no doubt that he is an incredible scorer," Martinez told reporters on Friday ahead of their friendly match against Croatia on Saturday. "He is in his sixth European Championship, and he is the only player who has played in five European Championships. So, we are talking about achieving a unique feat in the world of soccer and his experience is important for us. "We have 23 players. We create competitiveness and the game makes decisions. But Cristiano is prepared to help the team and give everything he can give. And there is no other player in the world of soccer who can bring what Cristiano can to the dressing room." Portugal are in Group F and will begin their Euro 2024 campaign against the Czech Republic, before taking on Turkey and Georgia.

Hamilton on top

MONTREAL (AFP): Lewis Hamilton rolled back the years with a vintage lap to top the times for Mercedes ahead of Red Bull's revived Max Verstappen in Saturday's third and final free practice for the Canadian Grand Prix. The seven-time world champion, relishing the handling of his updated car, clocked a best lap of one minute and 12.549 seconds to outpace the series leader and three-time champion by nearly four-tenths in an intriguing session punctuated by one brief red-flag stoppage. Hamilton's Mercedes team-mate George Russell was third ahead of local hope Lance Stroll of Aston Martin. McLaren's Oscar Piastri and RB's Daniel Ricciardo. Lando Norris was seventh in the second McLaren ahead of two-time champion Fernando Alonso in the second Aston Martin, Sergio Perez in the second Red Bull and Charles Leclerc, fresh from winning his home Monaco Grand Prix for Ferrari. On a cloudy and breezy afternoon on the man-made Ile Notre-Dame, built in 1965 from rock excavated in the construction of the city's metro system, the two Red Bulls led out from the pitlane, both keen to improve on a grim Friday for the team. Perez was soon on top, replaced briskly by Verstappen after a brief red flag caused by Zhou Guanyu, who lost control of his Sauber and hit the barriers at Turn Two. At this stage, everyone was on mediums. Alpine, another team in some strife, were briefly one-two in the early stages with Pierre Gasly ahead of Esteban Ocon before the Dutchman, on a long run on medium tyres, clocked his 1:15.495 to go top.

Miller helps South Africa

NEW YORK (Agencies): David Miller made an unbeaten half-century as South Africa avoided a hat-trick of World Cup upsets against the Netherlands with a nervy four-wicket victory in New York. The Dutch posted a modest 103-9 after being asked to bat first as Sybrand Engelbrecht's disciplined 40 off 45 balls helped them recover from 48-6. Ott Niel Baartman bowled beautifully to finish with 4-11 for the Proteas, but a shock looked on the cards when the Netherlands reduced South Africa to 3-3 and then 12-4. Tristan Stubbs (33) and Miller steadied the ship for South Africa before the Netherlands attack rallied to take two quick wickets late in the game. South Africa needed 15 off the final 12 balls but Miller got it done with an over to spare with some clean ball striking. He sealed the victory with a huge heave off Bas de Leede over square leg to finish on 59 not out off 51 balls.

Afghanistan thrash NZ

GEORGETOWN (Agencies): Afghanistan's bowlers exploited to the full a pitch assisting both pace and spin at the Providence Stadium on Friday as they skittled New Zealand for just 75 from 15.2 overs and bowled their team to a 84-run run victory in the T20 World Cup. Afghanistan captain and spin bowler Rashid Khan took four for 17 in his team's second decisive victory of the tournament; they defeated Uganda by 125 runs at the same venue on Tuesday and are on top of Group C. After New Zealand captain Kane Williamson elected to field first, Afghanistan reached a respectable 159 for six from their 20 overs, with openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz (80) and Ibrahim Zadrau (44) putting on 103 for the first wicket from 14.3 overs. Left-arm pace bowler Trent Boult took the new ball, with Lockie Ferguson opening from the other end, and conceded three boundaries in a row to Zadrau, two of them from streaky shots that flew down to fine leg and third man respectively. Zadrau was dropped on the square leg boundary by Finn Allen from a lofted hook that he appeared to lose in the lights with the batsman on 13. Gurbaz had already received a letoff when he dabbled the ball to third man, took off for a single and was out of his crease when he was sent back, but wicket-keeper Devon Conway was unable to catch the return. New Zealand would still have been reasonably happy at the halfway stage with Afghanistan on 55 for two, but the two openers then went on the charge. Zadrau hit off-spinner Michael Bracewell for a brace of sixes and Gurbaz cracked Boult for another six when the pace bowler returned. The New Zealanders finally took a wicket when Matt Henry bowled Zadrau, and Henry took a second wicket when Azmatullah Omazari was caught by Lockie Ferguson for 22. Boult returned to take two wickets in the final over with a runout. New Zealand were immediately in trouble when they lost Finn Allen to the first ball of their innings, bowled leg stump by a ball from Fazalhaq Farooqi that jagged back off the seam. His opening partner Devon Conway followed for eight and Daryl Mitchell was caught behind for five leaving New Zealand at a parlous 28 for three.

Swiatek wins third straight French Open title



PARIS (Agencies): Iga Swiatek achieved the rare feat of winning a third successive French Open women's title with a comprehensive victory over Italian 12th seed Jasmine Paolini. Poland's Swiatek continued her recent dominance on the Roland Garros clay with a 6-2 6-1 win against first-time major finalist Paolini. The world number one trailed by an early break but instantly hit back, winning 11 of the next 12 games to secure victory. It has secured 23-year-old Swiatek a fourth title in Paris and a fifth Grand Slam triumph overall after her victory at the 2022 US Open. "I love this place, I wait every year to play here," said Swiatek, who won in just 68 minutes. Swiatek follows Monica Seles and Justine Henin into the record books as the only players to have claimed a 'three-peat' in the women's singles since the Open era began in 1968. She is the youngest player in the Open era - which ushered in professionalism - to win four titles at Roland Garros. After sealing victory in little over an hour, Swiatek celebrated by sinking to her knees before dancing around the court. Congratulating Swiatek in her runners-up speech, Paolini said: "To play you here is the toughest challenge in this sport. "It's been an intense 15 days, and today was tough, but I'm really proud of myself."

Swiatek dominance underlined in style and stats. Coming into the clay-court major, everyone wondered who could stop Swiatek winning the title again. Ultimately, nobody was able to provide an answer. Along with her formidable history at Roland Garros she arrived in hot form, having already won prestigious WTA titles in Madrid and Rome. Former world number one Naomi Osaka came closest to beating Swiatek, troubling her with powerful returning and holding a match point in their second-round encounter before the top seed recovered. Since then it has been plain sailing for Swiatek. A 40-minute 'double bagel' over Anastasia Potapova in the fourth round laid down a significant marker, before she dropped just two games against 2019 finalist Marketa Vondrousova in the quarter-finals. US Open champion Coco Gauff offered more resistance in the semi-finals before Swiatek asserted control against an opponent she has dominated in their previous meetings. Few people gave Paolini hope of causing what would have been an almighty shock. After a sloppy start, Swiatek found her rhythm, crushing Paolini in a devastating performance which showcased her ability and authority on the red dirt. The statistics also under-



David Miller took South Africa out of trouble.

New York prepares for 'high-voltage' Pak-India cricket match

QUEENS (AFP) At the cultural crossroads of the world, New Yorkers will experience a thrilling first on Sunday -- a World Cup cricket match hosted in a US city between Asian powerhouses: rivals India and Pakistan. "India-Pakistan is the game everyone would like to watch, and... it's happening in our backyard," said Ajith Shetty, president of two local cricket leagues. "I'm very, very thrilled," the Indian native told AFP on Friday. However, roughly 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the pop-up stadium at Eisenhower Park on Long Island, fans interviewed in the bustling Little India neighborhood of Queens said they won't be able to attend the game in person. "I asked about it, but it's so expensive. I'll watch it on my mobile," 31-year-old Rajeev Krishna said. "Pakistan against India is special... there's a long history there," he said, with the 34,000 seats in the stadium sold out for months. 'Lion and tiger' This first Cricket World Cup hosted in the United States is in the T20 format, with games that last around three hours, as opposed to the five-day contests in the traditional test match format. Tickets on the resale market are going for

at least \$800, with Indian Premier League (IPL) founder and former president Lalit Modi slamming the inflated prices. The tournament "in the US is for game expansion & fan engagement, not a means to make profits on gate collections," he said on X. Beyond the Indian and Pakistani communities, the face-off is eagerly anticipated by immigrants from other South Asian countries where cricket is popular. "Like lion and tiger" is how Faros Ahmed, a 58-year-old of Bangladeshi origin, described the rivalry. "Even if I am not Indian, not Pakistani, I am going to watch it because this is a high-voltage match," said the restaurant manager, who supports Pakistan and will broadcast the game for his customers. 'Like to see India lose' Although both countries are cricket powerhouses, head-to-head matches are rare between the nations. The two sides do not meet outside of official competitions of the ICC, the international cricket federation, and the last test match between them was in 2007. "We are going to take revenge, we are going to beat them," said Roop Sajani, an Indian native who manages a sari store. The 85-year-old recalled how his Hindu family was forced to move from what is today Pakistan into India, in the exodus that preceded partition in 1947. Many of the businesses and restaurants in Little India are run by Bangladeshis, many of whom lined up behind Pakistan, from which Bangladesh gained its independence in 1971. "Let's say we just like to see India lose against all the teams," said Mostakim Shahed, a 20-year-old student from Bangladesh, with a smile. "If you look at Asia, yes, India is the best team," he said. "They are the richest cricket team... they already have support. Whereas Pakistan, they don't have really support." 'Bloodbath' Sunday's meeting is crucial for Pakistan, which risks elimination in the first round after a surprising loss on Thursday to the United States, ranked 18th in the world. New York-based Pakistani journalist Wajahat S. Khan said he had "never been more excited or terrified about a cricket match at the same time." "The data doesn't lie. Pakistan is likely to lose. It's likely to be a bloodbath. But you can never write off Pakistan's cricket team. Never."

Pak cycling team bags gold medal

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a landmark achievement for Pakistan, the national cycling team has secured its first-ever gold medal at the Asian Road Cycling Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan. According to details, Ali Ilyas, representing the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), made history by winning the individual time trial event, marking a monumental victory for the Pakistan Cycling Federation. Held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the championship saw fierce competition from the best cyclists across Asia. Ali Ilyas's performance stood out as he demonstrated exceptional skill and determination, ultimately earning the top spot on the podium. This victory not only brings honour to Pakistan but also highlights the potential and dedication of our athletes on an international stage. This gold medal represents the hard work and perseverance of our athletes and the support of the Pakistan Cycling Federation. "We are incredibly proud of Ali Ilyas and the entire team for this historic achievement", said a spokesperson from SSGC. The win was a significant milestone for Pakistan's presence in the world of cycling, showcasing the country's growing talent and commitment to the sport. It serves as an inspiration for aspiring cyclists and a proud moment for the nation. "Pakistan Zindabad!" exclaimed Ali Ilyas, expressing his pride and gratitude after the win. Syed Azhar Ali Shah, President Pakistan Cycling Federation, praised Ali Ilyas and the supporting staff who have contributed to this outstanding success.

Babar not improved as captain in 4 years: Malik

LAHORE (INP): Former Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik has criticized the national team's white-ball captain Babar Azam for his performance as captain after a shocking loss against the United States (USA) in the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. According to media reports, Pakistan endured a five-run defeat against the co-hosts in the Super Over as they failed to chase down the 19-run target. Senior pacer Mohammad Amir bowled the Super Over for Pakistan and conceded 18 runs. In response, the Green

Shirts only managed 13/1. After the match, Malik, who also played under Azam, stated that the right-handed batter has not evolved as a captain and makes predecided decisions on the field rather than improvising according to the situation. "This captaincy talk, I would like to go into its depth. You [Babar Azam] have set a blockage in your mind, that is the problem. If you have decided that Shadab [Khan] has to bat at a certain number, and Azam [Khan] and Iftikhar [Ahmed] have to bat in the

last overs, and you do that exactly, these are the blockages," said Malik while talking on a local channel. "The most important thing which needs to be fixed is Babar's captaincy from four years ago and now, I cannot see any difference. "If someone is improving then you give them time because the results will be seen in the long run but in Babar's case, as a leader, he is still where he was four years ago." The Green Shirts will face arch-rivals India in the most anticipated match of the T20 World Cup 2024 on 9 June in New York.

KP, Sindh victorious in PBCC Blind Cricket

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Sindh earned victories in the matches of the 7th edition of PBCC Blind Cricket T-20 Super League 2024 at the APS School Cricket Ground in Abbottabad on Saturday. In an exciting T20 match, KP Blind emerged victorious against Punjab Blind by 28 runs. Punjab won the toss and decided to bowl first. KP set a formidable target of 238/6 in their allotted 20 overs, thanks to an explosive innings from Badar Munir. Badar scored an unbeaten 112 runs off 52 balls, hitting 20 fours and 1 six, with a staggering strike rate of 215.38. Other notable contributions came from Muhammad Rashid, who scored a quick 34 off 19 balls, and Ahtisham Ul Haq with 27 runs off 29 balls. Punjab's bowling attack struggled to contain the onslaught. Despite their efforts, they conceded numerous extras, including 33 wides. Israr Ul Hassan and Anees Javed were the only bowlers to take wickets, with Israr claiming 1 for 33 and Anees 1 for 17. Punjab while chasing a daunting target, managed to score 210/2 in their 20 overs.

Akmal Hayat Nasir led the charge with a scintillating 114 runs off 76 balls, hitting 13 fours. Mati Ullah also played a commendable unbeaten knock of 40 runs off 24 balls. Despite their valiant efforts, the target proved to be just out of reach. KP's bowlers, led by Badar Munir, managed to keep the opposition in check. Badar bowled economically, giving away only 25 runs in his 4 overs. Muhammad Asif was the lone wicket-taker, with figures of 1 for 38. In another match, Sindh outplayed Balochistan by 6 wickets. Sindh Blind won the toss and opted to field first. Balochistan's openers, Kamran Akhtar and Haroon Khan, capitalized on the fielding restrictions in the initial 6 overs, amassing 83 runs without losing a wicket. Kamran Akhtar scored a solid 53 off 26 balls, hitting 8 fours and 2 sixes with a strike rate of 203.85. Haroon Khan was the standout performer, smashing 62 runs off 34 balls, including 10 fours at a strike rate of 182.35. In the middle order, Muhammad Ayyaz contributed 24 runs off 20 balls, while Naseeb Ullah added an unbeaten 25 runs off 15 balls.

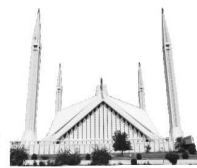
Sindh's bowlers made a strong comeback in the death overs and checked the runs flow. Salman was the only bowler to make significant inroads, claiming 2 wickets for 43 runs in his 4 overs. Sindh in reply chase down the formidable target in just 17.5 overs, finishing at 224/4 and won by 6 wickets. Sindh's innings was headlined by a stunning century from skipper Nisar Ali, who scored a blazing 100 off 54 balls, hitting 18 fours with a strike rate of 185.19. His commanding performance laid a solid foundation for the chase. Contributions from Ayoub Khan, who remained unbeaten on 29 off 16 balls, and Idrees Saleem, who added 22 runs off 15 balls, further bolstered Sindh's innings. Bashir Khan, Haroon Khan, Kamran Akhtar and Muhammad Shahzeb took a wicket a piece. The signatories present at the event included Gen (R) Ayyaz Rana, Kamal Saleem Sawati, Vice President PTI KP, Dr. Anayat Ullah, Vice President APS, Tariq Mehmood, Ex-DG Sports KP, Syed Sultan Shah, President World Blind Cricket Ltd and Shaukat Jadoon, PCB Representative.

BD keep nerve to win thriller with SL

DALLAS (AFP): Bangladesh emerged victorious from a gripping encounter with Sri Lanka in Texas with the two-wicket victory getting them off to a winning start in Group D of the T20 World Cup. Rishad Hossain produced a brilliant spell of leg-spin as Bangladesh fought back to restrict Sri Lanka to 124-9. Then Liton Das (36) and Towhid Hridoy (40 from 20 balls) put Bangladesh in command before some excellent pace bowling from Nuwan Thushara (4-18), in his second spell threatened a late twist in the plot. But veteran Mahmudullah Riyad showed all his experience at the end to see Bangladesh over the line with an unbeaten 16. It was the final of four games at the Grand Prairie Stadium and the Dallas crowd have been treated to some top entertainment on a surface which offered some bounce and produced good contests between bat and ball. Sri Lanka made a fast start, rattling their way to 53-2 in six overs and they progressed to 100-3 after 14 overs with Pathum Nissanka's 47 from 28 including eight boundaries (one six). But then the 21-year-old wrist spinner Rishad struck twice in successive balls to totally change the momentum of the innings. Charith Asalanka's sweep shot found Shakib Al Hasan at deep backward square and he snaffled up the catch. Sri Lanka skipper Wanindu Hasaranga was the next victim of Rishad's spin, edging a sharply turning delivery to Soumya Sarkar at slip. Dhananjaya de Silva who made a solid 21 off 26 balls was then beaten by Rishad's flight and was stumped by the alert Liton. Sri Lanka were just able to add 24 runs from the final six overs losing six wickets in that period. Rishad finished with career-best T20I figures of 3-22 from his four overs. Mustafizur Rahman finished with 3-17 from four overs while Taskin Ahmed also bowled well for his 2-25. Bangladesh made a shaky start and were struggling at 28-3 in the sixth over before Liton and Hridoy put together a crucial 63-run partnership. Hridoy hit Hasaranga for three consecutive sixes before he was trapped leg before on the next ball and when Hasaranga removed Liton, there was a glimmer of hope for Sri Lanka. A brilliant diving catch in the deep from Maheesh Theekshana saw the back of Shakib Al Hasan to leave Bangladesh at 109-6. Thushara then returned to the attack and removed Rishad and Taskin to increase the pressure but when Mahmudullah dispatched a loose full toss from Dasun Shanaka for six over mid-wicket, the nerves eased and victory was soon secured.



Mahmudullah's unbeaten 16 proved crucial as Bangladesh lost late wickets.

**In brief****CDA chief visits Faisal Mosque**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Saturday directed that all repair and maintenance work on Faisal Mosque should be completed shortly. During his visit to Faisal Mosque with other CDA officials, Muhammad Ali emphasised the need to enhance the mosque's cleanliness. He directed that areas needing paint be addressed, broken tiles be fixed and the surrounding area of the mosque be improved immediately. He stressed the importance of expediting the decoration and renovation works to ensure all possible facilities for worshippers visiting the mosque.

"Faisal Mosque holds national significance, not just for Islamabad, so its renovation should be a priority," he stated. Following the chairman's directives, the mosque's non-operational fountains have been repaired and made functional.

Chinese company invited

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Saturday invited the Chinese company LONGi Green Energy Technology Co. Ltd. to set up solar PV manufacturing plant in Pakistan. In a meeting with President of LONGi Green Energy Company, Zhenguo Li, the minister invited him to set up the solar manufacturing plant in Pakistan, said a statement issued by the Power Division here. The minister briefed the Company's President about the solar potential in Pakistan adding that the share of renewable energy in the country's energy mix was rapidly being increased. Mr Zhenguo Li assured his full support to promote solar energy in Pakistan.

IRSA releases water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 287,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 260,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1461.60 feet and was 63.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 90,500 cusecs and 115,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1188.00 feet, which was 138.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 42,400 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 188,900, 173,800, 138,300 and 64,700 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 79,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 8,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Int'l symposium arranged

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) in partnership with the World Bank Group will organise a two-day Pakistan Travel and Tourism Symposium scheduled to be held at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) here from June 10 to 11. Talking to APP, the PTDC official said that the Tourism Symposium would be a two-day event focused on the theme of Building a National Economy through tourism.

CM approves first ever Punjab Livestock Card

RAWALPINDI (APP): Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif approved the first ever Punjab Livestock Card and first Farmer Guidance App to facilitate livestock farmers to get interest-free loans for cattle fodder.

According to details, CM Maryam Nawaz chaired a special meeting on improvement measures of livestock, here in Murree on Saturday during which approval of important projects was given.

The chief minister directed the concerned department to prepare a comprehensive scheme for dairy farming in South Punjab. She said the government wants to lead the

livestock farmers of Punjab on the path of economic independence.

A detailed briefing was given in the meeting in which it was informed that the provision of loans in easy instalments for male and female dairy farmers residing in rural areas of South Punjab would be reviewed. Initially, 40 thousand farmers across Punjab would be given loans through the Punjab Livestock Card.

It was also informed that the export of 400,000 animal meat would be made available through the card scheme. The farmer will also be provided with free animal dagging services and the quality testing facility of wanda and silage.

The meeting was briefed that an easy loan of Rs. 270,000 would be given to farmers for wanda, silage and mineral mixture through the livestock scheme. Through the card scheme, the farmer will be able to pay the loan in 30 days.

The animal identity traceability system in Punjab will facilitate the maintenance of livestock.

Senior Provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb, Provincial Minister of Agriculture Syed Ashiq Hussain, Special Assistant Rashid Nasrullah, Chief Secretary Zahidakhtar Zaman, Secretary Livestock and other officials attended the meeting.

Shazia urges govt to convene NEC meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary Information for Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) Shazia Marri on Saturday urged the government to convene a meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) to formulate a comprehensive economic plan. Addressing a press conference, she highlighted the importance of forming the NEC to ensure equal development across the country.

She praised the significant contributions of President Asif Ali Zardari in empowering the provinces and suggested that the current government

could benefit from his experience.

Shazia Marri called on the government to provide maximum relief to the public in the upcoming federal budget and advocated for subsidies to support the oppressed class. She said that the Sindh government had allocated Rs. 22 billion for universities last year and is planning to increase this allocation to Rs. 30 billion this year.

Expressing concerns about widespread load shedding, particularly in Sindh where it can last up to 20 hours, she urged the government to take imme-

diated action. She also highlighted the compounded problems of water shortages due to the inability to run electric motors during load shedding.

Responding to a question, she reaffirmed the PPP's historical support for journalists, mentioning that the party did not support the defamation law and that its leadership had previously participated in protest camps with journalists.

Shazia Marri reiterated the PPP's ongoing commitment to addressing key national issues and advocating for the rights and welfare of the public.

Media Fellowship program launched

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), Nilofar Bakhtiar, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to partners UNFPA and CEJ-IBA for their unwavering support in launching the National Media Fellowship on Women's Rights.

She praised the fellows, stating, "I am immensely proud of you all fellows who have produced 165 impactful stories and two documentaries, shedding light on crucial issues of gender-based violence and child marriage.

Their diverse backgrounds, representing all regions of Pakistan, have enriched our initiative. Looking ahead, I encourage all journalists to continue championing women's rights and addressing gender-based violence and child marriage in their reporting.

NCSW is committed to supporting your efforts and will soon be holding national conferences on health, climate change, law reforms, and education.

"Together, we can drive social change and ensure a better future for all women in Pakistan," she said. Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedaal Khan Nasar, commended the efforts of NCSW in advancing women's rights.

"All of these media fellows have done an outstanding job," said Syedaal Nasar. "The National Media Fellowship has been crucial in training journalists to report on sensitive issues with professionalism and ethics. As Deputy Chairman Senate, I pledge my support

to strengthen laws and mechanisms that protect women's rights and ensure the passage of the Child Marriage Restraint Act Bill in the National Assembly and Senate."

The National Media Fellowship's second cohort (2023-24) has concluded successfully, with 39 fellows producing a total of 165 print, digital, television, and radio stories, along with two documentaries. The Cohort comprises of one year training and mentoring period.

These stories by fellows of NMF-2 highlighted crucial issues such as economic and health challenges, rising violence against women, and the struggles of transgender and marginalized communities.

UNFPA's Country Representative in Pakistan, Luay Shabaneh, emphasized the commitment to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment through strategic partnerships. "By aligning efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5, UNFPA's interventions are evidence-based and targeted," said Shabaneh.

"This fellowship has empowered journalists to play a vital role in advocating for women's rights through their reporting."

The stories produced by the fellows covered a range of critical topics, including: Women's inheritance rights and their deprivation; The practice of "Ghugh" in KP, where random men can claim a woman without her

consent; Challenges faced by transgender individuals when a community member dies without anyone to conduct the funeral prayer.

A key focus of this fellowship has been the gender-based violence (GBV) faced by the transgender community in Pakistan. Transgender individuals face extreme marginalization and violence, which is often under-reported and inadequately addressed.

The fellowship's stories have highlighted these injustices, bringing much-needed attention to the plight of transgender people and advocating for their rights and safety. Our cross-provincial analysis reveals disturbing perceptions about domestic violence.

Between 25% of women in Punjab and 59% of women in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa believe that a husband beating his wife is justified. Among those who never reported domestic violence, 24% believed the violence was not serious, 15% were embarrassed to report it, 12% did not want to bring shame to their family, 9% feared further violence, and 8% did not report due to fear of their marriage ending. By sharing stories of gender-based violence and child marriage, the media has raised awareness about their prevalence and impact, humanized statistics, encouraged empathy and understanding, inspired survivors to speak out, held perpetrators accountable, and influenced public opinion and policy.

PUC backs Saudi Arabia's Fatwa on Hajj regulations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC) on Saturday announced its full support for the recent Fatwa issued by the Supreme Council of Ulama of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which mandates that performing Hajj without official permission is impermissible.

The PUC appeals to all Muslims to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations set by Saudi Arabia regarding Hajj. The PUC emphasized the importance of booking Hajj only through companies authorized by the Saudi government. Unauthorized bookings and travel arrangements will be considered illegal, and violators will face severe penalties, it added.

In a statement, the PUC leader-

ship, including Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Allama Abdul Haq Mujahid, Maulana Muhammad Rafiq Jami, Maulana Nauman Hashir, Maulana Asad Zakaria Qasmi, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Maulana Asadullah Farooq, Allama Zubair Abid, Maulana Muhammad Ashfaq Pittafi, Maulana Abu Bakr Hameed Sabri, Maulana Tahir Aqeel Awan, Maulana Aziz Akbar Qasmi, Maulana Haq Nawaz Khalid, Maulana Obaidullah Gormani, Allama Tahir-ul-Hasan, Maulana Hanif Osmani, Maulana Muhammad Asghar Khosa, Maulana Anwar-ul-Haq Mujahid, and Maulana Saadullah Ludhianwi, stressed that Hajj was a time for worship and not

for political or sectarian activities.

"The Fatwa of the Council of prominent Ulemas of Saudi Arabia is clear: performing Hajj without the required permissions is a sin. We urge all intending pilgrims to respect this ruling to avoid legal complications," the PUC leaders stated.

They said the leadership of Saudi Arabia has previously warned that all Hajj arrangements must be made through approved companies and they have announced heavy fines and legal consequences for those attempting to perform Hajj without proper authorization. They reiterated this warning and encourages all pilgrims to comply with these regulations to ensure a peaceful and lawful pilgrimage.



RAWALPINDI: Vendors washing a sacrificial animal to attract the customers at Bata Chowk. —APP Photo

CCP recovers Rs5m penalty from APNS

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) enforcing an order against the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) has recovered a penalty of Rs 5 million imposed for anti-competitive conduct.

A complaint was filed with CCP by Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) wherein it was alleged that Regulations and Circulars formulated by APNS were in violation of section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010, said a press release issued here Saturday.

The CCP's enquiry inter alia established that APNS had imposed restrictive trading conditions, and certain rules, regulations and circulars enforced by APNS were in contravention of the Act.

The CCP on June 06, 2018, CCP passed an order and held that APNS had engaged in anti-competitive activities such as applying unfair trading conditions and imposing dissimilar conditions on equivalent transactions with other trading parties through its circulars, rules, and regulations. CCP recognized APNS's cooperation and compliance-orientated approach as the mitigating factor and imposed a penalty of only Rs 10 million.

The CCP's order also nullified all such circulars, rules, and regulations and directed APNS to formulate new ones and seek exemption from the CCP under Section 5 of the Competition Act. Additionally, the order stipulated that failure to comply would result in an additional penalty of Rs 25 million and a daily penalty of Rs 100,000.

APNS appealed the CCP's order before the Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT).

Govt depts failed to pay million rupees to WASA

RAWALPINDI (INP): Rawalpindi's Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) is facing a daunting challenge as 21 government departments from both federal and Punjab governments have defaulted on bills worth millions of rupees.

According to reliable WASA sources, the total outstanding amount stands at a staggering Rs. 82.1 million. These departments, entrusted with serving the public, have failed to pay their dues despite utilizing WASA's vital water resources.

Among the major defaulters, the Department of Education leads the pack with a debt exceeding Rs. 1.34 million, fol-

lowed closely by the Department of Parks and Culture owing over Rs. 1.93 million. The Taxila Municipal Administration (TMA) is also in the spotlight with arrears exceeding Rs. 3.28 million.

Shockingly, even essential services like the Police Department and the Sports Board find themselves in default, with a collective debt of Rs. 0.7 million. The Health Department, Metro Bus Service, and Punjab Cooperative Department collectively owe over Rs. 10 million to WASA.

Other notable defaulters include the Housing Department, Rawalpindi Development Authority

(RDA), and Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), with arrears surpassing 3.65 million. Even crucial entities like the District Election Commission, Forest Department, Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), and Income Tax are on the list of defaulters.

WASA Rawalpindi has taken decisive action, issuing notices to all defaulting departments to settle their outstanding arrears promptly. The failure to address this issue could severely impact WASA's ability to continue providing essential services to the citizens of Rawalpindi.

Chairperson BISP check facilities to beneficiaries

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Rubina Khalid, conducted an unannounced visit to the BISP Payment Campsite at Dhoke Kashmirian, Rawalpindi, to personally monitor the arrangements and payment process.

During her visit, Rubina Khalid interacted with women beneficiaries who had come to receive their stipend under the Benazir Kafaalat initiative. She took the opportunity to listen to their concerns, particularly about the slow payment process.

Rubina Khalid advised the beneficiaries to receive their full stipend amount of Rs. 10,500 and always ask for the bank receipt upon receiving their pay-

ment.

In response to her findings during the surprise visit, the chairperson promptly convened a meeting with all Director Generals of BISP and representatives of the partner banks at the BISP Headquarters.

During the meeting, Rubina Khalid reiterated the programme's commitment to the well-being and convenience of its beneficiaries. "The well-being and convenience of our beneficiaries are our top priorities. The disbursement process must be smooth and efficient, allowing beneficiaries to receive their stipends without any unnecessary delays or complications," she stated.

Rubina Khalid high-

lighted the importance of treating beneficiaries with respect and dignity throughout the stipend disbursement process. "We don't want to put our beneficiaries in difficulties. They should be given stipend money with full respect and dignity," she affirmed.

Expressing serious concern over the absence of Point of Sale (POS) agents and the slow cash disbursement process at the payment campsites, the chairperson directed senior management to address these issues urgently with the partner banks. She stressed the need for a swift resolution to ensure that BISP beneficiaries do not face any hardships during the disbursement process.

Romina Khurshid Alam calls for global action to fight ocean pollution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, MNA Romina Khurshid Alam said as the world celebrates World Ocean Day, the present government has firmly reaffirmed its commitment to the global efforts for preserving and protecting marine ecosystems in the country and anywhere in the world.

In a press statement issued here on Saturday, MNA Romina Khurshid Alam said that this year's theme, "Ocean: Life and Livelihoods," very much resonates deeply with Pakistan's coastal communities, whose lives and livelihoods are intricately connected

with the health and sustainability of the oceans.

She said that as a coastal nation, Pakistan is committed to playing its part in advancing marine conservation efforts. "As a nation with a rich maritime heritage, we recognise the vital role that oceans play in supporting life on Earth, regulating our climate, and providing resources that sustain livelihoods," Romina Khurshid Alam said.

The initiatives of Mangroves restoration in Pakistan has resulted in 300% increase of mangroves since 1992, which drew global appreciation for the government's conservation efforts, the PM's coordinator

highlighted.

Through initiatives such as marine protected areas, community-based conservation projects such as national mangroves restoration initiative, and public awareness campaigns, the present government was striving to safeguard our oceans and promote their sustainable use, she highlighted.

She also said that the present government was very much aware of the national and global environmental and climate change-related challenges facing the oceans and efforts are being made to address marine pollution, promote sustainable fisheries management, and conserve marine biodiversity.

Pakistan is blessed with a resource-rich coastline of about 1,046 kilometers along the Arabia sea, which harbours a diverse array of marine life and ecosystems. From the bustling ports of Karachi to the tranquil shores of Gwadar, Pakistan's coastal areas are not only vital hubs of economic activity but also rich reservoirs of unique biodiversity of global repute.

The PM's coordinator said that pollution, overfishing, climate change, and habitat destruction threaten the delicate balance of marine ecosystems worldwide, jeopardising the well-being of millions of people who depend on the oceans for their sustenance and

livelihoods.

"Oceans globally are facing grave challenges, including pollution, overfishing, habitat destruction and the impacts of climate change. Besides, growing amount of plastic waste dumping in oceans is a major environmental threat to oceans' sustainability," Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted.

Highlighting further the plight of rapidly pollution oceans around the world, mainly because of untamed dumping of plastic waste, Romina Khurshid Alam said that around 9.5 million tons of plastic waste is dumped into oceans worldwide, which poses risk to the fish and other

oceanic biodiversity.

She, however, underlined the urgent need for collective action by all government and non-governmental stakeholders and communities to address the myriad challenges facing the country's oceans.

"We urge all nations to strengthen cooperation, implement effective policies, and adopt sustainable practices to ensure the health and resilience of marine ecosystems for present and future generations," she said.

Romina Khurshid also reaffirmed her government's commitment to the global efforts for preservation and sustainable use of our oceans.

Construction work started

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of Energy and Water has announced the initiation of practical work on a major power transmission line project, aimed at addressing the chronic electricity shortage in Kabul and 12 neighboring provinces. The project, managed by the Ministry of Energy and Water and backed by private investment, will look forward for the construction of a 500kV transmission line stretching from Dasht-e-Khwaja Alwan in Pul-e-Khumri to Arghandi in Kabul.

The Frontier Post

Zil-Hajj 02 1445 — Sunday, June 09, 2024

Uplift projects implemented

KABUL (BNA): Officials from the Laghman Department of Economy announced that 104 major and minor projects were implemented in the province last year at a cost of 1.6 billion Afghanis. Mawlawi Jan Mohammad Hamed, head of the Laghman Department of Economy, reported to BNA that these projects were funded by the Islamic Emirate and various organizations. The projects, which cost 1.6 billion Afghanis, provided employment opportunities for 30,000 people.

WFP calls for aid in Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): The United Nations World Food Programme has stated that the available resources to address the emergency situation in Afghanistan are insufficient.

It emphasized that \$1.6 billion is needed this year to meet the needs of the needy, flood victims, and returnees in the country.

This organization published a report stating that most people in Afghanistan require this budget for emergency food, nutrition, and livelihood support.

According to the report, the World Food Programme faces a budget shortfall of \$510 million to continue its operations over the next six months (June to November).

The organization stressed that sudden floods in six provinces have destroyed villages and thousands of homes, submerged farmlands, and

drowned people's livestock, requiring over \$27 million for relief efforts.

According to the World Food Programme, people in flood-affected areas were already facing poverty and hunger, and the recent floods have increased their needs.

The report mentions that 25 provinces were affected by the recent floods, and an additional \$14.5 million is urgently needed over the next six to twelve months to address the escalating humanitarian and health crises and reach flood-affected communities across the country.

The World Food Programme has reported providing food or cash assistance to over 24,000 families in flood-affected areas of the country.

According to this report, the World Food Programme assisted over 339,000 returnees last year, and

\$12.7 million is needed to continue this assistance this year.

Additionally, the organization warned that from May to October this year, it could only cover about one million needy people per month in Afghanistan, leaving 11 million others without access to food aid due to budget shortages.

Meanwhile, the United Nations and aid organizations have consistently warned of rising levels of poverty and hunger in Afghanistan, stating that floods and the expulsion of refugees have exacerbated these needs.

Moreover, the World Food Programme added that four million people, including 3.2 million children under five, suffer from severe malnutrition in Afghanistan, and 23.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

IEA declines invitation to regional meeting

KABUL (Ariana News): Zakir Jalaly, Director of the Third Political Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, said on Saturday that the Islamic Emirate declined an invitation to a regional meeting that is scheduled to take place in Tehran.

Tehran has announced that it will host the meeting of the regional contact group for Afghanistan. Representatives of Russia, China, Pakistan and Iran are expected to attend the meeting.

Jalaly said on X that the Afghan government declined the invitation to the meeting. He said that the Afghan government expects that meetings on Afghanistan should be held through the existing mechanisms, not new ones.

He added that the Afghan government is engaged in discussions with relevant sides about the upcoming third Doha meeting.

IEA opts out of Tehran summit

KABUL (BNA): Zaker Jalali, the head of the Third Political Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan did not participate in the meeting held in Tehran.

Jalali wrote on his X page that this meeting is referred to by Iranian friends as the "Regional Contact Group" and by the Russian representative as the "Moscow Format Contact Group." The Chinese side, which had opposed the "International Contact Group" for Afghanistan in the UN Security Council, views the Tehran meeting as an opportunity for consultation, while Pakistan calls it "regional consultations." Despite being invited, the Islamic Emirate did not attend.

He added that the Islamic Emirate expects that meetings concerning Afghanistan should utilize established and conventional mechanisms rather than creating new ones.

According to the head of the Third Political Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is engaged in talks with relevant parties regarding third Doha meeting.

Orphanage township plan in Helmand approved



KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing has announced the approval of the detailed plan for the Orphanage Township in Helmand Province.

According to the Ministry's office announce-

ment, based on the special directive of the Supreme Leader, the detailed plan for a modern residential township with all living facilities for 500 orphaned children in the Nahr-e-Saraj district of Helmand Province has been

approved by Sheikh Hamdullah Nomani, the acting Minister of Urban Development and Housing, and Sheikh Madar Ali Karimi Bamiani, the Deputy Minister.

It is worth mentioning that this residential town-

ship is being constructed on an area of 272 acres, funded by the charitable foundation of the Qatari royal family. All other activities will be carried out under the supervision of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing.

Afghan Minister arrives in Russia



KABUL (BNA): Mawlawi Habib Agha, the acting Minister of Education, embarked on an official visit to Russia.

The press office of the Ministry of Education announced today, June 8th, the acting Minister of Education went on an official trip to Kazan, Russia, to participate in the second International Meeting of Education Ministers.

At this meeting, the acting Minister of Education, Mawlawi Habib Agha, will deliver a detailed speech on Afghanistan's educational situation, achievements, opportunities, and challenges.

Additionally, he will hold discussions with education ministers from various countries to explore further cooperation and exchange ideas on educational development.

According to a source, the acting Minister of Education is also scheduled to hold separate meetings with several education ministers from the participating countries on the sidelines of this trip.

It is worth noting that this meeting will last for four days, during which the participants will discuss the opportunities, progress, and challenges facing the education sys-

tems of their countries, and explore solutions to the existing problems.

The Ministry of Education in a statement on Saturday said that in the forum, Agha will give a speech on the education situation in Afghanistan and the achievements, opportunities and problems in this sector.

The statement added that Agha will also meet with the education ministers of different countries.

The second international forum of education ministers, titled "Shaping the Future," is scheduled to take place in Kazan from June 9 to 12.

Afghan Saffron recognized as world's best for 9th time

KABUL (TOLONews): Afghan saffron has been recognized as the world's highest quality saffron for the ninth time in a global competition by the International Taste Institute based in Belgium.

Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock say that Afghanistan, the world's second-largest saffron producer, is expected to harvest nearly fifty tons of saffron this year.

Sadr Azam Osmani, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, said:

"Afghan products have their own standards in the world, but this is the ninth time that Afghan saffron has secured the first position."

According to the ministry, saffron is cultivated in twenty-six provinces of the country, but nearly 90 percent of the country's saffron is harvested in Herat.

A Herat-based export company represented Afghanistan in this competition.

Najibullah Rahmati, the head of the saffron export company, said: "We have

been working on this for several years with farmers, processors, and on how to dry it properly, and today we have seen the results."

In the past year, Afghanistan exported nearly thirty tons of saffron worth thirty-five million dollars to India, Saudi Arabia, and several other countries.

Currently, the price of each kilogram of saffron in domestic markets is up to 120,000 afghani.

Mohammad Ibrahim Adel, head of the Afghan Saffron Association, said:

"A total of 29,570 kilograms of saffron have been exported in the past eight months to countries like India, Spain, and Saudi Arabia."

According to predictions by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, the saffron harvest in Herat is expected to increase to fifty tons this year.

Last year, nearly thirty tons of saffron were harvested in Herat. This year, over eight thousand hectares of land in Herat are being used to grow saffron.

Travel ban temporarily lifted for 4 Islamic Emirate officials by UNSC

KABUL (TOLONews): The United Nations Security Council has temporarily lifted the travel ban on four officials of the Islamic Emirate. The UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee said that the exemption for these interim government officials is for travel to Saudi Arabia.

The Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs, the acting Minister of Interior, the Director-General of Intelligence, and the acting Minister of Hajj and Religious Affairs are the Islamic Emirate officials who have received travel exemptions from the United Nations Security Council.

The UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee wrote: "On 5 June 2024, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) approved travel ban exemption for Abdul Kabir Mohammad Jan (TAi.003), Abdul-Haq Wassiq (TAi.082), Noor Mohammad Saqib (TAi.110), and Sirajuddin Jallaloudine Haqqani (TAi.144) for their visit to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The purpose of the visit is to perform Hajj."

Previously, the US State Department, in response to the acting interior minister's trip to the United Arab Emirates, said that countries should host sanctioned

members of the Islamic Emirate through a United Nations exemption process.

But what benefit would such exemptions have for the sanctioned interim government officials?

"The negative effects of sanctions impact the country and the people of Afghanistan, not the officials or the statesmen," said Yousuf Amin Zazi, a military affairs expert.

"The ultimate goal of imposing sanctions on members of the interim government's delegation is to implement strategic political interests in governance. I hope the interim government continues the dialogues based on a uni-

fied definition of Afghanistan's national interests, leading to Afghanistan's emergence from isolation," said Mohammad Zalmi Afghan Yar, another military affairs expert.

The names of more than 24 Islamic Emirate officials are on the blacklist of the United Nations, the European Union, and the United States.

Although the Islamic Emirate has repeatedly called for the lifting of these sanctions on its officials, over the past two and a half years, not only have the names not been removed from the list, but additional names have also been added.

Students participate in Islamic Emirate knowledge program

KABUL (BNA): The Islamic Emirate Knowledge program organized for one day in Panjshir by the Departments of Education and Information and Culture in Bazarak district of the province.

The program, which aimed to test students' knowledge about the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, was held at the central mosque of Bazarak.

The event attracted the participation of local officials and hundreds of enthusiastic contestants.

The head of Panjshir's Education Department stated that the purpose of this program is to provide a better and more comprehensive understanding of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

According to him, one thousand students from schools and religious institutions across Panjshir participated in this competition.



Mawlana Nasrullah Malekzada, head of Panjshir's Department of Information and Culture, stated that since the Islamic Emirate of

Afghanistan operates within the framework of Sharia, these competitions aim to raise students' awareness of its system.

The participating stu-

dents expressed their satisfaction with the organizing of such competitive programs, considered it important for enhancing their academic capacities.

Amu Darya Project: Chinese company secures contract for logistical services

KABUL (BNA): The contract opening for logistical services to transport equipment and supplies needed for the Amu Darya project from China to the contracted areas in Sar-e Pul province was held in the presence of Sheikh Shahabuddin Delawar, Acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum.

Initially, the Acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum spoke about the necessary equipment for the mentioned company. He emphasized that the Amu Darya project is an important and vital project for the people.

He also stressed that the



contractor company after winning should promptly take action regarding the

transportation of the necessary equipment for the project. In this process, a

Chinese company won the bid by offering a suitable rate.

New book by scholars focuses on consequences of elite migration

KABUL (TOLONews): A research book titled "Factors and Consequences of Migration in Afghanistan" was unveiled by the Herat Council of Specialists.

This book, prepared by five university professors and researchers, focuses on the causes of elite migration and brain drain from the country.

According to this research, economic challenges, lack of job security, and the closure of schools and universities to girls are the main reasons for the migration of the country's elites.

Mohammad Rafiq Shaheer, head of the Herat Council of Specialists, said: "Losing one of our elites,

especially under these conditions, takes a long time to replace. Training a doctor, an engineer, or a university professor, particularly for our underdeveloped and impoverished society, is not easy."

The book offers recommendations to the interim government for preventing the brain drain and elite migration, as well as for facilitating the return of these individuals to the country.

According to this research, in the past nearly three years, several European countries, the United States, and Canada have become hosts to thousands of Afghan migrants.

Most of these migrants include university professors, students, experts, and skilled government employees.

Experts say the migration of elites and brain drain is detrimental to Afghanistan.

Abdul Rahman Karimi, a university professor and researcher, said: "Countries have seized the opportunity, attracting our elites, which has greatly benefited them."

The research suggests that reopening schools and universities to girls, ensuring job security, and addressing economic challenges in the country can create the conditions for the

return of elites to Afghanistan.

Razeya Tabib Zada, one of the book's researchers, said: "Solving the community's economic problems can be seen as a reasonable strategy for the return of migrants to the country, as well as creating job opportunities for the youth."

In the past nearly three years, some countries have opened their borders to Afghan elites.

According to the book's researchers, elite migration and brain drain are detrimental to the country, making Afghanistan dependent on the specialists and elites of neighboring countries.



NEW YORK: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi shaking hands with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Israel rescues four hostages in Gaza

JERUSALEM/CAIRO (Reuters): Israeli forces rescued four hostages held by Hamas since October in a raid in Gaza on Saturday while over 200 Palestinians were killed in airstrikes in the same area, according to Hamas officials, in one of the bloodiest Israeli assaults of the war.

It was not immediately clear if the hostage rescue and the Israeli air assault were part of the same operation but both took place in central Gaza's Al-Nuseirat, a densely built-up and often embattled area in the eight-month-old war between Israel and Hamas, the Palestinian territory's ruling Islamist group.

An Israeli military spokesperson said the hostage rescue operation unfolded under fire in the heart of a residential neighborhood, where he said Hamas had been hiding captives among Gaza civilians under guard by armed militants. Israeli forces returned fire, including with airstrikes, added the

spokesperson, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari. An Israeli special forces commander was killed during the operation, a police statement said.

Israel named the rescued hostages as Noa Argamani, 26, Almog Meir Jan, 22, Andrey Kozlov, 27, and Shlomi Ziv, 41. They were taken to hospital for medical checks and were in good health, the military said. They were all kidnapped from the Nova music festival during the deadly raid by Hamas-led Palestinian militants on Israeli towns and villages near Gaza on Oct. 7, which precipitated the devastating war in the Hamas-run enclave.

Hamas' raid killed some 1,200 people, according to Israeli authorities, and Israel's subsequent bombardment and invasion of Gaza has killed at least 36,801 Palestinians, according to an updated tally by the territory's health ministry on Saturday. Gunmen took around 250 hostages back

to Gaza on Oct. 7. There are 116 now left in the coastal enclave, according to Israeli tallies, including at least 40 whom Israeli authorities have declared dead in absentia.

Israeli News 12 broadcast footage of Argamani reunited with her father, smiling and embracing him. Video of Argamani's kidnapping, showing her shouting "Don't kill me!" as she was driven into Gaza on a motorbike, circulated soon after she was taken on Oct. 7. A smiling Argamani was shown speaking by phone to Israeli President Isaac Herzog from hospital surrounded by family and friends, in footage released by the president's office.

"Thank you for everything, thank you for this moment," she said. "I am so excited to hear your voice, it brings tears to my eyes Welcome home," Herzog said. Poland praised the rescue of the hostages and said that one is a dual Israeli-Polish citizen.

Biden, Macron talk ME, Ukraine in French visit

PARIS (Reuters): Fresh from commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day, French President Emmanuel Macron welcomed US President Joe Biden in Paris on Saturday for a state visit that included talks about the Middle East, Ukraine and trade.

The two countries will work harder to prevent a regional escalation from Israel's war with militant group Hamas in Gaza and focus on calming tensions between Israel and Hezbollah, Macron told reporters at the Elysee presidential palace, with Biden at his side. "We are redoubling efforts together to avoid a regional explosion, particularly in Lebanon," Macron said. Hezbollah is an Iran-backed political movement and militia in Lebanon.

Both men welcomed the rescue by Israeli forces of four hostages held by Hamas since October. "We won't stop working until all the hostages come home and a ceasefire is reached," Biden said. Biden has been a staunch supporter of

Israel, which is pursuing Hamas after it attacked the country in October. But tens of thousands of Palestinian deaths have soured Biden's left-leaning political base on Israel, hurting him as he runs against Republican Donald Trump for re-election in November.

Biden and Macron, who spent the last few days celebrating D-Day veterans and extolling democratic values, did not take questions from reporters. The Saturday visit began with a ceremony at the iconic Arc de Triomphe, where the leaders paid their respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier while a massive French flag hanging from the arch fluttered in the breeze above their heads.

Accompanied by their wives, Biden and Macron greeted army veterans. Then, escorted by French guards on horseback, they drove down the capital's renowned Avenue des Champs-Élysées, en route to the Elysee. The day concluded with a dinner at the French presidential palace, where celebrities including

Pharrell Williams and John McEnroe joined political and business leaders.

Biden and Macron share a warm relationship despite past tensions over a submarine deal with Australia. Biden hosted Macron for a state visit at the White House in 2022. They are aligned in their countries' support for Ukraine and opposition to Russian President Vladimir Putin, and a joint roadmap released by the presidents included a commitment to back efforts to use frozen Russian assets to help Kyiv.

Tapping profits from Russian assets has drawn concerns from some countries, but a US Treasury official said on Tuesday the United States and its G7 partners were making progress. "The United States is standing strong with Ukraine. We're standing with our allies. We are standing with France," Biden said. "Putin is not going to stop with Ukraine.... All of Europe will be threatened. We're not going to let that happen."

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The 8th meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial cabinet, held at the Chief Minister House, was presided over by Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur. The meeting underscored key initiatives to strengthen the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, enhance revenue from the mineral sector, and improve the execution of developmental schemes.

Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur emphasized the allocation of additional resources to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police to bolster law and order in the province. He also highlighted the need for improved revenue generation from the mineral sector through better structures and processes. The establishment of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minerals Development and Management Company (KPMDMC) was lauded as a positive step towards responsible mining and international marketing of minerals.

The meeting of the provincial cabinet was attended by Ministers, Advisors, Special Assistants, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretaries and relevant administrative secretaries. The cabinet approved the proposal for the establishment and incorporation of KPMDMC, which will focus on exploring, developing, excavating, processing, and marketing minerals with an emphasis on mechanized economic excavation.

Draft bill for amendment in section 116-A of the Motor Vehicle Ordinance, 1965 duly endorsed by Law & Finance Departments was placed before the provincial cabinet to re-allocate the 25% quota/share of traffic fines from traffic education, awareness, purchase of machinery & equipment to 15% and the remaining 10% to be remitted to the Police Welfare Fund. The provincial cabinet has approved this summary of the Home and Tribal Affairs Department.

In order to introduce online payment system and integrate the existing Motor Vehicle Registration System, Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Department to introduce a complete IT solution through an MOU with KP IT Board on payment of service charges equitant to once percent. Agreeing to the proposal the cabinet approved the proposal for a period

of one year.

A summary for clearance of compensation cases with respect to property losses of citizens of South Waziristan upper at the cost of Rs. 1.5 billion was presented in the cabinet meeting. The cabinet approved the summary as non-ADP scheme/AIP titled Citizen Losses Compensation Programme South Waziristan Upper'. The amount will be paid by the Federal Government.

Requisition of 500 troops as ex-pot facto sanction and requisition of 200 new troops as security for foreign nationals are working in various projects in Hazara Division was placed before provincial cabinet for approval. Legally section 131-A of Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 read with Article 245 of constitution stipulates that if provincial government is satisfied that assistance of armed forces is required for the public security, protection of citizen and property, public peace and maintenance of law and order may request federal government to direct any officer of the armed forces to render such assistance.

The Home and Tribal Affairs Department placed a case of to allow inclusion of Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) and Potassium Chlorate in the definition of Explosives exercising its powers as enunciated in Section 2 (f) clause (iii) and section 23 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Explosives Act, 2013. This was approved by the provincial cabinet.

A summary for concurrence of Provincial Cabinet for obtaining loan by the Federal Government for the project 'Flood Protection Sector Project-III' was presented in the meeting. The cabinet agreed to the summary in principle and granted concurrence. Flood Protection Sector Project (III) costing Rs. 194.625 billion over the first five years (2023-28) was recommended by CDWP in its meeting held on 23.05.2023 and approved by ECNEC on 27.06.2023.

A summary for implementation plan for proposed energy conservation measures were placed before the cabinet. The cabinet as recommended by the Energy and Power Department approved the amendments in rules of Business, 1985 empowering the Provincial Electric Inspectorate to enforce NEECA Laws/rules/regulations/instructions/guide-

lines/codes in respect of Energy Conservation in all the sectors across the province.

The Agriculture Department presented a proposal for the reconstitution of Pakistan Tobacco Board which was approved. As the tenure of the board has been expired on 23-01-2014, Ministry of National Food Security & Research, Islamabad has requested the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province for the nomination of three progressive tobacco growers to be notified as members of PTB for the next tenure under section 3(1)(b) and one official member under section 3(1)(d).

A panel as nominated by the Search and Nomination Council for non-official members of the Boards of Governors Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Foundation was placed before the cabinet. The cabinet approved names of Dr. Shabana Haider as Chairperson and Hasnain Khurshid Ahmad, Muhammad Yahya, Anam Saeed and Dr. Sobia Sabir Ali as members.

A summary for appoint of PEDO members in different committees were presented before the cabinet. As recommended by the Policy Board the cabinet approved names of Aziz Raza for Renewable Energy and Hamood-ur-Rehman for Finance committees respectively. Recommendations for members of the Board of Directors of WSSC Swat and Mardan were presented before the cabinet which were approved.

A summary for the Up-gradation of Teachers of Special Education Institutions and Welfare Homes from BSP-17 to BPS-18 in light of Peshawar High Court Judgement was placed before the cabinet which was approved. An executive summary for revision of pay scales of the teachers working in institutes of the handicapped was presented in the cabinet meeting. Agreeing to the proposal the cabinet approved award of scale to pay effect (BPS-17) to the 32 teachers from the date of acquiring of degrees.

The Zakat, Usher, Social Welfare, Special Education and Women Empowerment department presented a proposal in the meeting for requesting Rs. 2.7 million supplementary grants-in-aid in order to clear the outstanding amount under Drug Free Peshawar Program Phase II. Under this program 240 number of drug addicts have been rehabilitated.

PTI, JUI-F to form anti-govt alliance

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), two major opposition parties which hitherto were each other's rivals, have reached quite close to entering an alliance against the government, sources said on Saturday.

Sources further said that the former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan had given an assurance that JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman's reservations would be addressed and that a three-member committee had been constituted to settle differences between the two parties on his instructions.

On the other hand, they disclosed, that the former prime minister's message had been conveyed to the JUI-F chief. If both parties reach an agreement on the formation of an alliance, Imran and Fazl would sign the document. Reports of a possible alliance between both the parties, which have remained bitterly opposed to each other, has been doing rounds on the media for quite some time now.

Claims of rigging in the February 8 general elections brought the PTI and the JUI-F close to each other, leaving everybody by surprise as the people were not expecting that ice between both the parties would melt at least in near future. There have also been meetings between the delegations of the two parties. The goodwill increased to such an extent that the JUI-F chief had to state that his past preferences to the PTI founder as an agent of Jews were mere political statements. The bridging of differences prompted the PML-N to make overtures to Maulana Fazl, but the latter showed no sign of giving up.

Decade of deceit: Unveiling graft hijacking KP's drug control sector

Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR- A decade-long saga of irregularities and misuse of authority has plagued the drug control and pharmacy services sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, implicating several influential figures and a compromised system.

For over ten years, a group of self-interested elements has hijacked the drug control sector in the province, enjoying systemic protection that suggests the absence of law, merit, and justice. A notable figure among these is an officer who was originally recruited as a hospital pharmacist. This individual, through unlawful means, has held three key positions- Deputy Secretary Drugs, Secretary of the Provincial Quality Control Board, and Secretary of the Pharmacy Council for decades, in clear violation of service rules and ground laws. This officer, along with a select group of subordinates, has manipulated the entire system at both provincial and federal levels, disregarding the Drug Act, Pharmacy Act, and Civil Servants Act. They have even ignored court judgments, using government files and loyal officers to further their nefarious agenda successfully for years.

In 2016/2017, three distinct cadres-hospital pharmacists, drug inspectors, and drug analysts-were illegally merged to establish an independent Directorate of Drug Control and Pharmacy Services, parallel to

the Director General Health Services. This directorate, created with just 63 officers, strategically positioned junior officers without service rules, keeping most posts vacant to maintain control over drug management and procurement.

A significant revelation is that the officer at the helm of this directorate, despite being a Grade 18 officer with less than 13 years of service, holds two additional positions-Provincial Chief Drug Inspector and Project Director of Mobile Drug Lab-through the aid of the Deputy Secretary Drugs. These positions involve handling government drug procurement contracts worth billions, with substantial kickbacks reportedly being shared among them.

Since the establishment of the province's health system, drug control has traditionally been under the DG Health Services. However, in 2013, with the help of a senior minister, this group took control. Last year, when the DG Health protested the exclusion from hospital and district health offices' drug procurement, a major campaign was launched against him.

A letter addressed to the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary reveals that this directorate, created based on the illegal merger, has faced multiple writ petitions in the Peshawar High Court and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Service Tribunal, all ruling against the merger and the directorate. Yet, due to the presence of certain offi-

cers, these judgments have not been implemented. Furthermore, a Supreme Court decision also went against the government, but these judgments were concealed from the cabinet, misleading the entire system.

Interestingly, the directorate was established by a caretaker government, which lacked the mandate to do so. The Finance Department's former Secretary Shakeel Qadir and Administration's Arshad Majid have rejected this directorate, which could not be notified in the Gazette for four years due to court orders.

Additionally, this group has pushed through illicit amendments in the drug rules, leading to the creation of over 100 ghost Category B pharmacy institutes, run by the officers themselves, generating millions. These amendments have also jeopardized the livelihoods of fifty thousand chemists by revoking their licenses, under the guise of 'good governance'-a false narrative.

Recent High Court rulings have favored the chemists, exposing the fraudulent amendments. Despite a cabinet decision limiting tenure at a single station to two years, an officer has remained at the same station for twenty years, a record across Pakistan. This group has consistently manipulated higher authorities, including the Health Secretary, Health Minister, Chief Secretary, Chief Minister, and the cabinet, concealing the truth and portraying an 'all is well' scenario.

Resolution tabled in PA to penalize May 9 perpetrators

LAHORE (PPI): A resolution was tabled in Punjab Assembly on Saturday to penalize May 9 perpetrators on immediate basis. Punjab Assembly member (MPA) of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), Shoaib Siddiqi submitted the resolution against May 9 perpetrators. The resolution stated that mastermind, planners and executors of May 9 incident must be given a harsh punishment.

Those involved in desecration of

army installations, martyrs' memorial and propaganda shouldn't be forgiven. Shoaib Siddiqi in the resolution stated that the May 9 incident was tragic, unforgettable and dark chapter of history. Incident revealed the conspiracy against state, judiciary, state institutions, and state sovereignty, he added.

Elements involved in creating rift between state institutions and public and disturbing law and order must be brought to justice. It was demanded in

the resolution that to penalize those involved in Jinnah House attack and destruction in other cities on May 9.

Shoaib Siddiqi stressed that nation is standing behind Armed Forces of Pakistan for state sovereignty, security, economic development and sanctity of state institutions. He asserted that Punjab Assembly House hoped that there would be no incident like May 9, 2023 in the future. The Resolution declared the May 9 riots as the planned conspiracy of violators.

(Continued from Page 1)

Calling on the international community to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation, the two sides expressed their firm opposition to double standards on counter-terrorism, and opposed the politicization and instrumentalization of counter-terrorism.

The two sides stood ready to work with the international community to strengthen multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation within multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations. The two sides recognized that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been a pioneering project of the Belt and Road Initiative. Since the launch of CPEC, the two sides have adhered to the principle of "planning together, building together, and benefiting together," and promoted the construction of CPEC to achieve fruitful results, which has changed the development landscape of Pakistan, benefited its people's well-being, and promoted the integrated development of Pakistan and China.

After the successful first decade of CPEC, the two sides are committed to carrying out the eight major steps for supporting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, forging an

"upgraded version" of CPEC by jointly building a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor, aligning with Pakistan's 5Es Framework based on Exports, E-Pakistan, Environment, Energy, and Equity & Empowerment to better benefit the two countries and their peoples, working together to build CPEC into an exemplary project of high-quality building of Belt and Road cooperation.

The two sides reaffirmed that upgradation of ML-I is an important project under the CPEC framework and is of strategic significance to Pakistan's socio-economic development. The two sides agreed to implement the common understanding of the leaders of the two countries, actively explore advancing the project in a "phased manner" and start working on financing modalities. They recognized that the Karakoram Highway (Raikot-Thakot) realignment project is of great significance for the smooth operation of the only land-based channel between Pakistan and China. The two sides reviewed with satisfaction the important progress made in the preliminary

work of the project, and signed the framework agreement of the project during this visit.

They believed that the Khunjerab-Sost pass plays an important role in promoting trade and people-to-people exchanges between Pakistan and China. The two sides agreed to advance upgradation of the inspection infrastructure of the Khunjerab-Sost pass so as to realize the all year-round function of the Khunjerab-Sost pass at an early date.

Recognizing the significance of Gwadar Port as an important node in cross-regional connectivity, the two sides were satisfied that the New Gwadar International Airport will soon be finished, and reiterated the need to speed up the development of the auxiliary infrastructure of the Gwadar Port in order to fully realize the potential of the coastal city, especially as a transshipment hub with a shipyard. The two sides put great emphasis on industry cooperation under the framework of high-quality CPEC development.

The two sides signed the Action Plan for Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC to strengthen industrial cooperation

in various areas suited to their local conditions. China reiterated its commitment to Pakistan's industrialization, and will encourage Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones in accordance with the market and commercial principles. Pakistan agreed to optimize its business environment and policy framework to further facilitate Chinese investment. The two sides reiterated that CPEC is an open and inclusive platform for win-win cooperation, and welcomed third parties to actively participate in the CPEC cooperation priority areas such as industry, agriculture, ICT, science and technology and mining.

Recognizing that mining is an important breakthrough area for industrial cooperation, both sides agreed to strengthen long-term planning for mining cooperation, promote the implementation of the Agreement to Strengthen Mining and Industrial Cooperation under the CPEC Framework collectively, and take actions such as geological survey, joint geology and minerals research and talent training.

The two sides expressed their will-

ingness to actively encourage Chinese companies to invest in the mining industry of Pakistan, and strengthen the planning of mining industrial parks, including downstream mineral processing. The Chinese side expressed its willingness to strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in such areas as offshore oil and gas resources, and natural gas hydrate. The Chinese side would encourage Chinese companies to actively participate in the development of offshore oil and gas blocks of Pakistan.

Both sides agreed that agricultural cooperation between the two countries enjoys a bright future. The two sides would carry out practical cooperation for modernizing agriculture in Pakistan in areas such as seed technology, crop cultivation, drip irrigation, prevention and control of animal and plant diseases, agricultural mechanization, production capacity cooperation, and agricultural technology exchanges.

Both sides were satisfied with the outcomes reached in the second meeting under the framework of the CPEC Joint Working Group on Information Technology Industry.

The two sides are willing to enhance policy coordination in related areas, and promote experience sharing and talent training. The two sides agreed to strengthen development of the Pakistan-China digital information channel, and promote the integration of information and communication technology infrastructure and develop an innovation corridor through Pakistan.

The two sides were satisfied with the progress in energy cooperation between Pakistan and China. The two sides reaffirmed the significance of enhancing bilateral energy cooperation, expressed commitment to further strengthening collaboration in clean energy sector, and encouraged Chinese companies to engage in hydropower and other relevant projects based on market principles and commercial operations and achieve win-win outcomes.

While appreciating China's contributions to addressing power shortages in Pakistan, both sides agreed to launch a new phase of energy cooperation, by modernizing production, transmission and distribution systems to reduce line and other losses. China was committed to further implementing more "small yet smart" livelihood programs in Pakistan.