

Govt announces holidays

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government on Tuesday announced a two-day public holiday for the 9th and 10th of Muharram. "The Prime Minister is pleased to declare 16th and 17th July, 2024 (Tuesday and Wednesday) as public holidays on the occasion of Ashura (9th & 10th Moharram 1446 AH)," a notification issued by the Cabinet Division stated.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir consoling the father of Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad who embraced martyrdom on Tuesday.

UN experts say famine has spread throughout Gaza

GENEVA (Reuters): The recent deaths of several more children from malnutrition in the Gaza Strip indicate that famine has spread throughout the enclave, a group of independent human rights experts mandated by the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Gaza health authorities say at least 33 children have died of malnutrition, mostly in northern areas which had until recently faced the brunt of the Israeli military campaign launched after the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel.

Since early May, the war has spread to southern Gaza, hitting aid flows into the enclave amid restric-

tions by Israel, which has accused U.N. agencies of failing to distribute supplies efficiently.

In Tuesday's statement, the group of 11 rights experts cited the deaths of three children aged 13, 9-years-old and six months from malnutrition in the southern area of Khan Younis and the central area of Deir Al-Balah since the end of May.

"With the death of these children from starvation despite medical treatment in central Gaza, there is no doubt that famine has spread from northern Gaza into central and southern Gaza," the experts said.

Their statement, signed by experts including the Special Rapporteur on the

right to food, Michael Fakhri, condemned "Israel's intentional and targeted starvation campaign against the Palestinian people".

Israel's diplomatic mission in Geneva said the statement amounted to "misinformation".

"Israel has continuously scaled up its coordination and assistance in the delivery of humanitarian aid across the Gaza Strip, recently connecting its power line to the Gaza water desalination plant," it added.

In a Khan Younis hospital on Monday, Palestinian woman Ghaneyma Joma told Reuters she feared her son would die of starvation.

SC issues notice on Suri's property details

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court (SC) has taken a step by issuing notices to the Federation and the FIA, demanding comprehensive details of PTI leader Qasim Suri's property.

This action follows a hearing where a 4-member bench, led by the Chief Justice, addressed an appeal regarding the re-election decision in Qasim Suri's constituency.

During the proceedings, Qasim Suri's lawyer, Naeem Bukhari, clarified his lack of communication with his client, prompting the Chief Justice to express skepticism over the use of court injunctions to delay legal proceedings.

Despite the absence of Qasim Suri, the court underscored the importance of transparency, directing the Balochistan government to furnish all property details and investigate how Qasim Suri departed the country.

The order highlights the court's stance on accountability and transparency in public office, signaling a crucial development in the ongoing legal scrutiny of Qasim Suri's affairs.

Court directs NAB to submit case file

KARACHI (INP): The Special Banking Court in Karachi has instructed the investigating officer to present the case file pertaining to the fake bank accounts case involving Pakistan Peoples Party leader Faryal Talpur and others.

During the hearing, Faryal Talpur appeared in court while the investigating officer informed that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had not yet handed over the case file, prompting discussion on the necessity of notifying NAB's Chairman.

In response, the defense lawyer argued against the need for such notification, asserting that it is the investigating officer's responsibility to procure the case file independently.

The court granted an exemption from appearing to accused Anwar Majeed upon request and heard statements regarding immunity for President Asif Ali Zardari.

The proceedings were adjourned until August 15, with the court directing the investigating officer to ensure submission of the case file before the next hearing.

Meanwhile, Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has been granted permission by the Islamabad High Court to travel abroad for a period of two weeks. Chief Justice Amir Farooq presided over the hearing where the court temporarily lifted the travel ban on Chaudhry, allowing him to leave Pakistan from August 10 to 24.

The Frontier Post

ATC rejects interim bail

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday rejected the interim bail of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder in three cases related to May 9 violence. ATC Judge Khalid Arshad announced the reserved verdict on the bail petitions of the PTI founder in cases involving attacks on Jinnah House, Askari Tower, and the torching of Shadman Police Station.

Benefit to 25m domestic power consumers

PM announces Rs50b relief package

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced Rs 50 billion package to provide a relief of up to seven rupees per unit to around 25 million domestic power consumers, falling in the protected category for three months till September. "Today, an amount of Rs 50 billion has been allocated to provide a relief of Rs 4-7 per unit as a concession to our protected category consumers using up to 200 units a month for three months period from July to September. This will benefit around 25 million domestic power consumers which constitute around 94% of the total consumer base," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony held to discuss the prevailing issues related to electricity bills and reforms in the power sector.

He said that the federal government had scrapped the said amount from its development budget to realise its commitment to public relief, contrary to the hollow claims of the previous governments.

He also assured the people of further relief as the government got a fiscal space consequent to its ongoing measures of taxing the elite class, expanding the tax net, closing the non-performing entities and plugging the holes, causing financial leakages. He told the gathering of federal ministers and senior government officers that during its previous 16-month stint, the coalition government saved the country from default by putting its politics at stake.

Referring to the PTI-led government in the past, the prime minister recalled the tall claims of eliminating corruption within 90 days and

repatriating \$300 billion from abroad. Instead, he said the sugar and wheat scams surfaced and the 190 million pounds coming from the UK through the NCA could not land in the national kitty as was supposed to be done. Similarly, the same government announced a sudden decrease in oil prices causing loss to the national kitty, just for political gains, at a time when the prices were skyrocketing in the global market.

The prime minister said that under the leadership of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the incumbent government took responsibility for public service and would collectively face the challenges to put the country on track to progress.

He said the government was going to sign a three-year programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and had also taken it on board about the relief announced for the domestic power consumers.

He said on Monday, the federal and Balochistan provincial governments had reached an agreement to solarise around 28,000 tube-wells in the province to save annual Rs80-90 billion as the consumers were defaulting payment of power bills.

During the last decade, around Rs 500 billion went down the drain this way, therefore the government decided to disconnect their power connection and solarise all the said tube-wells costing Rs 55 billion to be borne by the federal and provincial governments with 70/30 proportion respectively.

"The same model will be launched in other provinces as

around a million tube-wells are being run on imported oil having a financial implication of \$3.5 billion on foreign exchange," he said and told the participants that a business model was being prepared in this regard.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said in the annual budget, new taxes have been imposed on the real estate sector to generate around Rs100 billion and that the salaried class was justified to protest the tax burden. The time has come for the elite class to pay back to the country, he remarked.

Mentioning the \$5 billion being spent annually on freight of import and export, he said the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation was running a fleet of only 12 ships against an annual budget of Rs 5 billion, contrary to hundreds of ships in the fleet of other countries like Bangladesh. "In the future, there is only one way of getting relief - save billions and trillions going to corruption," he remarked.

He also highlighted that taxes worth Rs1200 billion were being evaded on Karachi Port, in addition to another Rs2700 billion worth of tax claims pending with the courts.

"These are the challenges and parasites which are eating up the country. If we have to make the country prosper, we will have to get rid of loans and begging. The only way is to make efforts and make the elite class pay back to the country," he added and also called for exploiting the immense potential in agriculture, information technology, mining and mineral sectors.

Captain embraced martyrdom during fire exchange with terrorists

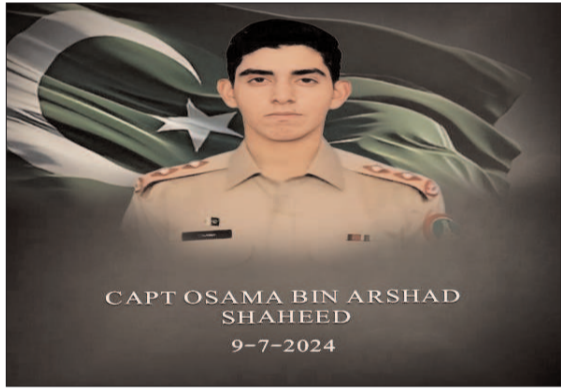
F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: On Tuesday, a fire exchange took place between security forces and terrorists in North Waziristan district. During the fierce engagement, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as result of which two terrorists were sent to hell.

However, during the intense exchange of fire, leading his troops from the front, Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad (age: 24 years, resident of Rawalpindi District), having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat.

Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area.

Security forces of Pakistan are determined to



eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Both Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari offer condolences on the over Shahadat of Captain Osama Bin Arshad.

Meanwhile, funeral prayers of Captain

Muhammad Osama Bin Arshad Shaheed (age: 24 years, resident of District Rawalpindi) who embraced martyrdom while defending the motherland in North Waziristan District, was offered at Chaklala Garrison Rawalpindi.

Prime Minister of Pakistan, Defence Minister, Information

Minister, COAS and a large number of serving and retired military officers, soldiers and relatives of Shaheed attended the funeral.

On the occasion, the PM remarked that these sacrifices reaffirm our resolve to defeat terrorism in all its forms for a peaceful and prosperous Pakistan.

He said that the nation stands resolute against these foreign-abetted terrorists and their facilitators and these adversaries of Pakistan will be comprehensively defeated through a multi-domain strategy based on whole-of-the-system approach, InshAllah.

The Shaheed will be buried at his native hometown where he will be laid to rest with full military honours.

President for adopting holistic approach, prudent financial policies

LAHORE (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday called for adopting a holistic approach and prudent financial policies to put the country on path to development.

He said that different sectors of the economy, especially the agricultural sector, needed to be developed along modern lines. He added that the government was planning to tax agricultural income as per the International Monetary Fund's conditions, howev-

er, the provincial governments would be leading the initiative to tax large land-holding farmers in accordance with their profitability and expenditures.

The President gave these remarks while addressing the Professor Waris Mir Memorial Seminar, here. A large number of journalists, academicians, political workers, and members of the civil society attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the President highlighted that the social

media had given power to the people by amplifying their voices, however, recent years had also witnessed a grouping in the media.

He cautioned that a strong religious lobby in the world was manipulating and managing perceptions aiming to sow divisions in Muslim societies. He said that he was a supporter of the freedom of press and had always tolerated harsh criticism from the media. He said that societies needed to be care-

ful against agenda-driven information.

The President highlighted that one had to face trials and tribulations in life, however, one needed to stay steadfast in the face of challenges. He paid rich tribute to the political struggle and sacrifices of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed for democracy, saying that Pakistan People's Party had a history of facing pressures and assassinations, however, continued its struggle for the cause of democracy in Pakistan.



LAHORE: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing during Professor Waris Mir Memorial Seminar at Alhamra.

Murad for timely drainage of rainwater in Karachi

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah issued directives to municipal and other institutions to ensure coordinated efforts to address issues related to rainwater drainage and traffic management during the ongoing rains.

The chief minister directed the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and cantonment boards to carry out coordinated efforts to ensure effective rainwater drainage and facilitate citizens.

CM Murad also directed the Transport Department has expedited work on the Red Line Corridor project to alleviate the difficulties faced by residents of

Gulshan Iqbal and Taimur Nagar.

He directed the Traffic Police to be more active in managing traffic in Karachi especially in areas where uplift works are being carried out to avoid difficulties for citizens. He also emphasised the need for better traffic management in areas where development work is underway.

CM Sindh informed about encroachment on lakes

Advisor to CM Sindh on Livestock and Fisheries Syed Najmi Alam has said that Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah had been informed about the encroachments of fresh water lakes by private people.

These lakes and fishermen who had been issued

licenses by the Sindh Fisheries Department have the right to catch fish, said Advisor to CM on Livestock and Fisheries Syed Najmi Alam during a meeting with a delegation of fishermen led by Pakistan Fishermen's Chairman Mehran Ali Shah in his office.

The delegation of Pakistan Fishermen told the Provincial Adviser that the influential people had captured the water of Kakahu area and Chotiari Dam in Sanghar and evicted the local fishermen while in Badin district, LBOD had once again destroyed fertile lands and fresh water fish ponds and lakes where millions of acres of land have been submerged and all fish species have been wiped out.



LAHORE: Delegation of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) meets Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Tessori announces scholarships to pursue higher education abroad

KARACHI (PPI): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has announced a new initiative to provide scholarships to students to pursue higher education abroad.

Speaking to the media at Governor House, he emphasized the need to think about the future of the youth and the importance of sending them abroad for quality education. This initiative, under the Governor Initiative, will be personally monitored by him.

Governor Tessori highlighted that the first career counseling session has already been conducted at Governor House. An information cell will be established at Governor House to assist students with the scholarship process. The program aims to send deserving students abroad based on merit.

He further mentioned the contributions of Syed Abidi, who has sent 15,000 students abroad on scholar-

ships. Tessori stated that his mission is to enhance Pakistan's reputation globally. He shared that 50,000 youth are currently receiving free IT courses, earning \$200 to \$400 per month during training.

Under the Governor Initiative, young entrepreneurs with viable business proposals are receiving interest-free loans ranging from one lakh to one crore rupees. Over 580,000 ration bags have been distributed to the needy, and a program is in place to replace stolen motorbikes for those who haven't recovered them within six months.

Tessori announced the creation of a job portal for overseas employment, where youth can submit their educational details and learn new languages to enhance their job prospects abroad. He emphasized the need for collective effort to overcome Pakistan's economic challenges and called for con-

tributions from all sectors.

He assured the public of his support for those wanting to pursue IT courses or education abroad. Addressing a question, he mentioned the inclusive nature of their work, transcending sects and communities. The Governor House has welcomed 2.2 million visitors and remains open to the public 24/7, with an IT gate replacing the traditional barrier.

Tessori reiterated his commitment to serving his compatriots and encouraged other philanthropists to join in supporting the nation's youth.

Syed Abidi also briefed students on the scholarship application process and the resources available for learning about international educational institutions. An information cell has been set up at Governor House to further assist students in their educational endeavors.

Dengue larvae found at 497 spots

LAHORE (APP): The district administration during inspection in the city recovered dengue larvae from 497 places during the last 24 hours. A spokesman for the DC office said on Tuesday, so far this year, dengue larvae have been destroyed from 18,908 places in the city.

Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider issued specific directives to the ACs, asking them to initiate punitive action against all commercial establishments where positive dengue larvae have been found.

On the directions of DC, Assistant Commissioner Raiwind Zainab Tahir reviewed the performance of teams in the UC 120A block and directed them to identify dengue larvae and ensure 100 per cent coverage of hotspots. While Assistant Commissioner City Rai Babar inspected the work of Team No. 1 and 2 at UC 29 Taxali Gate.

The DC said immediate actions are being taken wherever dengue larvae were found, and dengue teams focus on hotspots and high-risk areas for special coverage, she added. Rafia Haider urged the citizens to cooperate with dengue teams and also advised them to keep their homes, surroundings and outdoor environments clean and tidy.

Five held for overpricing

LAHORE (APP): In a significant move to enforce official prices, the Price Control Magistrates have conducted inspections at 3,223 locations, leading to the arrest of 5 individuals for overpricing fruits, vegetables, and other essential items.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rafia Haider told media on Tuesday that 2 cases have been registered for violations of government-set prices. Furthermore, fines totaling Rs 1.1 million have been imposed for 201 instances of non-compliance.

The DC emphasized that Price Control Magistrates are actively ensuring adherence to official rates. Supervision of the auction process in fruit and vegetable markets is also underway to prevent any malpractices.

Administrative officers are ensuring the sale of fruits, vegetables, and bread at government-approved prices. All stalls and shops are being instructed to prominently display the rate list, and strict action is being taken against those failing to comply, she added.

Azm-e-Istehkam must not compromise rights: HRCP

LAHORE (PPI): The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) said on Tuesday that it had been concerned by the possible repercussions of the recently announced Azm-e-Istehkam operation through which the federal government proposed to deal with rising militancy in the country.

In a statement, HRCP said: While there is no question that the state must deal urgently with deteriorating law and order and poor security across the country, HRCP

is concerned by the lack of transparency surrounding this measure. The state must not forget that such measures are as much political as they are security-driven."

Accordingly, Parliament must deliberate on this operation carefully and transparently, taking into account the concerns of the entire political spectrum as far as possible, the HRCP said.

HRCP's greatest concern was the potentially adverse impact this measure could have on ordinary citizens,

many of whom include families who were displaced by earlier security operations and have yet to be compensated or rehabilitated.

Any realistic approach to countering militancy should not lose sight of the rights of all people affected. This operation must not therefore be used to justify further enforced disappearances, the use of internment centres or military courts, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests or custodial torture, the HRCP concluded.

Wahab warns medical officers against lack of performance

KARACHI (PPI): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) wants to improve its hospitals, but this cannot be achieved without implementing process of rewards and penalties.

Medical superintendents and other officers who do not improve performance will no longer be tolerated. Dr Ghulam Abbas, Medical Superintendent of Sarfraz Rafique Shaheed Hospital, has been suspended for being absent from duty.

All hospital medical superintendents are required to submit a report within a week on how many citizens they have treated during the past year. Strict action will be taken against officers who provide incorrect figures. These remarks were made by him while chairing a meeting of the KMC Medical Services

Department. The Municipal Commissioner, SM Afzal Zaidi, Senior Director Medical Services, and medical superintendents of all kmc hospitals were also present in the meeting.

Wahab said that the performance of all major hospitals under KMC is not satisfactory, therefore all medical superintendents should inform in writing how many officers and other staff members are on duty at their hospitals. Service books and personnel files of all doctors, paramedical staff, and employees should be available in hospitals.

All doctors working in KMC hospitals should take an oath within a week that they are not serving or practicing elsewhere, and this oath should be deposited in the Mayor's Secretariat. All medical superintendents should improve the performance of their hospitals

so that standardized medical services can be provided to patients.

Immediate arrangements should also be made for cleanliness in hospitals. Availability of necessary medicines and medical equipment must be ensured.

KMC hospitals are a very cost-effective means of providing medical facilities to citizens, but this objective will only be achieved when the performance of these institutions improves and patients are satisfied with their treatment. In this regard, no delay or negligence will be tolerated, and those responsible, including superintendents and other officers, will face disciplinary action. Wahab emphasized that all instructions given must be implemented without delay. The performance of all KMC hospitals will be reviewed and monitored continuously so that these can be improved.

Sindh Govt launches legal aid and HR complaints portals

KARACHI (PPI): The Sindh government's Human Rights Department has launched the Legal Aid and Human Rights Complaints Portals to provide free legal aid to marginalized individuals who are victims of human rights violations.

Ms Fatima encouraged the general public to utilize and popularize these services. Mr. Iqbal Detho, Chairman of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, emphasized Sindh's unique position in having an independent Human Rights Commission, unlike other provinces.

The Commission has the authority to take suo moto action against fundamental rights violations. "We are working to mainstream legal aid mechanisms, with the Sindh government providing Rs 100 million for legal aid to needy and poor," he added. Mr. Detho also mentioned the Commission's process of receiving complaints, investigating, and submitting recommendations to the concerned departments.

Jameel Hussain Junejo, Executive Coordinator of TIC, explained that this

PPP delegation calls on Governor Punjab

F.P. Report

LAHORE: A delegation of Divisional Secretaries Information of Pakistan People's Party Central Punjab led by Information Secretary Central Punjab, Shehzad Saeed Cheema met Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan here today at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the delegation congratulated the Governor of Punjab on performing Umrah.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider said that information bureau is considered as the vision and voice of any political party. He said that information secretaries should promote positive and factual content in print, electronic and social media. Governor Punjab said that it is very important to strengthen digital media and embrace technology in communication.

He said that digital media can play an active role in fostering positive attitudes in the society and bringing about positive social change. He said that he is committed to fulfill his constitutional role in a good way and contribute to the improvement of the province.

The delegation comprised PPP, Lahore Division Secretary Information Faiza Malik Ex-MPA, Rawalpindi Division Raja Nazir Advocate, Gujranwala Division Abdul Razak Salami, Faisalabad Division Samia Naz Advocate, Sargodha Division Tanveer Shehbaz Bukhari and Sahiwal Division Secretary Information Tahir Abbas Sindhu.

275,000 farmers registered for Kissan Card Scheme

LAHORE (APP): As many as 275,000 farmers have been registered so far in the Chief Minister Punjab's Kissan Card Scheme.

In this regard the verification process of around 100,000 farmers has been completed, official sources told APP on Monday.

The registration of Chief Minister Punjab Kissan Card is being carried out on first come first served basis. So far 275,000 farmers have been registered for Kissan Card scheme, they said.

Furthermore, the manufacturing process of 250,000 Kissan Cards has entered the final stage, they said. It is pertinent to mention here that from August 10, the Punjab Chief Minister Kissan Card will be available in the respective branches of Bank of Punjab and the farmers.

Likewise, from October 15, farmers will be able to purchase using the Chief Minister Punjab Kissan Card, besides Interest-free easy loan facility up to 150,000 rupees will be available through the card.

FIA, DRAP seize illegal medicines

KARACHI (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), in collaboration with the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), conducted a raid in Gulshan-e-Roomi, Malir, seizing a significant amount of unregistered, illegal, and expired medicines from foreign countries, and arrested an individual.

CM Sindh informed about encroachment on lakes, tells advisor

KARACHI (PPI): Advisor to CM Sindh on Livestock and Fisheries Syed Najmi Alam has said that Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah had been informed about the encroachments of fresh water lakes by private people.

These lakes and fishermen who had been issued licenses by the Sindh Fisheries Department have the right to catch fish, said Advisor to CM on Livestock and Fisheries Syed Najmi Alam during a meeting with a delegation of fishermen led by Pakistan Fishers' Chairman Mehran Ali Shah in his office.

The delegation of Pakistan Fishers' told the Provincial Adviser that the influential people had captured the water of Kakahu area and Chotiari Dam in Sanghar and evicted the local fishermen while in Badin district, LBOD had once again destroyed fertile lands and fresh water fish ponds and lakes where millions of acres of land have been submerged and all fish species have been wiped out.

In the meeting, Director General Fisheries Sindh Inland Zulfikar Ali Larak was instructed by the provincial adviser to contact the district administration in this regard and bring these issues to their attention and also inform them under the paperwork in this regard.

Adviser Alam said that we will not allow injustice to the fishermen of Sindh, we have asked the Sindh government along with the federal government to take practical steps to give the fishermen labor status. He said that MQM is talking about the problems of fishermen to shine their politics, they have not done anything for fishermen during their government, we will solve all the problems of fishermen under the leadership of our current Sindh government party leadership, especially Chairman Bilawal Bhutto.

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Ghusl Ceremony of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA) shrine on 16th

LAHORE (APP): The 981st annual Ghusl Ceremony of the Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA) shrine will be held on 9 Muharram-ul-Haram, Tuesday (July 16) in which federal and provincial ministers, and government dignitaries will participate.

Director General Auqaf Punjab Khalid Mahmood Sindhu on Tuesday while presiding over the meeting to review arrangements of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA) Urs celebrations, directed that the officers of all allied departments will perform 24-hour duty under an integrated security system, and no negligence will be tolerated in this regard.

SSP Operation Lahore, Administrator Auqaf Data Darbar Tauqeer Mehmood

Watto, Khateeb Data Darbar Masjid Mufti Muhammad Ramzan, senior officers of Safe City Authority, Food Authority, LESCO, Municipal Corporation, Health, Education, Traffic, Rescue 1122, WASA, Civil Defense and many other departments participated in the meeting.

The Administrator Auqaf while giving a briefing said that measures relating to the Urs events, including the annual Ghusl Mubarak will be ensured. He said that foolproof security and better facilities will be provided to the pilgrims during the Urs. The main roads of Data Darbar will be free from any sort of encroachment and better lights, cleanliness and sewerage facilities will also be ensured, he added.

He further informed that general visitors will enter from gate No. 1 and 5, while female visitors will enter from gate No. 4. The security agencies will ensure the monitoring of Urs events with the help of CCTV cameras, he added and said the food staff will be responsible for checking foods (Lungar) under a special mechanism.

The Administrator Auqaf further said that the volunteers, media representatives and other service providers will be issued special passes. LESCO officer told the meeting that Data Darbar vicinity and its adjoining areas will be exempted from load-shedding for 2 days during the Urs celebrations.

Minister reviews progress on Himat Card Initiative

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Sohail Shaukat Butt reviewed the progress on the Himat Card project in line with the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

Chairing an important meeting with the Directors and Deputy Directors of the Gujranwala and Faisalabad divisions, he was briefed on the progress of the Himat Card scheme by the officers of the Gujranwala and Faisalabad divisions.

The Provincial Minister emphasized the need to expedite the registration, assessment, and certification process for disabled individuals for the Himat Card.

Minister Sohail Shaukat Butt instructed the concerned officers to accelerate their efforts and ensure an effective and timely verification process for disabled individuals through a comprehensive door-to-door campaign. He highlighted the importance of involving all members of the assembly in this crucial campaign, stating that their active participation is essential for the success of the project.

In accordance with the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Provincial Minister issued instructions for the up-gradation of social welfare programs in the relevant divisions. He mentioned that proposals are under consideration to enhance facilities for disabled individuals through the Himat Card in this region. The Minister also emphasized the timely completion of welfare projects under the Bait-ul-Maal and the importance of revamping and restoring institutions managed by Social Welfare Department in Gujranwala and Faisalabad.

Sohail Shaukat Butt stated that he would receive daily feedback from all divisional officers regarding the Himat Card. The performance of the Punjab Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal institutions will also be reviewed on a monthly basis. He assured personal supervision of social welfare institutions in all divisions, including Gujranwala and Faisalabad, to prioritize the welfare and well-being of disabled individuals.

The meeting concluded with a firm commitment to ensure the welfare and support of disabled individuals. The Himat Card will be delivered to all eligible beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner, in alignment with the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.



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Kundi meets delegations of Sarhad Business Alliance, Tobacco growers

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday held meetings at Governor House with a delegations of Sarhad Business Alliance and Tobacco growers.

The delegation was led by President of the Organization, Malik Meher Elahi, others representatives were Adnan Jalil, Syed Zahid Shah, Bakht Mir Durani, Faisal Kakakhel, Muhammad Aureng Zaib, and other dignitaries from the business community.

During the meeting, the delegation briefed the Governor on the challenges faced by the business community at the provincial and commercial levels. They highlighted concerns regarding recent increases in sales tax and other taxes affecting the business class.

The delegation discussed various proposals with the Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, ranging from the current security situation, issues related to the Cantonment Board, restrictions on wheat transportation from Punjab, substandard medical stores, industrial road conditions, and enhancements in business facilities and development within the province.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi

Kundi emphasized ongoing efforts to promote investment and business growth in the province for economic advancement.

"There is a need to foster trade relations between Central Asian states and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," remarked Faisal Karim Kundi, discussing the enhancement of trade between Peshawar and Tajikistan during his recent visit to the country.

"Discussions during the Tajikistan visit focused on mutual cooperation in industrial sectors, particularly food, auto-mobile, and energy industries," he added.

Governor Faisal Kundi also highlighted the potential benefits of establishing sister cities between Khatlon and Peshawar, envisioning substantial advantages in agriculture, poultry, educational and energy sectors.

"To ensure betterment in education, energy, and other sectors, a task force is being formed," he disclosed.

He said that the province has been affected due to terrorism.

He said that the business community plays a pivotal role in the economic prosperity of the province.

Governor Kundi

expressed commitment to advancing progress across all sectors through collective social efforts.

Furthermore, Governor Faisal Kundi mentioned, "With seven open gates between Afghanistan and Pakistan, there is potential to initiate a journey of economic growth towards Central Asia."

"As Pakistani and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa citizens, it is imperative to play a societal role in ensuring peace and security," he added.

The business community was urged to submit written proposals outlining their issues to relevant forums for effective resolution.

Governor Faisal Kundi appealed for scholarships to be granted to students based on educational excellence and sponsorship for talented athletes from the business community to propel them forward.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to continue collaborative efforts for the betterment of the province across all sectors.

Meanwhile, the Governor Faisal Karim Kundi also assured Tobacco delegation of Swabi to resolve their problems on priority basis after discussing with Tobacco

KP to have pediatric emergency and telemedicine centers



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: KP Minister of Health, Syed Qasim Ali Shah has signed a letter of understanding for the establishment of pediatric emergency and telemedicine centers in the province.

A brief ceremony was held in Peshawar, which was attended by the Minister of Health as a special guest. Other participants included Secretary Health Adil Shah, DG Health Dr. Muhammad Saleem, Additional Director Generals, and other relevant officials.

Minister of Health Syed Qasim Ali Shah and CEO Child Life Foundation Ahsan Rabani signed the letter of understanding.

Speaking to media representatives, the Minister of Health said that this initiative will establish pediatric emergency and telemedicine centers in all districts of the province, which will be operational from today. He added that pediatric emergencies will be established in hospitals across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which will be staffed by pediatric specialists.

Through telemedicine centers, expert doctors will be available to provide treatment to children from any corner of the province through video link.

The children of the province deserve standard treatment, and we are taking every possible step to achieve this goal.

CEO Child Life Foundation Ahsan Rabani said that this initiative will provide timely treatment facilities to children in all district of the province.

In any complicated case, pediatric experts from across Pakistan will be available to provide expert opinion on call.

This initiative will significantly reduce the mortality rate of children. The telemedicine setup will start functioning in all hospitals from tonight. FCPS pediatricians will be available 24/7 to provide guidance on treatment."

BRT added six new stops to Nasir Bagh route DR-14

PESHAWAR (APP): Zu Peshawar, the Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) added six new stops to route DR-14 on Monday to improve service on Nasir Bagh Road.

According to the spokesperson of TransPeshawar, these new stops have been included based on public demand.

The new stops are Masjid Abu Hurairah, Bangash Park, PDA Office, Masjid Umar Farooq, Masjid Abu Bakr, and Professor Model Town.

With the addition of these stops, the total number of stops on this route has now reached 22.

This route provides service from Islamia College to DHA and includes stops at Naseer Teaching Hospital, PSO Stop, Police Colony, Askari 6 Phase 2, Askari 6 Phase 1, Mian Khan Garhi, Badizai, Regi Model Town, Masjid Abu Hurairah, Zone 3 Ground, Government Girls Primary School, Bangash Park, Masjid Hamza, PDA Office, Masjid Umar Farooq, Masjid Khalid bin Waleed, Masjid Abu Bakr, DHA, and Professor Model Town.

Tarakai orders return of teaching cadre employees to schools

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Minister Faisal Khan Turki has directed that teaching cadre employees currently working in management cadre positions be returned to their schools.

He emphasized that the absence of teaching cadre employees is wasting valuable time for students, who need them in schools.

The minister also announced that, effective immediately, all postings and transfers will be conducted solely through the e-transfer policy, with a complete ban on all other types of postings and transfers.

Under the e-transfer policy, transfers will occur only once a year, at the end of the academic year or during holidays,

through an online, merit-based, and transparent system.

Teachers will not need to visit offices and can apply online for advertised vacancies.

These directives were issued during a review meeting of the Education Department, chaired by the minister.

The meeting was attended by Education Secretary Masood Ahmed, Special Secretary Asfandiyar Khattak, Additional Secretary General Abdul Akram, Director of Education Samina Altaf, and other senior officials from the department.

The minister was briefed on vacant positions across the province.

He stated that efforts are being made to start the recruitment process as soon as possible to address the shortage of teachers.

The details of all vacant positions have been completed, and the recruitment process will begin shortly.

The minister further announced a ban on all types of attachments and detachments.

He directed the Education Monitoring Authority and the Directorate of Education to take immediate action against such employees.

During the briefing on the double shift school program, it was reported that a total of 69,000 students are currently enrolled in this program.

There are 1,453 double shift schools with 8,349 employees.

Minister Faisal Khan Turki highlighted the significant achievements of the Education Department in a short time due to effective measures.

In the 2023-24 year, the construction of 37 primary schools was completed, 25 schools were upgraded from primary to middle level, and 13 middle schools were upgraded to high level.

In the merged districts, six science labs were established, and 1,000 teachers were recruited through the Parents Teachers Council.

Additionally, 16 high schools were upgraded to higher secondary school level, 84 schools were reconstructed, and the solarization of 477 schools in the merged districts was completed.

He further mentioned that 99 projects have been included in the ADP 2024-25, which will address all issues faced by the Education Department once completed.

KPPSC finalized recruitment process

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service V Commission has finalized recruitment process of 09 posts of Tehsildar BPS-16 and 08 posts of Naib Tehsildar BPS-14. The Commission tentatively recommended 07 candidates against the post of Tehsildar BPS-16 namely Mr. Aqdas Rehman S/O Muhammad Rafiq, Mr. Haroon Khurshid S/O Muhammad Khurshid, Ms. Mashal Ghalib D/O Khan Ghalib, Mr. Mudassar Alam S/O Amir Alam, Mr. Qalander Khan S/O Abdus Sattar Khan, Mr. Shahzad Ahmad S/O Anwer Said and Ms. Shehneela D/O Dilsoz.

Similarly, 06 candidates were tentatively recommended for appointment as Naib Tehsildar BPS-14 namely Ms. Aisha Mushtaq D/O Mr Mushtaq Ahmad, Mr Mudassar Ihsan S/O Ihsan Ul Haq, Mr. Muhammad Younas S/O Shah Mahmood, Ms. Nida Qureshi D/O Jehangeer Qureshi, Ms. Zershe Atta D/O Atta Ullah Khan and Ms. Zohra Javed D/O Sharif Ullah Khan.

Four posts of minority quota (02 each for Tehsildar & Naib Tehsildar) remained unfilled. The same will be re-advertised.

This was announced here by the Controllor Examinations Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission.

All set for by-elections on Pk-22 Bajaur tomorrow

F.P. Report

P E S H A W A R : Arrangements are complete for the by-elections to be held on July 11 on the vacant provincial seat in PK-22 Bajaur.

The election campaign will end at midnight Tuesday. Polling will start on Thursday at 8:00 am and will continue till 5:00 pm without any break.

The polling staff will be sent to their respective polling stations after being handed over to the election materials including ballot papers tomorrow, Wednesday.

In the by-election, there will be a contest between 12 candidates. A total of 179,010 voters will exercise their right to vote.

A total of 91 polling stations have been established.

In which 276 polling booths have been built.

To monitor the polling process and redress complaints, a polling control room has been established in the office of Provincial Election Commissioner Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Who can be contacted on Telephone No. – 0919213214 and 0919213215 This control room will work 24 hours.

Pro rata billing system to eliminate overbilling

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) chief Akhtar Hameed Khan has said that a pro-rata billing system has been implemented to eliminate over-billing in the region.

In a statement he said with the introduction of this new software, consumers would only be charged for the units which they had consumed.

Giving details, he said the pro rata software automatically reduces and charges only the used units if additional units are added.

He also said that some fake news is circulating on social media in this regard and explaining that this software did not remove consumers from the protected category. Instead, the implementation of the pro rata billing system had increased the number of protected consumers.

In March 2024, the number of protected consumers in PESCO was 1.85 million, which increased to 2.217 million in April. Similarly, this number reached 2.462 million in May. However,

the number of protected consumers decreases due to increased electricity usage in the summer season.

Akhtar Hameed Khan further stated that the implementation of the pro rata billing system was a positive step for consumers, which will not only address overbilling issues but also provide protection to consumers in the protected category. However, the PESCO chief said the number of protected consumers decreases due to increased electricity usage during summer.

Saif criticizes Bilawal Bhutto's statements

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, held a press conference at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad, responding to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's criticism of the provincial government. Dr. Saif pointed out that while Bilawal criticized the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government at the Peshawar Governor House, he seemed to forget the dire situation in Thar, where people are dying due to hunger and lack of medicines.

Dr. Saif highlighted that terrorism has had the most negative impact on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He stated that it is the federal government's responsibility to prevent cross-border terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as federal institutions are tasked with protecting the country's borders.

Responding to Bilawal Bhutto's remarks on negotiations with the Taliban, Dr. Saif reminded that multiple agreements with terrorists were made during the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) tenure, when Asif Ali Zardari was President and Yousaf Raza Gillani was Prime Minister.

Hot and humid weather likely in most parts

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast hot and humid weather in most parts of the country during the next 24 hours.

However, rain-wind thundershower is likely in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. While, rain-wind thundershower is expected in upper Punjab, lower Balochistan and southeast Sindh at isolated places during evening/night.

Light to moderate monsoon currents from Arabian Sea were penetrating upper/central parts of the country.

A shallow trough of westerly wave was present over northwestern parts of the country.

During the last 24 hours, hot and humid weather prevailed over most parts of the country.

However, rain/thundershower occurred at isolated places in lower Sindh, northeast Punjab, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northern Balochistan.

The rainfall recorded was Sindh: Karachi (Surjani Town 58mm, City 32, Airport 31, Orangi Town 30, University Road 20, P.A.F Faisal 16, Saadi Town 15, Gulshan-E-Hadeed 12, North Karachi 09, Gulshan-E-Maymar, Kemari 07, Korangi 04, Malir 03, P.A.F Masroor, Ibrahim Hyderi 02), Mithi 19, Tando Jam 09, Badin, Chhor, Thatta 01, Punjab: Sialkot City 20, Gujrat 12, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Parachinar 19, Chitral 01, Balochistan: Zhob 07mm.

The highest maximum temperatures recorded were Turbat 46C, Dalbandin, Jacobabad 45, Mohenjo Daro , Nokkundi, Sibbi, Khairpur 44, Rohri, Larkana, Dadu 43C.

The Happy Uyghur of Xinjiang Naz Parveen's travelogue on China unveiled



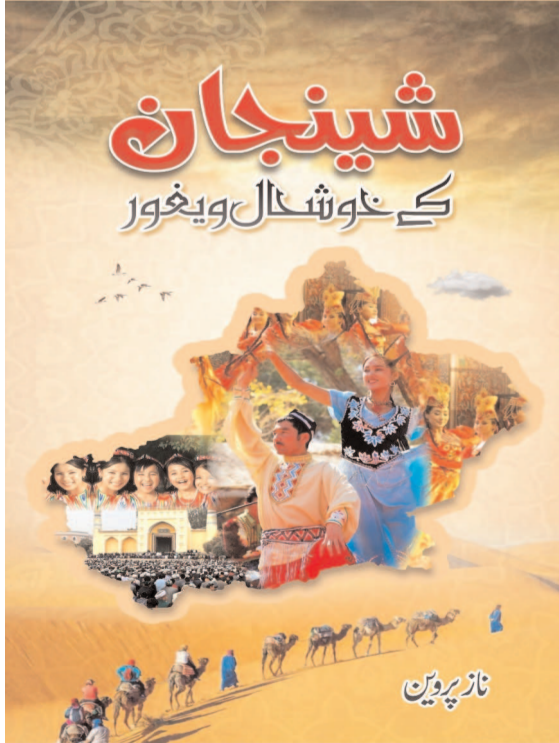
F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Today marks a significant stride in Pakistan's development, especially in relation to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

China, our esteemed neighbor, embarks on the second phase of this transformative initiative aimed at bolstering Pakistan's economic landscape. Amidst these developments, a notable event has unfolded: the publication of columnist Naz Parveen's travelogue.

This marks the first travelogue by any columnist from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa focused on China, now featured by China Window, a cultural center in Peshawar promoting Sino-Pak friendship.

The unveiling ceremony at the Governor's House, graced by Chairman



Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi, and President of Peshawar Press Club Arshad Aziz Malik, highlighted the significance of Parveen's work.

Titled "Xinjiang kay Khushaal Uyghur," which translates to "The Happy Uyghur of Xinjiang," the travelogue offers a heartfelt narrative of Parveen's journey through China's Xinjiang province. Through vivid descriptions and personal encounters, she portrays the real stories of Muslims living in Xinjiang who are thriving and content amidst their cultural heritage.

While formally launching the travelogue at Governors House, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed optimism, viewing the travelogue as a milestone in public diplomacy between Pakistan and China. He praised the role of China Window in fostering cultural exchange and friendship between the two nations.

Former Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi and Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed hailed Naz Parveen's effort as pivotal in enhancing bilateral relations, emphasizing its potential impact on public perception.

Parveen's eloquence in portraying her journey through Beijing, Chengdu, Kashgar, and Urumqi not only captivates readers but also provides insightful data on China's progress and rich historical tapestry. By immersing herself in China's cultural and geographical diversity, Parveen adeptly counters negative stereotypes, promoting a nuanced understanding of Pakistan-China camaraderie.

Her travelogue, poised to be published in English and Chinese following its Urdu release, promises to resonate globally, offering a window into Parveen's profound observations and fostering deeper cross-cultural appreciation.



In brief

Two killed in Swabi

SWABI (APP): In Swabi district a girl and boy fell prey to honor killing as a youth shot dead his real sister and her alleged boyfriend on Tuesday. Police said the incident took place in Btakra area of Topi tehsil where a youth shot dead his sister named Khaista Khana (20) and her alleged boyfriend, Imran (18) in the name of honor. The police, after registering a case on the complaint of the father of the girl, acted promptly and arrested the killer. Police also recovered the pistol used in the crime from the possession of the accused. Bodies of the girl and boy were shifted to hospital for medico legal procedure while a case of double murder was registered against the arrested accused.

ASI killed in Lakki firing

LAKKI MARWAT (APP): At least three people including an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) and his two nephews were killed when unknown armed men fired at a car near Forest Office, on Indus Highway in district Lakki Marwat, police confirmed on Tuesday. Police said ASI and former MTO of police department, Saad Ullah Khan Titarkhel along with family members was on way to Peshawar for a medical checkup when unidentified armed men fired at their vehicle on Indus Highway near Kurram Toll Plaza. As a result, the ASI and his two nephews were killed however, luckily the women in the back seat remained unhurt in the tragic incident. Police said the children killed in the firing aged from 8 to 12 years. Bodies of the deceased were shifted to hospital for medico legal procedure while the area police, after collecting evidence from the crime scene, have started investigation into the incident.

One-day free eye camp held

SUKKUR (APP): A team of ophthalmologists from Al Shifa Eye Trust Hospital Sukkur, in collaboration with the Rajput Bandhani Welfare Association, organized one-day free eye camp at New Goth area on Tuesday. On the occasion, eye specialists conducted complimentary check-up of the patients, focusing on diagnosing and treating various eye conditions, with a particular emphasis on cataracts. The free medical camp was aimed to extend essential eye treatment to the Rajput Bandhani Community ensuring that individuals had access to quality healthcare services. Patients attending the camp not only received thorough examinations but were also provided with necessary treatments for various eye-related diseases. Moreover, the initiative included the distribution of free eye-glasses and medicines to those in need. Hundreds of patients benefited from the initiative, highlighting impact of these healthcare efforts at community level.

Two killed over property clash

LARKANA (INP): Two people were killed when armed men of two groups clashed over property dispute here on Tuesday, police said. According to details, members of two groups of Kalhoro community which were in dispute over ownership of piece of land traded fire near Mohenjo Daro, in Larkana district. As a result of cross firing, two people including Barkat Ali Kalhoro and Mazhar Ali Chaki were killed on the spot. Police reached the scene and shifted the bodies to hospital for postmortem.



ABBOTTABAD: Zahid Chanzeb, Adviser to the Chief Minister on Tourism, Culture and Archeology inaugurating the green belt built by Kaghan Development Authority.

Managing over 400,000 tourists on Eid commendable: Chanzeb

F.P. Report

ABBOTABAD: Zahid Chanzeb, Adviser to the Chief Minister on Tourism, Culture and Archeology, has said that the Naran valley, especially the Saif-ul-Maluk lake linked with lot of fairy tales, are the most important tourist spots of Pakistan, having international importance. He also acknowledged that managing more than 400,000 tourists on Eid-ul-Adha and ensuring the cleanliness of most areas of the valley is a commendable achievement of the Kaghan Development Authority (KDA) adding that the Authority provided the best possible facilities to the tourists as well as kept all the tourist destinations of Naran Valley neat and clean, which, he said, will further promote tourism in the future.

He expressed these views while addressing the office bearers and elders of the local hotel association after the opening

ceremony of the green belt built by the KDA for the convenience of tourists. On this occasion, he also announced the installation of two solar tube wells to solve the problems of clean drinking water in Naran. MPA Munir Hussain Laghmani Advocate, Director General Kaghan Development Authority Shabir Khan, Deputy Director Aminul Hasan, Assistant Directors Nauman Khan, Zahoor Khan, Asad Khan, Hotel Association Officials Seth Matiullah, Sarwar Khan, Muhammad Farooq, Haroon, Ashfaq Ahmed, Hasan Deen, Anwar Lala, Umaidin, Yasir and other elite of the area attended the ceremony in large number.

Advisor Tourism said that KDA Board of Directors (BoD) will be more streamlined. He clarified that no construction will be allowed without map approval and encroachers will be dealt with strictly.

On some of the problems and demands of the hotel association, Zahid Chanzeb assured that certain facilities and privileges will be provided to the hotel owners by making environmental and people-friendly amendments in the rules of the KDA BoD.

Zahid Chanzeb announced the provision of an ambulance in Naran for the convenience of tourists, approved Rs 30 lakhs for the repair of Suhach Bridge and also announced the provision of a rented building for Girls School Naran or shifting the building to an alternative school.

On this occasion, Member of the Provincial Assembly Munir Hussain Laghmani Advocate while appreciating the services of the Tourism Advisor said that due to the better arrangements, the tourists did not face any problem during this season. He said that the aim of our government is the promotion of the tourism industry

and the development of these tourist places.

Deputy Director Kaghan Development Authority while giving a briefing said that there is a capacity of 9 thousand vehicles in Kaghan valley but 15 thousand vehicles have entered this season due to which it is natural to have traffic problems at some places. He said that the staff of KDA maintains the flow of traffic with the support of other institutions while they are working round the clock to serve the tourists and their problems are solved amicably.

On this occasion, the Tourism Advisor issued orders on the spot to solve some local problems in Naran. Earlier, he inaugurated the green belt built by Kaghan Development Authority, wherein tourists will be able to enjoy the beautiful scenery of Naran Valley by sitting in cool and open air in pleasant weather on the banks of Kunhar River.

Open Court arranged in Hafizabad

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: In order to address grievances and to provide relief, Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad Madam Sundas Irshad arranged open court at District Complex, on Tuesday. She listened problems of people and directed the concerned officers to resolve complaints of people at the earliest.

ADCGR/Administrator Municipal Committee Hafizabad Hammadullah, Chief Officer District Council Hafizabad Shahzad Akhtar, Chief Executive Officer Education Muhammad Anwar Javed, AC Hafizabad Munawar Hussain and other officers attended the open court.

DC said that objective of holding open court on the direction of the Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif was addressal of people's problems at the earliest and to provide easy approach to people in the offices of different departments without any reference or hurdle.

She said that doors of Deputy Commissioner and other departments were open for every citizen and people could visit offices without any recommendation to get resolve their problems.

She said the issues of people submitted in open court would be addressed on priority basis under people friendly vision of the Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

One killed, vehicle stolen

KASUR (INP): Robbers shot a car driver and stole a vehicle on Kasur Multan Road near the area of Sain Di Khoi on Tuesday. According to rescue officials, the car driver stated that he was transporting two passengers from Lahore.

The passengers stopped the car near Sain Di Khoi, shot the driver and then fled the scene after stealing the vehicle.

Barakwal stresses cultivation of sunflower in KP



F.P. Report

KOHAT: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister on Agriculture Major (R) Muhammad Sajjad Barakwal while stressing upon the farmers to promote sunflower cultivation in the province said that the provincial government will fully patronize and support in this regard.

This he said while inspecting the sunflower crop in Village Council Kanda district Karak

along with the Provincial General Secretary ISF Sanaullah Shah, President Tehsil Karak Asim Khattak and Senior Worker Ashiq Munir.

He also held a detailed discussion with the farmers and encouraged them towards sunflower cultivation. He on this occasion also heard the problems of the people there and assured its early redressal.

Meanwhile, the Minister also visited the

under construction Shaggi Dhabli Lawaghar Road. He assured that the said road will be completed within stipulated time. He said that the PTI government, unlike in the past, will solve all the problems with mutual consultation of the people purely on merit.

The provincial minister on this occasion also discussed in detail other issues of public interest in the area and assured their early solution.



FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Madam Silwat Saeed is awarding prize and medal to position holder student of Matric (1st Annual) Examination 2024 during formal result declaration ceremony at Divisional Model School & College.

Proposed development projects in Dir Civic bodies nominate subject matter experts

Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: Disappointed by past governments and local lawmakers, the Dir Overseas Pakistanis Association (Dopa) and Dir Think Tank (DTT), separate citizens' bodies, advocating for regional development, notified separate subject matter experts (SMEs) to ensure successful completion of mega development projects in the district of Lower Dir.

The decision was taken during a Zoom meeting held here the other day with Mr Rahim Shah Akhunkhail from the United States of America in the chair.

A notification issued by the Dopa and DTT chief

Rahim Shah Akhunkhail notified Engineer Adnan Nawaz as SME for the Dir Motorway project, Dr Wali Rehman for the establishment of the Panjkora division, Dr Nadeem Sheikh for the Timergara Medical College, Dr Abdul Wahab for the establishment of the Dir campus of the University of Engineering

and Technology, Tajdar Yousafzai for the University of Dir, Ibrar Pasha for the Gopulum Irrigation Scheme and Balambat Irrigation channel and Dr Hanif Yousafzai as SME for the tourism development in Dir. All the Dopa and DTT members have been asked to extend their support and cooperation to the SMEs and solicit their expertise and inputs on the projects.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rahim Shah said the assigned SMEs had expertise, professional and advanced technical knowledge in their particular fields regarding the projects in the pipeline. He said the SMEs would make sure to pursue the approved projects.

The Dopa chief Rahim Shah Akhunkhail has also filed a contempt of court petition in the Peshawar High Court through Malik Ajmal Khan advocate against the delay in the completion of Dir Expressway.

Mr Akhunkhail told on contact that the PHC on Friday directed the CPEC, NHA chairman, secretary

finance and managing director of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Highways Authority (PKHA) to submit their reply on the contempt of court petition. He said the Pakistan Tahreek Insaf led sitting government, though had included the 30 kilometers long Dir Motorway from Chakdara to Rabat but the residents feared the project would remain incomplete like the Timergara Medical College, Koto hydropower project, Talash bypass road etc. He said the SMEs had been asked to work closely with the government functionaries and local lawmakers to remove all flaws and hurdles in their specific projects.

Mr Akhunkhail said that Dir Motorway's project director Mr Barkatullah was also on board during the Zoom meeting.

He said the PD shared valuable information regarding the acquisition of land, current situation and the proposed tunnels.

The Dopa chief thanked the Dir Motorway project director for participating in the meeting and sharing his valuable thoughts.



MULTAN: A view of construction work of Piran Ghaib Road during development work in the city. — APP photo

Balochistan CM vows to promote cultural

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti presided over a meeting to review the departmental affairs of Culture, Tourism and Archeology on Tuesday. In the meeting, it was decided to organize various cultural events in the province to promote cultural tourism and historical heritage of Balochistan.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Balochistan, Secretary Finance and Secretary Culture Tourism

and Archeology and other relevant officials.

The meeting was informed about the progress of new and ongoing departmental development projects in giving a briefing on the departmental administrative affairs and various wings of the department by the concerned officials.

The meeting was also briefed on the grant-in-aid funds allocated for cultural and tourism activities in the province.

It was decided in the meeting that practical

steps would be taken for the effective promotion of culture and civilization of the province and at the end of this month, a cultural festival would be organized in Ziarat. While Azadi Mushaira will also be organized in the month of August this year, said in the briefing.

It was also decided to organize the Balochistan Literature Festival organized by the Department of Culture, Tourism and Archeology in the first month of next year 2025 in the meeting.

Complete vaccination of cattle heads directed

MUZAFFARGARH (INP): Director Livestock Dera Ghazi Khan Dr Mahmood Ijaz Gorski visited three civil veterinary dispensaries (CVDs) in district Muzaffargarh on Tuesday and ordered officials not to leave any cattle head unvaccinated throughout the division and warned them of action in case of lethargy in performance of duty.

The director livestock visited CVD Bhutta Pur, CVD Karam Daad Qureshi and CVD Sharif Chajda in district Muzaffargarh where he inspected the ongoing

vaccination drive.

"Animals are our precious national asset and we must serve the cattle rearers to ensure good health of animals to enhance milk and meat production," he said.

He also ordered availability of quality animal feed traditionally called 'Wanda', mineral mixture and Urea Molasses Block at all the Sahulat Block and warned that deputy directors livestock concerned would be held responsible in case of unavailability.

Dr Gorski also sought

regular reports from deputy directors on execution of development schemes along with pictorial evidence adding these reports should reach the office of additional director Muzaffargarh on a daily basis. He also ordered them to convey information to the office of ADL in case of any epidemic affecting animals.

He asked Additional Director to form a committee that should check the vaccination process on the basis of 15 per cent sampling of the animals claimed to be vaccinated.



HYDERABAD: HESCO workers busy in installing new electric wire on the electric pole at Fatima Jinnah Road.



PM says Japan must strengthen NATO ties

TOKYO (Reuters): Russia's deepening military cooperation with North Korea has underlined the need for Japan to forge closer ties with NATO as regional security threats become increasingly intertwined, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told Reuters.

In written remarks ahead of his attendance at a NATO summit in Washington DC this week, Kishida also signalled concern over Beijing's alleged role in aiding Moscow's two-year-old war in Ukraine, although he did not name China. "The securities of the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific are inseparable, and Russia's aggression against Ukraine and its deepened military cooperation with North Korea are strong reminders of that," Kishida said.

"Japan is determined to strengthen its cooperation

with NATO and its partners," he added.

The world, the Japanese leader said, should not tolerate attempts by some countries to disrupt the established international order and reiterated a warning that Ukraine today could be East Asia tomorrow. He also urged cooperation to confront new security threats that transcend geographical boundaries, such as cyber-attacks and conflicts in space.

South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, which along with Japan are known as the Indo-Pacific Four (IP4), are also attending the July 10-11 meeting with NATO leaders.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol told Reuters this week that he planned to discuss the threat Pyongyang poses to Europe by deepening its Russia ties.

North Korean leader

Kim Jong-Un signed a mutual defence pledge with Russia last month during President Vladimir Putin's first visit to Pyongyang in 24 years, and expressed his "full support" for Russia's war in Ukraine.

The US and its allies have accused Pyongyang of providing ballistic missiles and artillery shells that Russia has used in its war in Ukraine and say they fear Moscow in return could provide support for North Korea's nuclear missile development.

Washington has also said China is supplying drone and missile technology, satellite imagery and machine tools to Russia, items which fall short of lethal assistance but are helping Moscow build its military to sustain the Ukraine war. Beijing has said it has not provided any weaponry to any party.

Chinese VP meets Thai FM

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): Chinese Vice President Han Zheng met with Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa in Beijing on Tuesday.

China and Thailand are good neighbors, good friends, good relatives and good partners, Han said, adding that China is committed to developing China-Thailand relations from a strategic and long-term perspective.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Thailand in November 2022 ushered in a new era of building a China-Thailand community with a shared future, said Han.

Noting that next year marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Han said China is ready to work with Thailand to follow the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, strengthen high-level exchanges, deepen practical cooperation, enhance people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and promote regional cooperation.

China is also willing to join hands with Thailand to advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and promote the building of a China-Thailand community with a shared future, said Han.

Maris said Thailand and China are good partners who trust each other, and Thailand-China relations have entered a new era.

Thailand is willing to take the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic relations as an opportunity to deepen cooperation with China in various fields and continuously advance bilateral relations, said Maris.

Chinese man arrested

LONDON (BBC): A Chinese man accused of buying spray paint which was used to write the word "toilet" on a controversial Japanese shrine has been arrested, local media reports.

The incident at the Yasukuni shrine - which honours the country's war dead, including some convicted of war crimes - sparked outrage in Japan.

One Tokyo businessman even offered a cash reward in order to catch those behind the stunt, which included urinating on a pillar, and was shared on Chinese social media.

Police arrested the first of three suspects on Tuesday, issuing warrants for two more men.

According to Japanese news agency Kyodo, he is accused of buying the paint used in the video.

The other two men are reported to have left the country the day after they allegedly took part in the stunt - causing damage amounting to 4.2 million yen (\$26,000; £20,000).

In the video, the alleged perpetrator, who identified himself as Iron Head, says he is fed up with Japan's decision to release treated waste water, presumably a reference to water released from the earthquake-damaged Fukushima nuclear plant - a decision that outraged many in China.

The shrine has over the years been a source of friction between Japan and its neighbours, China and South Korea.

It is common for Japanese officials to visit the Yasukuni shrine during certain festivals and during the anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War Two.

In 2014, when then prime minister Shinzo Abe visited the shrine, China said the visit reflected "the erroneous attitude towards history adopted by Japan's incumbent cabinet".

French left wants to rule but centrists demand a role

PARIS (Reuters): French political leaders from the left-wing bloc that came first in Sunday's legislative election said they intended to govern according to their tax-and-spend programme, but centrists laid claim to a role as the left lacks a majority.

The unexpected outcome of the snap election has plunged France into uncertainty just before the Paris Olympics, with no obvious path to a stable government capable of getting any legislation passed by a fragmented parliament.

The left-wing New Popular Front (NFP) won the most seats in the National Assembly but fell short of an absolute majority by about 100 seats.

President Emmanuel Macron's centrists came second and the far-right National Rally (RN) third.

"The path to government is very narrow, very fragile," said Fabien Roussel, leader of the Communist Party which is one of the smaller members of the NFP. "But we have to try. The president of the republic has to let us govern," he



said on RTL radio on Tuesday morning.

NFP leaders have met behind closed doors several times since Sunday night, attempting to thrash out an agreement on which of them should be prime minister and how they should approach governing without a majority.

France seemed likely to endure a period of protracted haggling, at a time when investors are worried about

the county's strained public finances. Macron, whose term ends in 2027, looks unlikely to be able to drive policy again, having been beaten by the far-right RN in last month's European election and by the left in the snap legislative election he called against the will of some of his own supporters including Prime Minister Gabriel Attal.

Jean-Luc Melenchon, leader of the hard-left

France Unbowed, said an NFP government should fully implement its programme, which includes raising the minimum wage, lowering the retirement age and capping the prices of fuel, power and some food staples. The policy programme "cannot be sliced into pieces", he said on TF1 television late on Monday, rejecting the idea of a coalition with parties from outside the NFP.

SK petitioned to probe 'vaping incident'

SEOUL (AFP/APP): A now-deleted video showing K-pop megastar Jennie of BLACKPINK smoking a vape indoors has sparked online outcry, with Seoul's foreign ministry telling AFP Tuesday it had received a formal complaint.

In the footage, uploaded as part of a live blog on YouTube for fans but subsequently removed even as copies of it spread across the internet, Jennie appears to exhale vape smoke while a bevy of hair and make-up artists work closely on her face.

Smoking cigarettes or vapes indoors is illegal in South Korea and the footage triggered headlines and online outrage, with "indoor smoking" and "BLACKPINK Jennie" becoming top trending topics on social media platform X in the South.

"Controversy over Jennie's indoor smoking... exhaling smoke in the face of her staff," was the headline of the Yonhap news agency's report, typical of the widespread reporting in Korean-language media.

One internet user claimed the incident likely happened in Italy's Capri, where Jennie had been filming, and said they had

requested that the South Korean Embassy in Italy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs probe the BLACKPINK star, the Korea Times reported.

The user urged Seoul to request "an investigation from the Italian authorities regarding BLACKPINK's Jennie's indoor smoking incident and take strict action," the report said.

South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs told AFP on Tuesday that they had received a petition related to the incident.

The star's agency OA Entertainment acknowledged the vaping and apologised on her behalf, saying Jennie "deeply regrets her mistake".

"We sincerely apologise to everyone who felt uncomfortable with Jennie's actions," the agency said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Jennie has personally apologised to all the staff on-site who may have been affected."

BLACKPINK is one of South Korea's most successful K-pop girl groups, with their songs topping charts locally and internationally.

BLACKPINK's other achievements include being the first K-pop girl group to

reach the top of the US Billboard 200 chart and the first Asian artists to headline prestigious music events such as Coachella.

"Posting such a video on her own SNS channel raises serious questions about her common sense... It is deeply disappointing," said one commentator on South Korean portal Naver.

Smoking rates are relatively high in South Korea but, according to official data, only five percent of South Korean women smoked as of 2022, compared with 30 percent of men.

South Korean pop stars undergo rigorous training for years before their debut and are held to high behavioural standards, with smoking, dating and swearing largely forbidden, especially in the first years following their debut.

Jennie has previously confessed to struggling with these expectations.

"It's really harsh," Jennie, who debuted with BLACKPINK in 2016, said in a Netflix documentary.

"We were not allowed to drink, smoke or get a tattoo," she recalled of her training period, adding that she had to endure "being told that I'm not good at stuff".

Le Pen's 2022 campaign financing: Paris prosecutor opens investigations



PARIS (Reuters): The Paris prosecutor's office said on Tuesday it had launched a preliminary probe into allegations of illegal financing of far right National Rally (RN) leader Marine Le Pen's campaign for the

2022 presidential race, which she lost to Emmanuel Macron.

The investigation, which was opened on July 2, follows a 2023 report by the National Commission on Campaign Accounts and

Political Financing (CNC-CFP), which scrutinizes candidates' election expenses and funding, the prosecutor's office said.

It will look into allegations of embezzlement, forgery, fraud, and that a candidate on an electoral campaign accepted a loan.

Le Pen and her party have previously denied wrongdoing in connection with campaign financing. The National Rally could not be immediately reached for comment.

Separately Le Pen is to stand trial later this year alongside 27 others over alleged misuse of European Union funds, charges that Le Pen's party has said it contested. That investigation, opened in 2016, aimed to ascertain whether the then National Front had used money destined for EU parliamentary assistants to pay staff who were working for the party.

At the head of RN until 2021, Marine Le Pen ran against Emmanuel Macron in the 2017 and 2022 presidential elections, and could again run in 2027.

Police arrested the first of three suspects on Tuesday, issuing warrants for two more men.

According to Japanese news agency Kyodo, he is accused of buying the paint used in the video.

The other two men are reported to have left the country the day after they allegedly took part in the stunt - causing damage amounting to 4.2 million yen (\$26,000; £20,000).

In the video, the alleged perpetrator, who identified himself as Iron Head, says he is fed up with Japan's decision to release treated waste water, presumably a reference to water released from the earthquake-damaged Fukushima nuclear plant - a decision that outraged many in China.

The shrine has over the years been a source of friction between Japan and its neighbours, China and South Korea.

It is common for Japanese officials to visit the Yasukuni shrine during certain festivals and during the anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War Two.

In 2014, when then prime minister Shinzo Abe visited the shrine, China said the visit reflected "the erroneous attitude towards history adopted by Japan's incumbent cabinet".

Congo UN peacekeepers pausing pullout, no timeline for next phase

KINSHASA (Reuters): The UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo will pause its withdrawal, with no timeline set for the next phase following the initial one in June, the government and mission said.

In September last year, President Felix Tshisekedi asked the mission to fast-track the withdrawal of peacekeepers who were deployed to the Central African country to quell insecurity caused by armed groups fighting over territory and resources.

The first phase of the

withdrawal, in South Kivu province, was completed on June 25, Congo's ambassador to the United Nations, Zenon Mukongo Ngay, said on Monday. It had been scheduled for completion by April.

Ngay indicated that conditions had not yet been met for the next phase, however, blaming neighbouring Rwanda for an escalation of clashes in the restive east of Congo.

"In view of Rwanda's continued aggression in North Kivu, the next phase of withdrawal, phase 2, will be undertaken when condi-

tions allow, following ongoing joint assessments," he said in a speech at the United Nations Security Council.

Congo and the United Nations have long accused Rwanda of backing the M23 rebel group, allegations Kigali has denied.

Bintou Keita, head of the UN mission, said there was "no timeline" for a withdrawal from North Kivu or Ituri provinces.

"Don't ask me what's next," Keita told reporters at the United Nations in New York on Monday.

"What's next, as we said, (is) we pause, we prepare, and we see what comes next based on the reality on the ground."

Congo's foreign minister Therese Wamba Wagner said the government wanted to avoid creating a security vacuum.

"When it comes to North Kivu, we will take into account the developments that we see on the ground before making responsible decisions and starting this process when the most favourable conditions are met," she told reporters in Kinshasa.

Australia appoints special envoy to tackle antisemitism

LONDON (BBC News): Australia has appointed a special envoy to combat antisemitism and preserve "social cohesion", amid rising community tension over the Israel-Gaza war.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced lawyer and businesswoman Jillian Segal would consult with community leaders and discrimination experts to advise the government.

It follows in the footsteps of countries like the US, Canada, Greece and the UK, which have all had similar positions for years.

A special envoy for addressing Islamophobia will also be appointed soon, Mr Albanese added.

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has become

a volatile political issue in Australia. It has resulted in protests from both Jewish and Muslim communities, as well as a sharp uptick in Islamophobia and antisemitism.

The Israeli military launched a campaign to destroy the Hamas group which runs Gaza in response to an unprecedented attack on southern Israel on 7 October, during which about 1,200 people were killed and 251 others were taken hostage. More than 38,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza as a result of Israel's offensive, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry.

"Australians are deeply concerned about this conflict, and many are hurting.

In times like this, Australians must come together, not be torn apart," Albanese said on Tuesday.

The appointment of Ms Segal - who has headed several key bodies representing the Jewish community and served in leadership roles in the education and banking sectors - is a "critical step" in easing friction, he said.

Ms Segal said combating the "age-old hatred" of antisemitism has never been more important, pointing to a 700% rise in incidences since the war began in October.

"Jewish Australians want to feel free to live their day-to-day lives, and also want to feel safe to practice and express their religion without fear," she added.

The announcement has been welcomed by the national peak body for the Australian Jewish community - a group Ms Segal led until last year - who say she will "bring deep knowledge of the issues and immense energy to the role".

However other groups - including The Jewish Council of Australia, which has been critical of Israel's actions in Gaza, and The Australian Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN) - say they fear it will worsen division.

"It also risks further entrenching the concerning pattern of antisemitism being conflated with criticism of the state of Israel or with support for Palestine," APAN said.

UNRWA calls for 'independent' probe into Gaza school bombing

UNITED NATIONS (APP): The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has called for an "independent investigation" into Israel's bombing of a school in central Gaza as the war entered its 10th month.

The school, run by the UN agency which helps Palestinian refugees, served as a shelter for 2,000 displaced persons in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza.

"Another day. Another

month. Another school hit," said Philippe Lazzarini, head of UNRWA, the largest aid agency in Gaza, in a post on X, formerly Twitter, after a school in Nuseirat, central Gaza, was "hit by the Israeli Forces" on Saturday. It was home to nearly 2,000 people forcibly displaced by the hostilities, the UNRWA Commissioner-General said, adding that dozens of casualties had been reported.

The development comes as ceasefire and hostage-release talks were reportedly

due to resume in coming days. Repeated previous efforts to make headway have foundered, despite sustained international pressure from Member States with influence on both sides.

Success in negotiations this week will depend on satisfying Hamas's call for a permanent end to the fighting and intense Israeli airstrikes which have flattened vast areas of the enclave, and the Israeli Government's stated war aim of destroying Hamas's military capability after the

group attacked on 7 October. To date, tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed, according to the Gazan health authorities and latest data from UNRWA indicates that at least 520 people sheltering in the UN agency's shelters have been killed and at least 1,602 injured since the start of the war.

In a regular situation update, the UN aid coordination office, OCHA, reported that up to 1.9 million people in Gaza have been uprooted by the war,

including some displaced "nine or 10 times". Previous estimates were 1.7 million but this was before the Israeli operation in Rafah in early May, which led to additional displacements from Rafah and other parts across the Gaza Strip.

The renewed push for an end to the war comes amid daily exchanges of fire between Lebanese militants, Israel, and key Hamas ally, Hezbollah, across the UN-monitored Blue Line separating them.

On Sunday, the

Lebanon-based group claimed responsibility for a reported drone strike on Mount Hermon in the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Hezbollah has said that it will halt operations only when the war in Gaza ends.

"The gradual expansion in the scope and scale of the confrontations well beyond the Blue Line significantly raises the risk of miscalculation and further deterioration of an already alarming situation," the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

told UN News, ahead of the latest escalation.

Citing latest OCHA data, the UN force said that nearly 97,000 people have been displaced from southern Lebanon because of the ongoing hostilities as of 25 June; more than 1,800 casualties have been reported including 435 deaths of whom 97 were civilians. "A political and diplomatic solution is the only viable long-term solution," it insisted.

Responding to the school strike and Israeli military claims that it had

been used by Palestinian armed groups, UNRWA's chief, Lazzarini said that he took the allegations "very seriously."

"It is exactly why I have repeatedly called for independent investigations to ascertain the facts and identify those responsible for attacks on UN premises or their misuse", he said - a reference to an ongoing UN office investigation into Israeli assertions that 12 UNRWA staff were involved in the 7 October Hamas-led attacks.

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Macron caught between a rock and a hard place

ADOPTING a collective strategy, Macron's centrists and the newly-formed New Popular Front (NFP) joined hands and withdrew candidates to present a united front. It looks like the strategy did not help much. The NFP led by France Unbowed's Jean-Luc Melenchon won 187 of the 577 seats in the National Assembly, missing the simple majority of 289 by 100 seats. Macron's own party, the Ensemble, lagged behind the combined left with 159 seats, and RN ended with a substantial 142.

Though the danger of RN forming a government has been averted, there is no clarity as to who would form the government and lead the country. The NFP is opposed to many of the reform moves of Macron like the raising of the age of pension and the curbs on immigration, which the left is determined to overturn. Melenchon has declared that one of the things on forming a government is to recognise the state of Palestine. Macron is not opposed to it either though he feels that the announcement should be made at the right time. So, there are irreconcilable differences between the centrists and the leftists. The left combine includes the Socialists, the Greens and the communists. Melenchon is also opposed to any deal with the centrists. Le Pen says that this election has sown the seeds of the future because her far-right party has won 32 per cent of the parliamentary vote on its own which no other party has.

It is speculated that Macron would take his own time for the formation of the government, and he expects the differences between the different parties forming the left coalition to come out into the open, and he might fish in troubled waters as it were and form a government which is less hostile to his policies. It is clear however that Macron, whose second term ends in 2027, and he cannot contest again because of constitutional restrictions, will not be in a position to push his policies either at home or abroad. Melenchon believes that Macron should call the NFP to form a government though there is much confusion as to who would be its prime ministerial candidate. But Macron is not likely to give in to Melenchon's demand.

So, did Macron's gamble fail to check the rise of the right and keep it away from power at home? He has succeeded partially. He has succeeded in thwarting the RN from coming to power. But he has failed to get a majority for his own party and his own policies. And he has not able to reach an agreement with the NFP before the elections.

The NFP is as much opposed to Macron as it is to Le Pen. It is an indication of the feistiness of the French politicians and parties. They are willing to court chaos rather than give in to pragmatism. But many leaders on the Left feel that it is time to negotiate sensibly with people and parties with whom the NFP does not see eye to eye. The more splintered the left and the moderate centrists show themselves to be, it will strengthen the far right. Green Party leader Marine Tondelier put it crisply as only the French can: "It's not going to be simple, it's not going to be easy, and no, it's not going to be comfortable. It's going to take a bit of time."

Self-interest spurred US spook community

DESPITE being the world's leading source of cyberattacks and the biggest threat to cybersecurity globally, the United States launched a smear campaign against China earlier this year, accusing it of conducting hacking activities targeting the US and other Western countries.

Out of ulterior political motives, US government departments, such as the National Security Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, spread the lie that a China-backed hacking group known as Volt Typhoon was working to compromise cyber infrastructure at ports, utilities and internet service providers in the US and other Western countries.

"Today, and literally every day, they're actively attacking our economic security, engaging in wholesale theft of our innovation, and our personal and corporate data," FBI Director Christopher Wray scare-mongered in a House committee hearing early this year.

But the so-called Volt Typhoon cyber threat narrative is nothing but a US campaign of misinformation and public opinion manipulation aimed at slinging mud at China. Having conducted an investigation, China has found that Volt Typhoon is actually a ransomware cybercriminal group that has nothing to do with the country.

The hyping up of a "cyber threat from China" by US intelligence agencies was actually intended to push for the reauthorization of Section 702 of the US Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, according to the findings of an investigation by China's National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center and other technical teams.

On April 19, the day when Section 702 was set to expire, the US Senate approved its reauthorization with a vote of 60-34, with President Joe Biden subsequently signing it into law. The reauthorization indicates that it is the US, rather than any other country, that is the world's largest "surveillance empire". The act allows the US government to continue collecting the communications of non-Americans located outside the country without a warrant for another two years. The law, which also permits the incidental collection of data of US citizens without a warrant, is a de facto license to snoop. Abusing its technological hegemony, the US is carrying out large-scale, indiscriminate surveillance and espionage activities globally in the guise of safeguarding national security.

China has repeatedly been the victim of cyberattacks by the US. From May 2023 to January 2024, Chinese government entities, academies, scientific research institutes, enterprises and critical infrastructures had recorded more than 45 million cyberattacks from US government-backed hacking organizations, according to the latest findings.

The US is actually staging a farce of "a thief crying 'stop the thief'" by fabricating false narratives of so-called China-sponsored cyberattacks, which will only further strain Sino-US relations.

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Israel's American dream

Yannick Giovanni Marshall

It may seem odd that US conservatism – which has taken the baton from the Reich Ministry of Propaganda and systematically spreads thinly veiled anti-Semitic messages about the need to defend the West from nefarious “globalists” and the conspiracy to “replace” white people – is showing up for Israeli ethno-nationalism to shout down pro-Palestinian rallies on college campuses. And that US liberalism is in lockstep with US conservatism; with its chief, President Joe Biden, declaring that the incineration of patients in hospitals is not the war crime that will sway US resolve in funding and arming Israel's pogrom in Gaza.

To anyone not familiar with the centrality of anti-Semitism in European nationalisms historically, including Zionism, it might seem odd that the self-declared “Jewish State” would build alliances with mainstreamed American neo-Nazism. An uncomfortable alliance, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu singing former US President Donald Trump's praises one day and the next having to mildly push back against the anti-Semitism of Trumpism and Trump's “mistake” in throwing a dinner for anti-Semites. It might seem strange the shortsightedness of that state's legitimization of “far-right movements” – which is newspeak for white supremacist resurgence – for the short-term gains of colonialism.

But it is not odd. Settler white supremacy everywhere shares one dream.

The settler colonists' dream for Palestine is its Americanisation. Their dream is to achieve the American dream. This dream is not suburban white picket fences and golden retrievers catching frisbees in the back yard. It is not of leafy socialist kibbutzim and a haven from murderous European anti-Semitism. It is the dream of the elimination of the natives. And as the native is never fully eliminated, settler colonialism must work out an intricately maintained, collective hallucination about the land. Imposing a new language, renaming beloved places and expelling the populations who cling on to them and still speak their names. Settler colonialism is the permanent cascade of delusions over indigenous land. A papier-mache castle built on homes wrested away, fortified and patrolled by genocidaires who oblige all, using napalm or ideology, to accept the occupation as a “country”, that is, a permanent structure that shall not be moved.

The dream of settler colonialism in Palestine, as is the dream of settler colonialism in every place it invades, is to rid the natives of their claims and where feasible rid the land of the natives itself. It is the dream of replacement, in fits and starts, of indigeneity with whiteness. This, in fact, is how the white supremacist's “theory” of the “great replacement” should be read – as a projection of settler fantasy rebounded as settler anxiety.

The dream of all settlers is to erase the natives and the violent ethnic cleansing they are being subjected to

so that the “settlement” can be perceived as a single, benevolent and permanent entity: “our country”. A country of quaint little towns and suburbs which True Crime documentaries swear are places “where nothing violent ever happens and communities go about living the [American] dream”. Communities which are all, without exception, sites of ethnic cleansing and deliberately unmarked graves. It is this shared dream of permanent occupation and ethnic expulsion that has proven enticing enough to inspire some racists in the United States and elsewhere to reach across the aisle of anti-Semitism, temporarily, in solidarity with the cause of white supremacist violence. This Nazi olive-

branch of civilian life.” In the 21st century, colonialism wears a funeral gown. The liberal US President funds genocide while delivering regretful Juneteenth speeches and attending “tribal summits” to “heal the wrongs of the past”.

Here and there, then and now, settler colonialism is the same thing. It is the same justified massacres. The same killing spectacles to shock and awe insurgent tribes. It is the same demonising of Indigenous resistance. It is the romanticised founding violence, “Western expansion”, into a land simultaneously without a people and teeming with savages.

Zionism is Americanism that is late to the game. It might not yet have had time to invent its own cowboys

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Settler colonialism in Palestine is hurriedly trying to catch up with an older settler colonial occupation that has seared its name, “America”, with a branding iron across the back of another colonised land. It is taking the same path. “Israeli” Andrew Jacksons are launching wars of elimination against the “hostile natives”. In Palestine the “punitive expedition” is equipped with guided missiles. Whereas colonists in past centuries praised the collective punishment of rebellious natives they now say they mourn “the tragic loss of civilian life.” In the 21st century, colonialism wears a funeral gown. The liberal US President funds genocide while delivering regretful Juneteenth speeches and attending “tribal summits” to “heal the wrongs of the past”. Here and there, then and now, settler colonialism is the same thing. It is the same justified massacres. The same killing spectacles to shock and awe insurgent tribes. It is the same demonising of Indigenous resistance. It is the romanticised founding violence, “Western expansion”, into a land simultaneously without a people and teeming with savages. Zionism is Americanism that is late to the game. It might not yet have had time to invent its own cowboys and country westerns rewriting extermination campaigns into fables of heroism.
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branching has occurred before – one is reminded of comments on white supremacist blogs who offered solidarity with the killer of Trayvon Martin, George Zimmerman, despite the fact that he “looked Hispanic” and had a “Jewish sounding” last name.

Settler colonialism in Palestine is hurriedly trying to catch up with an older settler colonial occupation that has seared its name, “America”, with a branding iron across the back of another colonised land. It is taking the same path. “Israeli” Andrew Jacksons are launching wars of elimination against the “hostile natives”. In Palestine the “punitive expedition” is equipped with guided missiles. Whereas colonists in past centuries praised the collective punishment of rebellious natives they now say they mourn “the tragic

and country westerns rewriting extermination campaigns into fables of heroism. It does not yet boast of a home-grown, global country music industry with Jason Aldean-styled chart-topping ballads to lynching. The violence of its “founding” has continued into a time when politicians can no longer issue decrees offering rewards for bringing back “native” scalps or praise bare-chested men, keeling over moonshine excited to hunt for escaped slaves and renegade “Indians”.

It is the same old settler colonialism but caught between two times. The lynch mob society at home must be circumspect on the world stage. Both open ethno-nationalist hatred and the need to say it regrets the loss of civilian life. “Opening humanitarian corridors” as well as inviting US conservative

politicians to sign munitions known to be bound for children for settler-exciting photo ops. Touting progressive laws and advances in medicine and technology as well as preserving the race riot, burning people out of their homes, kicking away aid packages, and watching the burning of the native sector behind clinking glasses of after-work rooftop watch parties.

Still, America is Big Bro. It is an instructive example of how one goes about preventing the right of return. Before the forced death marches to Rafah, a century earlier there were Trails of Tears on land – and trailing the slave-ships traversing the Atlantic. A century before the building of settlements in the West Bank and anywhere in Palestine, there were police and the law working together to clear Black people off their farms in the US south. The murders of African Americans in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the white mob butchering and expelling of Black people from Elaine, Arkansas in Springfield, Illinois and 1,000 other small towns a century ago are restaged in settler race riots against Palestinians.

The repeat of settler anti-Indigenous and anti-Black violence in anti-Palestinian violence (not to render invisible Black Palestinians), the identical justifications and accusations of savagery and innate criminality, reveal not an imitation of Americanism but an advancement of it. Zionism is Americanism that is both late to the game of settler colonialism and has leaptfrogged and made more efficient its supremacy and racial violence. The lynch mob beats its chest in 1890s Tennessee and contemporary Jerusalem equally hard but America has not sold settler victimisation (or “white working class grievance”) nowhere as well as Israel has mobilised empathy in service of murder.

The settler everywhere dreams of their America. The hawkish right cheering on massacres, the hawkish left waiting patiently for the business of “founding” violence to be over so it can speak about reconciliation on settler terms and promise that settler colonialism can evolve into something other than an abattoir. And wherever the settler is, so will be America – left or right, Biden or Trump – with funds and guns to arm the dream. It is all that can be expected from the perhaps newly post-racial, settler white supremacist international. That is why it remains important for us to stop dreaming that the West will one day wean itself away from colonial violence. Colonial violence is what “the West” is. It is more prudent to work, instead, towards a post-Western future. As the rising global anticolonial counter to the West's Nazi renaissance is showing, the US, and every other white supremacist “nation” is a fiction of settler imagination. But land is not a dog that will run to the beck and call of any master – it still speaks our name. History has yet to see an equal and opposite response from the colonised world. From we the un-eliminated. The unexterminated. The non-dreamers. The opps.

Kamala Harris is Democrats' future, no matter what

Erika D. Smith

To understand how much has and has not changed within the Democratic Party, consider a campaign ad from Trumpworld, which mocks US President Joe Biden as old, feeble and befuddled.

“Do you think the guy who was defeated by the stairs, got taken down by his bike, lost a fight with his jacket and regularly gets lost makes it four more years in the White House?” a narrator intones as Vice President Kamala Harris appears. “And you know who's waiting behind him, right? Vote Joe Biden today, get Kamala Harris tomorrow.”

When the ad first aired during the recent disastrous presidential debate — in which Biden appeared old, feeble and befuddled — it seemed almost smart, if also needlessly offensive and cruel. What better way to rattle Democrats and undecided voters than to question the health of an 81-year-old president and threaten that if he is unable to continue, a vice president more often seen as a liability than an asset would take over?

That was then. Now many Democrats are suddenly clamoring for Harris to replace Biden. From top donors to rank-and-file voters, people seem to realize what they should have realized long ago: The party needs Harris, as a presidential nominee or as a hyper-visible vice president. As South Carolina Rep. James Clyburn said, if the president steps aside — and that is still a big if — Democrats “should do everything to bolster (Harris), whether she's in second place or at the top of the ticket.”

But missing from all this speculative chatter are some important questions that need to be asked and answered.

As so crudely posed in that Trumpworld ad, what would it mean for Democrats to “get” Harris? As the nominee, would she be able to inspire confidence given that her own presidential campaign died

Yet Harris has long been known in her home state for being cautious — too cautious, even for a Black woman of South Asian descent trying to make her way in the patriarchal world of politics.

Her views are maddeningly poll-driven, leaving voters to often question what she genuinely believes. That is why many Californians rolled their eyes when she told rapper Fat Joe that “nobody should have to go to jail for smoking weed.” As the state's attorney general, she refused to support a ballot measure to legalize the drug.

More than anything, though, Harris tends to get overly attached to her talking points. She stays on message, sometimes to a fault, and she can be caught flat-footed and seem unprepared when asked unexpected questions. This is what I suspect happened during her infamous 2021 interview with NBC's Lester Holt about her work to address the root causes of illegal immigration.

“This whole thing about the border, we've been to the border,” Harris said. “We've been to the border.”

“You haven't been to the border,” Holt interjected.

“And I haven't been to Europe either,” Harris responded.

Still, I cannot help but see Harris, who has hit her stride as vice president lately, as the right person to lead the Democratic Party at a time when its coalition is fraying along generational, economic and racial lines. She is 59 years old, a woman and a person of color — and, critically, fresh polling shows she has more support than Biden does from younger voters of color in some swing states.

In Georgia, Harris could bring reluctant Black voters back into the fold. In Michigan, she could persuade the sizable bloc of Arab American voters to cast ballots in November because she has shown more empathy than Biden for the Palestinian civilians

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In Michigan, she could persuade the sizable bloc of Arab American voters to cast ballots in November because she has shown more empathy than Biden for the Palestinian civilians killed in Gaza. In Nevada and Arizona, she could talk about the economy and inflation from the far more salient perspective of affordability. As a native Californian, she is surely familiar with how housing costs can overwhelm lives. And Harris has already been all over the country talking about reproductive rights.
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even before the first votes were cast in the Iowa caucuses? Would she be able to win over enough swing states to beat former President Donald Trump, the Republican candidate? And would voters be able to get over their dislike of her, a lot of it rooted in racism and sexism, enough to vote for her?

Do not assume Harris' rising poll numbers or the explosion of coconut tree emojis on social media are evidence that the vice president's many critics have suddenly found new confidence in her. Rather, this is about fear and desperation.

Democrats will do anything to keep Trump out of the White House. And Biden's debate debacle and subsequent drop in the polls have made such a scenario scarcely possible. Just weeks out from the Democratic National Convention, it has become clear that Harris has the easiest path to replacing Biden as the party's nominee.

Not only has she been fully vetted, election lawyers also mostly agree that she is the only candidate who would be able to access all the campaign's funds. The governors who might be interested in running, including California's Gavin Newsom, do not have such advantages.

I have always wanted to believe in Harris. As someone who has followed the latter half of her rise through the ranks of California politics, I view her as charismatic, brilliant and funny. And as a former district attorney of San Francisco, she is also a force of nature when she is playing the role of interrogator. She would have ripped Trump to shreds during the debate, debunking his nonstop lies without breaking a sweat.

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Then again, it is possible that none of this will happen. Harris told campaign staffers that Biden would not drop out: “In this moment I know all of us are ready to fight for him.” Biden said he was “in this race to the end.”

A lot will depend on how the president's interview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos on Friday is perceived. But assuming, just for a moment, that we can take Biden and Harris at their word, then the campaign must work harder than ever before to elevate the vice president's profile and help her ride this wave of good vibes from voters as long as possible.

In short, they need to do what the Biden administration should have done from the beginning — and that is treat Harris like the future of the party, not sideline her and set her up for failure with an impossible agenda. Now that Democrats have gotten a glimpse of Biden at his geriatric worst, voters will look to Harris for reassurance.

Biden made a selfish bet that he could force millions of Americans to vote for him despite concerns about his age because the alternative would be so much worse. And it has backfired. Harris is not the perfect candidate. Nor has she been the perfect vice president. But she is certainly a better option than the lesser of two evils.

As militaries are rebuilt, are we turning American?

Russia's war in Ukraine, China's decades-long militarization and threats to reunify with Taiwan by force and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction on the Korean peninsula have exposed the flawed rationale for post-Cold War demilitarization and the dismantling of the capacity to produce munitions and defensive equipment to meet 21st-century security challenges.

Putin's neoimperialist invasion of Ukraine has further revealed to Japan and many like-minded countries and political entities such as Taiwan the reality that authoritarian states are pursuing a path toward a multipolar world in which power, not the rule of law, is the basis of our international order.

Moscow has been able to do that with the massive use of military force to engage in a full-scale invasion of a sovereign country. The aggression has revealed the inability of European powers to produce enough munitions to support Ukraine's resistance, let alone have any surplus to deal with other contingencies that could affect their interests.

Imagine a mass terrorist attack within Europe or a Taiwan contingency manifesting itself either at another or at the same time. Where would Europe get the military resources needed to deal with these challenges, as it barely manages to supply Ukraine?

The war has demonstrated that the social and technological narratives that the Europeans, Canadians and even the Japanese and Australians have used as the basis for not investing in defense equipment and manufacturing capabilities — and even not meeting their spending pledges to collective defense organizations such as NATO — have been flawed.

What has become clear is that without the United States' tremendous military, defensive and diplomatic capabilities, it would have been difficult to even think that Kyiv would be able to resist Putin's attempt to erase Ukraine's identity, culture and state.

Today many countries are rethinking their so-called sociotechnical imaginaries — shared visions and understandings of social life and technology — of what kind of military and defense capabilities are needed to deal with security challenges in their backyard and beyond.

The ideas that many countries have held in the post-Cold War period are typified by scholars such as Francis Fukuyama, who argued in his book "End of History and the Last Man" that democracy was the final stage in political development. For Fukuyama, the collapse of the Soviet Union marked the beginning of liberal democratic institutions and forms of government that

ushered in an era of stability and peace through international law, diplomacy and relying on communication, not military power, as the basis for maintaining the international order.

However, current scenarios have fractured the post-Cold War illusion that military power and defense production capabilities are not necessary. They have also given a new meaning to the doctrine of "peace through strength" adopted by former US President Ronald Reagan, who also frequently used the proverb

The goal is also made difficult by the downward pressure on the Japanese economy associated with demographic challenges. Selective diversification away from the Chinese market and supply chains and global energy and food inflation associated with Russia's invasion of Ukraine will further complicate the commitment to doubling defense spending. These difficulties sit alongside the views held by millions of Japanese citizens who are still wedded to the peace Constitution, such as the belief that if only Japan remains neutral and pacifist, authoritarian states will leave it be. Fortunately, the consensus among Japanese people is edging toward an understanding that without an appropriate defense budget, the country will not be able to meet the challenges it faces in the broader Indo-Pacific region or contribute to pushing back against brutish attempts to change borders through force. In this sense, Japan and other countries holding such notions, which challenge established security paradigms, are all becoming much more "American-like" — meaning that they prioritize investment in defense. But much more needs to be done. The US has maintained a military capability that enables it to fight on three fronts simultaneously: extraordinary aircraft carrier fleets and substantial defense spending and research — with the view that military power it still essential to maintaining the international rules-based order. It goes without saying that yes, the US is sometimes hypocritical when it comes to enforcing this order.

Its invasion of Iraq after 9/11 is a case in point. Notwithstanding, Washington behaves consistently, generally speaking. Many countries have criticized the US for being overly focused on building up military power since the end of the Cold War. Allies and adversaries alike continue to think that Washington overinvests in military might and underinvests in diplomacy and trade. These criticisms are not without merit. For example, the US today would be in a much stronger position if it had not withdrawn from the Trans-Pacific Partnership and engaged in more trade with countries in the Indo-Pacific.

"trust, but verify" (which, ironically, is Russian).

We do see some states, like Japan, facing up to the reality of new security challenges. For instance, Japan's latest National Security Strategy, announced in 2022, commits to doubling defense spending by 2027.

But this will be tough, in part due to the continued depreciation of the yen. The goal is also made difficult by the downward pressure on the Japanese economy associated with demographic challenges.

Stephen R. Nagy

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Nonetheless, from Paris to Berlin, Tokyo to Seoul, and Canberra to Ottawa, there is a growing sense that a double or triple contingency — a crisis on the Korean peninsula or in Taiwan and instability in the South China Sea and potentially in the Himalayan region, given border tensions between China and India — would result in the inability of like-minded countries to apply the military tools necessary to ensure the current international rules-based order remains intact. And in efforts to ensure authoritarian and revisionist states do not succeed in reshaping borders by force being hampered.

The war in Ukraine has exposed the flawed rationale not only of reducing military capabilities to promote regional security, but also to deal with what Nikkei commentator Akita Hiroyuki calls the "connectivity of war."

Simply put, one theater of war can no longer be understood in isolation from another.

This means that proponents of the current international order will need the capabilities to contribute to defense and security cooperation in at least two conflicts at once.

This will require countries in the European Union, as well as the United States, Japan, South Korea, Canada, Australia and many others to boost their defense production, coordinate resources and discuss defense and strategy burden sharing.

Authoritarian challenges are ahead of the game. Putin's visit to North Korea secured munitions that will be used on the Ukrainian front line. While the Russian president's visit to China did not lead to the transfer of military equipment, it consolidated ties to allow Beijing to continue delivering parts that can be used in the war on Kyiv. Even Iran has contributed to the conflict by providing drones.

Rethinking how we deal with authoritarian challenges to the global order will entail coordinated diplomacy, stronger economic security cooperation in the form of resilience, trade agreements and technology exchanges, but also a boost in the production, manufacturing and distribution of munitions and other defense equipment in several regions, including in the Indo-Pacific and Europe.

Whether we like it or not, we are all becoming American in our security calculus as failed defense assumptions make us vulnerable to authoritarian expansionism.

With supreme leader's blessing, Pezeshkian bids to change Iran

Mohammed Al-Sulami

In a speech on June 3, Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei explained that the country's next president should be "an active, hardworking, knowledgeable president who believes in the principles of the revolution." He added that "the elections should be an epic scene of honor and a competition to serve the people, not a battlefield to gain power." Khamenei went on to say: "The upcoming elections will be full of achievements and the repercussions will be felt in the world. Therefore, these elections are very important."

The six-person shortlist was a surprise because the name of an independent politician supported by the reformist faction, Masoud Pezeshkian, was on the final list of approved candidates. This was due to the objective of the system ("nezam") to focus on popular participation rather than the succession of the supreme leader, as was the case in the last presidential election in 2021. As part of the electoral engineering process, former Foreign Minister Javad Zarif was used as a tool to attract voters to the poll. The moderate candidate's team targeted specific parts of the electorate, namely Iranian women, ethnic minorities and Generation Z.

Pezeshkian was the most suitable candidate to achieve this objective. He eventually won the Iranian presidential runoff election on Friday. After his election, he said that he had to thank Khamenei: "Without him, my name would not have come out of the polls." Indeed, the Guardian Council had previously barred him from standing in March's parliamentary elections due to his criticism of the political system at the time of Mahsa Amini's killing.

According to official Iranian sources, Pezeshkian received more than 16 million votes in the runoff, while his opponent, ultra-conservative hard-liner Saeed Jalili, received about 13.5 million. The Iranian Election Headquarters announced that voter turnout in the runoff was 49.8 percent, about 10 percent up from the first round held a week earlier.

Pezeshkian will propose a new diplomatic platform of direct nuclear negotiations with the West. This will depend on Khamenei's support and the US president's willingness to engage with Tehran at a time of confrontation in the Middle East and while Iran is supporting Russia militarily in the context of the war in Ukraine. Pezeshkian said that he was supporting a more proactive engagement policy toward Western actors and endorsed a return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal throughout his campaign.

This election indicates that Khamenei has priori-

tyzied regime survival in the face of rising internal discontent. This is why, anticipating a low turnout, the regime authorized the candidacy of a reformist, though weak and not very charismatic, among the six candidates for the post of president. The system has manipulated the electoral competition, which allows it, at least in the short term, to manage the crisis of legitimacy after the protest movement of 2022.

The main idea behind the presence of a moderate politician in the list of presidential candidates was to co-opt discontent by creating a semi-opposition responsible for countering a more vocal opposition to the Islamic Republic that is located outside the country.

The main idea behind the presence of a moderate politician in the list of presidential candidates was to co-opt discontent by creating a semi-opposition responsible for countering a more vocal opposition to the Islamic Republic that is located outside the country. The system used the same strategy in 2013, after the crushing of the Green Movement — a post-election protest movement born from civil society after the fraudulent reelection in 2009 of the principlist politician Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. In 2013, the pragmatic centrist politician Hassan Rouhani ran and was elected. This time, the regime's strategy was not totally successful. The participation rate was less than 50 percent, which means that the boycott campaign of Iranian opponents both outside and inside the country was not fully crushed by the system. The idea of the presence of a moderate politician in the second round of the presidential election was not sufficient to mobilize the majority of the Iranian electorate.

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There are now two options for the new Iranian

president. Pezeshkian may not fulfill his promises made to the Iranian electorate if he chooses to remain faithful to the system. Alternatively, he could become a dissident if he tries to defy the authority of the supreme leader to apply his electoral program. Indeed, a large part of the Iranian youth did not vote for the moderate politician, even if they admit to having feared the rise to power of a hard-liner like Jalili, who was presented as a scarecrow.

Overall, the election of Pezeshkian represents a limited but real change promoted by the top-level authority in the Islamic Republic: the Office of the Supreme Leader. Indeed, without the approval of the supreme leader, the election of Pezeshkian would not have been possible. From this perspective, external pressures and internal discontent were the key factors behind Khamenei's decision to promote the election of a moderate president, who will focus on internal issues in general and on improving the economic situation of the country in particular.

Pezeshkian's desire to transform Iran into an emerging country remains linked to his ability to transform the Iranian political system. The new president needs to go beyond Rouhani's nuclear policy, which achieved only a limited lifting of sanctions. This ambitious economic project will hurt the economic interests of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and it remains to be seen if this policy can be successful without a Democrat winning the US presidency in November.

British elections... The facts behind the figures

Thanks to improvements in statistics and polling, last week's UK election outcome aligned with projections. The British Labour Party won the elections handily, ending 14 consecutive years of Conservative Party rule.

The outcome of the early elections called for by Rishi Sunak, the outgoing prime minister, had been clear for a long time. Some even say that Sunak rushed to call the elections because he had realized that it would be futile to play for time and stand still in anticipation of a salvation that would never come. Moreover, the demagogues of the isolationist Reform UK party were ramping up their grandstanding during this time and the new moderate leadership of the Labour Party was getting its house in order to reassure the establishment, after having turned the page on the radicalism of its predecessors.

Deep down, Sunak felt that his party had nothing to offer but more futile tax bribes and infighting, which had allowed three different prime ministers to take power in five years.

Accepting the obvious in a country with deep-rooted traditions, Sunak realized that the UK's institutions had stopped betting on his withering party. Rather, they welcomed the introduction of new blood with a stronger popular mandate

that could serve their interests over a longer period. The clearest reflection of this shift was that some right-wing popular newspapers changed their stances, opting to endorse the Labour Party rather than the Conservatives.

The British people have seen this before, after growing weary of the long era of Thatcherism that spanned from 1979 to 1997 (including the John Major years) and the decay of its authority. At that time, Labour presented a new alternative that sought to marginalize left-wing activists, weaken the hard-line unionists, cooperate with the private sector and accept both domestic and global capitalism.

Indeed, in early May 1997, Tony Blair led "New Labour" to a sweeping victory, receiving more than 43 percent of the vote and winning a 179-seat majority.

What happened last week was similar. The British people had grown tired of the problems seen over the past 14 years and a moderate Labour alternative that sidelined left-wing members emerged. As a result, the Conservatives were abandoned and they lost the election. I deliberately used the word "similar" and not "identical," given the significant differences that make up the picture behind the figures. Last week's election was more a bitter defeat for the

Conservative Party than it was a victory for Labour.

Labour has won politically and it will govern for the next five years with an extremely comfortable

Britain's relationship with Europe has always been a contentious issue within the Conservative Party. Although the moderate wing that favors alignment with Europe temporarily won when the UK joined the European family at the beginning of 1973, the right-wing faction of the party has always opposed stronger ties and deeper integration. The Brexit faction was born of that wing of the party. The irony, here, is that right-wing Conservatives' views on Europe converged with those of the Labour Party's left, which was also against joining the European Common Market, though its opposition was premised on the grounds that joining this "bourgeois bloc" would harm the interests of the working class. Later on, after Brexit advocates won the 2016 referendum and began to fear that a new referendum could overturn the result, they established Reform, which included staunch opponents of a return to Europe who took a strong stance against immigration and asylum seekers. Reform then crystallized into a polarizing force, with some hard-liners veering away from moderate isolationism toward racism and xenophobia. Following years of internal crises in the Conservative Party, and after Labour had sidelined its leftist faction, Reform gradually grew in strength. In last week's general election, it received 14 percent of the vote. Finally, in Scotland, the Scottish National Party's failed policies and escalating internal disagreements left it facing a collapse that paralleled that of the Conservative Party in England and Wales. Here too, the Labour Party benefited, winning most seats after having historically been a major force in Scotland before the rise of the nationalists over the past three decades.

majority of 172 seats. However, the party only received 33.7 percent of the vote, just a 1.6 percent increase from four years ago, when they suffered a

times hypocritical when it comes to enforcing this order. Its invasion of Iraq after 9/11 is a case in point.

Notwithstanding, Washington behaves consistently, generally speaking. Many countries have criticized the US for being overly focused on building up military power since the end of the Cold War. Allies and adversaries alike continue to think that Washington overinvests in military might and underinvests in diplomacy and trade.

In this sense, Japan and other countries holding such notions, which challenge established security paradigms, are all becoming much more "American-like" — meaning that they prioritize investment in defense. But much more needs to be done. The US has maintained a military capability that enables it to fight on three fronts simultaneously: extraordinary aircraft carrier fleets and substantial defense spending and research — with the view that military power it still essential to maintaining the international rules-based order. It goes without saying that yes, the US is sometimes hypocritical when it comes to enforcing this order. Its invasion of Iraq after 9/11 is a case in point.

Firstly, after Labour ousted the radical Corbyn

and chose the more moderate Keir Starmer as its leader, the establishment had no reason to worry

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about the Labour Party, which offered further reassurances by explaining its goals for the long term.

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integration. The Brexit faction was born of that wing of the party. The irony, here, is that right-wing Conservatives' views on Europe converged with those of the Labour Party's left, which was also against joining the European Common Market, though its opposition was premised on the grounds that joining this "bourgeois bloc" would harm the interests of the working class.

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fited, winning most seats after having historically been a major force in Scotland before the rise of the nationalists over the past three decades.

Thus, we arrive at two conclusions: The first conclusion is that the view that "Britain has moved to the left while most of Europe is moving to the right" is unfounded. The reality is that British extremism — both right-wing and left-wing — has become so robust and organized that it no longer needs to hide behind the Conservatives or Labour.

Today, the Reform party is copying from the literature of similar right-wing movements in France, Italy and Germany.

The second conclusion is that the Scottish nationalists' collapse could be a sign that support for a new referendum on Scottish independence is declining. Indeed, the number of SNP seats shrank from 48 to just nine, while Labour increased its seats in Scotland from two to 37.

Accordingly, the outcome of the British election is significant and it may have temporarily put the brakes on the shift toward far-right hegemony in Western Europe. However, the seeds of xenophobia and isolationism indicate that changes beneath the surface could have worrying implications in the foreseeable future.



PSX stays bullish, gains 105 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 105.86 points, a positive change of 0.13 percent, closing at 80,672.06 points against 80,566.21 points on the last working day.

A total of 610,264,015 shares were traded during the day as compared to 261,649,614 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 24.317 billion against Rs 13.024 billion on the last trading day.

Around 450 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 216 of them recorded gains and 190 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 44 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 51,026,149 shares at Rs 4.91 per share,

Bank of Punjab with 43,339,979 shares at Rs 5.93 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 40,773,147 shares at Rs1.24 per share.

Sazgar Engineering Works Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 94.89 per share price, closing at Rs 1,093.78, whereas the runner-up was Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited with a Rs 89.99 rise in its per share price to Rs 18,289.99.

Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 73.00 per share closing at Rs 7,616.11, followed by Nestle Pakistan Limited with a Rs 55.19 decline to close at Rs 6,999.96.

Rupee gains 10 paise against dollar

The exchange rate of the Pakistan rupee witnessed an appreciation of 10 paise against the US dollar in the

interbank trading on Tuesday and closed at Rs 278.40 against the previous day's closing of Rs278.50.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 279 and Rs 281 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 58 paise to close at Rs 301.17 against the last day's closing of Rs 301.75, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.73, whereas a decrease of 48 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 356.39 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 356.87.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and

the Saudi Riyal also decreased by 03 paise each to close at Rs 75.79 and Rs 74.21 respectively.

Gold rates dip by Rs100 per tola to Rs245,000

The price of per tola of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.100 and was sold at Rs.245,000 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs.245,100 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.86 to Rs.210,048 from Rs. 210,134 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.192,544 from Rs. 192,622, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,900 and Rs.2,486.28 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$14 to \$2,362 from \$2,376, the Association reported.

Massive increase of 24.43% in Cargo handling at Karachi Port

E.P. Report

KARACHI: Cargo handling operations, including Import and Export at Karachi Port Trust remained outstanding at the end of fiscal year 2023-24 and witnessed a notable rise of 23.43% in cargo handling. The entire freight closed at 51.65 million tons in which the Dry Cargo 40.24 million tons with 31.39% growth and Liquid Bulk Cargo 11.41 million tons with 1.69% increased, as well as in the last year the same was 41.85 million tons in which the Dry Cargo 30.63 million tons and Liquid Bulk Cargo 11.22 million tons was handled in fiscal year 2022-23.

The breakup shows that overall Export Cargo handling at KPT closed at 18.80 million tons with the stunning 47.16% rise at the end of fiscal year 2023-24,

whereas the same was 12.78 million tons during the fiscal year 2022-23. Similarly, the total Import cargo handling at KPT is noted as 32.85 million tons showing 13% jump from 29.07 million tons of the fiscal year 2022-23.

The further breakdown shows that the Export Dry Cargo handled at KPT at the end of fiscal year 2023-24 is closed at 17.66 million tons with 49.12% increase due to extraordinary Clinker handling, while the same was 11.84 million tons during the fiscal year 2022-23. Similarly, the Export Liquid Bulk Cargo of KPT noted at 1.14 million tons with 22.24% increase due to contribution of Furnace Oil and Molasses etc., however the same was 0.93 million tons during the fiscal year 2022-23.

In continuation of above,

the Import Dry Cargo handled at KPT recorded at 22.58 million tons with 20.21% increase mostly due to Wheat, Fertilizer, R/Phosphate and Iron Ore etc., whereas the same was 18.78 million tons during the fiscal year 2022-23. Similarly, the Import Liquid Bulk Cargo handled at KPT is 10.27 million tons, whereas the same was 10.29 million tons during the fiscal year 2022-23.

Karachi Port Trust's sturdy performance in container handling highlights its vital role in international trade and economic development. With 57% of its total cargo being containerized, KPT's operational success in container handling is 2.28 million TEUs at the end of fiscal year 2023-24, showing 17.90% increase from 1.93 million TEUs of the fiscal year 2022-23.

Karachi Port showed significant performance in ship movement by handling 1767 ships at the end of fiscal year 2023-24 and witnessed the growth of 5.68% as compared to 1672 ships handled in the fiscal year 2022-23.

Karachi Port contemporary performance by handling 79.7 million Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) at the end of fiscal year 2023-24 with the considerable rise of 16.69% increase from 68.3 million handled in the fiscal year 2022-23.

KPT provides On-Dock cross-stuffing of in-transit containers at designated areas on both East and West Wharves to enhance global logistics and trade. Through strategic planning and stakeholder engagement, KPT aims to maintain competitiveness and drive future success.

Govt needs to engage businessmen for workable economic policy

ISLAMABAD (INP): President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has urged the government to devise a viable solution to boost industry and businesses through providing affordable electricity and imposing nominal taxes.

In a statement here on Tuesday, he highlighted that exorbitant taxes, high power costs, and a poor law and order situation severely impact the economy and could further accelerate unemployment. There was no justification for maintaining exorbitant interest rates at 20.5% when inflation has already dropped to 12%, he pointed out.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari stated that providing electricity to the industry at a rate of 9 cents/kWh would increase exports by \$6 billion, add over 300 megawatts to the grid, gen-

erate Rs. 500 billion in revenue, and reduce debt servicing by Rs. 240 billion.

Emphasizing that the business community can't secure international orders when the government imposes high charges under cross-subsidies, he questioned why international buyers prefer Pakistan over countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh, which offer cheaper energy rates. He warned that the export industry was declining, and Pakistan was losing market share rapidly because electricity was more than twice as expensive as in competing countries.

The ICCI President expressed concerns that with the current energy prices, 60-70% of the industry might shut down, especially with the significant increase in domestic gas rates for the industry. Uncompetitive energy tariffs are hindering export growth and invest-

ment in the export sector. He mentioned that all 228 chambers and trade associations across the country were alarmed after the federal budget announcement.

He criticized the Rs2 trillion in pending capacity payments to Independent Power Producers (IPPs), which he said have paralyzed the country's economic activities. He described the capacity charges of IPPs as unfair, noting that they are paid even when no electricity is generated.

Bakhtawari said that these charges make up two-thirds of the total cost, with fuel costs comprising the remaining one-third. Investigations revealed that IPPs have been enjoying a return on investment exceeding 73% in dollar terms, an unusually high rate compared to international standards. Originally intended to alleviate the energy crisis by attracting private invest-

ment, these contracts have instead led to an escalating circular debt, reaching Rs2.64 trillion in Feb 2024.

He said that the traders were willing to pay taxes but were discouraged by the complexity of policies. Restrictions on cash transactions for manufacturers and mandatory POS (Point Of Sale) registration for retailers with official purchases over Rs4 million, along with the inclusion of manufacturing units in the withholding tax regime, will hinder business growth.

The ICCI President expressed confidence that the country has the capability to overcome these challenges, provided there was adherence to comprehensive, long-term, and well-tailored economic policies. He demanded that the government immediately start consultations with business leaders to devise a workable economic policy.

Asian markets rise ahead of Fed chief's Congress testimony

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Asian markets advanced Tuesday with Tokyo climbing to a record high ahead of Fed chief Jerome Powell's testimony to Congress which will be parsed for hints on the timing of rate cuts, with investors betting on a first trim in September.

The US central bank has held interest rates at the highest levels in more than two decades to bring inflation down to its long-term two percent target without doing too much damage to either the labour market or the broader economy.

After years of focusing primarily on inflation, Federal Reserve officials have now turned their attention increasingly to the labour market, which has shown some signs of weakness in recent months despite remaining strong overall.

Traders will be keenly

watching Powell's remarks to Congress on Tuesday and Wednesday for any indications of when the Fed will start cutting rates.

The Fed chair last week fanned hopes of a cut, saying the battle against inflation had made "progress" and the job market was cooling.

"We expect Powell to reiterate the need to see more evidence of slowing inflation before cutting interest rates. But with the recent signs of softer growth and labour market, markets will closely watch if Powell gives any hints on the timing of rate cuts," said Carol Kong at Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

"The Fed Funds futures market has currently attached almost an 80 percent chance of the first rate cut in September," she said.

Investors are also looking to US consumer infla-

tion data due Thursday for further indications that price increases are still easing as hoped, which would give the Fed greater confidence to start cutting rates.

"Powell is expected to hint at possible rate cuts starting in September if inflation continues to decline. A softer core CPI print would likely support this outlook, keeping the US dollar on a weaker trajectory," said Luca Santos, market analyst at ACY Securities.

Wall Street's main indices mostly advanced on Monday, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq both reaching new records.

The optimistic mood continued into Asia, with Tokyo climbing two percent to close at a record high.

Shanghai reversed early losses to end 1.3 percent higher ahead of a key policy meeting next week and

after Moody's Ratings revised up its 2024 GDP forecast for China to 4.5 percent from 4.0 percent previously.

Moody's said it expected "steady GDP growth across most emerging market countries this year and next" and revised its 2024 Asia Pacific forecast to 4.8 percent growth from 4.5 percent previously.

"The region-wide revision reflects an upward adjustment for China as its post-pandemic manufacturing and export-focused growth strategy takes shape, although with lacklustre household consumption," the ratings agency said.

Taipei, Seoul, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Manila and Mumbai were also in the green with Bangkok the sole decliner across the region while Hong Kong ended flat.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain chairing 11th meeting of National Coordination Committee on Small Medium Enterprises Development.

NCC for SME takes up 11-point agenda

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Coordination Committee for SME Development on Tuesday discussed 11-point agenda for the growth and facilitation of SMEs in order to foster investment and entrepreneurship opportunities in the country.

The 11th meeting of the Committee was chaired by Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, said a press release.

The minister emphasized

that SMEs were the bedrock of the economy and in line with the Prime Minister's directives, efforts were underway to streamline the registration process and provide facilitating support to SMEs, ensuring their seamless operation and growth.

The meeting also discussed different options to enhance business viability by reducing operational costs, increasing investment incentives, providing accessible credit facilities

for SMEs to launch and grow their ventures, and allocating land in industrial estates, specifically for SMEs to establish and expand their operations.

It resolved to empower women entrepreneurs through various initiatives and allocated a dedicated fund of Rs 5 billion to establish a comprehensive SMEs fund, aiming to provide financial support and stimulate the growth of small and medium enterprises.

KCCI asks FBR to urgently hold meeting

KARACHI (PPI): The President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh has urged the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to immediately revisit the controversial SRO 350 (I)/ 2004 in consultation with stakeholders as it stands unresolved to date which has created a hotchpotch situation, resulting in triggering a lot of anxiety amongst the members of business community who have been constantly approaching KCCI for assistance.

In a letter sent, President KCCI requested Chairman FBR Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana to visit KCCI at the earliest so that this pressing issue could be amicably resolved. "If it isn't possible to visit KCCI due to any other engagement in Islamabad, Chairman FBR must look into the possibility of urgently arranging an online meeting to discuss and resolve this serious matter."

He said, "The worsening situation can be gauged from the fact that even the utility services providers in Karachi including SSGC and K-Electric were unable to timely file their Sales Tax returns because of the complications emerging out of SRO 350", he added.

He noted that the SRO 350 establishes a critical link between buyers' tax return filing and their suppliers' compliance. This measure has triggered a concerning chain reaction, wherein non-compliance among suppliers threatens to disrupt the entire system. "Such a scenario could severely impact businesses across every tier of the supply chain, bringing operations to a standstill", he added.

Furthermore, Iftikhar Sheikh said that the requirement outlined in SRO 350(I)/2024 for the submission of balance sheets, which could potentially contradict previously submitted details, and for

record, the balance sheet could be examined from the tax returns data, thereby complicating compliance procedures which has raised significant concerns within the business fraternity due to its perceived complexity and potential disruptions.

He feared that further delay in receding SRO 350 would result in halting livestock, meat, fish, vegetables, fruits and many other exports as the point from where the chain of exporting all these and many other products begins, there is no system of registration. In this scenario, it will be impossible to for filers to submit details about registered persons for Sales Tax returns.

The uncertainty and ambiguity regarding timely filing of sales tax returns along with unreasonable sales tax liabilities is really a big issue being faced by businesses and industries at an already difficult time, he added.

Budget nothing for masses, says Dr Mughal

LAHORE (INP): President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), Dr Murtaza Mughal has said that the federal budget has nothing for masses but it is only distribution of resources among legislators.

He said that differences among major political parties regarding budget was not aimed to facilitate countrymen but about their share in resources.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, he said that Rs 16 billion have been earmarked for development projects in the budget, which will be used to please the members of national and provincial assemblies and supporters.

Dr Murtaza Mughal said that if there were some reduction in the development budget, electricity tariff would not have to be hiked to unbelievable levels. Still, the rulers were not concerned about people's problems and were busy shaping their future.

The government was making life difficult for the masses through taxes and

blaming the IMF, which was not a reality, he added.

The President PEW said that the government had increased its current expenses by 24 per cent, for which the right to live has been taken away from the people and the salaried class.

According to a recent survey, 94 per cent of people want to leave the country because they don't see anything here. He asked what the country's future would be if 94% of the people wanted to flee. He said there was no justice in imposing a withholding tax on flour, a 55% regulatory duty on potato import and a 15% regulatory duty on imported used clothes. Instead, he said, it would have been better if tax was imposed on big properties and mansions worth billions of rupees.

Dr. Mughal said that everyone was raising their voices against IPPs. However, many still consider power plant facilitators their leaders and sav-

iours. The government was spending almost Rs 5000 per month on each child's education, of which nearly half goes to ghost schools, ghost teachers and corruption, he observed.

The President PEW said that if the public schools were abolished, this capital was given directly to the poor so they can educate their children in private schools. In that case, the educational condition of the new generation can be greatly improved, he noted.

He said tens of millions of children were out of school in Pakistan. In contrast, 78% of children around ten cannot even read or write a few sentences, which indicates the standard of education in Pakistan.

The people who use electricity are compelled to pay exorbitantly enormous sums of money for even a single unit of power they consume beyond each slab.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where two ships, MSC Mundra VIII and Al-Thakira carrying Container and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Common Venture and Sky Blue scheduled to load/offload Rice and Palm oil also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on during last 24

hours.

A total of four ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a container ship "MSC Mundra VIII" left the port on today morning while another ship "Suvari Reis" is expected to sail on today.

Cargo volume of 87,510 tonnes, comprising 64,293 tonnes imports cargo and 23,217 tonnes export cargo carried in 1,497 Containers (610 TEUs Imports and 887

TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 07 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Common Venture, IVS Kerstrel and Sky Blue are expected to take berths at respectively FAP, MW2 and LCT on today 09th July, while two more container ships, Maersk Cabo Verde and ONE Reliability are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Wednesday.

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Attiya Rafique Civil Judge-I/Elaka Qazi Malakand at Bathkela, Case No 24/1 of 2024, Next date: 20/07/2024, Mrs. Bacha Zarina and others residence of Dargai District Malakand, Versus Mrs. Sabeeha Ara and other residents of Jaban Dargai Distt. Malakand, Proclamation Against Legal heirs: (3,5,12) (3): Mrs. Abida Sultan Khan w/o Ikram ul Hassan d/o Haq Nawaz Khan Kattak (late) resident of Jaban Dargai present (Cardiff, United Kingdom) (5) Mrs. Zenat Begum d/o Mrs. Sherin Taja (L) resident of Jaban Dargai Distt. Malakand, (6) Mrs. Nageena Begum (7) Mrs. Fauzia Begum d/o Sherin Taja (L) (8) Mrs. Nelum Naaz (9) Mrs. Resham Naaz (10) Mrs. Irrum Naaz daughters (11) Fahad (12) Kamran D/S/O Mrs. Robina (L) resident of Jaban Tehsil Dargai District Malakand. In the above title case the service of you above named defendants is not possible with ordinary means, hence you are hereby informed through this proclamation to attend this court on 20/07/2024 at 08:00am in person or through appointed agent/attorney or through counsel, otherwise you shall be placed and proceed against ex-parte.

COURT NOTICE

In The Court of Ms Maliha Allauddin Senior Civil Judge Family Court Kohat Suit no 26/FC Date of hearing 13-07-2024 Titled:- Maimoona Bibi Vs Hashmat Bibi(etc) Notice against:- (3)Malik Asmatullah Khan Son of Muhammad Azam Khan R/o Mohallah Akhooon Khel Jungle Khel District Kohat presently R/o (now in Abroad) (Defendant) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a family suit of Dower against you defendant in which date of hearing 13-07-2024 is fixed for your appearance Since your intimation /service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you defendant is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 13-07-2024 otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law order Issued on 01-07-2024 (Court.of S.C.J.F.C.Kohat)

COURT NOTICE

IN The Court of Ms Aqsa Saeed A.D.J-V. Kohat, Appeal no.CA-26 Date of hearing.13-07-2024, Titled:- Amir Shah Vs Mst Zareena(etc) Notice against:-(1)Mst. Zareena wife of Said Anwar Daughter of Ahmed Shah R/o Abdullah Colony Zahoor-Ul-Islam Road District Kohat Cantt presently R/o (now in Abroad England U.K) (Respondent) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a Appeal against you Respondent in which date of hearing 13-07-2024 is fixed for your appearance Since your intimation/service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you Respondent is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 13-07-2024 otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law.order Issued on.06-06-2024 (Court of ADJ-V Kohat)



In brief

Camp cancelled

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Women's Cricket team training camp has been cancelled because of the rain here on Tuesday. The women players were to take part in the training session at Hanif Muhammad High Performance Center organized in connection with the preparations for the Women's Asia Cup. Moreover, the women's cricketers would participate in a gym session at a hotel.

Vekic reaches first semi-final

L O N D O N (Agencies): Qualifier Lulu Sun's dream run at Wimbledon was ended in the quarter-finals by Croat Donna Vekic under the Court One roof. New Zealander Sun, 23, who beat Britain's Emma Raducanu in the fourth round, was hoping to become the first qualifier to reach the women's semi-finals since 1999 when American Alexandra Stevenson caused a sensation. However, the world number 123 was beaten 5-7 6-4 6-1 by Vekic who will face Jasmine Paolini or Emma Navarro in the last four. World number 37 Vekic, at the age of 28, is into her first Grand Slam semi-final. She set up four break points across the first set but was unable to beat Sun's dogged defence, and then dropped serve at 5-5 as the opener tilted in her opponent's favour. Vekic broke to go up 5-3 in the second set but briefly lost her confidence, double-faulting three times to hand Sun a break back. Buoyed by the crowd, Vekic quickly recovered and levelled the match with a sublime drop shot. She rode her momentum from there, dominating the decider. Vekic, who has 22-time Grand Slam doubles winner Pam Shriver in her coaching team, is the last unseeded player left in the women's draw. As Vekic advances, Sun's defeat means Wimbledon's wait for a qualifier to become champion in the Open era continues. Raducanu is the only qualifier to have won a Grand Slam title in the Open era, doing so when she triumphed at the 2021 US Open.

Frere suspended

PARIS (AFP): French marathon runner Mehdi Frere, selected for the Paris Olympics, has been banned for two years for breaching anti-doping rules, his lawyer told AFP on Tuesday. "He was suspended for a period of two years by the disciplinary tribunal of World Athletics," lawyer Laurent Fellous said. Fellous said he was attempting to appeal the ban at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and believes a decision before the Olympics is possible. "We'll be able to refer the matter to the Court of Arbitration for Sport as part of an accelerated procedure, with the aim of obtaining an arbitration award by July 26, the opening day of the Olympics," said his lawyer. "I think it's do-able," he added. Frere, 27, is accused of missing three anti-doping tests in the space of a year, a so-called "whereabouts" offence. He was suspended for the Olympics "subject to conditions" and had to sit out the European Championships in June while his whereabouts case was being considered. Frere recorded a personal best of 2hr 05min 43sec in 2023 and finished 20th in the World Cross-Country C'ships this year.

India's cricket board names Gautam as head coach

NEW DELHI (AFP): India's cricket board named Gautam Gambhir as head coach on Tuesday, with the former opener taking over from Rahul Dravid, tasked with building on their recent World Cup triumph.

"It is with immense pleasure that I welcome Mr Gautam Gambhir as the new Head Coach of the Indian Cricket Team," Jay Shah, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in a statement.

The 42-year-old Gambhir takes over from batting great Dravid, who finished his stint with the T20 World Cup title in Barbados last month. Gambhir scored over 10,000 international runs during his 13-year-long international career for India since his ODI debut in 2003. He is the only Indian -- and one of four international cricketers including Don Bradman, Jacques Kallis and Mohammad Yousuf -- to have scored centuries in five successive Test matches.

"Modern-day cricket has evolved rapidly, and Gautam has witnessed this changing landscape up



close," Shah added. Gambhir, a talented left-handed batsman who played a key part in India's ODI World Cup win in 2011, recently coached Kolkata Knight Riders to an IPL crown. "Having endured the grind and excelled in various roles throughout his career, I am confident that Gautam is the ideal person to steer Indian cricket forward," Shah added.

"His clear vision for Team India, coupled with his vast experience, positions him perfectly to take on this exciting and most sought-after coaching role." After he retired from playing, the usually serious Gambhir took to commentary and then dabbled in politics, becoming a lawmaker for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

He quit politics in March

to join IPL's Kolkata, a team he led to two titles in 2012 and 2014. Gambhir now takes over a team with heightened expectations after their T20 triumph, their fourth World Cup title and first major crown since the 2013 Champions Trophy.

India's white-ball tour of Sri Lanka in late July will be Gambhir's first assignment as coach of the national team. India also awaits a T20 captain after Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli retired from the shortest format soon after a thrilling win over South Africa in the World Cup final in Barbados on June 29. Shah also offered his "sincere thanks and gratitude" to Dravid, ending his coaching career on a high.

"Under his guidance, Team India emerged as a dominant force across formats, including being crowned ICC Men's T20 World Cup champions," Shah said. "His strategic acumen, persistent efforts to nurture talent and exemplary leadership have instilled a culture of excellence within the team and that is also the legacy he leaves behind."



LONDON: Donna Vekic of Croatia celebrates winning match point against Lulu Sun of New Zealand in her Ladies' Singles Quarter Final match.

Pak seamer Jamal leaves Warwickshire

ISLAMABAD (APP): Warwickshire have parted company with Pakistan seamer Aamir Jamal after diagnosis of a back injury revealed that he would be sidelined for the remainder of his contract.

Jamal joined the Bears in April after a stunning debut on Pakistan's winter tour of Australia where he claimed 18 wickets in three Tests.

However, a back injury has limited his playing opportunities at Edgbaston.

The 27-year-old managed to play in just two County Championship matches and one Vitality Blast game. Warwickshire Performance Director Gavin Larsen said it's been a frustrating period for

Jamal and the Club.

"Aamir has worked incredibly hard with our medical and strength and conditioning team but unfortunately, we've run out of time to get him back on the field and bowling at full pace," Larsen said as quoted by edgbaston.com.

"He was contracted until the end of the Blast group stage on July 19, but his rehab plan indicated he would not be fit for selection before then. "It's disappointing because he showed tremendous potential in Australia with his pace and aggression. I know he's very disappointed not to have demonstrated his capabilities to the Bears fans."

"We can't fault Aamir's

attitude during his rehab. I am confident he will return fit and ready to represent Pakistan soon. We wish him all the best."

Jamal expressed his gratitude towards Warwickshire's medical and rehab team for their efforts to restore his fitness.

"This is my first experience with a significant injury, and it's been challenging to accept," he said.

"I'm now focused on getting back to full fitness and resuming play. I would have liked my time with the Bears to have gone differently, but I appreciate the support from everyone at the club and wish them success for the rest of the season, he said.

Bellamy appointed Wales manager on 4-year deal

LONDON (Agencies): Craig Bellamy is the new Wales manager having agreed a four-year deal until 2028. The 44-year-old succeeds former team-mate Robert Page, who was sacked in June.

Cardiff-born Bellamy won 78 Wales caps and captained the side between 2007-2010. "It's an incredible honour for me to be given the opportunity to lead my country and it's the proudest moment of my career," said Bellamy.

"It was always my ultimate dream to become the Cymru head coach and I am ready for the challenge. "I will give my full commitment to develop this team and I am passionate to bring continued success into Welsh football. I can't wait to get started with our Nations League games in September."

Bellamy takes up the role having left Burnley, where he had been acting head coach before Scott Parker's appointment last week. Parker was keen to work with the Welshman, but Burnley chairman Alan Pace said Bellamy leaves with the blessings of every-

one at the club.

"I want to thank Craig for all his hard work during his time at Burnley and wish him the best for his new position as Wales manager," said Pace. "Craig has been a very important part of our wonderful journey the last two years. I've admired his leadership, knowledge and passion."

"I am certain that he will continue to find success in his new role, and I wish him the very best of luck."

BBC Wales Sport understands Arsenal legend Thierry Henry, Georgia boss Willy Sagnol and surprise contender Des Buckingham, the Oxford United boss, were all spoken to about the post, but Bellamy was the Football Association of Wales (FAW's) first choice.

The FAW's chief football officer, Dr David Adams, said: "We undertook a thorough recruitment process for the new men's national team head coach and Craig was identified as the standout candidate. "We are all looking forward to the Nations League games and working with Craig to deliver success

for Welsh football."

Bellamy, who narrowly missed out to Ryan Giggs for the job in 2018, is said to have impressed during discussions - and will now get the chance to lead the side in qualification for the 2026 World Cup. His first game as Wales manager will be a Nations League home tie against Turkey on 6 Sept, followed by a trip to Montenegro on 9 September.

Bellamy retired from international football in 2013, missing out on the chance to play in a major finals as Wales qualified for Euro 2016 under Chris Coleman. He took his first steps in coaching with Cardiff City's academy before serving as assistant manager to former Manchester City team-mate Vincent Kompany at Anderlecht and then Burnley.

Bellamy stood in when Kompany served a touchline ban last season and stepped up when the Belgian left for Bayern Munich in May. But with Burnley opting for former Fulham and Bournemouth manager Parker for their permanent role, it opened the door for the FAW.

PCB Chairman holds significant meeting with coaches Kirsten, Gillespie

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday met Men's cricket team coaches including white-ball coach Gary Kirsten, red-ball coach Jason Gillespie and Assistant coach Azhar Mahmood during a meeting here at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) Gaddafi stadium.

Termed as significant by the PCB, the meeting centred around discussions on strategising for improvements in batting, bowling and fielding, with a decision to devise comprehensive plans in these areas.

He expressed full confidence in the coaching staff's abilities and assured them of complete support in player development and coaching matters. The meeting decided that fitness will be the



sole criterion for selection while it also stressed upon maintaining the highest fitness standards at all levels.

Addressing concerns about team composition, PCB chairman Mohsin

Naqvi acknowledged the presence of talent but highlighted the need for optimal combinations. The meeting also reviewed insights shared by the coaches aimed at enhancing the team per-

formance through structured plans, which received unanimous approval from the PCB Chairman.

PCB Director International Usman Wahla also attended the meeting.

Hamza to lead Pak team in WSF World Jr Squash C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Junior Champion Muhammad Hamza Khan would lead the Pakistan team in the WSF World Junior Individual & Team Squash Championship to be held at Houston (USA) from July 12 to 23.

Pakistan Junior Squash Team would depart from Islamabad International Airport on Tuesday for participation in the championship, said a press release.

Other Pakistan team players include Muhammad Ammad, Huzaifa Ibrahim and Abdullah Nawaz.

Fahim Gul Khan would accompany the team as Coach whereas, Adnan Asad, Vice President, PSF will be the team manager.

The Individual Event would be played from July 12 to 16, followed by the Team Championship from July 17 to 23.

As part of preparation of the team, Pakistan Squash Federation arranged a comprehensive training here at Mushaf Squash Complex.

It was expected that the selected players would put in their best performance during the mega event.

Pak team to feature in World, Asian Youth C'ships

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Scrabble Association (PSA) has named a 10-member team to feature in the World Youth Scrabble Championship and Asian Youth Championship.

PSA Director Youth Program Tariq Pervaz informed that the World Youth Scrabble Championship would be held from 6 to 8 in Sri Lanka while the Asian Youth Scrabble Championship from November 10 to 12 in India.

He said in this regard a Lucky One Scrabble Championship was held to select the players for the World and Asian Championships.

"It turned out to be a highly successful event with 220 players from all age groups participating. Wasceem Khatri emerged as the winner in the master category while Hassan Hadi was the runner-up," he said.

Pervaz said the open category was won by young Arshman Qazi while Baashir Baig finished second. The most exciting event of the day was the Qualifiers to select the Pakistan team for the World Youth Scrabble Championship and the Asian Youth Championship" he said.

The Pakistan team includes Affan Salman, Aehzam Ahmed, Bilal Asher, Ahmed Salman, Manaal Asher, Muhammad Yadaan, Muzammil Hassan, Ashir Adeel, Manhamah Mukarram and Syed Maaz.

Pervaz expressed hope that some corporate would come forward and sponsor the team which has a great chance of winning the title.

Pakistan Whites-Pakistan Greens practice match called-off due to rain

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): : The practice match between Pakistan Whites and Pakistan Greens has been called off due to rain here at UBL Sports Complex on Tuesday.

Pakistan Whites, while chasing 265, scored ten runs without loss in two overs before persistent rain abandoned the match.

Prior to that, Pakistan Greens scored 264-5 in 39 overs, with Kamran Ghulam scoring an unbeaten 78 runs. Opening batter Sahibzada Farhan also scored 78 runs before retiring out, while Mubasir Khan scored 32.

For Pakistan Whites, Faisal Akram returned with bowling figures of 2-45 and Usman Qadir claimed 2-59.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan Greens captain Umar Amin opted to bat first against Saud Shakeel-

led Pakistan Whites.

Both teams are comprising players from the pre-season training camp and Pakistan Shaheens' squad for the Darwin tour. The pre-season training camp is being attended by 25 cricketers, including 15 players from Pakistan Shaheens' squad.

In Darwin, Pakistan Shaheens will play two four-day matches against Bangladesh 'A', two 50-over matches against Northern Territory and Bangladesh, and also participate in the nine-team Top End T20 Series.

Following are the players invited by the national selection committee for the pre-season fitness and fielding camp as well as the Pakistan Shaheen squad:

Players for pre-season fitness and fielding camp – Abdullah Shafique, Faisal

Akram, Haseebullah, Hunain Shah, Imam-ul-Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Kashif Ali, Khurram Shahzad, Mehran Mumtaz, Mohammad Harris, Mohammad Huraira, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Mubasir Khan, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Omair Bin Yousuf, Sahibzada Farhan, Sameen Gul, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Saud Shakeel, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Tayyab Tahir, Umar Amin, Usman Qadir, Mohammad Ali and Zahid Mahmood.

Pakistan Shaheens squad Haseebullah, Hunain Shah, Kamran Ghulam, Kashif Ali, Khurram Shahzad, Mehran Mumtaz, Mohammad Huraira, Mubasir Khan, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Omair Bin Yousuf, Sahibzada Farhan, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Tayyab Tahir, Umar Amin and Mohammad Ali.

Haroon, SCCI discuss promotion of football

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalisation Committee (NC), Haroon Malik visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) regarding the promotion of football in the city.

He was warmly received by President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President (SVP) Wahub Jahangir, Vice President (VP) SCCI Amer Majeed Sheikh and President Sialkot Football Association Chaudhry Muhammad Ikhlaz, said a press release.

During the visit, discussions were held regarding promoting football in Sialkot, a city renowned for its export-oriented

economy and contributions to Pakistan's international trade.

Chairman Haroon Malik expressed his honor in visiting the Sialkot Chamber and highlighted the initiatives to enhance football activities in the region.

He said PFF, in collaboration with the Sialkot Football Association plans to organize regional and provincial-level tournaments in Sialkot soon.

Additionally, he mentioned that preparations are underway to establish a football academy in Sialkot, which aims to nurture local talent and further promote the sport in the city.

President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik commended

Chairman Haroon Malik for the PFF's efforts in promoting football across the nation.

He also praised the national football team's performance in the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and the successful organization of the qualifier matches in Pakistan as a manifestation of the Federation's effective leadership.

Chairman PFF NC Haroon Malik also visited Forwards Sports in Sialkot, where he was warmly welcomed by Chief Executive Forwards Sports Khawaja Masood Akhtar. During the visit, Khawaja Masood provided Chairman NC Haroon Malik with a tour of the office and presented him with a souvenir.

‘Ashes countdown behind Anderson axe’

LONDON (AFP): England captain Ben Stokes said Tuesday the need to build a side capable of winning an Ashes series in Australia lay behind the decision to call time on James Anderson's extraordinary Test career.

The 2025/26 Ashes may still be some 18 months away but England are determined to field a pace attack both experienced and fit enough to withstand the strain of a five-match series in Australia. As a result, the first Test between England and the West Indies at Lord's starting on Wednesday, will mark 41-year-old paceman Anderson's 188th and final appearance in the five-day game after a record-breaking career spanning two decades. No fast bowler has taken more than Anderson's 700 Test wickets and only India batting hero Sachin Tendulkar has played more matches at this level.

England have also dropped Jonny Bairstow after exactly 100 caps and left out Ben Foakes as well, with debutant Jamie Smith now installed as wicketkeeper. Fast bowler Gus Atkinson, a Surrey team-

mate of Smith, will also be making his Test debut this week, with rising star Shoaib Bashir chosen as England's first-choice spinner instead of the more experienced Jack Leach.

England last won the Ashes in 2015 and haven't triumphed in Australia since 2010/11. "Look at where we've got to go in 18 months' time, to Australia," Stokes told a pre-match press conference at Lord's. "We want to win that urn back."

"We don't want to be standing still. I want to keep making this team push themselves as hard as they possibly can." Stokes has had a good long while to ponder England's future since a 4-1 series loss in India earlier this year. "I think it's been five months since we played a Test match -- that's a lot of time to think about how you can take the team forward," said Stokes. "I've been captain now for two years, so for me it's about progressing this team. You sometimes have to put personal relationships and things to the side."

'Whole package' The 33-year-old all-rounder added: "I don't want

to say I'm stubborn, but one thing I'm very clear on is that I know that these decisions are best for the team, from my point of view, and that comes with responsibility of being a captain."

Stokes paid tribute to Anderson by saying he was an "incredible ambassador for fast bowling" and the "whole package". Anderson, set to mentor England's quick for the rest of the season following his Lord's farewell, proved he was still a force to be reckoned with by taking seven wickets for Lancashire against Nottinghamshire last week.

"He's an amazing bowler, there's no doubt that he could still go out there and play Test cricket because he is good enough," said Stokes, who stressed he was good friends with Anderson.

"When we spoke with Jimmy, we laid it out with him and gave him the reasons and he totally understood it. This week will all be about Jimmy and rightly so, but I can tell you that his main focus is about going out there, taking wickets and trying to win this game for England as much as he can."



In brief

ANF recovers 10 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting two operations managed to recover 10 kg drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that in an operation near Kakpul Islamabad, 2.4 kg opium and 7.2 kg charras was recovered from the possession of two accused. In another operation on Korangi Road, Karachi, a drug dealer was arrested and ANF recovered 1.1 kg charras. Cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process.

Police cracks down on kite flying

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant crack-down against the perilous activity of kite flying, Islamabad Police have arrested 23 suspects following 39 raids in Rawalpindi and its adjacent areas. The arrests came following Inspector General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi's directions who has called for stringent action against this dangerous pastime, which is deemed a threat to human life, said police spokesman on Tuesday. He said the operations, which unfolded over several days, targeted key areas known for kite flying activities. The IG, he said, has emphasized that officers responsible for regions where kite flying persists will face serious repercussions. "Islamabad Police committed ensuring public safety and curbing activities that pose a risk to residents," the spokesperson quoted IG as saying. He said zero tolerance policy was being adopted against those engage in kite flying and endangering human lives.

07 gamblers arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested seven gamblers and recovered Rs amount 22,580, 06 mobile phones from their possession during crack-down here on Tuesday. Police have also confiscated motorcycles from their custody. According to police spokesman, Taxila police conducted a raid and held gamblers those who were identified as Gul Rahman, Tariq, Arif, Ghulam Habib, Rafiq, Ayub and Sajjad. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation was in progress. SP Potohar Nasir Nawaz commended the police team and said that all legal requirements will be fulfilled to punish the arrested accused. Gambling is the root of other social evils, strict action will be taken against gamblers without any discrimination, he concluded.

Son apprehended for torturing mother

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police arrested a son for torturing his mother within the jurisdiction of the Rawat Police Station on Tuesday. According to a police spokesman, the victim filed an application detailing the torture and threats to her life by her son, Rizwan. The police registered a case under the Parental Protection Ordinance and took Rizwan into custody. SP Saddar has assured that all necessary legal procedures will be followed to ensure justice for the victim. He emphasized that violence against elderly parents is both unimaginable and deplorable. He reiterated the commitment of law enforcement to root out domestic violence, affirming that such acts against children and women will not be tolerated. He pledged that strict action would be taken to address and combat such heinous crimes.



ISLAMABAD: CEO International Governance and Sustainability Institute Dr. Sultan Azam Temuri awarding certificates among students in closing ceremony of Summer Fiesta Program organized by Federal Ministry of Education held at IMCG F-7/4. —APP Photo

Naqvi pays tribute to martyred Capt Muhammad Osama bin Arshad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday paid tribute to the sacrifice of Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad, who was martyred while bravely fighting against terrorists in North Waziristan.

In his statement, he said that martyred Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad, sacrificed his life for the country while fighting the terrorists bravely.

He added that the martyred captain thwarted the nefarious intentions of the terrorists with his ultimate sacrifice.

The minister described Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad, as a brave son of Pakistan, stating that such brave officers and soldiers are the pride of the nation. Naqvi said that the country will always remember the great sacrifice of this courageous son. Expressing his con-

lences, the interior minister stated that the officers and soldiers of the security forces have cultivated peace with their precious blood.

He extended his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family of the martyred Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad.

The nation is mourning the loss of this brave officer who laid down his life in the line of duty to protect the country from the menace of terrorism.

Rubina khalid vows to address concerns of BISP beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, reaffirmed her commitment to resolve the issues faced by deserving women beneficiaries of the program.

During a meeting at the BISP Headquarters on Tuesday, with a delegation from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Women's Wing, Senator Khalid emphasized the importance of addressing beneficiaries' concerns.

The delegation included Ms. Shazia Tahmas Khan, General Secretary, Ms. Meher Sultana, Information Secretary, and Ms. Ashbar Jadoon, Vice President. They apprised Chairperson BISP of the challenges faced by women beneficiaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, such as the registration process and the provision of basic facilities at BISP payment campsites.

Senator Rubina Khalid assured the delegation of her full support in resolving these issues. The delegation also extended an invitation to Senator Rubina Khalid to visit Kohistan.

IRSA releases 389,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 289,300 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 383,900 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1517.35 feet and was 119.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 206,900 cusecs and 135,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1192.80 feet, which was 144.80 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 42,200 cusecs and 20,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu, and Sukkur was recorded as 209,100, 192,600, 129,500, and 63,900 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 77,800 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera, and 24,600 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

Tarar stresses comprehensive measures to address societal challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Human Rights, Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday underscored the need for comprehensive measures to address societal challenges, particularly in policy-making and implementation.

Addressing an event 'The Art of Parenting, highlighting critical social issues and emphasizing collective action for effective solutions,' he said called for the effective implementation of the policies, thus bridging the gap to effectively support families and children.

He said: "In the realm of parenting, it is imperative for the government, civil society, and all stakeholders to collaborate."

He acknowledged that raising children was a fundamental concern for every household, transcending economic disparities.

He also addressed prevalent issues such as poverty, destitution, and child labor, which significantly impact the ability of families to provide proper upbringing and education to their children.

He advocated for a shift towards robust family planning initiatives to mitigate these challenges

effectively. "We must raise awareness among our populace about their role in fostering the proper upbringing of children," he said while highlighting the importance of investing in children's holistic development.

He emphasized that addressing these issues was crucial for ensuring a prosperous future for next generations.

Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar reaffirmed his commitment to advancing policies and initiatives that promoted positive parenting practices and safeguard children's rights across the country.

Commissioner visits 7th Muharram procession route; reviews arrangements

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak along with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi, Hasan Waqar Cheema and members of Peace Committee here on Monday night visited the route of 7th Muharram ul Haram procession.

The procession will start from Sadiqabad and culminate at the old Imambargah near Raja Bazar. During the visit, the Commissioner reviewed the security and other arrangements made on the route of the procession. On this occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner General, Hasan Tariq gave a detailed briefing regarding the arrangements made on the route. The ongoing work on Muharram procession routes should be completed within next two days, the Commissioner directed. Negligence on part of the official concerned would not be tolerated, Aamir Khattak warned. He further

instructed the authorities concerned that along with power lines, the condition of hanging PTCL and other wires should be improved.

Heavy rains during current Monsoon season were predicted by the Meteorological Department, he said adding, in view of the rains, cleaning of all small and large drains on the routes of Muharram processions should be ensured. A special squad should be formed to ensure proper drainage in case of rain on the day of procession, the Commissioner said.

The Commissioner said, "I am personally supervising all the arrangements during Muharram." The patchwork work on the routes would be completed by tomorrow evening, the DC informed. The Assistant Commissioners are visiting the Muharram procession routes in their respective tehsils, he added. Certificates would be taken from all the

departments after the completion of work on all the routes of Muharram processions. Hasan Waqar Cheema said.

The DC said that the authorities concerned are checking all the arrangements by visiting the routes.

Later, Commissioner Aamir Khattak visited the central control room set up in the Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation office. On this occasion, Municipal Officer, Imran Ali gave a briefing to the Commissioner.

The routes of Muharram processions would be monitored through CCTV cameras, Aamir Khattak said and directed the officers to nominate focal persons of all the concerned departments and prepare their duty rosters. The Commissioner urged the citizens to cooperate with the administration and Punjab government to ensure law and order in Muharram.

Anti polio campaign concludes

RAWALPINDI (APP): The health department of Rawalpindi has ended a specially launched 7-day anti polio vaccination campaign with encouraging 92% coverage.

The maximum outreach to administer anti polio drops to each available child was attained with consistent efforts rendered by mobile teams and other deployed staff under central monitoring cell.

According to the details, more than 800,000 children under stratified target clusters were administered polio vaccines. The week-long campaign witnessed an increased trend of positive response by the residents. However, a number children were remained unattended due to summer vacations in schools.

In a brief interaction with APP, the Superintendent District Health Authority, Dr. Nadim Ahmad informed that cent percent result

could be achieved if schools were opened.

Due to summer vacations schools are closed and families were out of stations which have minor effect, he said adding each available child was approached for vaccination during the campaign.

He informed that considerable people brought by their kids to prescribed vaccination centers established in various hospitals and dispensaries too in the district. He termed the response by the parents 'positive' in the recent campaign.

Giving statistical details, he has informed that 4000 vaccination teams were deployed for the campaign, while 245 monitoring officers and 870 area in-charges rendered their duties. Moreover, 3675 mobile teams, 330 fixed points and 163 transit points were also established during the campaign, he said.

ICT admin tightens security for Muharram

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon on Tuesday directed the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration to ensure foolproof security arrangements for the Muharram observances in the Federal Capital. In this connection, Assistant Commissioner Saddar visited Imam Bargahs in the D-17 and Sangani areas, focusing on security measures and cleanliness. Similarly, Assistant Commissioner Industrial Area assessed the security along key routes that will be used for Muharram processions. Furthermore, Assistant Commissioner Shalimar also inspected procession routes, making sure everything was in place for the events. These inspections are part of a broader effort to maintain peace and order during Muharram. On the occasion, the DC said that strict security arrangements have been made for Muharram and no one would be allowed to create hatred or disturb the law and order situation in the city.



RAWALPINDI: A nomad woman waiting for customers to sell camel milk at Shamsabad. —APP Photo

Resilience must be redefined across the board: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday while chairing the committee meeting emphasised the importance of a resilient approach to counter the adverse impacts of climate change in Pakistan.

Senator Rehman stated, "NDMA and the Pakistan Meteorological Department have predicted above-normal rainfall. The committee was keen to understand the measures for risk reduction and predictability of the monsoon across the country. From the available reports it appears that the eye of the storm will likely be Punjab. Apart from rains, we are facing other environmental crises. Pakistan's climate challenges are multifaceted, and all relevant environmental institu-

tions must not work in silos. There should be a coordinated and shared strategy to tackle these challenges."

Discussing resilience, Senator Rehman noted, "Pakistan's exposure to climate stress is so high that resilience must be redefined across the board. It can't just be about infrastructure; it has to be local and people-centric."

She further highlighted the lack of updated equipment in disaster management departments due to insufficient funding. "Heavy funds were required to update the environmental department's equipment during my tenure. After the 2022 floods, all funds were re-allocated to flood-affected areas because of the shortage. The capacity of PDMA and other regional institutions must be increased to prevent disasters," she said.

The committee was informed that the Sindh and eastern parts of Balochistan are set to receive a fresh spell of monsoon rain on July 8-9, while upper and central parts of the country, including Rawalpindi and Islamabad, from July 10 to 15.

Chairman the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) stated that heavy, moderate, and scattered rainfall is expected in various cities of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) between July and August. This rainfall may cause urban flooding, flash flooding, and river tributary overflow. Under the influence of this system, rainfall may also trigger landslides and mudslides in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-

Baltistan, Galiyat, Murree, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chairman NDMA provided comprehensive details on the preparations and risk reduction strategies for the upcoming monsoon season. He informed the committee about the areas that will be more vulnerable this season and emphasized a proactive approach to mitigate any disasters. The monsoon system is expected to enter Pakistan from India. By the end of July and in August, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab will likely be more affected by heavy rainfall, with Punjab being the focal point.

The Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) reported on the recent fire incidents at Margalla Hills, noting that 22 fires occurred from May 2 to June 13, 2024.

Extinguishing these fires took between 5 to 10 hours. Eleven FIRs were lodged against the culprits, and three individuals have been apprehended. The total area damaged by the forest fires is 250 acres.

Senator Sherry Rehman remarked, "The incidents of fire in the Margalla forests in Islamabad are alarming. CDA and Islamabad Wildlife Management Board should take joint measures to prevent fire incidents."

The committee members also recommended a proper ecological plan for tree plantation. It was informed that a committee for the ecological plan has already been formulated and that all recommendations from the Senate Standing Committee meeting will be considered.

The meeting was attended by Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardhy

Taimur, Senator Syed Shibli Faraz (Leader of the Opposition), Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, Senator Naseema Ehsan, Senator Manzoor Ahmad Kakar, Senator Palwasha Mohammed Zai Khan, Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri, Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam, Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority, Chairman of the Capital Development Authority, Chairman of the Federal Flood Commission, Director General of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, and senior officials from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination.

Indonesia provides \$1.04m

KABUL (Amu TV): The Indonesian government donated \$1.04 million worth of food and medical supplies to Afghanistan, according to Indonesian media reports. This aid package includes various essential items such as food, medicine, and health kits, aimed at supporting victims of natural disasters in Afghanistan. Reports indicate that the aid is intended to bolster the capacities of those affected by recent natural calamities, helping them to regain their footing.

2,000 Afghans deported

NIMROZ (Amu TV): Over 2,000 Afghan migrants were expelled from Pakistan and Iran on Monday, July 8, according to Taliban-run refugees ministry. The ministry reported that a total of 2,180 Afghan migrants were forcibly or voluntarily repatriated from Iran and Pakistan on Monday. Of these, 590 were expelled from Pakistan and 1,560 from Iran, the ministry said. The statement detailed that these migrants entered Afghanistan through border crossings in the provinces of Nimroz, Kandahar.

Malala urges new UK PM to prioritize girls’s education in Afghanistan



LONDON (Khaama Press): Malala Yousafzai, an advocate for girls’ education, urges Britain’s new Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, to prioritize the issue of girls’ education deprivation in Afghanistan and other countries in his foreign policy.

Yousafzai tweeted on Monday, July 8th, “As you shape Britain’s foreign policy and development plans in the next 100 days, it is crucial to prioritize the rights and education of girls worldwide, with special consideration for those

denied education under the Taliban’s gender apartheid regime in Afghanistan.”

The education activist and Nobel laureate addressed Starmer, noting that girls everywhere look to him for solidarity and initiatives. She emphasized that girls’ education should be on top of his foreign policy agenda in the next 100 days.

For over a thousand days, girls above the sixth grade in Afghanistan have been deprived of education by the Taliban. The Taliban claim that the con-

ditions for girls’ education are not suitable, yet they provide no timeline for reopening schools.

Under Starmer’s Labour Party leadership, which secured a significant majority in this week’s UK parliamentary elections, he reversed the previous conservative government’s decision to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, a move that adversely affected Afghan refugees in the country.

Meanwhile, Yousafzai’s call underscores the urgent need for global attention and action to ensure girls’ education rights are upheld, particularly in regions affected by extremist regimes like the Taliban in Afghanistan. Starmer’s government faces significant international expectations to lead on this issue, reflecting broader global concerns about human rights and gender equality in education.

Local reps extorting ID card applicants: Badghis residents



QALA-I-NAW (Pajwhok): A number of residents claim some local representatives illegally demand money in exchange for confirmation of ID cards, bank accounts, marriage certificates and other documents in western Badghis province.

Residents say they should pay 50 afghanis against processing and stamping ID cards, marriage certificates, opening bank accounts and other documents. “This is illegal”. Officials asked to prevent illegal practice: Residents Abdul Sabor, a resident of Qadis district, told Pajwhok Afghan News: “I went to a local representative with marriage certificate. The local representative stamped and signed document and charged 50 afghanis”.

He said charging money for confirmation of documents was illegal and asked officials to prevent it.

Also, Mohammad Juma, a Qala-i-Naw city resident, said: “I wanted to open a new bank account in Kabul and the bank gave me a form to be signed by a local representative and municipality, when I referred the local representative to stamp and sign, he demanded 50 afghanis, which I had to pay”.

“I ask the government to stop this illegal practice and no one should pay money because people are poor and cannot afford to pay”, he explained.

Sher Aqa, a resident of Aab Kamari district, said wanted to get ID cards for his mother, wife and children, but the ID card distribution center gave him three separate letters for approval from local representative, but they asked him for 50 afghanis in exchange against singing and stamping each letter.

“The relevant authorities should stop this because most people are not able to pay this amount in exchange for confirming their documents,” Sher added.

People themselves pay money to us: local representative

Abdul Wase Noorzad fourth district representative of Qala-i-Naw city said: “I reject this complain, we do not take money from anyone, we are volunteers and people pay 20afs, 30afs or 50afs and we take it, but this is not mandatory”.

He emphatically said some local representatives might be demanding money because they had other jobs and some citizens paid a certain amount to them in exchange for confirming their documents.

Legal expert: This is extortion

“This is illegal, representatives should work voluntarily, they have no right to accept money from clients, they are responsible to work voluntarily, it is really a matter of concern why such an issue exists”, Badghis University teacher Nesar Ahmad Akbari told Pajwhok.

He said that officials should stop this illegal action of local representatives.

Such persons will be dealt with legally: officials

Information and Culture Director Mattiullah Muttaqi also said: “So far, we have not received any complaint in this regard, all government departments are active and people should register their complaints with relevant departments, officials will take care of it”.

Meanwhile, Mayor Abdul Majid Mahmoodi also said that the municipality had received no such complaints from residents.

“All local representatives are selected by residents, they should work voluntarily and do not take money in exchange for confirming documents”

“The municipality is trying to identify local representatives who charge money”, Mahmoodi added.

Iran’s non-oil exports to Afghanistan increases in first 3 months of 1403

KABUL (Ariana News): Iran’s commercial attaché to Afghanistan, Hossein Roustaei, reported an increase of \$123 million worth of non-oil exports to Afghanistan in the first three months of this solar year.

Roustaei said that Iran’s export of non-oil products to Afghanistan exceeded \$517 million between March 21 to June 22, 2024, showing a 31 and 23 percent growth in value and

weight, respectively, Mehr News reported.

The administration of the late President Ebrahim Raeisi prioritized expanding the trade-economic relations with neighboring countries, he added.

In that period, Iran exported light lubricants, oil products, iron- and steel ingots, polyethylene, urea, light- and heavy hydrocarbons, cements, tomatoes, apples, potatoes, fresh

fruits and vegetables, oranges, infant formula, tiles and ceramics to Afghanistan.

Afghanistan is Iran’s fifth export target market, he said, adding that Afghan people and traders are familiar with Iranian products and this issue has paved suitable ways for the increase of the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries to more than \$5 billion in a short period, Mehr News reported.

Cardiac surgery dept opens at Herat hospital

HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): A cardiac surgery department has been inaugurated for the first time at a private hospital in western Herat province. Deputy Governor Maulvi Hayatullah Mohajir hailed the opening of the heart surgery department at the Luqman-i-Hakim Navid Hospital as good news for citizens, especially residents of western Afghanistan.

He urged residents to fully trust their doctors and refrain from travelling

abroad to treat their patients, something costing a huge amount of money.

Meanwhile, Dr Ghulam Ahmad Hanafi, deputy director of public health, said hundreds of people had to go abroad every year for the treatment of heart issues and spent a lot of money.

Dr Hanafi called the opening of heart surgery department an achievement and said patients in the western province were in dire need of such services.

Dr Abdul Sattar Taib, head of the Lugman-i-Hakim Hospital, said at the inauguration ceremony that this department was equipped with facilities and based on health standards, and had experienced staff.

Abdul Latif, a patient who underwent heart surgery at the hospital for the first time, expressed happiness over being treated at a reasonable cost inside the country under the supervision of Afghan doctors.

Malaria cases surge by 69% in first half of 2024



KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Public Health reported that in the past six months, nearly 50,000 malaria cases have been recorded in the country.

Sharafat Zaman Amarkhil, the spokesperson for the ministry, said that efforts are being made to take practical steps to prevent this disease across the country.

“Malaria is a seasonal illness that increases during the summer in hot regions. In the first six months of

2023, we recorded nearly 35,000 positive cases, while in the past six months of this year, nearly 50,000 cases have been recorded. This figure indicates a 69 percent increase in this disease,” he said.

Omidullah, who came from Nangarhar to Kabul for treatment, says he has been suffering from malaria for the past eleven days and hopes to be treated in Kabul.

Omid told TOLONews: “On the first day, when I came home from the shop, I

had a headache and chills. I went for a diagnosis and was found to have malaria, so I came here.”

“I was hospitalized in Bamyán for two and a half days. They then sent me here, and I have been under care in this hospital for four days,” said Abdul Baqi, another patient.

Officials at Infectious Diseases Hospital in Kabul say they receive at least ten malaria patients daily.

A doctor, Faridullah Omari, said: “The number of malaria cases is increasing. On average, around ten suspected malaria patients visit the infectious diseases hospital daily.”

Another doctor, Hamed Raihan said: “For short-term care, they should use nets in their clinics and also use mosquito nets.”

However, the current statistics from the Ministry of Public Health show a decrease in malaria cases compared to last year.

227 Development projects included in Afghanistan’s 1403 budget



KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Economy has announced the inclusion of 227 development projects in the fiscal year 1403 budget.

According to Abdul Rahman Habib, the ministry’s spokesperson, 72 of these projects are new, while the remaining ones are carried over from previous years, as reported to TOLONews.

“Of the total 227 projects, 72 are new and 155 are ongoing projects, with a significant portion allocated to the infrastructure sector. Specifically, there are 88 construction projects, 50

service projects, 33 infrastructure projects, 38 technical projects, and 18 development projects funded by this year’s budget,” Abdul Rahman Habib said.

The Chamber of Industries and Mines emphasizes the need for private sector cooperation with the Islamic Emirate to initiate large-scale economic projects in the country.

Sakhi Ahmad Paiman, the first deputy of the Chamber of Industries and Mines, stated: “The people of Afghanistan and the private sector request the World Bank and the Asian Bank to fund their intended

expenditures through infrastructure projects so that Afghanistan’s economy can stand on its feet.”

Some economic experts believe that the initiation and implementation of infrastructure and development projects are crucial for economic growth and job creation in the country.

Abdul Ghafar Nezami, an economic expert, said: “These projects can positively impact job creation and increase income, which will have a beneficial effect on Afghanistan’s economy.”

Shakir Yaqoobi, another economist, stated: “In Afghanistan, projects funded by international allies should commence promptly. It is better to resume incomplete projects before Afghanistan faces economic challenges and a rising poverty rate.” Since the Islamic Emirate regained power in the country, many development projects have been funded by internal revenue.

1,033 cases of forced implementation of Taliban orders

KABUL (Amu TV): A new United Nations report evaluating the Taliban’s Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice (MPVPV) from August 15, 2021, to March 31, 2024, has documented 1,033 instances where the Taliban used force to implement their directives. These actions resulted in violations of personal liberty and physical and mental integrity, the report says.

The ministry was established by the Taliban on September 7, 2021, in a compound previously used by the Women’s Affairs Ministry in Kabul. Since its inception, the ministry has imposed numerous restrictions, particularly on women, interfering with their public and private lives, the report says.

Work Restrictions

The UN report highlights the prohibition of women’s beauty salons, women appearing in movies, and the arbitrary closure of women-led businesses, severely limiting women’s right to work and maintain an adequate standard of living.

The report says that these measures have forced many women out of the workforce, exacerbating poverty and reducing economic opportunities for families relying on women’s income.

The report says that the closure of these businesses not only affects the owners but also their employees and the wider community that depended on these services. In December 2022, women-run bakeries in Kabul received verbal orders to close, but some continued operating despite the orders.

Additionally, the women’s market floor in a Kandahar shopping center was closed, impacting numerous women shopkeepers

and customers, the report says.

Travel Restrictions

The UN report notes that women are required to travel with a mahram (male guardian) for distances beyond 78 kilometers from their homes, severely restricting their freedom of movement and access to employment and healthcare.

The report also notes that in some cases, this requirement was enforced for shorter distances, contradicting the official directive. This restriction creates significant financial and logistical barriers, particularly for women in remote areas who need to travel long distances to access medical care or job opportunities.

Instances were documented where women without a mahram or without their consent were unable to access medical facilities, commute to their jobs, or travel for any reason, the report says.

Recreational Restrictions

The UN report states that women are banned from parks, gyms, and public baths, impacting their physical and mental health. Public baths are often the only way for women to access hot water for bathing in winter. These bans superseded earlier instructions that allowed men and women to use parks on different days.

The lack of access to recreational facilities further isolates women and limits their opportunities for social interaction and physical exercise, which are crucial for overall well-being. On November 9, 2022, the Taliban MPVPV announced that women could no longer use parks, gyms, and public baths, citing non-adherence to the hijab directive.

Contraception Access

According to the UN report,

contradictory instructions have been issued regarding access to contraception, with some areas experiencing temporary bans. In Balkh and Maidan Wardak provinces, local health centers were verbally instructed not to provide birth control to women between February and March 2023. This restriction was later lifted, but such inconsistencies have led to confusion and restricted access.

The report notes that these restrictions have had a detrimental impact on women’s reproductive health and autonomy. Despite public statements from the Taliban-run Ministry of Public Health that there were no restrictions on contraception, local enforcement varied, causing disruptions in access.

Mandate of Taliban’s Vice and Virtue Ministry

On November 8, 2023, a decree on the Law on Complaints Hearing was approved, defining the ministry’s complaints hearing function and procedure, according to the UN report. Two manuals issued in 2023 guide MPVPV staff on conducting their work.

According to the report, a decree on the Law on Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, reportedly approved by the Taliban leader in early 2024, further outlines the ministry’s responsibilities. However, these guidelines often lack clarity and consistency, leading to arbitrary enforcement and abuse of power.

Media Restrictions

One of the first restrictions imposed by the Taliban’s vice and virtue ministry was a prohibition on women appearing in movies and on air as presenters or callers in certain provinces, the UN report states. Women

journalists are required to wear the Islamic hijab, and the broadcasting of movies against Sharia principles is forbidden. In Kunar province, radio stations were instructed not to feature women callers or use female presenters on air.

These restrictions have severely curtailed freedom of expression and have disproportionately affected women working in the media. The Taliban also banned the broadcasting of movies reflecting foreign cultures or containing humor considered offensive by the authorities.

Enforcement of Decrees

The UN report details that the Taliban’s enforcement methods include threats, arbitrary arrests, detentions, and excessive use of force. Women’s right to privacy has been violated through searches for prohibited items, mosque attendance records, and proof of family relationships.

During the enforcement of these instructions, people’s right to privacy was often violated. The report details instances where individuals were subjected to public humiliation and corporal punishment for perceived non-compliance with Taliban edicts. Between August 15, 2021, and March 31, 2024, the UN documented at least 1,033 instances (205 on female, 828 on male) where MPVPV employees applied force during the implementation of instructions, including threats, arbitrary arrests, excessive use of force, and ill-treatment.

Human Rights Impacts

The UN report emphasizes that the Taliban’s policies have disproportionately affected women, violating their rights to freedom of movement, work, and health. The enforcement of

these policies often involves severe and arbitrary punishments, contributing to a climate of fear and intimidation.

The report emphasizes that the Taliban’s actions have exacerbated existing gender inequalities and have further marginalized women and girls in Afghan society. The prohibition of women’s access to parks, gyms, and public baths, as well as restrictions on their participation in public and economic life, significantly impacts their mental and physical health.

Regulations Concerning Men’s Appearance and Practices

According to the UN report, the ministry issued several instructions regarding the appropriate appearance of men, including prohibiting barbers from trimming beards or giving “Western style” haircuts. Men have also been instructed to observe congregational prayers at mosques, with failure to do so sometimes resulting in severe punishment, including public flogging and detention.

The report notes that these measures have been enforced with varying degrees of severity across different provinces. On January 24, 2024, in Herat province, the head of the local DPVPV instructed barbershops not to shave or trim beards shorter than the length of a fist and to avoid providing “Western hairstyles.”

Prohibition of Music and Hookah

The UN report states that the Taliban MPVPV has enforced a range of orders regulating behaviors deemed “un-Islamic,” such as music and smoking hookah. Drivers were ordered not to play music in their cars, and wedding halls

were instructed to refrain from playing music during celebrations.

The prohibition of music has led to instances of violence and intimidation, as documented by the UN report. On February 27, 2022, media circulated an instruction ordering drivers not to play music in their cars. Later, on June 11, 2023, the MPVPV instructed wedding halls to refrain from playing music during weddings and other celebrations.

Prohibition on Display of Human and Animal Images

The UN report documents that the Taliban authorities have deemed human and animal images “un-Islamic” and prohibited them. This includes the removal of advertising signage, public statues, and the covering of faces of shop mannequins.

The report documents instances where businesses were forced to alter their displays to avoid punishment. Some NGOs were instructed to remove human images from materials used in awareness campaigns, including those aimed at children and people with limited literacy.

Impacts on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

The UN report highlights that Afghanistan is a State party to several international human rights treaties and continues to be bound by the obligations set out in these treaties. The Taliban MPVPV’s instructions and enforcement methods have resulted in significant violations of human rights, particularly for women.

The use of corporal punishment is a violation of the prohibition on torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment.

The report emphasizes that the Taliban’s actions have created a climate of fear and intimidation, particularly affecting women’s ability to participate in public life and access basic services.

Conclusion

As Afghanistan is a State party to and is bound by several international human rights instruments, the de facto authorities are obliged to protect and promote the human rights of all people living in Afghanistan, according to the UN report. The instructions issued by the Taliban MPVPV and its provincial offices, as well as the methods used to enforce these instructions, constitute violations of various human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The report calls for the de facto authorities to ensure the equal enjoyment of human rights without discrimination. The UN report highlights the urgent need for the Taliban to align their practices with international human rights standards and to protect the rights of all Afghan citizens, particularly women and marginalized groups.

Methodology

The UN report covers the period from August 15, 2021, to March 31, 2024, and is based on monitoring and documentation of human rights violations across Afghanistan. The data includes both publicly available information and cases documented by the UNAMA Human Rights Service (HRS).

This documentation provides a detailed and alarming picture of the state of human rights under Taliban rule, emphasizing the need for international attention and intervention to protect vulnerable populations in Afghanistan, the report says.

Israeli bombardment in Gaza City forces medical facilities to close

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP): Heavy Israeli bombardment shook Gaza City on Tuesday as thousands of fleeing Palestinians searched for shelter and medical facilities were forced to shut down in the latest offensive in the territory's north.

Israel's new ground assault in Gaza's largest city is its latest effort to battle Hamas militants regrouping in areas the army previously said had been largely cleared.

Large parts of Gaza City and urban areas around it have been flattened or left a shattered landscape after nine months of fighting. Much of the population fled earlier in the war, but several hundred thousand Palestinians remain in the north.

"The fighting has been intense," said Hakeem Abdel-Bar, who fled Gaza City's Tuffah district to the home of relatives in another part of the city. He said Israeli warplanes and drones were "striking anything moving" and that tanks had moved into central districts.

There was no immediate word on casualties. Families whose relatives were wounded or trapped were calling for ambulances, but first responders

could not reach most of the affected districts because of the Israeli operations, said Nebal Farsakh, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Red Crescent. "It's a dangerous zone," she said.

After Israel on Monday called for an evacuation from eastern and central parts of Gaza City, staff at two hospitals — Al-Ahli and the Patients Friends Association Hospital — rushed to move patients and shut down, the United Nations said. Farsakh said all three medical facilities run by the Red Crescent in Gaza City had closed.

Scores of patients were transferred to the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza, which itself was the scene of heavy fighting earlier in the war. "We do not know where to go. There is no treatment and no necessities for life," said Mohammad Abu Naser, who was being treated there. "We are dying slowly."

The Israeli military on Tuesday said it had told hospitals and other medical facilities in Gaza City that they did not need to evacuate. But hospitals in Gaza have often shut down and moved patients at any sign of possible Israeli military action, fearing raids.

In the past nine months, Israeli troops have occupied at least eight hospitals, causing the deaths of patients and medical workers along with massive destruction to facilities and equipment. Israel has claimed Hamas uses hospitals for military purposes, though it has provided only limited evidence.

Only 13 of Gaza's 36 hospitals are functioning, and those only partially, according to the U.N.'s humanitarian office.

Israel's campaign in Gaza, triggered by Hamas' Oct 7 attack, has killed or wounded more than 5% of Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians, according to the territory's Health Ministry. Nearly the entire population has been driven from their homes. Many have been displaced multiple times. Hundreds of thousands are packed into sweltering tent camps.

Maha Mahfouz, a mother of two, said she fled twice in the past 24 hours. She first rushed from her home in Gaza City to a relative's house in another neighborhood. When that became dangerous, she fled Monday night to Shati, a decades-old refugee camp that has grown into an urban district where Israel has carried out repeated

raids.

She described vast destruction in the city's eastern and central parts. "The buildings were destroyed. The roads were destroyed. All has become rubble," she said.

Israeli airstrikes in the central town of Deir al-Balah and nearby refugee camps on Tuesday killed at least 14 people, including four children and a woman, according to officials at al-Aqsa Martyrs and al-Awda hospitals, where casualties were taken.

One of the strikes hit a police station in an outdoor market in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing four people and wounding two dozen, half of them women and children. At a hospital, a little boy cried, coughed and wiped his eyes as medics treated him on the crowded floor.

The Israeli military has said it had intelligence showing that militants from Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group were regrouping in central Gaza City. Israel accuses Hamas and other militants of hiding among civilians. In Shijaiyah, a Gaza City neighborhood that has seen weeks of fighting, the military said it had destroyed 6 kilometers (3 miles) of Hamas tunnels.



DEIR AL-BALAH: Palestinians mourn relatives killed in Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip at a hospital morgue on Tuesday.

Putin hosts Modi

MOSCOW (AP): Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Tuesday, seeking to deepen the relationship between the two nuclear powers at a time when NATO leaders gathered in Washington and Russia launched deadly missile attacks in Ukraine that hit a children's hospital. "Our relationship is one of a particularly privileged strategic partnership," Putin told Modi, who made his first trip to Russia since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Kremlin's forces in 2022. Modi has avoided condemning Russia while emphasizing a peaceful settlement. Their partnership has become more complicated, however, as Russia has moved closer to China amid international isolation of Moscow over Ukraine. Modi did not attend last week's summit in Kazakhstan of a security organization founded by Moscow and Beijing.

Negligence during Eid operations 70 WSSP employees dismissed in Peshawar

Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR: In a significant move, the Chief Executive Officer of the Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) and Commissioner of Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsud, has dismissed 70 WSSP employees for their absence during the crucial Eid-ul-Adha operations. Additionally, fines have been imposed on 200 employees for dereliction of duty, while 70 employees have been recognized for their exemplary performance with cash rewards and certificates.

The action is part of a strict accountability and reward system implemented by the WSSP to ensure efficient service delivery. The annual Eid-ul-Adha operations are vital for the

city as they involve the disposal of animal waste and offal from millions of sacrificial animals within a three-day period. This year, the operation successfully removed and disposed of thousands of tons of waste, ensuring the city remained clean and sanitary during the festive period.

However, an inspection revealed that 297 employees were deliberately absent during this critical time. Specifically, 185 employees were absent for one day and have been fined two days' wages. Another 44 employees missed two days of work and will lose four days' wages. The most severe cases involved 68 employees who were absent for all three days of the Eid operations. These employees have been terminated from

their positions.

Commissioner Mehsud reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining a balance of rewards and penalties. He stated that, as per the directives of the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Local

Government Minister Arshad Ayub will personally commend the diligent employees. A grand ceremony has been organized at the WSSP office, where 18 officers will receive certificates of appreciation, and 52 employees will be awarded cash prizes for their outstanding performance.

This move highlights the WSSP's dedication to ensuring a clean and healthy environment for the residents of Peshawar, while also holding its employees accountable for their responsibilities.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur chairing a video link meeting regarding establishment of Cyber Security Institute.

Reserved seats case: SC reserves verdict on SIC plea

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday reserved the verdict on the Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) plea against the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) verdict upholding the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision denying them the reserved seats.

A 13-member full court bench led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa conducted the hearing on Tuesday with Barrister Salman Akram Raja and SIC's

Faisal Siddiqui presenting their arguments before the court. The bench also comprises Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali

Mazhar, Justice Athar Minalah, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan.

The whole reserved seats issue first emerged after the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed independent candidates emerged victorious in the February 8 elections and subsequently joined the SIC in a bid to claim seats reserved for minorities and women.

However, the PTI suffered a setback after the ECP, citing the party's failure to submit its list of candidates, denied allocating the reserved seats to the SIC. The party then approached the PHC which upheld the electoral body's decision on the matter.

Subsequently, the SIC moved the SC seeking to set aside the PHC verdict and the allocation of 67 women and 11 minority seats in the assemblies.

The allocation of reserved seats holds significance as the PTI-backed independent candidates, who make up the majority of the opposition benches, lost as many as 77 reserved seats in NA and provincial assemblies due to the PHC's verdict.

In its submission to the court via Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan, the government has urged the apex court to reject the SIC's plea stressing that the reserved seats for minorities and women could be given to a political party which contested the polls and won at least one seat besides providing a list of

candidates based on the total number of seats it won as per the law.

Meanwhile, the ECP has also adopted a somewhat similar argument contending that the party is not eligible to get reserved seats as it did not submit the list of candidates before the January 24 deadline.

Furthermore, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has also submitted its written arguments before the court that the SIC is not entitled to the reserved seats as it neither contested the February 8 polls and nor provided the list for candidates.

It also argues that the party didn't win a single seat, which as per the written submission, was necessary to qualify for the allocation of reserved seats.

SOEs' privatisation govt's priority: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the government was taking effective measures for economic revival by carrying out the digitisation of the economy including the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), and privatisation of the State Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation led by British Educationist and former Head of British Prime Minister's Delivery

Unit Sir Michael Bayldon Barber, said the decades-old ties between Pakistan and the United Kingdom were getting stronger with the passage of time.

He said that Pakistan greatly values its relations with the UK as being a valued partner, the UK was assisting Pakistan in multiple sectors for which the government was grateful to them. The prime minister reiterated the resolve to further strengthen the bilateral relations.

He told the delegation that the government was pursuing a policy of downsizing and abolishing the low-performing entities to reduce its expenditures.

The prime minister said that the government was taking measures to boost exports and tax base as the country had immense potential for exports related to information technology and agriculture.

During the briefing, the delegation members were told that a task management

system had been established to examine the performance of the federal ministries.

Sir Michael Barber appreciated the government's economic revival plan and said that it was moving in the right direction in its endeavours for economic reforms.

The delegation head expressed the hope that under the prime minister's leadership, Pakistan would soon get rid of economic challenges and assured the UK's cooperation in all sectors.

How Hezbollah is trying to counter Israel's high-tech surveillance

BEIRUT (Reuters): Coded messages. Landline phones. Pagers. Following the killing of senior commanders in targeted Israeli airstrikes, the Iran-backed Lebanese militant group, Hezbollah, has been using some low-tech strategies to try to evade its foe's sophisticated surveillance technology, informed sources told Reuters.

It has also been using its own tech — drones — to study and attack Israel's intelligence gathering capabilities in what Hezbollah's leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, has described as a strategy of "blinding" Israel.

The sides have been trading fire since

Hezbollah's Palestinian ally in the Gaza Strip, Hamas, went to war with Israel in October. While the fighting on Lebanon's southern border has remained relatively contained, stepped-up attacks in recent weeks have intensified concern it could spiral into a full-scale war.

Tens of thousands of people have fled both sides of the border. Israeli strikes have killed more than 330 Hezbollah fighters and around 90 civilians in Lebanon, according to Reuters tallies. Israel says attacks from Lebanon have killed 21 soldiers and 10 civilians.

Many of Hezbollah's casualties were killed while participating in the

near-daily hostilities, including launching rockets and explosive drones into northern Israel.

Hezbollah has also confirmed the deaths of more than 20 operatives — including three top commanders, members of its elite Radwan special forces unit and intelligence operatives — in targeted strikes away from the frontlines.

Israel's military said it was responding to an unprovoked attack from Hezbollah, which began firing at Israeli targets the day after Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement to Reuters that they were striking military targets and taking "feasible pre-

cautions in order to mitigate harm to civilians."

"The success of these efforts hinges on the IDF's ability to gather thorough and precise intelligence on Hezbollah's forces, its leaders, the organization's terrorist infrastructure, their whereabouts and operations," the statement said.

The IDF did not answer questions about its intelligence gathering and Hezbollah's countermeasures, citing "reasons of intelligence security".

As domestic pressure builds in Israel over Hezbollah's barrages, the IDF has highlighted its ability to hit the group's operatives across the border.



KARACHI: A view of vehicles passing through accumulated rainwater after Karachi witnessed heavy rainfall on Tuesday. — INP photo