

NA session summoned
F.P. Report
ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned the National Assembly session on Tuesday (July 30). The National Assembly will meet at the Parliament House on Tuesday at 5 pm, said a press release issued by President House on Saturday. President Asif Zardari has summoned the session in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Article 54 (1) of the Constitution.

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170 killed as Israeli operation continue in Gaza

GAZA (AFP): Gaza's civil defense agency said Saturday that Israel's military operation around Khan Yunis has killed about 170 people and wounded hundreds. "Since the beginning of the Israeli military operation in the Khan Yunis area, we are talking of approximately 170 martyrs and hundreds of wounded," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP. He said many people had been displaced again on Saturday as the Israeli operation continued. "The questions is where will these residents go?" Basal said.

"Anyone who sees the situation in Khan Yunis will witness thousands of people spread out on the ground, on the roads, in areas that unfortunately are not suitable for living. "With no other options available, they are exposing themselves to death." Earlier on Saturday the military issued new evacuation orders for residents of the southern city, after retrieving the bodies of five Israelis and warning of new operations.

The United Nations said more than 180,000 Palestinians have fled Khan Yunis since the Israeli operation began on Monday. The evacuation orders and "intensified hostilities" have "significantly destabilized aid operations," it added, reporting "dire water, hygiene and sanitation conditions" across the Palestinian territory. The Israeli military said it launched the operation to halt rocket fire from the area, which already saw heavy fighting earlier this year.

On Wednesday, it said troops had retrieved the bodies of five Israelis from the area. They had been killed during the Hamas attacks of October 7 and their bodies taken back to Gaza, the military said. On Saturday, it ordered residents from more parts of Khan Yunis "to temporarily evacuate to the adjusted humanitarian area in Al-Mawasi" — the second such adjustment made to the safe zone

within a week. Israel's military ordered the evacuation Saturday of a crowded part of Gaza designated as a humanitarian zone, saying it is planning an operation against Hamas militants in Khan Yunis, including parts of Muwasi, a makeshift tent camp where thousands are seeking refuge.

The order comes in response to rocket fire that Israel says originates from the area. It's the second evacuation issued in a week in an area designated for Palestinians fleeing other parts of Gaza. Many Palestinians have been uprooted multiple times in search of safety during Israel's punishing air and ground campaign. On Monday, after the evacuation order, multiple Israeli airstrikes hit around Khan Yunis, killing at least 70 people, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, citing figures from Nasser Hospital.

The area is part of a 60-square-kilometer (roughly 20-square-mile) "humanitarian zone" to which Israel has been telling Palestinians to flee to throughout the war. Much of the area is blanketed with tent camps that lack sanitation and medical facilities and have limited access to aid, United Nations and humanitarian groups say. About 1.8 million Palestinians are sheltering there, according to Israel's estimates. That's more than half Gaza's pre-war population of 2.3 million. The war in Gaza has killed more than 39,100 Palestinians, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. The UN estimated in February that some 17,000 children in the territory are now unaccompanied, and the number is likely to have grown since.

The war began with an assault by Hamas militants on southern Israel on Oct. 7 that killed 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and took about 250 hostages. About 115 are still in Gaza, about a third of them believed to be

dead, according to Israeli authorities. Meanwhile, Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon Saturday killed three Hezbollah members, according to the Lebanese militant group which retaliated by launching a rocket attack on the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, wounding several people.

Israel's Magen David Adom paramedic service initially reported 11 people wounded, five critically while the remaining six suffered severe injuries. Hezbollah said in a statement the attack, which saw its militants firing Katyusha rockets at an Israeli army post in the Golan Heights, was in response to Israeli airstrikes on villages in south Lebanon. The group said earlier three of its members were killed on Saturday without specifying where. Israel's military said its air force targeted a Hezbollah arms depot on the border village of Kfar Kila, adding that militants were inside at the time.

Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria during the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed them in 1981. Israel and Hezbollah have traded near daily fire since the war in Gaza started after Hamas' surprise attack on Oct. 7 killed some 1,200 people and took 250 others hostage. Israel launched an offensive that has so far killed more than 39,000 people, according to local health authorities, displaced over 80 percent of the territory's people and triggered a humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip.

Over the past weeks, the exchange of fire along the Lebanon-Israel intensified with Israeli airstrikes and rocket and drone attacks by Hezbollah striking deeper and further away from the border. Since early October, Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon have killed more than 450 people, mostly Hezbollah members, but also around 90 civilians and non-combatants. On the Israeli side, 21 soldiers and 13 civilians have been killed.

Pakistan to become world's major power: Hungarian PM

BUDAPEST (Reuters): Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Saturday forecast a shift in global power away from the "irrational" West towards Asia and Russia, predicting that Pakistan will become one of the world's future big powers.

"In the next long decades, maybe centuries, Asia will be the dominant centre of the world," Orban said while also mentioning China, India, and Indonesia as the future big powers. "And we Westerners pushed the Russians into this bloc as well," he said in the televised speech before ethnic Hungarians at a festival in the town of Baile Tusnad in neighbouring Romania.

He also said that Russia's leadership was "hyper rational" and that Ukraine would never be able to fulfil its hopes of becoming a member of the European Union or Nato. Orban, whose country currently holds the rotating EU presidency, has sharply differed from the rest of the bloc by seeking warmer ties with Beijing and Moscow, and he angered some EU leaders when he went on surprise visits to Kyiv, Moscow and Beijing this month for talks on the war in Ukraine.

He said that in contrast to the "weakness" of the West, Russia's position in world affairs was rational and predictable, saying the country had shown economic flexibility in adapting to Western sanctions since it invaded Crimea in 2014. He added that Ukraine would never become a member of the EU or Nato because "we Europeans do not have enough money for that".

"The EU needs to give up its identity as a political project and become an economic and defence project," Orban added. The EU opened membership talks with Ukraine late last month, although a long and tough road lies ahead of the country before it can join the bloc. A declaration at the end of the Nato summit this month said the alliance will support Ukraine on "its irreversible path" towards membership.

Govt to end free electricity for bureaucrats

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: To ease the financial burden on the heavily encumbered power sector, the government is considering ending the provision of free electricity to government officials and agencies, including bureaucrats, judges, and parliamentarians, sources in the Ministry of Energy said on Saturday. Facing intense public and political pressure, the federal government has decided, in principle, to develop an emergency plan within the Ministry of Energy.

According to sources privy to matters, the proposed plan also suggests that in a later phase, free petrol benefits might be withdrawn as well. The country was currently under severe financial strain and burdened with external debts, the sources said adding that revolutionary steps were now critical to avoid a permanent default.

They further stated that, given the severity of the country's financial crisis, it has become indispensable to raise the export target to at least \$60 billion. Only

essential facilities for industry and business will be provided, and a reduction in Maximum Demand Indicator (MDI) charges for factories is also under consideration, as per the proposal.

Additionally, a review of the performance of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) and the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) has been proposed. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) this month agreed on a \$7 billion bailout for the heavily indebted South Asian economy while raising concerns over high rates of power theft and distribution losses that result in debt accumulating across the production chain.

Power Minister Awaiz Leghari has said that the government is implementing structural reforms to reduce "circular debt" — public liabilities that build up in the power sector due to subsidies and unpaid bills — by Rs100 billion a year. The country's power sector has been plagued by high rates of power theft and distribution losses, resulting in accumulating debt across the production

chain.

Poor and middle-class households have been affected by the tough measures taken by the government to fulfill the demands of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which included raising power tariffs. Annual power use in Pakistan is expected to fall consecutively for the first time in 16 years as higher tariffs curb household consumption, despite summer temperatures surging to near records, which typically boosts air conditioning and fan use.

In December last year, the federal government stopped providing free electricity units to officers in Grade 17 and above within power generation, distribution, and management companies. However, as compensation for this benefit withdrawal, these officers were given a pay raise. The decision that went into effect on December 1, 2023, was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCOE) on October 26, 2023, and it was later approved by the federal cabinet.

PTI files reference against CEC, ECP members

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Saturday moved the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) members against their alleged misconduct in holding the February 8 general election.

The former ruling party submitted a formal complaint to the SJC against the CEC and the ECP members over the "misconduct", as well as prayed to hold a thorough inquiry as the electoral body's top officers had "failed to perform their duties". The complaint, was submitted by PTI Secretary General Omar

Ayub Khan via his counsel Barrister Ali Zafar.

CEC Raja, ECP members including Babar Hassan Bharwana from Punjab, Nisar Ahmed Durrani from Sindh, Shah Muhammad Jatoti from Balochistan, and Justice (ret'd) Ikramullah Khan from KP were made respondents in the complaint. It demanded the SJC to report to the president for the immediate removal of the CEC and the ECP members if they are found guilty of misconduct and incapable of performing their duties.

In its complaint, the opposition party alleged that the election watchdog failed to perform its constitutional duty of conducting elections honestly, justly, fairly, and in accordance with the law. The

ECP "deliberately violated this constitutional obligation, responsibility and duty under Article 224 and failed to hold elections to the National Assembly and provincial assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) within 90 of holding elections".

The party also alleged that the commission also breached the law by "openly defying the judgements dated 01.03.2023 and 04.04.2023 of the Supreme Court directing ECP to hold elections within 90 days". During the 2024 polls, polling agents belonging to the PTI were not allowed to sit in the polling stations in several constituencies and others, its polling camps were even removed, it read.

The Frontier Post

Court reserves decision

KARACHI (INP): The Karachi Accountability Court has reserved its decision on the NAB request to restore a reference against MQM-P leader Mustafa Kamal and others concerning the allocation of government land in Clifton. The hearing took place before the court, where Mustafa Kamal and other accused appeared. Kamal's lawyer, Hassan Sabir, argued that there were no allegations of financial gain against Kamal.



GAZA STRIP: A wounded Palestinian child is carried to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, in the aftermath of an Israeli attack in Deir el-Balah.

JIT to probe 'malicious social media campaign against state'

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A five-member joint investigation team (JIT) has been formed to probe the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) alleged social media campaigns against state institutions.

The federal government has formed the JIT under section 30 of Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016. According to sources, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has granted approval of a five-member investigation committee and Islamabad IG will lead the JIT.

Directors of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing and FIA Anti-terrorism Wing, Islamabad DIG Investigation and Islamabad Counter-terrorism Department (CTD) SSP will be the members of committee. The JIT would investigate and determine the organized objectives of the accused and their accomplices who have created chaos and disorder in Pakistan through malicious social media campaign.

The JIT has also been given the task to identify and prosecute the culprits in accordance with the applicable laws. It is pertinent to note that law-enforcement agencies raided the digital media cell of PTI central office in Islamabad on the ground of available evidence a few days ago.

According to police sources, the PTI digital media cell was a source of international disinformation. It was alleged that propaganda with the cooperation of anti-state agencies against Pakistan was run from the digital media cell of PTI.

Govt extends olive branch to PTI

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Musadiq Malik on Saturday extended olive branch to the embattled Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad, the minister said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had three things in his mind which included creating employment for poor people, bringing down inflation and alleviating poverty. Malik lashed out at the former premier Imran Khan for asking the army to act neutral, adding that his party workers carried out May 9 riots due to the PTI founder's consistent incitement.

"There was a trend doing rounds on social media few days back which linked Pakistan's survival with that of Imran Khan. The captain said America was conspiring against his government. Few anti-Pakistan elements were impeding development of country.

PM strongly condemns ongoing violence in Gaza

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday strongly condemned the ongoing violent acts of the Israeli forces in Khan Yunis city of Gaza, causing the displacement of around 150,000 Palestinians.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that the siege of Khan Yunis city had suspended the supply of food and other commodities to the area. He said the Israeli forces were carrying out the genocide of Palestinians leading to a human catastrophe for which the international community including the United Nations should fulfill its responsibilities.

He said that Pakistan, in its statement at the International Court of Justice, had also effectively raised its voice for the Palestinians' right to self-determination and against Israeli oppression. Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated his call for the implementation of the recent decisions of the ICJ and the resolutions adopted by the United Nations.

He said that Pakistan had dispatched around 1200 tons of relief goods to Palestine through Pakistan Air Force planes and another 1500 tons through three ships. The prime minister said that he had issued special instructions for the enrollment of Palestinian medical students in Pakistani medical colleges to help them continue their education. Calling upon the international community to hold Israel accountable for its war crimes in Palestine, he reiterated that the government and the people of Pakistan stood beside their Palestinian brothers and sisters.

Shehbaz pays tribute to Capt. Sarwar Shaheed on 76th martyrdom anniversary: Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif paid tribute to Capt. Sarwar Shaheed (Nishan-i-Haider), on his 76th martyrdom anniversary, lauded his valor and sacrifice to safeguard the country.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that Captain Sarwar Shaheed embraced martyrdom in the 1948 war by setting an example of courage and bravery. He said that Capt. Sarwar Shaheed preferred the protection of his motherland to his life and set an eternal example for the generations to come.

The prime minister said that Captain Sarwar Shaheed's martyrdom anniversary was a reminder for the entire nation of the unparalleled sacrifices of the martyrs. He said the whole nation could never forget the sacrifices of the officers and men of the Pakistan Army for safeguarding the country. "The entire nation, including me, is proud of the martyrs of the Pakistan Army and their families. The entire nation stands by the officers and men of the Pakistan armed forces who are defending the country without caring about their own lives," he added.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a police station in district Kurram in which a Frontier Constabulary personnel embraced martyrdom.

Paying tribute to the martyr, the prime minister expressed his heartfelt condolence to his family members. He prayed to Allah Almighty to elevate the ranks of the departed soul in Jannah. The prime minister also prayed for a speedy recovery of those injured in the incident and directed that all possible medical assistance be provided to them. He emphasized that such cowardly acts will not shake our resolve against terrorism.

Nancy introduces bill to label Taliban as terrorist organization

Jalil Afridi

WASHINGTON DC: Congresswoman Nancy Mace introduced the "Preventing the Recognition of Terrorist States Act of 2024" in Washington, D.C.

This legislation aims to prevent the United States from recognizing the Islamic Emirate of

Afghanistan, controlled by the Taliban, as a legitimate government. Rep. Mace emphasized the importance of rejecting regimes associated with terrorism and oppression. "Freedom and justice demand we reject tyranny and oppression in all forms.

Our bill ensures America never recognizes the

Taliban's terror-driven regime," she stated. "By prohibiting any federal actions implying their legitimacy and designating them as state sponsors of terrorism, we stand firm against this rogue state's barbarism. The Taliban are terrorists, plain and simple." The bill includes several key points.

JI's Amir warns of extending sit-in to across country

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman on Saturday warned of expanding its Rawalpindi sit-in to other areas across the country if the government did not accept its demands regarding high power bills and rise in taxes.

Addressing the sit-in at Liaquat Bagh, Rehman said, "If the government is thinking that the sit-in would continue on Murree Road only, it is its wishful thinking. "If they do not reduce electricity bills in a genuine manner, do not address the matter of IPPs (independent power producers) and do not revoke the [tax] slab on the salaried class, then this sit-in would not remain limited to here; it would spread further to the entire country."

In his speech today, the JI chief reiterated his demand to release all arrested workers and officially clarify details regarding a committee to hold talks with the party. "I want

to tell the government to not remain in any illusion. We have arrived here and will formulate a plan of action on a daily basis. We will not leave from here, God-willing," he said.

"The government has only one way," Rehman said as he detailed his party's demands. "If they would not bring the talks on the right path; if they would not form a proper committee, reduce electricity bills in a genuine manner, revoke this [petroleum] levy and end tax slabs on the salaried class introduced in this budget ... these are genuine demands [...]."

"[Power] plants had availed ten times the amount invested in them. Those running their plants properly should be renegotiated with, but a forensic audit should be conducted of those committing fraud," Rehman asserted, demanding that government officials involved in wrongful business should be "punished strictly".

Regarding electricity bills, the JI leader said that it was the first time in Pakistan that

even industrialists were lamenting about not being able to pay their bills and attempting to get them deferred.

"I met traders and industrialists here in the past week and they lamented 'we are at our limits and cannot run our factories anymore'," he added. Rehman pointed out that the closure of a single factory results in thousands of people losing their jobs. He suggested that export duties on various sectors be revoked and that taxes be imposed on elites instead of adding them to the masses' electricity bills. He also called on the government to end exemptions availed by its officials and reduce their own privileges.

"They say they're bringing traders in the tax next under the banner of 'Tajir Dost Scheme'. We and the traders are ready to be brought under the net [...] If there is any rightful tax, the traders will accept it," the JI chief said. "If the government is serious, it will have to take action and grant relief [to the public]," Rehman asserted.

CJ PHC chairs Case Management Policy meeting

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim along with Members of the Administration Committee chaired a meeting on Case Management Policy with the District & Sessions Judges of Kohat, Hangu, and Orakzai, on Saturday.

The meeting was attended by the Judicial Officers of the respective districts, Member of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council, President Peshawar High Court Bar Association as well as Presidents and General Secretaries of District Bar and Tehsil Bar Associations.

Registrar PHC Ikhtiar Khan briefly elaborated the agenda of the meeting and welcomed all the participants. Additional Registrar (Admin) Mamrez Khan Khalil explained the manifest vision of the Chief Justice to reduce the backlog of cases and ensure impartial, effective and corruption free justice. In this endeavor, knowing the ground realities and dynamics of the District Judiciary is of paramount importance in formulating an effective and robust Case Management Policy.

District & Sessions Judge Kohat Sofia Waqar Khattak presented the institution, pendency and disposal of cases data of District Kohat which shows that there are total 11284 cases pending as of 30th June, 2024. She added that the Institution versus disposal of cases ratio stands at 123.81%. She also highlighted that their focus is on reducing the percentage of attendance cases they have achieved the target by reducing 54.21% from April 2024 to 28% by the end of June 2024.

The District & Sessions Judge Kohat informed that there are total 212 UTP cases and 166 Family Court cases. She added that Under Trial Prisoners as well as Family cases are their focus cases while Bar is taken on board for their cooperation in this regard.

District & Sessions Judge Orakzai Syed Obaidullah Shah informed that total 435 cases are pending for disposal as of 24th July, 2024. He added that there are 18 UTP Cases out of which only four cases are older than one year and only 2 family cases are pending. Moreover, 18 Juvenile cases and two Gender Based Violence related cases are pending at District Courts Orakzai.

District & Sessions Judge Hangu Hayat Gul also presented the cases data which shows that there are total 1563 cases as of June 2024 and 50, 32, and 91 UTP, Juvenile, and Family Cases are pending in the district respectively.

Suggestions from the Bar Members of District Kohat, Hangu and Orakzai were also invited. Chief Justice PHC Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim eagerly listened to their problems. One such demand that was unanimously placed before the



Chair for consideration was the establishment of a Circuit Court. Whereas the need for imparting refresher courses/ training on subjects like ethics, morality and professionalism was also discussed.

The Chief Justice directed that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy cannot accommodate such like trainings on large scale therefore, the District & Sessions Judge(s), the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council and the District Bar Associations may arrange such like trainings within the district.

While concluding the session, the Senior Puisne Judge Justice Ijaz Anwar emphasized on eradication of corruption and malpractices from Judiciary. Whereas, the Chief Justice in his concluding remarks extended full cooperation of the Peshawar High Court to the District Judiciary as well as Bar Members. He emphasized that Judiciary in the merged districts must take special care of the litigant public. He added that such like meetings will help in formulating a Case Management Policy for effective dispensation of justice.

KKKUK holds 11th Senate Meeting

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak convened its 11th Senate Meeting at the Governor House Peshawar. The meeting, chaired by the Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi, focused on discussing and approving the actual budget 2022-23, revised/actual budget for the Financial Year 2023-24 and the budget estimates for 2024-25.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naseer Ud Din presented a comprehensive overview of the University's progress over the past decade.

He highlighted significant financial and academic advancements, including the establishment of General Endowment and Pension Endowment Funds aimed at ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

Treasurer Hafiz Ismail Khan presented the actual budget for the FY 2022-23, revised/actual budget for 2023-24 and outlined the budget estimates for 2024-25. He emphasized that the University has undertaken a third-party audit and actuarial study to ensure financial accuracy and reliability.

The Senate members after detailed discussion approved the budget and appreciated it. Provincial Minister Meena Khan Afridi commended the University's management for their efforts in maintaining financial stability and expressed a commitment to fostering a stronger research culture.

The Vice Chancellor acknowledged the Minister's efforts in addressing the challenges faced by universities in the province.

Justice Rtd Abdul Aziz Kundi, Registrar Dr. Rafi Ullah Khan, Director P&D Muhammad Rashad Khattak, Director Works Engr Mir Salam, Director QEC Dr. Muhammad Anwar Marwat, Head of Management Sciences Dr. Faqir Sajjad Ul Hassan, Lecturer Umair Ud Din, Assistant Registrar Mr. Sahibzada, and other distinguished attendees including representatives from the Secretary Establishment, Secretary Finance, Secretary HED, and HEC Nominee Dr Usman Ghani were present at the meeting.

The Vice Chancellor expressed his appreciation for Minister Meena Khan Afridi proactive role in resolving university-related issues and ensuring institutional progress.

The meeting was efficiently supported by Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak's administrative team, including Deputy Registrar Meetings Ilyas Tehseen, Budget Officer Tahir Gul, Admin Officer Shamsher Khattak, Accounts Officer Muhammad Izhaz and Muhammad Jan Rajjar.

Dr. Khaista Nawab successfully defended her PhD thesis

PESHAWAR (APP): Dr. Khaista Nawab, Ph.D. Scholar of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Agriculture, Peshawar, completed her Ph.D. in Agricultural Chemistry and Biochemistry under the supervision of Dr. Anwar Ali Shad.

She presented her research paper title as "Phytochemical and Biological Assay of Ricinus Communis L. Obtained from Malakand Hills Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan" and her thesis was validated by Turkey and also cleared by renowned Malaysian professors.

In the defense seminar, Dr. Khaista Nawab successfully defended her thesis by answering the questions posed by the participants and was qualified for the Ph.D. Director Advanced Studies and Research Prof. Dr. Mohammad Sajid, Chairman Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Biochemistry Dr. Sahib Alam, Chairman Human Nutrition Dr. Ziauddin, Additional Director Pastic Dr. Ghazala Ali Khan, faculty members, scholars and students also participated in the seminar meant for the thesis defense.

While congratulating Dr. Anwar Ali Shad and Dr. Khaista Nawab, Dr. Muhammad Sajid hoped that the research of Dr. Khaista Nawab would be beneficial for agricultural chemistry and biochemistry and society.

Doctor's negligence puts patient's life in danger

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The family of a 22-year-old patient, Muhammad Musa, who is currently on a ventilator in the ICU. They have appealed to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Health Minister, and the Secretary of Health to take immediate notice of the situation.

Musa's family has also demanded legal action against the hospital administration to prevent further harm to other patients. They claim that Musa's operation was unnecessary and that the doctors were negligent in their treatment.

The doctors are now trying to cover up their mistake by not providing proper treatment to Musa, who is currently on a ventilator in the ICU. They have appealed to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Health Minister, and the Secretary of Health to take immediate notice of the situation.

Musa's family has also demanded legal action against the hospital administration to prevent further harm to other patients. They claim that Musa's operation was unnecessary and that the doctors were negligent in their treatment.



The relative claimed that Muhammad Musa is 22-year-old and admitted in LRH with abdominal pain and underwent an appendix operation. The doctors allegedly gave him full anesthesia instead of spinal anesthesia, leading to brain damage due to lack of oxygen, the family claimed.

KP increases cardiac procedure rates by 40%

PESHAWAR (INP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has approved a significant 40% increase in the rates for cardiac procedures covered under the health card scheme, aimed at enhancing free treatment for heart disease patients.

Effective from August, the new rates will apply to all free cardiac procedures performed at hospitals.

The adjustment reflects a range of increases some procedures will see a rise of up to 100%, while others will go up by 5%, as detailed by Dr. Riyadh Tanoli, Chief Executive Officer of the Health Plus Program.

This decision addresses long-standing demands for rate adjustments and is expected to reduce waiting times and improve access to cardiology services. Dr. Tanoli explained that the previous rates, set in 2016, had not kept pace with rising costs of implants, diagnostic reagents, medicines, and utility charges, exacerbated by the increase in dollar value.

The health card budget allocates 27% to heart disease treatments, with 169,107 cardiac procedures performed to date.



PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi presiding over 11th Senate Meeting of Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak at Governor's House.

Faiq concerned over growing political polarization

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chairman, Amun Taraqqi Party Muhammad Faiq Shah voiced concern over growing political polarization in the country.

Shah commented on the political landscape, stating that politics of vendetta is unfavorable and unaffordable for Pakistan.

He demanded corrective steps to bring economic stability and address all matters with mutual consensus.

The party leader said none of any other business of the rulers, but only divide and rule, and target opponents and to protect personal interests and business. He noted real issues of the common man have been put into the backburner.

He added legislation made only for personal and shielding vested interests.

The ATP chief asserted all forces should be united for the sake of the people and the country.

Let's come together to eliminate the political chaos and bring stability, peace and improve the economy.

We have already lost precious 76 years in lust for power, revenge politics and personal vested interests.

Addressing members of ATP' central executive council here on Saturday, Shah said his party has given a viable solution to end the current crisis situation.

He made it clear that issues cannot be addressed until the provision of authority and justice.

Also, he said only young and competent people can steer the country out of the crisis situation.

The party leader asked the government to revisit its policies and make them pro-poor instead of pro-elites.

Faiq said the gap between elites and poor is widening.

He said powerless and marginalized segments were going further down to earth.

The ATP head said a sense of deprivations have escalated among low-income segments as they are aloof from all fundamental rights and facilities.

He said electricity bills with high tariffs have compounded the miseries of poor people.

The ATP chief said concrete policies should be enforced to ensure social and economic justice to people.

He said his party has struggled for the last seven years to ensure public authority and justice, which has brought fruitful results.

Ginger hits all-time high, selling on 900 per kg

PESHAWAR (APP): The wave of inflation in Peshawar could not be reduced and Ginger in the vegetable market hit an all-time high and now being sold on Rs. 900 in the City wherein the district administration failed to implement the official price issued for various food items here on Saturday.

Likewise, the Ginger, the price of Garlic also hit high and now being sold at Rs. 800 per kg instead of on official rates Rs. 550. The price of Onion also increased with every passing day and now Onion is being sold at Rs. 230 instead of at official rates Rs 110.

The rates of other food items including Tomato Rs 200, Potato 180, Kachalu 180, Green pepper 150, Capsicum 170, Eggplant 180, Cauliflower 160, Okra 220 per kg being sold in the vegetables market.

Similarly, the price of fruits also increased and Apple is being sold on Rs. 350 instead of on official rates Rs. 230. The mango Rs. 310, lychee 430, peach 320, cherry 430, persimmon 330, while banana is being sold at 180 rupees per dozen. The price of live chicken will reach 480 rupees per kg, a slide increase of Rs. 5 while the price of eggs per dozen in the market remains Rs 300 with an increase of Rs. 20.

KP seeks Rs2.57b for security equipment

PESHAWAR (INP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) police have requested the federal Interior Ministry to provide funds for the purchase of security equipment to maintain law and order in the province.

As per details, a total of over Rs. 2.57 billion has been sought for this purpose that will be used to purchase essential equipment, including vehicles, arms and ammunition, bulletproof jackets and helmets, and technical equipment.

The breakdown of the funds includes Rs. 1.56 billion for vehicles, Rs. 40 crore for arms and ammunition, Rs. 50 crore for bulletproof jackets and helmets, and Rs. 10 crore for technical equipment.

Ikhtair accuses PTI govt for failure to establish peace

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Muslim League (PMLN) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Secretary Ikhtair Wali Khan here Saturday that Pakistan Tahrir e Insaaf despite remaining in power of the last 12 years has failed to establish peace in the province.

After 18th constitutional amendment, he said that maintaining peace and law & order was the prime responsibility of the provincial government, however PTI Government was failed to fulfill its constitutional duties and protect people from subversive acts.

He said the recent suicide and bomb blasts including Bannu cantonment bombing and killing of senator Hidayatullah in Bajaur blast had showed the PTI Government's failure to establish peace in the province. He said the people of Pakistan knew about a political party that had facilitated inimical forces to come back after the operations Zarb e Azb and Raadul Fasad had broken back of terrorists.

In a statement here, the PMLN leader said that Federal Government had provided about Rs500 billion to the PTI Government for strengthening/equipping of the counter terrorism department (CTD) and police, adding had this huge fund utilized properly for the capacity building of these institutions then no such subversive activities would happened as the nation saw recently.

He claimed that CM KP has failed to inform people about his government policy about countering of menace of terrorism rather made a tall mere slogan of opposing the anti terror operations.

The PMLN leader said that it would have been better if the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa made focus on settling the land dispute between the warring tribes in Kurram where several people were killed and injured in last few days.

Like PTI founder, he claimed that CM KP was also master of taking U turns referring to his changing statements during Apex Committee, after meeting with the Prime Minister at Islamabad and Bannu public meeting which showed contradictions in his statements and actions.

In the wake of poor law and order situation especially in southern districts including the home district of CM KP, he said that the statement of Ali Amin Gandapur to oppose the operation in KP was totally irrational and beyond his understanding.

He said that all negative attempts to create division among people on the basis of language and caste would be resisted strongly and reiterated that no one would be allowed to take law in hands and target innocent people for accomplishment of their ulterior motives.

He said that PTI was in search of dead bodies as evident of turning the Bannu peace march as violent and politicized it for personal gains. Besides peace and law and order, he claimed that education and health sectors were marred due to poor policies of the PTI.

Peshawar Museum: A sanctuary of Gandhara Art

PESHAWAR (APP): Famed as the sole repository of the Gandhara art, Peshawar museum continues to captivate domestic and foreign tourists with its rich array of artifacts from an ancient civilization.

For Malaika Bibi, a sixth grade student and a resident of Nowshera, the lone Gandhara museum in the world offers a profound attraction to the life of Lord Buddha, the founder of Buddhism.

With wide-eyed wonder, Malaika studied the intricate biographical panels that chronicle the Buddha's journey, a testament to the Gandhara period's artistic mastery.

Accompanied by her parents, Malaika's visit highlighted the museum's role as a beacon of historical and cultural preservation of the Gandhara art.

Renowned for its extensive collection of Buddhist sculptures from the Gandhara era (2nd century BC to 6th century AD), the Peshawar museum stands out as one of Southeast Asia's premier cultural and archeological institution, attracting followers of Buddhism, tourists and archeology lovers from across the globe.

Constructed some 150 years back on Sher Suri Road opposite of Governor House where over 30,000 rare antiques, artifacts, coins, swords, guns and other antiques including 16,000 are showcased and around 14,000 artifacts are lying in cupboards.

"I have heard a lot about Peshawar Museum being a home to Gandhara art and today after seeing the rare

artifacts and statues of Lord Bhuddha has impressed me immensely besides took me to the glorious past history of Gandhara civilization that flourished in northern Pakistan," she told APP.

Suggesting of showcasing these treasures abroad through digital media, she said that the ancient antiquities and life stories of Bhuddha has made Pakistan a home to religious tourism.

With around 30,000 rare antiquities and panels of Bhuddha's life stories showcased here, Malaika and her family took keen interest in its Mughal-era architecture of the colonial era building, ancient weapons of British army and swords of freedom fighters.

"It is the only Museum in the world where the complete life story of the Founder of Buddhism, Lord Bhudda was preserved in the form of panels and statues," said Bakhtzada Muhammad, Assistant Director Archaeology and Museums Department while talking to APP.

The museum is famous all over the world for Gandhara period collections (200 BCE-600 CE) discovered from different archaeological excavations in Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda and Swabi that were the center of Gandhara civilization.

The historic building itself is a landmark structure with historic archaeological and architecture significance has recently been conserved after years of the archaeological work.

A mixture of British and Mughal architecture, the museum hall was used as

ballroom during the British rule however; the building was converted into a museum in 1906-07 in the memory of Queen Victoria.

Following completion of conservation and renovation work by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, the museum is a centre of attraction of foreign and domestic tourists, followers of Buddhism, monks, diplomats, general public, archeologists and architectural lovers these day and was also opened for tourists even at night.

Bakhtzada said its exterior and interior structure and designs have completely been rehabilitated and conserved by renowned experts without compromising on its original architecture and designs.

Its two side aisles on ground and first floor, surrounded by four elegant cupolas and small pinnacle on all corners has also been rehabilitated and conserved leaving inerasable imprints on the visitors' minds.

The completed renovation and conservation work includes an ancient main hall constructed in memory of Queen Victoria where the complete life story of Lord Bhudda, Buddha Gallery with statues of Lord Bhudda and Buddha Savatta Gallery having princely life of Lord Bhudda were preserved.

Elements added during last 50 years have been removed by the archaeologists restoring its structure in original conditions. The museum structure is made of red brick so it was painted in its original colour.

He said the main hall and two side aisles on ground and 1st floor, surrounded by four graceful cupolas and miniature pinnacles, were restored.

The dilapidated ceilings were removed, arches reopened, rooftop and minarets rehabilitated.

Likewise, unnecessary oil paints have been removed after original "Paka kali" was applied. The original wooden floor has been conserved, which was especially crafted from the ballroom during the British government.

He said the renovation work was necessitated after its exterior and interior structure was badly damaged by earthquakes, torrential rains and harsh weather.

Besides its colonial era dorms and ceilings all the outdated plastic pipes as well as electrical wires were replaced with imported electrification and other relevant materials to prevent water seepage and ensure uninterrupted power supply in a unique style of colorful lighting that looks awesome at night.

Its galleries of ancient dresses of Waziristan tribes, primitive cooking tribes and jewelry besides muzzleloader guns mostly used by British Army and Swords of freedom fighters and punch marked coins are the most frequented visit by tourists after renovation.

Malaika highly appreciated the efforts of Directorate of Archeology and Museums KP for the renovation and conservation of Peshawar Museum and preservation of the Gandhara artifacts in its original grandure.



In brief

Four shot dead in gun attack

KHARIAN (INP): Four people were murdered when gunmen sprayed a car with bullets in Kharian on Saturday morning. The attackers targeted the vehicle within limits of Kakrali Police Station in Ladiyan area of Kharia. The deceased included Malik Tahir, son of Malik Irfan and his grandson, all residents of Samrala. Soon after receiving the information, the police rushed to the crime scene and started collecting evidence. Police said there were four people in the car and they were all dead.

Bugti on police, levies force

F.P. Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti announced the complete depoliticizing of the police and levies force and to make them capable of ensuring protection of citizens and the writ of the law across the province. He directed the IG Police from the floor of the assembly to appoint SPs, DPOs, SHO on merit and called police officers from other provinces for posting in Balochistan if needed. He said no member of the assembly and politician would interfere in the police department's affairs and would not ask for the posting of blue-eyed SP and SHO. Addressing the Provincial Assembly, Sarfraz Bugti said that the government would not interfere in the tenure of police officers until and unless they don't hurt the privileges of parliamentarians and self respect of a common man. He added that as we are depoliticizing and providing free environment, would also keep accountability in the police department.

Quetta: Section 144 imposed

F.P. Report

QUETTA: All kinds of public meetings, processions and rallies have been banned under section 144 in Quetta. The district administration also issued a notification to this effect. The district administration also set up containers for an indefinite period on the roads entering and leaving the city of Quetta including Hazar Ganji, Lakpass, Maghrib Bypass and Sibi Road. Meanwhile, security has been put on high alert throughout the city, district administration said.

3 shot dead over marriage dispute

LARKANA (INP): Armed men gunned down three members of a family over marriage dispute and fled the scene, police said on Saturday. According to details, the members of Korkani and Jakhani community of Larkana were in dispute over marriage issue. The culprits belonging to one group barged into house of second group and opened indiscriminate fire at them. As a result of firing two real brothers Ghulam Fariq, Mohabbat and five-year-old Waseem, son of one brother were killed on the spot. The culprits fled the scene after committing triple murder. Heavy contingent of police reached the scene after getting the information and shifted the bodies to hospital for post-mortem. The police registered a case against the murderers and started raids for their arrest.

Youth killed

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): Robbers gunned down a youth over resistance during a robbery here on Saturday, police said. According to details, robbers attempted to loot a youth in jurisdiction of Housing Colony police station jurisdiction, in Sheikhupura.

CM inaugurates Police Lines Mardan

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur inaugurated phase-one of the new building of Police Lines Mardan, on Saturday. The chief minister was accompanied by Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Gandapur, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party's elected representatives including Ali Muhammad Khan, provincial food minister Zahir Shah Toru, Ameer Farzand, Ifitikhar Ali Mashwani, Abdus Salam Afridi, Tufail Anjum and other party leaders on the occasion.

Addressing participants of the inaugural ceremony, Ali Amin Gandapur said that they saluted to martyrs and Ghazis of police forces who had rendered matchless sacrifices to maintain law and order as well as to provide security to people of the province. "We are proud of those sacrifices of police force," he said, adding that they bravely combat the militancy and terrorism despite of severe situation in the country. He was of the view that it would be sheer injustice to

not admit their sacrifices.

"It is our priority to maintain law and order situation and we will never compromise on it," he added. The chief minister said that the present provincial government was taking measures on priority bases from day first to boost the police force as well as to fulfill its all requirements. He claimed that the provincial government had been spending huge amount for provision of vehicles, arms and other necessary items and tools to police force. He said that legislations were being carried out in the matters regarding police Shuhada-packages.

On the occasion, the chief minister instructed police personnel to behave politely with common man. On the other hand, he also asked people to extend their full cooperation to traffic police as well as abide all traffic rules. He asked police to impose minimum fine on poor when they violated traffic rules while on the other hand, they should impose heavy fines on rich people when they violated the same rules.

During his talks with media-persons on occasion, the chief minister told that

the present provincial government would provide solar panels to 0.1 million people of the province. Under the schemes, he claimed that they would provide solar system to 50 thousand people free of cost while the other 50 thousand people would get it on loans with no interest rate.

He warned that they would not leave the federal government spare and would get its due amount from it at all cost. He was of the view that action should be taken against rich people concerning to the matters of electricity.

Earlier, the IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur briefed the chief minister about the police lines Mardan project. He unearthed that the new building of police lines was being built on a land of total 218 Kanals. He said that the buildings of police lines in phase-I had been completed with the total cost of Rs.395 million. The buildings constructed under the first phase were included administration block, staff barracks, residential building for staff and other necessary offices.



MARDAN: KP Chief Minister, Ali Amin Gandapur inaugurating newly constructed building of Police Lines.

Farmers to obtain Rs150 thousand via Kisan Card

F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: Assistant Director of Agriculture Kamalia Mahar Ijaz Saleh said that Bank of Punjab and the Department of Agriculture are registering of farmers jointly for Kisan Card as per Chief Minister Punjab directives, on Saturday.

This he claimed while talking to The Frontier Post and added that as many as 1200 from Kamalia and 1100 Pirmahal applications have been received and the registration process is still going. He said that an easy loan up to Rs150,000 per farmer will be given through Kissan card.

In which farmers will be able to purchase fertilizer and seeds. He said that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif is determined for the prosperity of farmers. In the end, He said that we are trying to register as many farmers as possible for their convenience so that they can benefit.

Dengue prevention meeting held: A meeting of District Emergency Response Committee for Dengue Prevention held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue in which heads of all district departments participated.

District Health Officer Dr. Kashif gave a detailed briefing to the meeting about the measures taken in the anti-dengue campaign. He issued instructions to speed up the operations. Officers of the relevant institutions were issued orders to closely monitor dengue mosquito breeding places including cemeteries, junkyards, under-construction buildings and tire shops.

Be strictly enforced Arrangements should be made under an effective strategy for the immediate evacuation of water and all the relevant departments for dengue surveillance should fulfill the target of their operations in any case. All relevant to make dengue campaign successful. Institutions should promote coordination processes.

Protest against load shedding held

F.P. Report

LARKANA: A protest rally was taken out from Qazi Fazlullah Park Ghanti Phatak by "Larkana Social Ittehad" against the unscheduled load shedding up to 20 hours on daily basis, on Saturday.

There were banners on which the slogans of WAPDA's injustice were recorded. Addressing the protests public on this occasion, the leaders of Larkana Social Ittehad, Hafiz Bashir Ahmad Sheikh Hussaini, Mir Liaquat Ali Khan Umrani, Dr. Tariq Soomro and others protested and said that the incompetent officials of WAPDA Over 600,000 people in the district have been brutalized, especially by WAPDA. Load-shedding and over-billing, deduction billing and filing cases against honorable citizens has become the end of oppression, including the businessmen and business community. WAPDA is oppressing the people of every school of thought.

They are struggling with both hands. There is a separate loading of gas. The people who suffer in the heat all day long stay awake at night because of the lack of electricity. After all, why is there such cruelty of Wapda for people? Further said to stop the oppression of the residents and take notice and solve the problems, otherwise the scope of the protest will be increased.

Mishandling of worker TMA employees hold protest Dir

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The employees of tehsil municipal administration Timergara boycotted their official duties and held a protest rally outside the Timergara press club against the torturing and abusing of their colleague by a PTI worker during an anti-encroachment operation in the city here the other day.

The PTI local worker Ameer Muhammad kicked and beat a TMA official Niaz Muhammad in the city the video of which went viral on social media. Protesting against the incident the TMA employees locked their offices and took the street. They gathered outside the Timergara press club. Speaking on the occasion the TMA employees' president Faiz Ali Khan, vice president Shahabud Din and others complained that their colleagues were being disgraced by political activists.

They said the TMA worker was beaten up in front of many people in the market when an anti-encroachment operation was underway. They condemned the incident and demanded the Timergara police to immediately register a case against the

accused. The speakers said the TMA workers would never tolerate such disrespect. Meanwhile the All Sub Engineers' Association's central president Malik Bashir Khan also joined the protesting employees and threatened to give a call for boycott if the accused was not dealt with as per law.

Doctors' training: The medical superintendent of the district headquarters hospital Timergara Dr Ali Asghar told local journalists that local lawmakers had expedited efforts to launch classes at the Timergara Medical College from the next academic session.

He said that a post-graduate training of medical officers (FCPS part II) under the supervision of Dr Qazi Ikram had begun at the facility. The MS said that three trainers in this connection would impart postgraduate training to the undergraduate doctors. The MS said that was the beginning of the Timergara Medical College and he was sure that classes at the college would be commenced here this year.

Missing person: Common citizens and relatives of a missing person Israr Khan, a resident of Shekolai Timergara contin-

ued to protest against his forced disappearance at the Timergara Shaheed Chowk for the fourth consecutive day.

The protesting citizens and relatives threatened to stage a sit-in outside the parliament in Islamabad if the missing person was not traced and produced in a court soon. Speaking on the occasion the Pakistan Tahreek Insaf tehsil president and brother of the missing man Iqbal Tajik, Fawad Alam advocate and others said that Israr Khan was taken away by unknown persons along with his car on July 2, 2013 some 11 years ago and his family knew nothing about his whereabouts. The speakers said the family kept searching for the missing member but to no avail.

He said that Israr Khan was a loyal citizen and his father had served in the Pakistan army for decades. They said the missing person should be presented in a court of law if he was guilty of any offense. The Tajik Milli Ittehad central president Sardar Javed Akhtar and other members of the Ittehad also joined the protesters. They also demanded the government to let the family know about the missing person's whereabouts.

Pak-Afghan agree for joint anti-polio drives

F.P. Report

ZHOB: Coordinator National Emergency Operation Center Muhammad Anwar ul Haq said that effective anti-polio campaigns and improved vaccination coverage can lead to the complete eradication of poliovirus. Beside the polio cases, positive environmental samples have also increased five times this year, but Pakistan is fully committed to win the battle against polio.

He was speaking at a high-level polio eradication meeting at the Commissioner Zhob Division office during his visit to Balochistan. Provincial Coordinator EOC Balochistan Inam ul Haq Qureshi, Deputy Commissioner Mehboob Ahmed Achakzai, Technical Focal Person Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Dr. Najeebullah Marwat, Area Coordinators World

Health Organization Dr. Ayaz Chandio, Dr. Ibrahim Kakar, DHO Dr. Muzaffar Shah, Immunization Officer WHO Dr. Nayyar Luni, Communication Officer ComNet Samad Hariphal, N-Stop Officers Dr. Amin, Dr. Jan Inayatullah, and journalist Rafiullah Mandokhail attended the meeting. The National EOC Coordinator was briefed about the recent polio case in the Sohrab Got area of Zhob.

The NAOC chief said that improving the quality of campaigns is their top priority. Negligence on the part of polio workers and misconceptions that persist in society lead to polio cases. Poliovirus is unlikely to survive in areas where routine immunization is better. Three more anti-polio campaigns will be carried out this year.

"The steps taken in neighboring Afghanistan regarding anti-polio are

worth emulating. We are in close coordination with the Afghan authorities to carry out synchronized campaigns." He said. Replying to a query, Muhammad Anwar ul Haq said that Balochistan is the most important province of Pakistan but faces numerous challenges. Limited resources, scattered populations, and cultural barriers are the major issues, but we will utilize all the resources and capabilities to ensure the complete eradication of poliovirus.

"The children who remained deprived of the vaccine are vulnerable to a poliovirus that cripples them for their entire life. Inattention and misconceptions of the parents are also the contributing factors. Parents should ensure that their loved ones are vaccinated against polio to save them from lifelong disability and burden," he urged the parents.

New insights from UVAS researchers

Dr Khalid Mahmood & Prof. Dr Amjad Riaz

A team from the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore, Department of Theriogenology, has conducted in-depth research into the breeding patterns of mares and the effectiveness of reproductive biotechnologies under subtropical conditions in Pakistan.

The study encompassed Arab, Thoroughbred, and Percheron mares, revealing distinct seasonal and breed-specific reproductive behaviours. Arab mares showed stable breeding activity throughout the year. Thoroughbred mares demonstrated significant seasonal declines in reproductive activity, with the lowest breeding metrics observed during winter.

Percheron mares, however, displayed the most pronounced seasonal effects, with a sharp decrease in winter breeding activities

but high conception rates in the fall.

In exploring equine embryo transfer (EET), the research highlighted the effectiveness of prostaglandin-induced estrus in donor mares, significantly improving embryo recovery rates. The study also found that the synchronization of ovulation between donor and recipient mares significantly influenced the success rates of pregnancies, which is crucial for optimizing EET outcomes. Additionally, the research indicated no substantial difference in pregnancy outcomes between the transfer of fresh and chilled embryos, suggesting flexibility in embryo management.

These findings underscore the need for breed-specific and seasonally-adjusted reproductive management to enhance mare breeding efficiency and success rates of reproductive technologies. This research provides a crucial

foundation for refining breeding programs and advancing the equine industry in Pakistan.

Four held

SARGODHA (APP): District police arrested five criminals with drugs from various parts of the district here on Saturday.

According to a spokesperson, police raided localities and netted Nadeem, Kamran, Riaz, Farooq and Aslam and recovered 1 kg hashish, three pistols and 20 liters of liquor from their possession. An investigation is ongoing.

Meanwhile, a motorcyclist died in a road accident in Johrabad police limits on Saturday. Police sources said that Shoukat Ali was riding a motorcycle when a speeding car coming from the opposite direction hit him near College Chowk. He died on the spot.

Journalists hold meeting IG FC, discuss challenges

F.P. Report

WANA: A delegation of Mehsud Press Club South Waziristan led by President Farooq Mehsud held meeting with Inspector General (IG) Frontier Crops South Major General Haroon Hameed regarding challenges faced by journalists in the region.

The delegation included senior journalist Naseer Azam Mehsud, General Secretary Sikandar Hayat, and Information Secretary Jalal Mehsud. During the meeting Farooq Mehsud highlighted the difficulties encountered by journalists in South Waziristan, including the areas of Tank and Dera Ismail Khan. The dis-

cussions also covered potential solutions to these issues and strategies to prevent the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

Major General Haroon Hameed acknowledged the efforts of the Mehsud Press Club and praised their initiatives in this regard. He emphasized the crucial role of journalists in fostering an informed society, describing them as the "eyes and ears" of the community. He assured the delegation that journalists in South Waziristan could perform their duties without fear, as the FC South is committed to ensuring a supportive environment for the media.

Furthermore, IG FC

South encouraged journalists to highlight the beauty, traditions, and tourism potential of South Waziristan through their reporting. He stressed that by focusing on the region's positive aspects, journalists could significantly contribute to the area's development and prosperity.

As a token of appreciation, the Mehsud Press Club presented a souvenir to Major General Hameed, acknowledging his pivotal role in the construction of the Press Club's building in Laddha, South Waziristan. The club expressed gratitude for his support and commitment to facilitating the work of journalists in the region.



QUETTA: A view of gypsy people living near railway track at Koila Phattak locality.

Microplastics – An environmental concern

Ifrah Zahoor, Dr Sidra Safdar, Prof Arshad Javid & Dr Shahid Mehmood

A team of researchers from UVAS Lahore has studied the growing concern about microplastics (MPs) in the environment and their potential impact on health. Despite some scientists arguing that the levels of MPs and nanoplastics (NPs) in the environment are too low to cause harm, this research sought to directly assess their effects on health by examining how different doses of polystyrene microplastics (PS-MPs) affect Albino mice.

In the study, the mice were fed diets mixed with specified amounts of PS-MPs to observe any health changes. Over five weeks, the team closely monitored the mice for any signs of health deterioration. Remarkably, all mice survived the duration of the experiment without any significant weight loss; in fact, some groups showed slight weight gains.

One notable finding was that a large portion of the microplastics remained inside the mice, suggesting potential internal issues. After the observation period, the researchers humanely euthanized the mice to study their internal organs. They found signs of stress and

damage in various organs, including the liver and kidneys, which varied with the amount of microplastics in the diets. For their analysis, the researchers examined the tissue samples from vital organs under the microscope and observed more severe damage in mice that had consumed higher doses of microplastics.

This study sheds light on the real risks associated with microplastic exposure, which is particularly relevant given the widespread use of polystyrene in everyday items like food containers. There is a need for more research and better regulatory measures to protect both the environment and public health.

Bannu Pason demands fulfilled due to public unity for peace

F.P. Report

BANNU: The sit-in of Bannu residents for restoration of sustainable peace and the approval of all the demands of the historic peace march is the result of the unity and agreement of the nation. Mirakhel House has given blood sacrifices for the rights of the Bannu in every era.

These views were expressed by the prominent political and social figure Malik Niaz Ali Khan Mirakhel, the leader of the Mirakhel nations, while talking to the media representatives at the Bannu Press Club. That the protest dharna and peaceful march that has been going on for a week under the leadership

of Bannu Aman Qaumi Jirga, Bannu business organizations, political parties and civil society is the fruit of the unity and agreement of the nation on all the demands.

The presence and positive role of Minister Malik Pakhtun Yar Khan will always live in the hearts of the nation.



More than 180,000 displaced from Gaza’s Khan Younis in four days, UN says

NEW YORK: More than 180,000 Palestinians have fled bombardment around the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis in four days, the United Nations has said. Recent “intensified hostilities” in the Khan Younis area, more than nine months into the Israeli war, have fuelled “new waves of internal displacement across Gaza”, said the UN humanitarian agency OCHA.

It said that “about 182,000 people” have been displaced from central and eastern Khan Younis, while “hundreds of other people remain stranded in eastern Khan Younis”. The Israeli military on Monday issued evacuation orders for parts of the southern city, announcing its forces would “forcefully operate” there, including in an area previously declared a safe humanitarian zone.

Earlier, an Al Jazeera team in Deir el-Balah reported that at least 18 people were killed in Israeli air raids on Khan Younis. Al Jazeera’s Hind Khoudary, reporting from Deir el-Balah in central Gaza, reported that people injured in the attacks could not be reached “because the Israeli military did not give them time to evacuate after ordering the evacuation”.

“People who managed to evacuate are on the streets; they did not have time to gather their belongings,” she said. “They are suffering from the heat, the diseases spreading, and the poor hygienic conditions causing skin rashes and other issues,” Khoudary

noted. Two more deaths were reported in Gaza City in the north and one death in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the centre of the enclave, according to Al Jazeera’s team on the ground.

Al Jazeera’s Tareq Abu Azzoum in Deir el-Balah reported that Israeli warplanes also bombed the eastern areas of the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza. Israel’s military said in a statement that troops battled Palestinian fighters in Khan Younis and destroyed tunnels and other infrastructure, as they sought to suppress small units that have continued to hit troops with mortar fire. The military said troops had killed about 100 Palestinian fighters since Israeli troops began their latest operation in Khan Younis on Monday, which continued as pressure mounted for a deal to halt the fighting.

It said seven small units that had been firing mortars at the troops were hit in an air raid, while further south, in Rafah, four fighters were also killed in air raids.

A Telegram channel operated by the armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the two main armed groups in Gaza, said fighters had been waging fierce battles with Israeli troops east of Khan Younis with machineguns, mortars and anti-tank weapons. Palestine’s UN envoy Riyad Mansour slammed the UN Security Council (UNSC) for failing to secure a ceasefire and bring an end to Israel’s nine-month-old war on the Gaza Strip.

“We have collectively failed. This council has failed,” the Palestinian envoy said during a special council session on the humanitarian response in Gaza. “We can continue counting aid trucks and speaking of routes and imagining alternatives, but the only true measure of our success is our ability to alleviate human suffering – and the suffering of Palestinians is Israel’s goal and desire,” Mansour said.

“Whatever solutions you come up with, [Israel] will continue ensuring they fail until it is forced to change course. And the first, indispensable step is an immediate ceasefire.” Israeli UN Ambassador Gilad Erdan began his address to the UNSC by retelling the story of his family’s extermination at the hands of the Nazis.

“To this time of unfathomable hatred, we refer to as ‘never again’,” he said. “Yet, never again happened again.” Erdan said this time, the perpetrators of the October 7 attacks were “Hamas Nazis” who had the objective of exterminating the Jews. “We will defend ourselves from those who seek to annihilate us,” he said. At least 39,175 people have been killed and 90,403 injured in Israel’s war on Gaza, according to Palestinian authorities. The death toll in Israel from the Hamas-led attacks on October 7 is estimated at 1,139, with dozens of people still held captive in Gaza. — Aljazeera



GOGA: Residents and volunteers leave for the night after digging in the mud as they searched for survivors and bodies of two landslides in Ehopia.

France travel disruption expected to last for days

PARIS (BBC): French rail company SNCF has warned that disruption sabotage against the country’s train network could last until the end of the week-end and affect hundreds of thousands more passengers. Coordinated arson attacks on three lines of the high-speed TGV network caused chaos for travellers, hours before the opening ceremony for the Paris Olympics. A fourth attack was thwarted by rail workers.

Prime Minister Gabriel Attal described the attacks as “acts of sabotage”. About a quarter of international Eurostar trains were also cancelled, with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer among those affected. In a statement issued, SNCF said traffic “would improve” on affected lines on Saturday thanks to the work of thousands of rail workers.

It said: On the eastern line, trains would run normally from 06:00 (05:00 BST) on Saturday On the northern line, 80% of trains would be running, with delays of 1-2 hours On the south-western line, 60% of trains would be running, with delays of 1-2 hours

The company added that customers whose trains are delayed or cancelled will be contacted by email or text message. Eurostar said it expected about a fifth of services over the weekend would be cancelled, while all trains would face delays of around 1.5 hours. Eurostar services use the northern high-speed line. SNCF said surveillance of the rail network had been strengthened “on land and in the air,” using 1,000 workers and 50 drones.

Junior Transport Minister Patrice Vergriete said around 250,000 people had been affected, while up to 800,000 could face delays and cancellations by Monday. He added that disrupting holiday travel, rather than Olympic opening ceremony, was the most likely aim of the saboteurs. “There is not necessarily a link” with the Olympics, he said in an interview.

My family went to help landslide victims and ended up dead

GOGA (BBC): Meseleth Gosaye, a mother of six, was in her hilltop home in southern Ethiopia’s Gofa district caring for her children when she heard the landslide that left many trapped in the mud. “There were sounds of people screaming and we rushed down the hill,” she said struggling to contain her tears as she remembered what happened on Sunday.

The locality of Kencho Satcha Gozdi, where Ms Meseleth lives, has a number of small villages scattered across the hilly landscape which are at risk of floods and landslides. The string of settlements are characterised by mud-walled, tin-roofed houses, some on or near the top of the lush slopes. Other villages - including the one buried by the landslide - are clustered at the foot of the hills. Heavy rains had preceded Sunday’s disaster making the area’s narrow and slippery footpaths dangerous.

But Ms Meseleth, her husband and some of her children did not hesitate to race towards the site of the accident. “When we reached there, we saw the earth [had swallowed] the houses,” she told the BBC. They joined a throng of villagers who similarly had arrived upon hearing the news and instinctively started digging through the dirt and mud, many of them just with their hands, hoping to rescue those buried underneath.

In the following hours many others came. But they had limited success - a few people were pulled out alive, many more remained trapped. “It was a sad day,” Ms Meseleth said. Seeing that a lot more manpower and effort were required, officials from the locality began mobilising help. The next day, at an emergency meeting, they told every able-bodied adult, and older children, to get any farming tools - such as shovels, axes and hoes - they could get their hands on and work in unison.

The site was inaccessible to vehicles with more heavy-duty lifting equipment. Ms Meseleth’s husband and her two eldest sons - aged 15 and 12 - immediately joined the search-and-rescue efforts. Meanwhile she returned home from the meeting to breastfeed her toddler and cook for her other children. Then she went back downhill to offer help. But what awaited her was a different - and more tragic - scene. There had been a second landslide burying most of those involved in the rescue mission.

Unable to control her emotions, she hastened to the land that engulfed her husband and her children. But someone stopped her reminding her it was still dangerous.

“They said I still had kids at home and I had to survive for them.” In the following hours, news of the double tragedy was heard across the villages and towns close by. Hundreds came to help. Families were scrambling looking for their missing loved ones. Some - including the head of the locality who was mobilising residents after the first landslide - were quickly confirmed dead.

At one point Ms Meseleth “saw diggers pulling someone’s body out. I thought it was my husband. I started helping,” she said. “I thought he was alive. But he had died. He was still holding on to the axe he had when he went to help [those buried in the first landslide].” His face was unrecognisable. To be sure, I checked his chest pocket because I knew he kept his ID card there. It was him. I screamed.” When her husband’s body - along with other recovered corpses - was being moved to somewhere safe Ms Meseleth could not go along as her two sons were still missing.

“I was torn between going and remaining behind.” Later the body of her 12-year-old son was

recovered. Her 15-year-old had not been found at the time she spoke to the BBC. “How I [suffered] giving birth to my children, raising them, educating them. It’s so sad for me,” she said as grief overwhelmed her. But Ms Meseleth is not alone in her grief. Death has knocked on the doors of many of the families here.

Some 257 people are confirmed to have died in the two landslides. An estimate by the UN says that number could reach 500 as more mud is dug up in the coming days. Serawit Yohannes, who has his father and half-brother still missing, told the BBC that because most people have loved ones missing or confirmed dead “not even relatives are helping us dig” as they themselves have “two or three family members they have to look for”. According to the UN, 15,000 people will have to be relocated from these hills to avoid future disasters.

Russia detains ex-deputy defense minister

MOSCOW (AP): A former Russian defense ministry official was arrested on corruption charges, the Russian security services said, the latest in a series of high-profile military arrests. Former Deputy Defense Minister Gen. Dmitry Bulgakov was detained in Moscow and ordered held in custody pending an investigation and trial, Russia’s Investigative Committee said in a statement without giving further details.

Bulgakov was deputy defense minister from 2008 to September 2022, when he was dismissed. He was in charge of logistics at the time, and while the ministry had said that he was taking another job, the move was seen as punishment for flaws in supporting operations in Ukraine.

Rains help firefighters battle blazes in Canada’s Jasper National Park

TORONTO: A wildfire that destroyed about a third of the western Canadian town of Jasper is still out of control but rain and cooler conditions are helping firefighters, authorities said. The town of Jasper is in Alberta’s mountainous Jasper National Park, a major tourist attraction. The town and park, which draw more than two million tourists a year, were evacuated.

“Rain and cooler temperatures and the incredibly hard work of firefighters have resulted in fire activity that is significantly subdued,” said Alberta Premier Danielle Smith. Smith told reporters it is “important to note that the fire is still out of control.” “It remains unsafe for people to return,” she said.

The Jasper “wildfire complex”, which encompasses three separate fires, was estimated to be 36,000 hectares (about 89,000 acres), according to park officials. However, they cautioned that mapping the complex was difficult due to strong winds and “extreme fire behaviour”. Meanwhile, the town council of Jasper said at least 358 of the 1,113 structures within the town - about 32 percent - had been destroyed.

Officials have estimated about

10,000 people were in the town of Jasper and 15,000 visitors were inside the national park when an evacuation was ordered on Monday. David Leoni, one of the thousands of people evacuated, said his family had lost their home of 10 years. “Even a day and a half on from that I’m still feeling very shocked,” he told Canada’s CTV television.

“I will gladly go back in to see what remains ... for me, psychologically, it’s - I think it’s good to have some closure and to see for myself what it’s like.” The fire in the iconic national park, located about 370km (230 miles) west of the provincial capital, Edmonton, has drawn attention to the devastating wildfire season that has come to define the summer months in North America. The blaze was one of hundreds burning in western Canada, propelled by a heatwave and an increase in lightning strikes. At least 166 fires were active in Alberta, according to a government tracker.

Scientists say the global climate crisis has extended the North American wildfire season, with warmer temperatures creating drier conditions that allow fires to quickly

spread. Climate change has also been blamed for an increase in the frequency of lightning strikes. Canada saw its most intense fire season on record in 2023, with more than 6,600 wildfires burning 15 million hectares (about 37 million acres) across the country, an area roughly seven times the annual average. South of Canada’s border, firefighters were also battling a swath of blazes in the western United States, with more than 110 active fires covering 7,250 square kilometres (2,800 square miles) burning.

Those included the Park Fire in California, which had destroyed more than 130 structures after sparking. The blaze, currently the largest in the state, had started after a man pushed a burning car into a gully in the northern city of Chico, authorities said. In Oregon, a search and rescue team confirmed that a tanker plane crash killed a firefighting pilot in Oregon. The plane had disappeared while battling the Falls Fire in the eastern flank of the state. The largest active fire in the US has also been burning in the state, with the Durkee Fire scorching nearly 1,630 square kilometres (630 square miles). — Aljazeera

S Africa police arrest Libyans at ‘illegal’ military camp

CAPE TOWN (AFP): Ninety-five Libyan nationals have been arrested on suspicion of receiving training at an “illegal” military camp in South Africa, police have said. Officers raided the farm in White River - a small town in the northern province of Mpumalanga.

They said they found military tents, licenced firearms and other military equipment. Cannabis and cocaine were also found at the camp, the police said. Officers conducted the raid after receiving intelligence. According to national police spokesperson Athlenda

Mathe, the Libyans allegedly “misrepresented themselves” on their visa applications by saying they would be training as security guards.

The camp was initially registered as a training site for a private security company but it appears to have been converted, a second police spokesperson, Donald Mdhuli, was quoted by the AFP news agency as saying. Mr Mdhuli said the owner of the security company was a South African national and that the police were investigating if he had permission to run the site as a military-

style camp. Along with immigration offences, the Libyans are suspected of other “serious crimes” as the local community has made multiple complaints of rape, Mr Mdhuli said.

“We take any threat to the security and stability of our province and country very seriously,” police commissioner Zeph Mkhwanazi was quoted as saying in a police statement. However, the same statement assured the public that there was “no immediate threat to community safety”. South Africa’s high crime rates have given rise to a huge private security industry.

How deep is the divide between Israel’s military and its government?

GAZA: In Gaza, the Israeli military continues on the offensive, and in the United States, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has spent the past week courting more support for Israel’s assault on the Palestinian enclave. But that apparently shared purpose does not reflect the reality: a growing divide between the generals and the government. And analysts say it means that the initial Israeli unity when it came to the war on Gaza is a thing of the past.

The differences emerge in the open on occasion. Most recently, they have centred on the conscription of Israel’s ultra-Orthodox yeshiva students - the military generals, and many secular Israelis, want them to be drafted like other Jews, but ultra-Orthodox parties opposed to conscription are a vital part of Netanyahu’s cabinet. Of perhaps more consequence to Gaza, however, are differences over the conduct of the war, and how to end it.

In June, the Israeli army spokesperson Daniel Hagari said, “Whoever thinks we can eliminate Hamas is wrong.” The problem is that one of those people is Netanyahu himself, who has clearly made the destruction of Hamas one of his conditions for ending a war that has now killed almost 40,000 Palestinians. That criticism is part of a wider dissent among some leading Israelis - and even Netanyahu’s own defence minister, Yoav Gallant, has questioned whether there are any plans for

ending the war, which began in October. Netanyahu has reserved his own criticism for the army, sharply criticising plans the military had announced, also back in June, for daily “tactical pauses in fighting” to facilitate aid delivery. An Israeli official at the time was quoted as saying that Netanyahu had made clear to the military that it was “unacceptable”.

The differences between the military and Israel’s right-wing political establishment are hardly new, and are particularly rife at the moment because of the presence of the far right within the government. Over the last 20 years or so, far-right settler movements have moved from an outlier on the fringes of Israeli politics to the forefront of Israeli political and institutional life. Former supporters of Jewish movements that are banned as “terrorist” groups now sit in senior ministerial positions, with no attempt to repudiate their former affiliations. In addition to an energised and often aggressive base, the far right’s representatives dominate many of Israel’s institutions, including the police and education system, with their influence over Israel’s traditionally secular army growing more and more apparent.

By repeatedly threatening to walk away and collapse Israel’s electorally vulnerable governing coalition, ultranationalist National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich have come

to exert an effective veto over national policy. That includes any potential ceasefire deal in Gaza - and Netanyahu has chosen to ignore those in the West calling for him to end what is an unpopular war internationally, instead fearing the wrath of the far right more. Netanyahu has his own legal troubles, and losing the protection his current position affords him could be costly.

The far right’s critical view of the army isn’t new. Rather, it stems from the military’s role in the 2005 ejection of the illegal Israeli settlements in Gaza, a move violently resisted by the enclave’s settlers, and their continuing - if sometimes fractious - relationship in the occupied West Bank, officially administered by the army since 1967. “It seems strange, I know,” Eyal Lurie-Pardes of the Middle East Institute said, “but the settler movement has repeatedly accused the military of anti-Jewish bias in the West Bank”. And some of that suspicion goes beyond differences over war policy.

“With its emphasis on balanced genders and the rights of the LGBTQ community, the army is often criticised by settlers and the ultra-Orthodox for what they see as its progressive culture,” Lurie-Pardes said. According to independent Israeli analyst, Nimrod Flaschenberg the religious Zionist and far right’s “march through the institutions” spurred by the 2005 Gaza withdrawal saw a

gradual infiltration into many of the country’s establishments, from the media, to education and the judiciary, but the slow-moving hierarchies of the army are a work in progress.

Their influence in the military is growing, however. In a recent report published by The Guardian, the British newspaper suggested that about 40 percent of the graduates from the army’s infantry officer schools come from headline religious Zionist communities more aligned with the worldview of Ben-Gvir and Smotrich than they do either the ultra-Orthodox Haredim, who avoid military service, or the senior command-ing of the Israeli military’s secular old guard.

“You can see this influence in both Gaza and the West Bank,” Flaschenberg said, referring to the areas - the latter in particular, that Israeli settlers see as theirs by divine right. “You have these lower-ranked and mid-range officers repeating these almost genocidal religious chants, while either turning their backs on, or carrying out horrific rights abuses. All the while, their generals denounce such actions, while doing nothing to prevent them.”

One such notable denunciation came earlier in July from the outgoing Israeli general, Yehuda Fox, who has served in the Israeli army since 1987. He publicly condemned the settler violence, which has claimed dozens of Palestinians in the West

Bank during the course of the war, calling it a “nationalist crime”. And yet, ultimately, criticism from the armed forces of Israeli actions in the West Bank remain few and far between, and the military itself conducts near-daily raids on Palestinian cities, towns and villages, and has even attacked them from the air since October.

The regular ill-treatment of Palestinians under occupation is also rarely, if ever, criticised by the army’s senior leadership. As for the war in Gaza, both the army and the government have been fully supportive of the widespread destruction of Gaza and accepting of the killing of thousands of Palestinians, with the differences largely over tactics and future plans.

At the beginning of July, Gallant told the public the army needed 10,000 additional soldiers immediately if it was to maintain operations. In early June, media reports pointed to shortfalls in both equipment, munitions and troops, with more and more reservists failing to arrive for duty, accounts of tanks entering Gaza only partly equipped, and broken equipment going untended.

The reports also indicated that the army was ready to reach a truce with Hamas if that agreement led to the return of the remaining captives within Gaza. “People are unhappy, but we’re nowhere near reaching a critical mass,” Mairav Zonszein of the

International Crisis Group said. “However, this is the closest to that I can remember. I can’t think of any other time when criticism [on both the army and government sides] was carried out on this scale.”

Nevertheless, across Israeli society, signs of war fatigue are growing. The Israeli association New Profile, which supports Israelis hoping to avoid military service, reports increasing numbers of inquiries from conscripts and reservists eager to avoid serving in the Israeli military. “There’s been an increase in inquiries since October 7,” a spokesperson for the group told Al Jazeera, referring to the start of the conflict.

“We’re seeing more and more reservists turning against the war, or not wanting to return after being traumatised by previous deployments,” the spokesperson said. While far from ready to mutiny, few would suggest that the army isn’t experiencing unparalleled pressure. Understaffed, under-equipped and with no clear victory in sight after almost 10 months of war, the Israeli army nevertheless finds itself fighting on multiple fronts. In Gaza, it retains a monopoly of force. In Lebanon, it threatens and harasses. Yet at home, it finds itself encircled: with the far right taking over its ranks, and the politicians it has pledged to serve accused of prioritising their own ends above those of the army they command. — Aljazeera

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Harris still needs to define herself

A week has always been a long time in politics, but this might have been the longest week in Kamala Harris's life. While Joe Biden is still technically the US president, he already feels irrelevant. All eyes are on Harris now. The speed with which she has gone from being one of the most unpopular vice-presidents in modern history to sitting at the top of the Democratic ticket, with an army of enthusiastic fans behind her, is astounding. Biden's trajectory has been widely compared to a Shakespearean tragedy; Harris's sudden reversal of fortune, meanwhile, is like something out of a fairytale.

A quick recap: Biden dropped out of the race and endorsed Harris on Sunday. The Democratic establishment then threw its weight behind her on Monday. So did hundreds of thousands of donors; Harris's campaign raked in a record-breaking \$81m in just 24 hours. By Tuesday, she had earned enough support from delegates to win the Democratic nomination for president next month. On Wednesday, Democrats approved rules meaning that any Democrat who wants to compete against Harris for the nomination only has days to do so. Then, on Friday, Barack Obama endorsed the vice-president. Her coronation is almost complete.

Importantly, Harris doesn't just have the consolidated support of party elites. She's also got large swathes of social media cheering her on. The woman has undeniably momentum. "kamala IS brat," the British pop star Charli xcx posted on X on Sunday. It may not be on the level of an Obama endorsement but Charli's approval thrust Harris into the middle of the pop-cultural zeitgeist. Charli xcx's new album, Brat, has undoubtedly been the meme of the summer – the album's lime-green aesthetic plastered everywhere.

In fact, soon after Charli's approving tweet, @kamalahq changed its backdrop to brat green. Cue a lot of campaign staff trying to explain to high-ranking Democrats like Nancy Pelosi what on earth is going on. ("Well ma'am, Ms xcx, has defined a 'brat' as 'just like that girl who is a little messy and likes to party and maybe says some dumb things sometimes, who feels herself, but then also maybe has a breakdown, but kind of parties through it'. Yeah, I know that sounds confusing. But trust me when I say it'll help us get out the youth vote.")

Harris's campaign hasn't just embraced the brats, it's leaning hard into all the Kamala memes that have been flooding the internet over the past few weeks, including a lot of coconut-related content. That is not a racial slur, I should make clear to British readers, but rather a reference to a speech the vice-president gave in 2023.

"My mother ... would give us a hard time sometimes," Harris said at a White House event about educational opportunity. "... and she would say to us, 'I don't know what's wrong with you young people. You think you just fell out of a coconut tree?'" She then paused for profundity before continuing with the philosophical bit. "You exist in the context of all in which you live and what came before you."

The coconut quote – which circulated online long before last week – is quintessential Harris: a bewildering series of words that sound like someone typed "come up with a profound sentence" into an early version of ChatGPT. Lines like this have been a liability in the past, used by her detractors to suggest she's unserious. The internet, however, is now turning Harris's unique rhetorical style into an asset. The TikTok mashups and coconut memes have helped inject some much-needed joy and levity into what until now has been an extremely depressing election cycle.

At the moment, Harris seems unstoppable. A new Axios/Generation Lab poll shows she's got a big edge with young voters and another poll has found she's narrowed Donald Trump's lead significantly. Nevertheless, it can't be emphasised enough that we are still very much in the Harris honeymoon phase. People were desperate not to have another Trump-Biden matchup and eager to embrace change of any kind. The question is: can the momentum around Harris be sustained?

There is certainly precedent in US elections when it comes to a woman being rapidly built up, only to be swiftly knocked down. And Republicans are already doing their best to knock Harris down with racist and misogynistic attacks. They've also attacked her record as vice-president, calling her the "border tsar" and blaming her for the migration crisis.

Then there's the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The internet may have positioned Harris as a lovable goofball now but that image will be hard to sustain among young people if she becomes the face of Biden's horrific Gaza policy – which has been deeply unpopular with young people and lost the Democrats a lot of support in the important swing state of Michigan, where there is a large Arab American population.

So far, Harris has been walking a careful tightrope when it comes to Gaza; trying not to alienate progressives while also making sure she isn't branded "anti-Israel". On Wednesday, the vice-president skipped Benjamin Netanyahu's address to Congress and met him privately instead. On Thursday, she said it was time for a ceasefire deal to be done, but also pledged "unwavering" support for Israel. There's only so long she can play both sides, however. She will either continue Biden's policy of letting Israel kill as many Palestinians as it wants, with only meek protestations, or she won't.

Harris will also have to define herself as a candidate more broadly. This has never been one of her strengths and a lack of substance was the undoing of her 2019 attempt to be the Democratic nominee. "She has proved to be an uneven campaigner who changes her message and tactics to little effect and has a staff torn into factions," the New York Times decreed in a November 2019 piece about how her campaign unravelled.

That said, running against her fellow Democrats is very different from running against Trump. While Harris didn't fully shine as the primary candidate or the vice-president, she has the potential to come into her own now. She is the ultimate anti-Trump. She's the prosecutor, he's the felon. He's the old guy, she's the relatively young woman. He represents the US's past, she represents its future. Just a few weeks ago, I was resigned to a Trump win. Now I think the US has a fighting chance of seeing a Madam President. Then again, a week is a long time in politics. And there are still 14 to go before the election.

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The ICJ compelled world to take action against Israel

Abbas-Ali Kadkhodaei

IN recent weeks, the Israeli regime has accelerated its attacks on the core institutions and valued representatives of the United Nations in an effort to conceal the truth about its countless international and humanitarian law violations in Gaza and the rest of the illegally occupied Palestinian territories.

In addition to continuing with its longstanding policy of accusing the UN and its agencies of bias and even "complicity in terror" for criticising its illegal occupation and supporting the internationally recognised rights of the long-suffering Palestinian people, the Zionist regime also launched a personal attack against the UN's much respected Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza, Francesca Albanese.

The regime and its supporters baselessly accused Special Rapporteur Albanese of anti-Israel bias, anti-Semitism and financial improprieties merely because she honourably fulfilled her duty, defended a vulnerable population, exposed Zionist atrocities in Gaza, and demanded that those blatantly violating the human rights of the Palestinians are held to account.

Throughout her mandate, which began in May 2022, the special rapporteur tirelessly highlighted the crimes the Israeli regime has long been committing in the territories it illegally occupies, defended the human rights of Palestinians, including their right to self-determination, and supported all her reports and statements with scientific data from the ground and credible legal arguments. She defined Israel as an apartheid state and in a March 2024 report said that Israel's ongoing assault on Gaza amounts to genocide. She also repeatedly emphasised the need for Palestine to be recognised as a sovereign state and Israel to be officially designated as an occupying regime for the human rights violations in Palestine to come to an end.

Her position has always been clear: Palestinians have been living under the Zionist regime's illegal, violent occupation for more than 50 years, deprived of their freedom

of movement and denied access to their most basic rights and natural resources. The international community must take immediate action to end the regime's apartheid practices and ethnic cleansing. It should enforce international norms and urgently act to defend the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Israel has been pointing to these stances when mounting its accusations of bias against Special Rapporteur Albanese. However, everything she has stated about Palestine is supported by leading international scholars, prominent NGOs, and recently, were explicitly approved by the International Court of Justice – the world's highest judicial body.

Indeed, in its landmark advisory opinion issued on July 19, 2024, on the "legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem", the World Court ruled that Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful and should come to an end "as rapidly as possible". And it further affirmed the rights of Palestinians who have endured decades of systematic human rights violations as a result of this unlawful occupation.

The court not only recognised the Israeli regime's ongoing occupation of Palestine and persecution of a defenceless people as a clear threat to international peace and security but also officially acknowledged the fact that the Zionist regime is committing the crime of racial discrimination and apartheid against Palestinians.

The advisory opinion was also a vindication of the work many other UN officials and special rapporteurs have done on the occupation in the past and a rebuke of the Israeli regime's attacks against them. Indeed, Special Rapporteur Albanese is hardly the first UN official targeted, maligned and prevented from efficiently fulfilling their mandate by the Israeli regime for the "crime" of exposing Israeli atrocities and standing up for the rights of the Palestinian people.

The regime, for exam-

ple, levelled accusations of anti-Israel bias at and persistently denied entry to Albanese's predecessor, Michael Lynk, who was the UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory between 2016-2022. Like Albanese, Lynk had equated illegal Israeli settlements to a war crime, accused Israel of apartheid practices against the Palestinians and called on economic sanctions on the Israeli regime. Richard Falk, who held the same role between 2008 and 2014 was also barred from entering the occupied territories for speaking the truth and exposing the regime's unlawful practices. Makarim Wibisono, another former UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory (2014-2016), meanwhile, was forced to resign from the position before completing his mandate due to Israeli pressure.

The regime's efforts to evade scrutiny and accountability for its widespread human rights violations by targeting UN officials performing their duties was not limited to the targeting of special rapporteurs either. It also routinely denied access to UN fact-finding missions tasked with examining the human rights situation in the occupied territories.

In 2020, the Israeli regime refused to renew the visas of staff members of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and consequently expelled 15 international OHCHR staff members from the occupied territories.

After consequent requests for visas by the office were ignored for two years, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachet issued a statement in August 2022 condemning the regime's behaviour. "Israel's treatment of our staff is part of a wider and worrying trend to block human rights access to the occupied Palestinian territory," she said. "This raises the question of what exactly the Israeli authorities are trying to hide."

Looking at the Israeli regime's long history of preventing the UN's

human rights officials from accessing the occupied territories, makes it clear that its ongoing accusations against UN agencies and Special Rapporteur Albanese are merely a continuation of a long term policy of inflicting costs on officials and experts exposing its crimes. The aim of this strategy is to evade punishment for blatant violations of international law and prevent the international community from rising against this criminal regime in support of the Palestinian people.

The ICJ's landmark advisory opinion published on July 19, however, ensured that this strategy can no longer yield the intended results. After the World Court made its position on the issue clear, and declared the Israeli occupation unlawful and the regime's treatment of Palestinians unacceptable, efforts to silence and intimidate UN special rapporteurs can no longer shield Israel's criminal behaviour from international attention and condemnation.

It should be added that the ICJ, in its advisory opinion, has placed the responsibility for ending the Israeli regime's flagrant violations of international law on the United Nations and all its member states. This is a serious wake-up call, especially for governments that have had made it their clear and open policy to defend the Zionist regime's ongoing crimes, which the World Court clearly said must be stopped immediately. The countries that have not listened to Special Rapporteur Albanese and her predecessors in the past better start paying attention and act accordingly now that the ICJ has officially reached the same conclusions on Israel's occupation as they did.

Indeed, all states and international organisations have a duty to react and express unequivocal condemnation in the face of a state's blatant breach of international law and attacks on the UN and its representatives, like Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese. The consequence of neglecting this important matter any longer, especially after the ICJ's landmark advisory opinion, will be the further weakening of the credibility of the current supposedly rules-based world order.

Trump is a misogynistic, billionaire felon

Stephen Reicher

THERE is no such thing as a universal leader. Leaders always represent a specific social group: a political party, a religion or a social movement. The more they are loved by insiders, the more such adulation seems bizarre and inexplicable to outsiders – to the extent that we often dismiss adoring followers as deluded or deplorable in some way. Think Margaret Thatcher, or Jeremy Corbyn, or Boris Johnson.

But perhaps the greatest enigma of contemporary politics concerns Donald Trump – a man who elicits messianic fever and revulsion in equal measure. A liar and serial philanderer championed by evangelists; a felon supported by "law and order" enthusiasts; a man who boasts of groping women and yet was elected with a majority of white women voters; a billionaire who likes posing in the golden lift of his New York skyscraper while also posing as the champion of the working class. How on earth does any of this make sense? Yet, at the same time, how can Kamala Harris – if, as is near-certain, she is crowned the Democratic nominee – hope to win in November unless she is able to make sense of it?

The problem is that this is the perspective of outsiders. They presuppose the groups and identities (religion, gender, class) through which people view Trump. They assume, for instance, that women vote as women on the basis of women's interests rather than explore the perspectives and identities through which Trump's followers and Trump himself define their interests. That is, how they divide the world into "us" and "them".

For skilled leaders don't just represent groups. They play a key part in defining the groups they seek to lead and then in representing themselves as being "of" the group, working for the group and delivering to the group. Or rather, as I argue with my co-authors in our book *The New Psychology of Leadership*, effective leaders have to be skilled "entrepreneurs of identity". And, love him or loathe him, Donald Trump is on the brink of power (again) because he is one hell of an entrepreneur of identity.

Trump's view of "us" and "them" is at its clearest in his Argument for America, the ad with which he concluded his successful 2016 presidential campaign. It is quite compelling in the way of something that you know is bad for you but you can't tear yourself away from. It is entirely repetitive, like a drumbeat, organised around an antagonism between "the establishment" and "the American people" culminating in the assertion: "I am doing this for the people and for the movement, and we will take back this country for you and we will make America great again."

This contrast between "the establishment" and "the people" is, of course, a classic populist trope. Trump's version is distinctive in three ways. The first is the elasticity of "the establishment", which includes outsiders (Chinese, immigrants, globalists), conventional politicians (the Washington "swamp") and anyone who opposes him

(the media, judges, scientists). The second is his autocratic assertion of agency. Unlike Obama's empowering "yes we can", Trump implies that people themselves can't buck the establishment alone. They need him as their saviour. Trump is more "yes I can". The third is that "the people" are defined in national/cultural (and implicitly racial) rather than class terms.

This last is critical because it allows Trump to use his great wealth to connect himself to the people rather than it serving to distance him. He and his family are portrayed as rough and ready "ordinary guys" whose success exemplifies the American dream. And it's not just that he uses his wealth to make himself "one of us". It also allows him to claim that he works "for the people" while his opponents can be bought and are "controlled fully by the lobbyists, by the donors and by the special interests". In his 2015 presidential inauguration speech Trump claims that he, by contrast, turned down a \$4bn loan from a big bank, signalling his supposed independence from corporate interests. His wealth ensures he will both work for the people and that he will deliver the people from their foes. He is the one they have been waiting for to make them great again: a messiah complex only strengthened by the recent assassination attempt and Trump's defiant response to it.

Trump's success is not just a matter of what he says, but also of what he does. And this takes us to a key aspect of the Trump enigma. How come his endless gaffes, his crude speech, his glowering presence, his rambling rants and his endless misdemeanours do not destroy him, as they have other candidates? The answer is that if you define yourself in contrast to the political establishment, the breaking of the rules of politics affirms your identity. It shows that "I am not one of them – I am one of us." A bit crude, perhaps. A bit rough around the edges. But self-evidently one of the people.

In sum, Trump thrives because of, not despite, his violations. Each time he is upbraided for them, he simply doubles down by rejecting his critics (whether journalists, lawyers or judges) as part of the establishment – an ever-radicalising politics of transgression. Moreover, rather than be ashamed by the ensuing criticisms and sanctions, he and many of his supporters parade them as proof that they are willing to suffer establishment attacks on behalf of the people. "Felon" becomes a badge of honour, and "I support the felon" becomes a popular meme.

Trump's success in 2016 was in part due to the fact that he understood (and exploited) these identity leadership processes and Hillary Clinton did not. Indeed by branding Trump supporters "deplorables", she bolstered his narrative of establishment derision of ordinary people. The burning question for 2024 is whether Kamala Harris has any more insight into Trump's appeal and can address the deep disillusion with the political class and puncture Trump's claim to be of, and to deliver for, the people.

For a fair world, stand with Palestine

Selcuk Bayraktar

livestreamed genocide in history. The kind of suffering currently unfolding in Palestine is unprecedented. The Palestinian people, who have been resisting injustice for 75 years, are now daring to survive in front of a global audience. The Palestinian people's resistance is emblematic of a broader human struggle for justice, as captured in one of my favourite poems, "Soon the Sun will rise" by Erdem Bayazit: "You are the heroes of humanity resisting amid steel gears."

It is an undeniable fact that the struggle for justice and the fight for a better world are perennial themes that resonate deeply in our collective consciousness. As one particularly poignant line from another favourite poem, Ismet Ozel's "Life My Darling", relates: "What I know is that living means fighting under a clear sky for the love of children." This

imperative is not just a theoretical ideal but a practical necessity that humanity must embrace to avert the recurrence of historical atrocities and to ensure a just and peaceful world.

Some 20 years ago, when I was a research assistant at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a group of students came together to raise awareness about the Palestinian struggle. We would put up posters, screen informative films, and distribute brochures. Apathy, which stops the international community from taking meaningful action today, manifested itself then in the form of the following questions: What is this going to change? Will this help stop the bleeding after decades?

This scepticism was understandable but ultimately misplaced. The impact of seemingly insignificant actions is not always immediate or visible, but they contribute to a

broader movement of awareness and change. Indeed, thank Allah, protests have swept through the United States and Europe, including the world's most prestigious schools like Harvard, MIT, Columbia and others.

Our actions, whether through organised events or individual efforts, contribute to the broader struggle for justice. We are not merely passive observers but active participants in shaping the moral fabric of our society. The changes we seek must begin within ourselves. As I told my friends two decades ago, the resistance and struggle are not just for the heroes on the front lines, but for the rest of us, to transform our own indifference into action.

The ultimate goal is to foster a world where our children can grow up in safety and dignity. This requires a collective effort to uphold justice, challenge oppression, and promote peace. The poem continues: "For if we do not fight, the loaf we split at mealtimes,

the warm bits of my childhood, would, like most wounds, spread across the soil, our flesh would rot and make the entire sky stink."

Unless we act now, this will be the result. So, what will it take for humanity to abandon laying the groundwork for such an apocalypse? Let us keep reciting the poem: "The world is turning with incorruptible stubbornness, as stars are being spread beneath us and my face rushes to the water And the Revelation" The Palestinians are fulfilling their duty by resisting. It is the rest of us that need to change. All of us – not just the handful of people already standing up for justice in Palestine. The world cannot be saved unless and until the rest changes. Let us today take the tiniest step towards doing the smallest amount of good so that, in two decades' time, we can tell our children that we stood up for what was right for a fair world.

Aljazeera

Global efforts needed to curb right wing’s rise

Song Ping

IN the second round of election to the French National Assembly on July 7, the left-wing alliance, the "New Popular Front", secured a surprising victory with 182 seats, preventing the far right, which had taken a commanding lead in the first round, from controlling the French parliament. However, with no party gaining an absolute majority — the majority mark being 289 — France now has a "hung parliament", a state of political limbo.

The French election results reflect the broader political trend in the West: the rise of right-wing forces, deepening political divisions, and the fragility of the conventional party structure. Over the past decade, Western countries have witnessed transformative events reshaping their political landscapes. In 2016, Donald Trump became the unexpected winner in the United States' presidential election, marking the onset of extremism and populism in US politics.

Similarly, the Brexit referendum in 2016 prompted the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, shaking the foundation of European integration. In Germany, the five-year-old Alternative for Germany became the third-largest party in the Bundestag, the country's parliament, in 2017. And on Jan 6, 2021, the Capitol was stormed by a partisan mob of fervent supporters of Trump in what many considered an attempted coup.

Toward the end of last year, the far-right Dutch Party for Freedom unexpectedly won the parliamentary elections, further reflecting the European trend of increasing political extremism. And the apparent assassination attempt on Trump in Pennsylvania recently highlighted the deep political division in the US. These events represent the drastic changes in global politics, exacerbated by the surge of the

right wing before and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Globalization and technological advancements have boosted economic growth but also widened disparities, marginalizing many lower — and middle-class voters, many of whom tend to support extreme political groups in the hope that they will arrest their declining fortunes. Besides, mass migration has intensified cultural conflicts and social tensions, as

inequality, regional conflicts and food insecurity. And many less-developed countries are struggling to import enough food to feed their people, exacerbating the hunger and malnutrition crises.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned in February that climate change and the food crisis are serious and mounting threats to global peace and security. He said: "Without action, the situation will deteriorate. Conflicts are multiply-

bolster global cooperation, and work together to reform the global governance system to promote fairness, equity and justice, in order to address common challenges such as climate change.

Yet the political developments in Western countries have made it increasingly difficult to forge effective collective response mechanisms. With just six years remaining to achieve the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainability, the urgency for action has never been greater. Against this background, the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind, proposed by the Chinese top leader in 2013, has assumed greater importance and has been recognized by the international community.

The concept emphasizes cooperation, mutual benefit and common development, and the need to foster inclusive and sustainable global governance. Only through concerted efforts can countries build a more stable, secure and sustainable future. Countries across the world should strengthen dialogue, foster mutual understanding and align common interests to bridge the divides and establish a new type of international relations. In this process, visionary leadership and robust international cooperation are indispensable. Governments, international organizations and civil society must work together to address these pressing issues. Building resilience to future crises, ensuring equitable access to resources for all and promoting sustainable development are more than necessary.

That, as China advocates, would require all countries to commit to multilateralism, and adhere to international laws in global initiatives. In today's turbulent times, solidarity and cooperation among countries, grounded in the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind, will be crucial for shaping a more inclusive and resilient global order.

From boomers to Gen Z, the real generation gap

Peter Harrison

AS we grow older, there are two certainties in life: firstly, that the generation above you will tell you you're still young and have a lot to learn — this continues well into your latter years. And then there are the members of the multiple generations born after you, who will, to varying degrees, accuse you of not understanding the world like they do and not knowing how hard they have it or how easy it apparently was for you.

This is not unique to one part of the world or a specific generation, it is a global phenomenon. I have been told by people from all continents that my generation has had it easy, that as a Western European I come from a position of privilege — basing their argument on the color of my skin and my accent.

Many young people everywhere believe that the older generations simply do not care about the things that matter — it is one of the many rites of passage — and, to a degree, they are right; I have found that, the older I get, the more selective I have become about what I deem to be matters of importance. My test is largely, although not exclusively, built around the question: can I do anything about it?

Life is short, anyone older than 40 will tell you that (and then the people in their 60s and older will tell you that you don't understand), and that filter is important if you are to make it through this life without suffering too much anxiety. Don't worry, millennials have been on their journey of realizing this for at least the last decade. Some might argue that those in Generation Z have not yet discovered what they have waiting around the corner — but none of us did.

What we do know is that mental health has become an increasingly large issue and we do not know if that is due to an actual increase or if people are just talking about it more. In March, UK daily The Guardian wrote: "Instead of taking seriously the idea that a mental health crisis was developing, it was far easier to re-ink some clichés about work-shy snowflakes and generation sicknote." The article went on to say that Gen Zers were not the only people to receive these insults. Indeed, they "have been leveled at every generation, from those now labeled millennials, Generation X, baby boomers and the Silent Generation, and even as far back as Horace and Aristotle in ancient times."

But why is Gen Z suffering so much? The report went on to suggest that one in three 18 to 24-year-olds have suffered symptoms indicat-

ing a common mental health problem, such as depression or anxiety disorder, compared with one in four in 2000. The problem is that we Generation Xers and older did have it easier, just not in the way the younger generations might think.

Our childhoods were spent playing outside with our friends — we would go exploring, play football and tag, dig a hole in the dirt just for the sake of it. We would watch television shows at the same time as each other and talk about them the next day in the playground. We would sit down as a family and eat together — it was a much more inclusive time.

By the time millennials and Gen Z came along, there was much more isolation. Video gaming, which previously involved groups of friends sitting together, became something that was done individually on tablets and smartphones. Watching television was no longer a group activity — binge-watching means no one is watching the same program at the same time. Social media became the main source of information and scrolling aimlessly became a habit that some might say is as addictive as smoking.

I was once chastised by a younger colleague I was connected with on social media after I mentioned something they had posted. "You should never talk to someone about something they've posted online, that's just weird," they said. I asked what the point in sharing stuff was if you were not meant to talk about it, but I have never found out.

In Japan, this opting out of society, which so many young adults do, even has a name: "hikikomori." It is a condition — a way of life — where people separate themselves from the outside world, something that was aggravated by COVID-19 and, even now, people are still suffering. In Japan, the problem is so bad that there are concerns for the economy and even the country's plummeting birth rate. It is well documented that the increasingly sedentary life we lead is going to kill us at a much younger age unless we do more to combat it. Earlier this year, Newsweek ran an article on Gen Z's "loneliness problem." It stated that studies consistently showed higher rates of social media use were associated with poor mental health, while adding that Gen Z was the most digitally connected generation yet.

But the report added a cautionary note that "they grew up with false social media realities thrown at them and may struggle to disconnect from the constant d o o m s c r o l l i n g ." Thriveworks counselor

Alexandra Cromer was quoted as saying that "many Gen Z and millennials do cite social media and the internet both as a way to foster connection, but also as something that can cause disconnectedness." She added: "While it's easy to reach out to someone on technology, it's equally as easy to see your peers attending an event you weren't invited to or doing things and having experiences that you've never had."

The baby boomers — my parents' generation — are old enough to remember the news reels they saw at the cinema, having sneaked in, and the footage of Holocaust victims stands firm for them like the daily images of dead Palestinian children we see today.

Through my early years, the television carried news of the war in Vietnam. It was not live or especially recent, but the small amount of images available were iconic and disturbing. But I did not know what I was watching. I was only four, and my parents had complete control. Then the Falklands War happened and we saw footage of ships being blown up and injured soldiers; again, it was just watching on television, our parents the eternal censors.

The attack on the Twin Towers and the wars that followed became more live, more available. Today, all generations can see the horrific images coming out of Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine. The older generations voice their support or concerns through voting, while some younger people have shown their despair through the apathy of not voting. In the UK, some did not even register — their vote was not spoiled, it was nonexistent.

But we should not write off generations, millennials and Gen Zers will be our future world leaders and CEOs. They have gone out on the streets of Western cities and protested in great numbers for causes that have not directly impacted them, while the older generations only marched when it impacted them directly — except on rare occasions like the 2003 Stop the War march in London as Tony Blair was preparing to send British troops into Iraq. Young 20-somethings are having conversations about Gaza and they are actively identifying and boycotting products they believe are contributing to the ongoing suffering. They are talking about issues that so many older people would simply respond to with an "if only there was something I could do." Generation Alpha — today's children — appear eloquent and interested, or at least the ones I have met do. Maybe we should all learn from them and talk more.

How united American support for Netanyahu has ebbed away

Kerry Boyd Anderson

BE N J A M I N Netanyahu's address to the US Congress last week demonstrated the closeness of the US-Israel relationship and his personal popularity with some members of the legislature, but protesters inside and outside the Capitol also provided a historic display of opposition to the Israeli prime minister and how he has conducted the war in Gaza.

Few foreign leaders are invited to speak to a joint session of Congress: this was Netanyahu's fourth time, more than any other leader — a sign of both his political longevity and the nature of the US-Israel relationship. His fiery oration was punctuated by a series of standing ovations from Republican members of Congress. Later, he held discussions at the White House with President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, and in Florida with former President Donald Trump.

While his trip demonstrated Netanyahu's significant influence in Washington, the protests surrounding it highlighted a changing reality in US foreign policy: Republicans remain firmly behind Israel and its current leadership, while Democrats increasingly object to Netanyahu and are questioning the US relationship with his country. Some Democrats remain unconditionally pro-Israel and continue to embrace Netanyahu, but some younger or more progressive Democrats have become strongly critical, and some traditional Democratic allies of Israel are more open than in the past to publicly questioning Israeli leadership.

About half of Democratic members of Congress boycotted Netanyahu's speech, including strong critics of Israel's conduct in Gaza such as high-profile progressives Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Elizabeth Warren. Other Democrats who did not attend remain broadly pro-Israel but are fed up with Netanyahu: they include former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Representative Jim Clyburn and Senator Dick Durbin.

Bipartisan congressional support for Netanyahu was slipping even before the Gaza war. In 2015, he addressed a joint session at the invitation of Republican leaders, but Democrats widely saw his speech as a snub directed at President Barack Obama, particularly as Netanyahu spoke out against the nuclear deal with Iran. Some Democrats refused to attend for that reason.

The devastating nature of the war in Gaza, combined with other factors, has exacerbated a partisan divide in attitudes toward Israel in general and Netanyahu in particular. That was starkly clear on Wednesday, as only one Republican member of Congress boycotted the speech while nearly half of Democrats did. Furthermore, some of the Democrats who attended did so reluctantly, saying they supported Israel but opposed Netanyahu. Few joined in the standing ovations. Representative Rashida Tlaib, the only Palestinian American in Congress, attended only as a form of protest, wearing a

keffiyeh and holding up protest signs.

Beyond Congress, thousands of Americans gathered in Washington to protest against the prime minister's visit, to call for an end to the war and the release of hostages, and to oppose arming Israel with US weapons. Most of the protests were planned and coordinated with authorities, and proceeded peacefully. There were a few clashes with law enforcement that involved the use of pepper spray and led to a few arrests: among those detained were relatives of hostages in Gaza who believe Netanyahu is intentionally preventing a hostage release and ceasefire deal with Hamas to protect his own political interests. Many anti-Netanyahu protesters inside Israel believe the same.

In his speech, Netanyahu excoriated the protesters, who he accused of standing with Hamas and of being "Iran's useful idiots." He said they "should be ashamed of themselves" and denigrated their understanding of geography and history. Republicans applauded loudly, particularly at his accusations against Iran. Some also strongly criticized members of Congress who protested, and other protesters too.

If Republicans win the White House and do well in Congress in November's elections, Washington is likely to remain firmly behind Israel and probably behind Netanyahu, although Trump's relationship with Netanyahu is complicated. If the Democrats win, there is potential for substantive change.

Arab News

Biden’s last-minute exit sets up unpredictable new race with few parallels

US President Joe Biden's decision to not seek a second term has upended the 2024 presidential race, leading to an unpredictable and possibly chaotic nominating process with few parallels in modern US history. Biden announced Sunday he would step aside and endorsed his vice president, Kamala Harris, succumbing to weeks of pressure from Democratic Party colleagues concerned about his age and mental fitness. Biden's decision isn't unprecedented. Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968 and Harry S. Truman in 1952 also started re-election bids and then withdrew from the race.

However, both of those men dropped out much earlier in the election cycle, giving their parties more time to reorganize and strategize for the general election. In contrast, Biden's withdrawal came after the primary voting process had concluded, and less than a month before the Democratic National Convention, where he was set to be formally nominated.

No US presidential candidate has ever dropped out so late in the race, said Peter Loge, a professor at George Washington University, who called Biden's decision "absolutely historic." "The US political system isn't like most of the rest of the world. Our elections are endless - and endlessly expensive," Loge said. "Suddenly it feels like we're having a snap election in the way that they've had in the U.K. recently." While Biden's exit set off a last-minute scramble to appoint a new nominee, senior Democratic Party leaders quickly tried to coalesce around Harris.

In the hours after Biden's withdrawal,

a wide range of high-profile Democrats, including some who had been seen as potential presidential contenders, endorsed Harris, saying it was important that the party unite to defeat former president Donald Trump, the Republican Party nominee. Sufficient support for Harris could prevent a scenario known as an open convention, in which there is no predetermined nominee at the start of the gathering. Some observers warn such an outcome could be highly divisive and uncontrollable.

"Perhaps you don't want a convention that is completely open because it tears the party apart, as opposed to rallying around one particular candidate," said Gary Schmitt, a political scientist and senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. "The next few days are pretty critical [in terms of] how much the Democratic pollsters and donors rally behind Harris or not," he added.

In normal years, almost any uncertainty regarding a party's presidential pick is resolved before its convention. Since the 1970s, the conventions have been preceded by a series of state-by-state elections, known as primaries, which effectively determine the party's presidential nominee.

To win the nomination, a presidential candidate must secure a majority of party delegates, who are apportioned according to the outcome of each state's primary. Those delegates then attend the convention, where they effectively ratify the voters' choice. As a result, party conventions have become tightly scripted, made-for-

TV events, with passionate political speeches and celebrity performances typically overshadowing the largely perfunctory presidential nomination process.

However, when Democratic delegates gather in Chicago on August 19, the details may matter. The overwhelming majority of Democratic Party delegates - about 3,900 - had already been secured by Biden. But after Biden dropped out, his delegates will now be freed to support whomever they choose. In an open convention scenario, any candidate would be eligible to run if they can first secure the signatures of 300 delegates. All delegates would then participate in a first round of voting. If no candidate receives a majority of delegates, the convention would head to an even more contentious setup known as a "brokered convention," in which candidates and influential party figures attempt to win over delegates during mostly private negotiations.

However, some reports suggest the party may attempt to avoid that outcome by holding a virtual vote or by finding another way to essentially lock in Harris or another candidate as the nominee before the convention. In a statement Sunday, the Democratic National Committee, which organizes the convention, vowed a "transparent and orderly process," which will be governed by "established rules and procedures." Depending on the outcome, there are potential concerns about legitimacy. For the first time in decades, a presidential nominee will not have been chosen directly by voters.

However, such concerns may be

lessened if Harris becomes the nominee, since she appeared on primary ballots as Biden's running mate, said Thomas Schwartz, a historian and professor at Vanderbilt University. If Harris doesn't win the nomination, that could create resentment among some of her supporters, Schwartz added. "It could cause issues because as an African American woman, and an Asian woman, the idea that they were sort of changing the rules, that could provoke some unrest among some of the party's strongest supporters," Schwartz said.

"So, I do think an open convention poses a question of legitimacy, even if it would I think in other ways be somewhat exciting and may perhaps actually restore some momentum for Democrats," he added. Recent opinion polls have shown Trump with a growing lead against Biden, even in so-called swing states that could sway the outcome of the election. If history is any indication, there is no guarantee that Democrats will improve their fortunes by switching candidates.

When Truman and Johnson - both Democrats - dropped out of the race, their party went on to choose new candidates, both of whom later lost to their Republican challenger. Jennifer Mercieca, a scholar of presidential rhetoric at Texas A&M University, says the situation is highly uncertain, except for the fact that there will likely be significant power struggles behind the scenes. "It's all speculation at this point," she said. "We have no idea - we haven't seen anything like this before."

VOA

Addressing food security with innovation and partnerships

Juan Carlos Motamayor

FOOD security is an urgent global challenge, amplified by supply-chain disruptions and climate change. In water-scarce regions like Saudi Arabia, which are sub-optimal for growing crops, the issue is increasingly relevant. According to the World Bank, more than 40 percent of the global population already face water scarcity, intensified by the impact of rising average temperatures. However, with these challenges come opportunities for innovation. Pioneering solutions implemented at NEOM — the smart city taking shape on Saudi Arabia's northwestern coastline — will help transform how we produce, supply, and consume food in the world's driest regions.

At Topian, the NEOM food company, we are innovating to address food security, envisioning a future where sustainably produced food improves nutrition, benefits the planet, and contributes to the economy. Our approach is multifaceted, leveraging technology and fostering collaboration across a spectrum of stakeholders to enable sustainable food production and promote healthy consumption in Saudi Arabia and the

Middle East.

At the heart of our strategy lies a commitment to piloting and scaling up solutions and integrating them into commercially viable research and innovation efforts in food production. At the national level, we collaborate with government partners and esteemed institutions, including Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, the University of Tabuk, and the National Research and Development Center for Sustainable Agriculture — Estidamah.

Scaling technologies that are not yet mainstream in the Kingdom is essential and it can only be achieved collectively. This is why, whether in agriculture, aquaculture, or novel foods, we have focused on partnering with companies that are able to transfer the required innovations. In agriculture, our ongoing pilots include soil-amendment technologies, a combination of water-saving interventions, and controlled environment agriculture systems.

Together with Estidamah, we are developing and promoting

environmentally friendly agricultural practices and identifying the most economically viable vegetable crops and varieties suitable for local production, prioritizing taste, and quality. At the same time, we are piloting multiple controlled environment infrastructure combinations to scale up production at NEOM in the most water-efficient and energy-efficient ways possible.

In aquaculture, collaborations with industry leaders like Pure Salmon and the National Aquaculture Group are advancing pioneering regenerative-aquacultural practices at sea and on shore. Technologies like recirculating aquaculture systems have proved to reduce water consumption and increase production while minimizing negative environmental impacts. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, they can reduce usage by up to 99 percent.

This solution not only enhances sustainability and productivity in aquaculture but also bolsters regional food security. Through the establishment of Topian Aquaculture, a joint venture with Tabuk Fisheries Company, we are investing in technology to increase output, supporting the National

Livestock and Fisheries Development Program's goal of producing 600,000 tonnes of fish products annually by 2030.

In novel foods, we are advancing the adoption of alternative proteins, including plant-based and cell-cultured. Through partnerships with leading companies in cell-cultured seafood, such as BlueNalu, we are accelerating the path toward commercialization of low-impact food products initially focused on endangered marine species and pioneering new industries. The global market for alternative proteins, including plant-based and cell-cultured, is expected to reach \$20 billion by 2030, driven by advancements in biotechnology and increased consumer acceptance.

This is great news, as adoption and consumption of alternative proteins will reduce reliance on traditional livestock farming, a major source of green-house emissions, and further improve food security efforts. Innovation is the key to addressing food security in regions like NEOM. By embracing innovation and fostering collaboration, Topian aims to ensure that food security is a tangible reality, nourishing present and future generations.



Aleem Khan presides over meeting of board

— discussed issues related to privatization

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Saturday directed the Privatization Commission Board to ensure the completion of the process for the institutions entrusted to them for privatization as soon as possible and ensure a transparent manner in this regard.

The minister presided over the meeting of the Privatization Commission Board which discussed issues related to the privatization of DISCOs and other institutions including Paki-

stan International Airlines (PIA), said a press release.

The minister said that the restoration and strengthening of the country's economy depends upon the privatization of those countries being run in deficit.

He said that the process of privatization will practically reduce the burden on the national exchequer and there is a strong possibility of making the enterprises that are being transferred to the private sector to make them profitable.

He indicated that privatization of PIA is very impor-

tant as it would express the seriousness of the private sector regarding privatization and it will make it easier for other institutions to be privatized.

He expressed satisfaction with the overall performance and observed that all the targets should be achieved on time while final recommendations will be sent to the Cabinet Committee for final approval.

Privatization Commission Board unanimously decided that in the first phase, three power generation companies DISCOs will be privatized for which

practical work has already been started and all legal matters will be completed by January 2025.

Moreover, the Privatization Commission Board also approved hiring Financial Advisers for these DISCOs and move forward accordingly.

The meeting of the Privatization Commission Board was attended by the Federal Secretary for Privatization, the members of the PCB and the senior officers who unanimously approved the important decisions related to the privatization.

100 years brand milestone celebrated with exciting consumer promotion



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Blue Band has been a household name in Pakistan, known for its commitment to quality and customer satisfaction. Celebrating 100-year milestone was a testament to the brand's enduring legacy

and its promise to continue serving its consumers with excellence.

Blue Band's aim was to give back to the community that has supported the brand throughout its 100 years journey, and this promotion was a token of the brand's gratitude shared

with consumers with prizes worth Crores.

In celebration of Blue Band's historic 100-year milestone as the preferred breakfast choice, Blue Band launched a power-packed consumer promotion, offering Pakistani consumers a unique oppor-

tunity to join the celebrations. With the launch of the Limited-Edition Pack, a purchase-linked consumer promotion was introduced in Pakistan. With every purchase of the 100 Years Limited Edition pack, consumers had the chance to scan the pack and enter lucky draw, offering an array of exciting prizes. The excitement of gifts worth Crores ranged from an SUV Car, Gold Coins, Scholarships, Bicycles, Electronic Appliances, School Bags, Pencil Cases, and much more!

This engaging promotion captivated the nation, resulting in overwhelming entries from enthusiastic participants across Pakistan. With over 5,000 winners spread across more than 70 plus towns of Pakistan, Blue Band reaffirmed its status as the popular choice for breakfast among Pakistani consumers.

US helping preserve Pakistan's cultural heritage: Hawkins

LAHORE (APP): United States (US) Consul General Lahore Kristin K Hawkins said the United States government is working with Pakistan to preserve its rich and diverse cultural heritage.

She was addressing a seminar on "Unlocking Tourism Potential: Path to National Economic Development" organized by Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) here at its Regional Office on Saturday. The seminar aimed to engage Non-Resident Pakistani Investors to invest in Pakistan's tourism sector. The principal objective of the session was to promote and develop tourism in Pakistan.

Consul General Hawkins shared that in 2001, the US Congress had established the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation. Since the programme's inception, the United States has helped preserve more than 1,200 cultural heritage projects worldwide. In Pakistan, the United States has provided more than \$ 8.4 million – in grants, not loans – to support 35 cultural preservation projects. These projects range from conserving Gandhara archaeological treasures and preserving Mughal archi-

tectural heritage to documenting historical manuscripts, restoring Sufi shrines and Hindu monuments, academic and professional partnerships, and digitizing efforts at museums.

She further emphasized the United States' significant commitment to preserving Pakistan's cultural heritage.

The US is currently undertaking a substantial US \$ 01 million project at the Lahore Fort, focusing on the restoration of seven specific sites within the fort. These sites, including the renowned picture wall and the Grand Sheesh Mahal, are emblematic of the diversity of Pakistan's history and culture.

The United States has also recently completed a separate project at the Wazir Khan Mosque and Chowk, now a vibrant hub for community and cultural events in Lahore.

Another recent US project was launched in Quetta to enhance a museum and help secure the cultural artifacts there for the future.

Consul General Hawkins mentioned that the US goal is to help preserve Pakistan's cultural heritage, create new jobs, and strengthen Pakistan's economy.

For example, the United States is providing paid internships for 30 young Pakistanis to learn conservation techniques and develop marketable skills

as part of the Lahore Fort project.

Consul General Hawkins remarked that the United States has also supported the preservation of Pakistani cultural heritage through various academic partnerships, including multiple Boston architectural college-led projects that provided training on conservation methods for researchers in Lahore.

She emphasized that the United States has supported cultural partnerships such as a programme between the Smithsonian Institution in the United States and the Lok Virsa Museum in Pakistan.

These partnerships have led to joint research efforts and work to catalog several cultural traditions through the digitalization of archives and the creation of audio tours. Last year, six individuals from Punjab who are working in cultural heritage traveled to the United States through the US government-funded International Visitor Leadership Programme.

She said another part of US-Pakistan bilateral cooperation on cultural heritage is a cultural property agreement signed between the United States and Pakistan in January.

This agreement worked to restrict the importation of certain archaeological objects from Pakistan into the United States and to

help facilitate the return of those objects.

FPCCI Vice President Qurrat ul Ain highlighted that tourism is not just an industry but a bridge that connects cultures, fosters understanding, and creates economic opportunities.

With its rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and warm hospitality, Pakistan holds immense potential to become a top tourist destination. However, to realize this potential, we must address various challenges and work collaboratively towards sustainable development.

Qurrat ul Ain further stressed that FPCCI is committed to boosting our tourism sector. This session aims to explore strategies for harnessing Pakistan's immense tourism potential, particularly in religious tourism, health tourism, and agritourism.

She added that the engagement of overseas Pakistanis, especially those residing in the United States and the European Union, is crucial in this endeavor. Their experiences, investments, and connections can significantly contribute to the growth of our tourism industry.

Farid Ahmad Tarar, Secretary of the Tourism, Archaeology and Museums Department, government of Punjab, highlighted the real potential of tourism in Pakistan.



PESHAWAR: Delegation of FCAA KP led by president Ziaul Haq Sarhadi meeting with leader of Businessman Forum Ilyas Ahmad Bilour. Vice president SCCI Ejaz Khan Afridi also present on occasion.

LCCI seeks PM help to address reservations

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has urged the Prime Minister to address challenges arising from the recent implementation of SRO 350(I)/2024, dated March 7, 2024.

The LCCI spokesman told media here Saturday that in a letter to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, the LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that the business community in Pakistan is confronted with multi-dimensional economic challenges.

Kashif Anwar said that business community is facing severe issues in filing their Sales Tax Returns after the implementation of SRO 350(I)/2024, dated 7th March 2024 as it has linked the buyers' ability to file Sales tax return to the compliance of their suppliers. He said that if any of the suppliers does not file their return, the subsequent buyer is unable to file their sales tax return or has to leave the respective input tax already paid by him to file return.

The LCCI President mentioned a specific and pressing example of this issue involves the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO). LESCO, being the sole electricity provider in Lahore, has not filed its Sales Tax Return yet.

He said that due to non-submission of Sales Tax Return by LESCO, every business, being a consumer of LESCO, is unable to file its Sales Tax Returns. This creates a significant bottleneck, as the inability to file these returns results in substantial financial and operational disruptions for businesses.

Kashif Anwar appealed to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to kindly review the implementation of the SRO 350(I)/2024, dated March 7, 2024 in consultation with the stakeholders.

The LCCI President added that the business community is already facing a tough economic situation and factors like economic instability, high inflation, high mark up rate and regulatory challenges contributing to the challenging environment and created a difficult landscape for the business community.

He also expressed concerns over the newly introduced laws in the federal budget, stating that the tax policies primarily target those who are already within the tax net, whether they are salaried individuals, manufacturers or retailers.

SCCI elections:

FCAA KP to support Businessman Forum

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Frontier Custom Agents Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa announced full support to businessman forum in upcoming Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry elections. According to details, a delegation of FCAA KP led by its president Ziaul Haq Sarhadi held a meeting with the leader of the Businessman Forum former senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour here in his office, said in a statement here on Saturday.

The FCAA KP vice president Khalid Shahzad, vice president Imtiaz Ahmad Ali, and executive members Mansoor Ahmad and Noman ul Haq amongst members of the delegation. The meeting was also

attended by the SCCI president Fuad Ishaq, vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi, former vice president of the chamber Javed Akhtar and senior member Nadeem Rauf.

Ziaul Haq Sarhadi expressed confidence in the leadership of Businessman Forum former senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour and said the FCAA will fully support the forum in the forthcoming SCCI elections.

He informed FCAA came into existence back in 1976 and the latter was registered with SCCI in 1990 and since then the association has stood with the Businessman Forum till date and will continue to support the forum in future.

Sarhadi said SCCI is the only forum of the business community which had

played a vital role in taking up the traders' issues with government and relevant authorities.

Ilyas Ahmad Bilour while speaking on the occasion said Businessman Forum is serving selflessly and without any distinctiveness to the business community for the last 24 years.

Bilour said reposing trust on Businessman Forum by FCAA is a staunch evidence and testimony that BF is fully capable to resolve the business community issues.

The BF leader vowed to continue selfless services to the business community.

Also, he reaffirmed that no stone will be remained unturned to highlight and address the community problems with government and relevant authorities.

CAT upholds penalty on trademark dispute

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) has dismissed the appeal filed by M/s Baba Plastic against the Competition Commission of Pakistan's (CCP) order concerning fraudulent use of M/s ShajarPak (Pvt) Limited's registered trademark.

ShajarPak, a fabric manufacturer, filed a complaint with the CCP alleging that eight companies, including

M/s Baba Plastic, were fraudulently using its trademark 'Pasha Fabrics' on their products' packaging and labelling.

Following an inquiry, the CCP confirmed that ShajarPak had not authorized any company to use its trademark. By copying the trademark and trade dress, these companies were deceiving consumers, which was capable of harming ShajarPak's business interests, in violation

of Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010. Consequently, the CCP issued a Show Cause Notice and, after having heard the parties, imposed a penalty of PKR 750,000 on Baba Plastic.

Baba Plastic appealed the CCP's decision before the CAT. However, due to their repeated failure to appear at scheduled hearings, the Tribunal dismissed the appeal for non-prosecution.

FPCCI announces to approach SC, SIFC

LAHORE (INP): Former caretaker prime minister, Anwar ul Haq Kakar has said that the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) issue is the problem of the entire nation alongside the business community and that instead of point scoring on it we will find out a viable solution through dialogue.

This was stated by him while addressing a business conference organized by Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in Lahore as President of FPCCI's Economic Policy Business Development Think Tank.

Anwar ul Haq Kakar said that the issue of Independent Power

Producers was discussed in the Senate. He said, "We fought for people's rights before, will fight this battle too and those spreading despair about the country's future on social media should know that the country's future is bright."

Former federal minister for commerce and interior, Dr. Gohar Ejaz and Chairman FPCCI's Economic Policy Business Development Think Tank said that the government's negligence towards IPPs was being borne by the people. An audit of IPPs should be conducted. The whole of Pakistan was saying in one voice that we were affected by IPPs and we need to find a solution to end the IPPs agreements. We never want our country to face a crisis but the policies should be made to move Pakistan forward. There was electricity, but the problem was the cost of electricity. How can we compete with the world with expensive electricity, he questioned.

Chairman UBG SM Tanveer said that they will approach the Supreme Court and SIFC to explain the real issue as well as the satisfactory solution to pull the country out of the existing economic mess.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh said that Anwar ul Haq Kakar's business friendly policies will definitely bear fruit and will enhance the prestige of the fraternity.

Secretary General UBG, Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan is full of investment and business opportunities but the only needed

thing was to wisely formulate the economic policies in consultation with the real stakeholders. He said that IPPs and the existing crisis were linked with the future of Pakistan, adding that the country was in emergency situation and the leadership will have to take aggressive decisions to come out of the existing economic crunch.

Vice President FPCCI and Chairman Regional office Lahore Zaki Ejaz expressed gratitude to the participants by saying that we will jointly take the country forward to make it a prosperous one.

Shaikh Khalid Tawab former SVP, FPCCI and senior leader UBG Riaz ud Din Shaikh also highlighted the business community's difficulties vis-à-vis ease of doing business and impressed upon the government to resolve the grievances on urgent basis for the economic betterment of the country.

Earlier during the conference business community demonstrated its unity against the agreements with Independent Power Producers and called for dialogue and policy changes to address the 'unbearable' electricity costs.

Due to wrong agreements, capacity charges have to be paid, and electricity prices were currently Pakistan's biggest problem. Annual capacity charges of Rs. 2,000 billion were being taken from the pockets of 24 crore people, and 25% of industries have already closed down. The country cannot run with such IPP agreements.

Court Notice

In the Court of Saima Ehsan, Civil Judge-II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No. 261/I, Institution 14-2-2022, date of hearing 9-9-2024. Talizar vs. Sherzada. Notice to No. (1/4) Bakht Sher s/o Sherzada, (2/3) Sher Bahadure s/o Rahimzada, (4/2) Safdar Ali, (4/5) Diyar Kgan sons of Akbar Khan, (6/3) Adnan Ali Khan, (6/4) Imtiaz Ali Khan sons of Ghafor Khan resident of Pacha Kalay, Tehsil Gadezai, District Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants cannot be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8:00 a.m. dated 9-9-2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

SECP registers 27,542 new companies in financial year 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 27,542 new companies during FY 2023-24, raising the total number of registered companies to 222,697.

58% were registered as private limited companies, while 39 % were registered as single member companies, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

The remaining 3% registered as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations, guarantee limited companies, trade organizations, limited liability partnerships (LLPs) and foreign companies.

Around 99.8% of companies were registered online.

Regarding incorporation, the information technology sector took the lead with 4129 companies, trading with 3666, services with 3302 real estate development and construction with 2992, tourism with 1346, education with 1177, food and beverages with 1103, ecommerce with 942, corporate agricultural farming with 780, marketing and advertisement with 620, textile with 589, mining and quarrying with 574, power generation with 560, engineering with 547, transport with 523, pharmaceutical with 497, chemical

with 457, healthcare with 434, fuel & energy with 376, cosmetics & toiletries with 352, logging with 268, communications with 257, auto and allied with 242, broadcasting & telecasting with 215, paper & board with 203, cables and electric goods with 169, steel & allied with 133, sports allied with 121, arts and culture with 111, wood & wood products with 97, leather & tanneries with 68, Parlor and other related services with 64, foot wear with 51, tobacco with 39, sugar and allied with 34, glass and ceramics with 20, vanaspati & allied with 19, finance & banking with 17,

carpets and rugs, cement, and insurance with 11 each, and 415 companies were registered in other sectors.

Foreign investment has been reported in 688 new companies by investors from China, Afghanistan, US, UK, Germany, UAE, Australia, Turkey, Nigeria, Norway, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Malaysia, Singapore, Denmark, South Korea, the Netherlands, Russia, and Spain etc.

The major chunk of investment was received from China with 393 companies, followed by US with 34, Afghanistan with 32, UK with 27, Germany with 20, UAE with 13,

Australia, and Turkey with 10 each, Nigeria with 9, Norway with 8, Canada and Saudi Arabia with 7 each.

Furthermore, Egypt, Malaysia, and Singapore with 6 each, Denmark, South Korea, the Netherlands, Russia, and Spain with 5 each. 75 companies received investment from other countries.

Moreover, 31 foreign companies from China, UAE, Turkey, Australia, Canada, Bahrain, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Korea South, Norway, Saudi Arabia and US have established places of business in Pakistan during the financial year.



In brief

Munir wins squash title

KOHAT (APP): Munir Zahid clinched the trophy of the Kohat District Squash Championship by defeating Hamza Khan 2-1 in the thrilling final played at Company Bagh Squash Court, Kohat on Saturday. District Sports Officer Kohat Zeeshan Ahmed was the chief guest and witnessed the thrilling final. President of the District Squash Association Kohat Saeed Khan Afridi, Ex-President Muhammad Faqir Awan Secretary Muhammad Ishaqa and other personalities were also present. More than 25 players participated in the District Squash Championship organized with the support of District Sports Office Kohat in which Munir Zahid and Hamza Khan qualified for the finals. In the final, Munir Zahid defeated Hamza Khan by 11-9, 8-11 and 11-6 to win the Kohat District Squash Championship trophy.

Leclerc on Belgian GP pole

S P A - FRANCORCHAMPS (Agencies): Ferrari's Charles Leclerc will start the Belgian Grand Prix from pole position after qualifying second fastest behind Red Bull's Max Verstappen. World champion Verstappen dominated qualifying in the rain and beat Leclerc by 0.595 seconds but has a 10-place grid penalty for exceeding his permitted number of engine components. Red Bull's Sergio Perez was third fastest, so will be promoted to the front row alongside Leclerc. Lewis Hamilton will start third for Mercedes, ahead of the McLarens of Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri. Mercedes' George Russell was seventh fastest, from Ferrari's Carlos Sainz, Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso and the Alpine of Esteban Ocon. Verstappen came to Belgium for the final race before the summer break on the back of a shaky run of form, with McLaren appearing to have seized the ascendancy in Formula 1. But he was in imperious form on his favourite track, where he has won the past three years, and always seemed to destined to be fastest. The conditions were tricky. The track was wet at the start of qualifying, and persistent light rain kept it that way throughout, but the weather never deteriorated to the point that the session was at risk of being stopped - the amount of spray was limited and drivers were always able to see where they were going. "It was a nice qualifying. Luckily the weather was OK. It was raining a little bit but we could do a decent qualifying," Verstappen said. "Everything went well. Every tyre set I was on, we could do decent lap times. The car was working quite well in the wet. I was just able to do clean laps. "Tomorrow is going to be a different day, warmer and no rain, so it will be about tyre degradation, I don't know how quick we are going to be. I hope we can be in the mix to try and move forward." Leclerc's presence in second - and therefore on pole position thanks to Verstappen's penalty, just as he was last year - was not expected, least of all by the man himself. Ferrari have had a difficult run since Leclerc won the Monaco Grand Prix at the end of May, and were not expecting Spa to suit their car. Leclerc, who snuck ahead of Perez by just 0.011secs, said: "I definitely did not expect that this weekend, but with the tricky conditions we could do something above our expectations.



PARIS: Team Pakistan are seen on a boat on the River Seine during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games Paris 2024 on July 26, 2024 in Paris, France.

Djokovic registers emphatic win in Olympics opener

PARIS (Agencies): Novak Djokovic's bid for a much-wanted Olympic gold medal began in style with a 6-0 6-1 demolition of Matthew Ebden. Serbia's Djokovic has won almost everything there is in tennis but has never bettered his bronze from Beijing 2008. He needed just 53 minutes to beat Australia's Ebden, who was playing his first singles match for two years. Ebden did, however, win over the crowd with his self-effacing reaction to what was unfolding on court. Djokovic, a 24-time Grand Slam champion and top seed in Paris, could potentially face long-time rival Rafael Nadal next.

Spain's Nadal is in singles action later in the week against Hungary's Marton Fucsovics. Reigning French Open and Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz also made quick progress, beating Lebanese Hady Habib 6-3 6-1. Ebden, primarily a doubles player, knew he was facing one of the toughest tasks in tennis - as his social media post on the day of the draw showed., external And it was exactly as he'd feared: after 30 minutes, he was 6-0 2-0 down and looked to be out of ideas. He tried everything - including an underarm serve that Djokovic still returned - before jokingly offering his racquet to a

group in the crowd to see if they could do any better. The biggest cheer of the afternoon came when Ebden finally got on the board for 4-1 in the second set. Ebden put his shirt over his head and celebrated towards the crowd, who gave him a standing ovation, before an amused Djokovic patted him on the shoulder as they went to their chairs. Djokovic may have wished for slightly tougher opposition to find his rhythm on the court, but he will welcome a quick victory nonetheless. Rain continued to disrupt play on the outside courts, with no play possible at all in the morning.



PARIS: Novak Djokovic of Serbia in action against Matthew Ebden of Australia in the Men's Singles first round match.

Shaheens make late inroads after Bangladesh A secure lead

DARWIN (APP): Khurram Shahzad and Faisal Akram's late strikes in the third session helped Pakistan Shaheens finish the day on strong note as Bangladesh 'A' stood 84-3 in 27 overs with a lead of 163 when the stumps were drawn on day two of second four-day match at the DXC Arena in Darwin, Australia. Khurram also struck with the new ball as he removed Parvez Hossain Emon (7, 9b, 1x4) in the third over after Bangladesh 'A' looked to build on their 79-run first-innings lead late on day two. Mahmudul Hasan Joy (39 not out, 78b, 7x4s) and Amite Hasan (25, 61b, 4x4s) put on a 57-run second-wicket partnership before left-arm wrist spinner Faisal pinned Amite leg-before in the 24th over. An over later Hasan Murad was sent packing for a seven-ball duck by Khurram. Aich Mollah (8 not out, 7b, 2x4s) and Mahmudul will be on the crease for Bangladesh 'A' when they

resume batting on day three. Earlier, Pakistan Shaheens could only add 140 runs to their overnight total of 39-2 before getting bowled out for 179 in 67.2 overs with a 79-run deficit. Omair Bin Yousuf was the first casualty of the day two when Rejaur Rehman Raja removed him for just seven off 38 balls in the 18th over. For the next 13 overs, night watchman Mohammad Ali and Umar Amin added 30 runs before they both were dismissed in back to back overs with Shaheens in a spot of bother at 69-5. At this point, Tayyab Tahir (30, 73b, 3x4s) and Kamran Ghulam joined forces to stitch a healthy 78-run sixth-wicket partnership off 137 balls. Kamran top scored with 48 off 75 balls, hitting eight fours and one six. With Shaheens 147-5 in 53.5 overs, Bangladesh A shot their way back in the game by dismissing Kamran, Muhammad Irfan Khan (9, 9b, 2x4s) and Tayyab, all within

five overs. Khurram's slight resistance which included 16 off 35 balls came to an end in the 68th over as Shaheens were bowled out for 179. Ripon Mondol returned figures of 4-71 in 24.2 overs. Rejaur dismissed three batters while Hasan Murad (2-32) and Maruf Mridha (1-31) were also among wickets. Scores in brief: Bangladesh A lead by 163 runs Bangladesh A 258 all out, 67.3 overs (Mahmudul Hasan Joy 69, Aich Mollah 55, Mahidul Islam Ankon 31, Parvez Hossain Emon 30; Khurram Shahzad 3-69, Kamran Ghulam 2-6, Kashif Ali 2-21, Faisal Akram 2-87) and 84-3, 27 overs (Mahmudul Hasan Joy 39 not out, Amite Hasan 25; Khurram Shahzad 2-30, Faisal Akram 1-9) Pakistan Shaheens 179 all out, 67.2 overs (Kamran Ghulam 48, Tayyab Tahir 30, Umar Amin 25; Ripon Mondol 4-71, Rejaur Rehman Raja 3-33, Hasan Murad 2-32).

KP volleyball trials for national camp on July 30: Khalid Waqar

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Trials for Pakistan Volleyball Camp will be held on July 30, Secretary General and former coach of Pakistan team Khaled Waqar Chamkani told media men here on Saturday. Talking to media men, Khalid Waqar said that the trials for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Volleyball Talent Hunt Scheme for National Camp organized by Pakistan Volleyball Federation will be held on July 30 at PSB Coaching Center Qayyum Sports Complex Peshawar at nine in the morning in which players from all over the province will participate. According to Khalid Waqar, Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Volleyball Association, U-16 and U-20 players will participate in the trials. Coach Vukochan from Argentina will supervise the trials. He said that the Talent Scheme will be organized across the country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that a training camp will be held for the players selected in the trials, in which teams will be selected for the national U16 and U20 Volleyball Championships. All those players, whose height is 6 feet, date of birth less than 01-01-2009 for U16 and 01-01-2005 for U20 can participate in the trials. It has been directed to bring Form-B and a copy of ID card with a passport-size photograph as well to ascertain

their age group. The players selected under the talent scheme will be included in the Pakistan Volleyball training camp to be trained and coached under newly inducted Volleyball coach Vukochan from Argentina. Khalid Waqar said that there is no dearth of talent in volleyball in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which is why it is an open trial and the volleyball aspirants have been directed to participate in the trials and reach for the trials in time at 9.00 a.m. Khalid Waqar said that the players would also be registered before the trials to be conducted in both the U16 and U20 categories. The selected probable would be sent to Islamabad for the national camp, he concluded.

Joseph, Kishmala fail to qualify for 10m air pistol final

PARIS (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan had an unwanted start to their Paris Olympics 2024 campaign as their shooters Gulfam Joseph and Kishmala Talat failed to qualify for the 10m air pistol finals. Joseph, one of seven Pakistan athletes competing in the games, had to finish in the top eight to make it into the next round. But he was left far behind the other competing shooters and could finish 22nd out of 33 with 571 points out of 600. Meanwhile, Serbia's Damir Mikec topped the leaderboard of the Paris Olympics' Men's 10m air pistol competition with 584 points while Italy's Federico Nilo Maldini and Christian Reitz were the other shooters in the top three. Notably, Indian shooters Sarabjot Singh and Arjun Singh Cheema also failed to qualify for the next round. Meanwhile, Kishmala Talat also suffered the same fate as she failed to qualify for the 10m women's air pistol final after finishing 31st out of the 44 shooters. She scored a total of 567 points out of across six series. Pakistan will compete in



shooting, athletics and swimming in the Paris Olympics. Out of the seven athletes four of them earned direct qualification while sprinter Faiga Riaz and swimmers Jehanara Nabi and Mohammad Ahmed Durrani will feature in the biggest sporting event on the basis of the universality places. Meanwhile, star javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem and swimmer Jehanara Nabi have been chosen as Pakistan's contingent flag-bearers for the prestigious event. Among the 11 officials, six are the officials of the contingent, including the chief de mission, deputy chief de mission and an admin officer. Pakistan contingent for Paris Olympics: Athletics: Arshad Nadeem, Faiga Riaz, Salman Iqbal Butt (support staff), Dr. Ali Sher Bajwa (support staff). Swimming: Mohammad Ahmed Durrani, Jehanara Nabi, Lt Col (retired) Ahmed Ali Khan (support staff). Shooting: Ghulam Mustafa Bashir, Gulfam Joseph, Kishmala Talat, Col Junaid Ali (support staff), Gennady Solodovnikov (support staff). Contingent officials: Mohammad Shafiq (chef de mission), Javaid Shamshad Lodhi (deputy chef de mission); Zainab Shaukat (admin officer).

Palestinian Olympian wore shirt showing bombed children

PARIS (AFP): Palestinian boxer Waseem Abu Sal wore a shirt depicting children being bombed for the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics in a test for organizers who have strict rules on political statements. Abu Sal was one of two flag-bearers for the Palestinian delegation during the rain-soaked river parade along the Seine on Friday. His white shirt had embroidered images of warplanes dropping missiles over children playing sport. "This shirt represents the current image in Palestine," Abu Sal told AFP on Saturday. "The children who are martyred and die under the rubble, children whose parents are martyred and are left alone without food or water." At least 39,258 people have been killed in Gaza since Israel launched a military campaign in retaliation for the October 7 attacks by Hamas militants, according to figures from the Hamas-run health ministry. The October attack that began the war resulted in the deaths of 1,197 people,



mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures. Jibril Rajoub, president of the Palestine Olympic Committee, told AFP they had checked with the local organizing committee of the Paris Olympics to see if Abu Sal's shirt contravened Olympic regulations. "It's a message of peace. It's a message to attract attention," he said. "This is anti-war, against killing. This abides with the Olympic Charter." "We presented it, they approved it," he added. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) bans political statements on the field of play during sports events and during the opening and closing ceremonies, but athletes are free to express themselves in press conferences and on social media. The Palestine Olympic Committee wrote to the IOC last week asking for a ban on Israeli athletes at the Paris Olympics, which has been rejected. Rajoub said the Palestinian team intended to use the Paris Olympics to draw attention to the suffering of civilians in Gaza. Abu Sal, 20, received a wildcard for the Olympics boxing. He lives in the West Bank and is unable to train with his Cairo-based coach — a Gazan who cannot travel to him due to Israeli restrictions.

China takes first Olympic gold as rain disrupts Games

C H A T E A U R O U X (Agencies): China took the first gold of the Paris Olympics on Saturday, as the rain that dampened the opening ceremony took its toll on the first full day of sporting action. In a closely fought final of the mixed-team 10-metre air rifle, teenage duo Sheng Lihao and Huang Yuting outscored Keum Ji-hyeon and Park Ha-jun from South Korea 16-12, Kazakhstan grabbing the bronze. The rain already claimed one sporting casualty early Saturday as the wet weather which deluged Friday night's audacious festival on the River Seine continued to cause headaches. The men's street skateboarding competition, due to take place at the Place de la Concorde in the historic heart of Paris, was postponed until Monday due to rain overnight, organisers said. The downpours also disrupted play at the opening rounds of tennis at Roland Garros, with no action on the 10 uncovered outside courts until 13:30 local time (11:30 GMT), organisers said. Torrential rain had lashed participants and spectators in Friday's amphibious opening ceremony, where around 7,000 athletes paraded along the Seine in an armada of boats before a show-stopping finale which climaxed with a glittering light show at the Eiffel Tower and a performance from singer Celine Dion. The ceremony received broadly favourable reviews, with France's centre-right Le Figaro daily



describing it as "full of surprises but often disjointed." The International Olympic Committee however was forced to apologise however for a gaffe during the ceremony that saw South Korea's athletes incorrectly introduced as North Korean. "We deeply apologise for the mistake that occurred when introducing the South Korean team during the broadcast of the opening ceremony," the IOC said in a post on its official Korean-language X account. - Swimming duel - Elsewhere on the sporting front, swimming, badminton, rowing, cycling, hockey and basketball get under way along with the surfing competition, nearly 16,000 kilometres (9,950 miles) kilometres away on the French Pacific island of Tahiti. Swimming will take centre-stage at the La Defense Arena for the women's 400m freestyle -- one of the most-anticipated events of the entire Olympics involving three swimmers who have held the world record. Australia's defending champion Ariarne Titmus will dive in as favourite after clocking the second-fastest time ever last month behind only her own 3min 55.38sec world best. She stunned US rival Katie Ledecky in an electric Tokyo final three years ago, with the American great gunning for revenge. Canadian teenage sensation Summer McIntosh, also a former world record holder, completes the hotly favoured trio. Other gold medals on offer on the first night of action in the pool come in the men's 400m freestyle and the men's and women's 4x100m freestyle relays. Reigning French Open champions Iga Swiatek and Carlos Alcaraz are among the top draws on the first day of action on the clay courts of Roland Garros -- weather permitting. Women's world number one Swiatek is first on court against Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu, with Alcaraz to follow against Lebanese world number 275 Hady Habib. But the biggest focus will be on the men's doubles, with Alcaraz teaming up with 14-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal in a Spanish dream pairing.



In brief

Police arrest suspect in murder case

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have apprehended a suspect involved in a murder case in the jurisdiction of Dhamyal police station here on Saturday. According to police spokesman, the incident, reported earlier this month by the victim's brother, led to the registration of a case at Dhamyal Police Station. Using the latest investigation techniques, the police successfully apprehended Imran Khan. Police have registered case and further investigation was in progress. SP Saddar Muhammad Nabil Khokhar praised the efforts of the Dhamyal police, emphasizing that Khan will be brought to court with solid evidence. He assured that justice would be served and highlighted the importance of arresting suspects in heinous cases to ensure justice. He made it clear that it is prime duty of the police to protect the lives and properties of people. Meanwhile, Police have arrested two pro-claimed offenders in different cases during the crackdown. R.A Bazaar police held wanted criminal Zahid in cheque dishonor case. Similarly, Taxila police arrested Sajjad Ali wanted criminal in the case of abducting a married woman. The case was registered 2022 with the Taxila police station.

IRSA releases 329,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 329,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 347,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1516.92 feet and was 118.92 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 206,500 cusecs and 200,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1199.20 feet, which was 151.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 24,100 cusecs and 12,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 228,900, 196,600, 143,200 and 73,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 51,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 38,300 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Police arrest eight, recover drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): In a significant operation here Saturday, police have arrested eight outlaws, seizing drugs, liquor and weapons from their possession. According to police spokesman, Pirwadhai police confiscated 650 gram of charas from Ajab Gul while 540 gram charas was recovered from Tanveer and same quantity of charas was also recovered from Allah Muhammad and 545 gram charas was confiscated from Adnan. Similarly, City Police held Junaid and recovered 200 gram of charas from his possession. Following operation, Jatali police seized 10 liters of liquor from Aftab. Additionally, Civil Lines police recovered a bottle of liquor from Shehryar. Saddar Wah police found a pistol 30-bore pistol from Usman. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation was in progress. Divisional SPs commended police teams and have assured that the police will continue their actions against drug dealers and liquor suppliers to maintain law and order.

Saudi envoy calls on Deputy PM Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday held a meeting with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Nawaf al Maliki to discuss the positive trajectory of

fraternal relations between Pakistan and the Kingdom.

In the meeting, the two sides discussed various issues especially enhancing cooperation in different sectors including education, trade and investment.

Secretary Education who participated in the

meeting, briefed on the forthcoming conference of Muslim countries on Girls' Education in Islamabad.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the commitment to strengthening mutually beneficial bilateral ties between the two brotherly countries.

Naqvi takes stern action against corruption, agent mafia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has taken stern action against corruption and agent mafia by removing Incharge Passport Office Muzaffargarh Shahid Iqbal from his post.

Mohsin Naqvi ordered disciplinary action against In-charge Office Muzaffargarh, stating that there is no room for corruption in the department.

He further reiterated that strict action will be

taken without discrimination on the complaints against agent mafia or corruption.

He emphasized that corruption will not be tolerated under any circumstances during provision of the services to masses.

PTI working on foreign agenda: Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has been working on foreign agenda and the presentation of bill in the US Senate against Pakistan and China has made it quite clear, Minister for Kashmir Affairs and SAFRON Amir Muqam said.

"After the US resolu-

tion in favor of PTI, the bill presented in the US Senate against Pakistan and China is a message for those who can see the bigger picture," Muqam said.

He said, "It has been proven that PTI is working for a foreign agenda". Muqam said that the "PTI is working for lobbies in Pakistan and those lobbies

are working for the party abroad."

Why was there a sit-in conspiracy at D-Chowk during the Chinese President's visit to Pakistan? The answer is now clear, he said.

In addition, he said, "The reason why PTI received foreign funding is also clear now."

NDMA engages in collaborative discussions with Thailand

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) delegation, led by Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, actively participated in the 5th Board of Trustees meeting of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC).

This collaborative effort aims to enhance disaster resilience across the region. The delegation also paid a visit to the Thai Military Department of Development and Disaster Relief Training Center, a news release said.

This exchange promotes knowledge sharing and capacity building in disaster management and relief efforts. NDMA team engaged with Thai Disaster

Prevention & Mitigation Department and visited their Emergency Operation Center. Whereby the discussions centered around disaster risk reduction strategies and cooperation.

During visits, Chairman NDMA highlighted the efforts regarding Anticipatory Actions in Pakistan and how these actions can be implemented in Thailand according to their hazard profile. Similarly, Pakistan would be interested in learning from Thailand's Anticipatory Actions protocols as well as identification of areas of mutual interest with NDMA's Think Tank National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).

He briefed about

Pakistan's status as the chair of INSARAG (International Search and Rescue Advisory Group) of Asia Pacific for 2024. He urged Pakistan and Thailand could coordinate by building partnerships with donors and financial institutions to secure resources for climate resilience projects.

To enhance collaborative efforts, he proposed joint simulation exercises specifically designed for Search & Rescue teams. Pak NDMA also invited members of the ADPC board of trustees, the disaster management counterpart of Thailand and the technical team to visit NDMA to witness the capabilities of Pakistan's NEOC at NDMA HQs.

PTC, CDA launch 'Throw and Grow' drive to promote greenery

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC) Limited and the Capital Development Authority (CDA) have launched a collaborative initiative, "Throw and Grow", to promote the greenery of Islamabad's iconic Margalla hills.

This campaign aims to engage hikers and visitors in contributing to the region's ecological growth. At the entrance points of

Trail 3 and Trail 5, stalls offering seedballs made from native species like Sukhchain, Pine and others, have been set up where staff will guide participants on how to disperse the seedballs as they hike, taking advantage of the favorable Monsoon season for rapid germination.

PTC has a proven track record of community-focused activities. It operates six nurseries across Pakistan, with two in Islamabad. It has planted

and distributed over 150 million saplings since 1981 through its afforestation program.

This year, PTC aims to donate and plant over 2.5 million saplings across Pakistan to support afforestation efforts.

Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC) continues to encourage people from all sections of the society to join the 'Throw and Grow' movement and contribute to the Margalla hills' beauty and biodiversity.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf al Maliki called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —APP Photo

CDA Chairman inspects Islamabad's industrial sites

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, accompanied by Interior Secretary Khurram Ali Agha, visited various sites on Saturday to promote industrialization, enhancing recreational areas, and maintaining the beauty of Islamabad.

During the visit to the Industrial Triangle Kahota, Chairman Randhawa emphasized the need for state-of-the-art development and facilities for industrialists. He directed the elimination of exploitation and provision of special facilities for the IT and telecom industry. He also urged allottees of industrial plots to establish industries promptly. Chairman Randhawa then visited the Diplomatic Enclave, where he reviewed the ongoing uplift work.

He instructed that landscaping work be done under a regular theme and protected to maintain its beauty. Minor construction and repair work should be completed soon.

At the Jinnah Convention Centre, Chairman Randhawa reviewed the renovation work and directed the expansion of the seating area in the main hall.

He emphasized that the centre should be developed to host world-class events and instructed the completion of landscaping work in the green area.

Chairman Randhawa also visited Ankara Park, where he directed improvements to landscaping, beautification of the Rawal Dam Interchange walls, and display of flags of all countries. Finally, at Lakeview Park, Chairman Randhawa instructed the construction and improvement of walkways and presentation of a comprehensive plan to beautify and maintain the park.

Experts ask parents to be cautious toward malaria lurk

ISLAMABAD (INP): The health experts have advised the parents to be cautious about their children and urged them to take necessary precautionary measures to protect their little ones from contaminated water, poor sanitation and stagnant ponds.

Renowned child specialist, Dr Ahmad Kabir while speaking to PTV news on Saturday was of the view that the children were especially vulnerable to water and vector-borne diseases, similarly, drinking water during heavy rains was also contaminated with germs.

He said that don't let the monsoon rains become a recipe for disaster, stay one step ahead of cholera and malaria, and ensure the safety and well-being of your children. Be prepared, be proactive, and let the rains nourish our lives, not threaten them, he added.

Dr Ahmed Kabir said that the studies also confirm incidences of common monsoon infections, such as malaria and diarrhea, were higher during monsoons when compared to other seasons. He said that tourists were also at high risk as regulating food and water hygiene can be tough during travel adding, that those traveling to endemic areas or forest regions must exercise caution.

Governor urges for BISP's expansion

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Punjab, Sardar Salim Haider Khan has urged for expanding the scope of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) to include more beneficiaries from across the country. He said that millions of deserving people being benefited under the BISP umbrella remained a testimony of great vision of PPP's leadership for welfare of common man.

The governor made these remarks while meeting with the Chairperson, BISP Rubina Khalid who called on him in Murree today.

According to the details, during the meeting the chairperson BISP gave a detailed briefing to the governor about various running projects of BISP. The governor termed the BISP projects as the best means of providing financial assistance to people living below the poverty level. He further said that expanding

the network of BISP would help lessening financial constraints of deserving population. The governor also underlined the need for further improvement in the registration mechanism by removing the difficulties so that women from backward areas could get financial assistance easily.

The chairperson Rubina Khalid informed the governor that financial assistance was being provided to the beneficiaries on the basis of merit across the country. She apprised that steps were being taken to include more beneficiaries in BISP.

Chairperson BISP meets Governor Punjab in Murree; gives detailed briefing about BISP: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid on Saturday met with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider in Murree and gave a detailed briefing about BISP.

The vision of the leadership of Pakistan People's Party is the welfare of the people and providing them with basic facilities, the governor said adding, millions of deserving families are benefiting from BISP.

Benazir Income Support Programme is best way to provide financial assistance to the people living below poverty line, he added.

The scope of BISP should further be expanded so that more deserving families could benefit from the programme, Sardar Saleem Haider said.

The Governor said that the difficulties being faced by the women registered under the BISP particularly in rural and far-flung areas in getting financial assistance should be removed.

The Chairperson informed that under the Benazir Income Support Programme, merit-based financial assistance is being provided to the beneficiaries across the country.

Daniyal fears opposition's plan to unleash May 9th-style chaos

ISLAMABAD (APP): A senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Barrister Daniyal Chudhry Saturday exposed the opposition's alleged plan to unleash May 9th-style chaos, warning that their true intention is to derail democracy and plunge the nation into turmoil.

Talking to a private news channel, the leader's dire warning raises fears of a catastrophic showdown that could imperil Pakistan's fragile democratic setup, adding, the government has reiterated its stance on maintaining law and order.

He warned the opposition that any attempts to resist designated protest areas will not be tolerated.

His statement comes as a clear warning to opposition leaders who have been threatening to hold protests in sensitive areas that gov-

ernment understand that protest is their right, but we will not allow anyone to use this right to create chaos and destruction.

"Protests should be peaceful and within the bounds of the law," he urged. Responding a query, he said despite being allotted designated spaces for demonstrations, the opposition has insisted on protesting in D-Chowk, a highly sensitive area that has been cordoned off by security forces, he added.

The government has been clear from the start that it would not allow anyone to create disturbances in the country or take the law into their own hands, he added. The designated protest areas have been specifically chosen to ensure the safety and security of all citizens, and any attempts to deviate from

these areas will be met with swift action, he mentioned.

To another question, he explained despite the warnings, opposition leaders remain adamant on protesting in D-Chowk, claiming that the government is stifling their democratic right to protest.

However, the government remains resolute, insisting that it will not compromise on national security or allow anyone to create chaos in the country, he added. "Dialogue is the only peaceful way to resolve issues," the government spokesperson emphasized. We are open to talks and negotiations with the opposition, and we believe that all issues can be resolved through peaceful means," he added. However, we will not allow anyone to repeat the May 9th incident, he highlighted.

“Exotic Wildlife Pakistan” photo-exhibition to go on display

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as twenty-nine large-size photos of the exotic wildlife of Pakistan captured by Pakistan's Wildlife Ambassador and former Senator, Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari will go on display at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) from Monday.

The exhibition is being organized by the Snow Leopard Foundation and Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) in collaboration with the PNCA. A formal ceremony to honor this exhibition will be a part of the Pakistan Wildlife Protection Awards on July 31. This ceremony will recognize the extraordinary efforts of wildlife guards, watchers, and rangers who have shown remarkable courage and dedication in protecting Pakistan's wildlife.

Director and CEO of the Snow Leopard Foundation, Dr. Muhammad Ali Nawaz said, "We are thrilled to collaborate with Devcom-Pakistan and PNCA to bring this exhibition to life.

The photographs not only capture the splendor of our wildlife but also underscore the critical need for continued conservation efforts."

Curator of the exhibition, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said, "This unique exhibition aims to highlight the breathtaking biodiversity of Pakistan, featuring captivating images that showcase the country's rich wildlife heritage". The event will provide a rare opportunity for nature enthusiasts, photographers, and the general public to appreciate the stunning wildlife that inhabits Pakistan's diverse ecosystems.

"Our partnership with the Snow Leopard Foundation and PNCA is a significant step towards raising awareness about wildlife conservation", Munir Ahmed said adding, "This exhibition is a celebration of the extraordinary biodiversity of Pakistan and the dedicated individuals working tirelessly to protect it". The public and media are invited to attend and explore the

beauty of Pakistan's exotic wildlife through the lens of a genius photographer. This exhibition is an opportunity to connect with nature, appreciate the efforts of wildlife protectors, and foster a deeper understanding of the need for conservation", he said.

Pakistan's internationally known wildlife photographer, Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari is an honorary Wildlife Ambassador of Pakistan, member of Pakistan National Long-range Rifle Team, former Senator and former chairman BOD, Multan Electric Power Company, and the owner and manager of "Jamal Leghari Wildlife Sanctuary".

Leghari believes that his dedication defines his quest to showcase Pakistan's exotic wildlife in their natural habitats through his photography. "Travelling across the country at my own expense has been a deeply personal mission, a testament to my unwavering commitment to conservation and environmental awareness.

Teenage girl killed in Faryab

FARYAB (Amu TV): A 16-year-old girl was reportedly strangled to death with a rope after being "sexually assaulted" in Faryab Province in northern Afghanistan, according to sources. The incident occurred in a house in the village of Shor Bazaar in Shirin Tagab district, sources said. The girl, identified as Hadia, was allegedly killed by unidentified individuals. The family of the victim has not yet commented on the sexual assault allegations.

Visa issuance to be resumed

KABUL (BNA): Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs, announced at a press conference that India is resuming the visa issuance process for Afghans, which will facilitate their travel to India. Jaiswal highlighted the long-standing historical relations between Kabul and Delhi and reiterated India's commitment to continuing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

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

UAE firm seeks \$15m compensation after Ghani revokes contract

KABUL (Khaama Press): Olive Group, a company based in the United Arab Emirates, is seeking \$15 million in compensation from Afghanistan due to a breach of a security contract previously canceled by Ashraf Ghani. The Olive Group was responsible for providing security for Afghanistan's international airports under the contract. The company requested a regional court in the United States to enforce a ruling by Canadian Judge Victor Leginiski. The ruling mandated that the former Afghan government pay Olive Group \$15 million plus interest for the contract breach. Judge Leginiski had previously ordered in a Dubai court, led by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, that the Afghan government compensate Olive Group for the contract. Although the former Civil Aviation Authority no longer exists, Olive Group continues to pursue the compensation with the aid of legal representatives. The company filed its claim in 2021, alleging that the breach of the \$38 million contract for four Afghan international airports warranted more than \$24

million in compensation. According to Olive Group, beyond the contract breach, the Civil Aviation Authority also withheld certain guarantees and 10% of the monthly revenue that should have been allocated to the company. The claim also noted issues with personnel fees and work visas, which eventually led to the company's contract with the Canadian embassy in Afghanistan being terminated. Reports indicate that in 2020, the Civil Aviation Authority announced its intention to terminate the contract but faced resistance from Olive Group. The Emirati company's officials claimed that the former authorities later awarded a similar contract to another company without a proper bidding process and at a higher cost. According to reports, this decision was made at the direct instruction of former President Ashraf Ghani, who favored awarding the contract to a company of his choice. Due to the regime change, the former Civil Aviation Authority did not attend the relevant court proceedings and later cited issues with the Taliban's

non-recognition as a barrier to finding foreign consultants. The court, however, rejected the former officials' argument that they lacked sufficient opportunity to present their case, stating that the Civil Aviation Authority had ample time to hire legal representation and defend itself. Both parties agreed that guarantees were obtained from Olive Group, but the Civil Aviation Authority argued that this was due to doubts about the contract's equipment. The judge found this reasoning contradictory and noted that retaining 10% of the monthly revenue had no legal or contractual basis. It is noteworthy that Ashraf Ghani had previously canceled the contract with Olive Group and awarded it to a newly established company with no prior experience in civil aviation. It was eventually revealed that Ghani, with the assistance of the newly appointed company, fled to the UAE in August 2021. The legal and financial disputes surrounding Olive Group and Hogan Lovells highlight the complexities and consequences of contract breaches and political changes in Afghanistan.

Kabul hosts exhibition of books, paintings, clothes

KABUL (TOLONews): An educational center in Kabul organized an exhibition of books, paintings, and embroidered clothes. The organizers of this exhibition stated that their goal was to promote art and expand the culture of reading in the country, especially in the capital. Aziza Akhlaqi, the organizer of the exhibition, said: "The purpose of holding this exhibition is to introduce art and its application in our daily lives." Meanwhile, several participants called for comprehensive support from the interim government in organizing such exhibitions. Zainab, a participant, said: "Artists, especially women, need encouragement, as it plays an important role in their growth and progress." Other visitors expressed their strong interest in attending exhibitions and said such events are beneficial for the growth of artistic works and further

encouragement of artists. Mozghan, a visitor, said: "My request to the government is to support us in the fields of painting and education so that we can achieve greater progress." Another visitor, Sayed Hussain, stated: "I have a special interest in art, and these sectors can lead to the growth and development of art in society." According to the officials, this exhibition was held for just one day in the capital.

Contract worth \$113m signed for e-scanners



KABUL (Ariana News): A contract worth \$113 million was signed on Saturday for the installation of electronic scanners at the country's customs units at border crossings. According to the deal, 33 scanners will be installed at the country's 12 customs units to bolster security and curb smuggling. The scanners will be installed at Torkham, Hairatan, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala, Torgundi, Nimroz, Abu Nasr Farahi, Khost, Paktia, Aqina, and Sher Khan ports to ensure comprehensive screening of all types of goods, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs said in a statement.

The contract was signed between the Ministry of Finance and a private company. The project is slated for completion within two years, providing approximately 2,000 job opportunities and representing a significant step forward in modernizing the country's customs infrastructure, the statement said.

Ministry announces key cooperation agreements to enhance citizen services

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has announced the signing of three cooperation agreements between the Afghan Post (under the Communications Ministry) and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education, and the National Statistics and Information Authority. Officials from the Afghan Post said that the purpose of these agreements is to provide facilities for the citizens of the country. Ahmad Jan Bilal, the head of state-owned com-

panies said: "We are witnessing the signing of agreements with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the transfer of diplomatic documents, with the National Statistics and Information Authority for the transfer of electronic ID cards, and a mutual service agreement with the Ministry of Education." Meanwhile, Najibullah Haqqani, the acting Minister of Communications and Information Technology, said that the current budget is derived from domestic revenue and that the Islamic

Emirate has made good progress in the economic sector. He stressed the modernization of postal services in the country, stating that this process will be carried out gradually. Najibullah Haqqani said: "The Afghan Post has reached a stage where we can rely on it, and the door-to-door service program has also started. Many people mistakenly think that as long as houses are not numbered then there is no system; this is a gradual program that will be achieved." The Deputy Minister of

Country trade reaches \$5.2 billion

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Industry and Commerce stated that from January to June of this year, Afghanistan conducted trade worth \$5.237 billion with various countries. According to Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad, the spokesperson for the ministry, Afghanistan exported nearly \$700 million, with \$58 million worth of exports going to Central Asian countries alone. Jawad added that efforts are ongoing to increase the export volume further this year. The spokesperson for the Ministry of Industry and Commerce said, "Trade between Afghanistan and Central Asian countries continued normally during the first six months of 2024, with exports and imports amounting to \$629 million. Of this, approximately \$58 million were exports and \$571 million were imports." Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce and Investment stated that the majority of Afghanistan's exports go to South Asian countries, but there are efforts to increase the export volume to Central Asian countries as well.

Khan Jan Alokozai, a member of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said: "We have imports exceeding \$400 million, but our exports are very limited. The main reason is that all our exports are agricultural and freshly mined, with no industrial products." Some traders emphasize that preferential tariffs should be granted by regional countries to boost exports. Traders added that to enhance Afghanistan's trade relations with regional and global countries, it is necessary to provide trade facilitation through air corridors and land routes. Trader Omid Haidari said, "Currently, the problem we face is Pakistan's high tariffs, which have significantly increased on our export goods. Our traders cannot export with such high tariffs." According to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, in the solar year 1402, exports worth \$2 billion were made, with the majority going to Pakistan, India, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Turkey, and Iran.

Farmers call for cold storage facilities

KUNDUZ (TOLONews): Farmers in Kunduz said there is a need to establish standardized cold storage facilities to store their agricultural products. They said that due to the lack of cold storage, they face serious challenges every year during the harvest season of their agricultural products. M. Nabi, one of the farmers, said: "We have fruit, we have vegetables, we have everything, but we don't have standard cold storage facilities. For example, now the price of eggplant is 40 afghani, but if we had standard cold storage, we could sell them for 100 or even 120 afghani." "We ask the government to build cold storage facilities for this purpose so that the value of our fruits and vegetables will increase," said Abdul Nasir, another farmer in Kunduz. At the same time, the Department of Agriculture

Kabul, Tashkent discuss beefing up Amu River banks



KABUL (Pajhwok): Afghan and Uzbek officials have discussed the need for strengthening the banks of Amu River, an official said on Saturday. Afghanistan's team was headed by Agriculture Minister Maulvi Attaullah Omari and Uzbekistan's delegation was led by Water Management Minister Shavkat Khamraev Rakhimovich. In a statement, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) announced the two sides in Balkh province

talked on issues such as beefing up Amu River banks, water scarcity and fighting climate change. They also conferred on water-related issues, as flooding in Amu River destroys thousands of hectares of agricultural land and residential houses both in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan every year. Attaullah Omari and the Uzbek delegation also visited the damaged banks of the river in Balkh and emphasised on preventing their further destruction.

German Minister criticizes promise to deport Afghans

KABUL (Ariana News): German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock has indirectly criticized Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Interior Minister Nancy Faeser for promising to deport Afghan or Syrian criminals quickly. "I believe that, especially in such uncertain times, it is not a contribution to security if you promise things that you then no longer know quite how you can actually keep the next day," Baerbock said at an event in Hamburg, without mentioning Scholz or Faeser by name. She said that violent criminals have "lost their right to protection," however, one should not suggest that the problem of dangerous people can be solved by "quickly" deporting them to Afghanistan or Syria. Baerbock also warned again against allowing the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) to dictate the conditions for taking back criminals. "That's why I'm careful not to promise things that I don't know how to implement," she added. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed last month that Germany will start deporting criminals from Afghanistan and Syria again after a knife attack by an



Afghan immigrant left one police officer dead and several other people injured. Germ-any's interior minister Na-ncy Faeser also said Germ-any was considering depor-ting Afghan migrants who posed a secu-

rity threat back to Afghanistan. IEA, however, called on Germany to avoid deportation of Afghans to a third country, but address the matter through normal consular engagement.

Neilli residents want contaminated water issue addressed

NEILLI (Pajhwok): Some residents of Nelli, the capital of central Daikundi province have complained against contamination of drinking water and asked the concerned authorities address the problem. According to the resident the wells water have contaminated due to below the standard sewage absorption wells. They said some families have constructed below the standard wells sewage absorption wells due to which the clean drinking water had contaminated. Ali Rahimi, the resident of Neilli City, told Pajhwok Afghan News most people have dug below the standard sewage absorption wells due to which most wells of drinking water had contaminated. He said the issue was often shared with the owners of houses and relevant government authorities but no action has been taken. He said: "Unfortunately, non-standard septic wells in some areas, such as Vahdat settlement, inside the urban master plan and around the urban master plan are absorption wells and it has created a lot of problems for the rest of the people." Rahimi als said that in the city of Nili, people are facing a shortage of drinking water and many wells have dried up, but they are worried that some wells where water is available are also contaminated. "We request the authorities and owners of the houses in Nili-Jeda city to solve this problem and save the people from the worries and problems caused by the water contamination," he said. Officials at the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) said the color, taste and smell of drinking water in Daikundi has 80 percent deteriorated. Arif Sediqi, Public Relation and Awareness Department Director, told Pajhwok Afghan News they received public complaints regarding water contamination, public relations had been addressed and awareness was provided to them. He said it has been explained to everyone that inside and outside the master plan, they should build standard septic wells and not build absorption wells. He said Currently, about 90% of the houses inside the master plan have septic wells, and outside the master plan, about 20% have standard septic wells, and the rest are absorption wells. "According to people's complaints and to the appearance, color, smell and taste of the water, the majority of the neighborhoods that have absorption wells, their water is contaminated." Sidiqi said that the EPA has provided awareness and maps to the resident on the basis of which they could dig affordable septic wells. He also said that efforts were underway to adopt a reasonable policy in order to address this problem.

Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister accepts IEA envoy

KABUL (Ariana News): Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, has accepted Fazl Mohammad Sabir as the Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) in Ashgabat. According to a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Meredov said at a ceremony on the occasion that Turkmenistan and Afghanistan are planning to implement major projects, so it is necessary to increase the level of diplomatic relations. He expressed hope that with the joint diplomatic efforts of the two countries, the practical work of the TAPI gas pipeline, TAPI power transmission and railway between Torgundi and Herat will begin soon. The Islamic Emirate took control of Afghanistan in August 2021, but no country has recognized it as a government. But some countries in the region have established closer relations with the Islamic Emirate than others. In December last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping accepted Asadullah Bilal Karimi's credentials as Afghanistan's ambassador to Beijing.



Republicans grapple with how to take on Harris

WASHINGTON (Reuters): Republican nominee Donald Trump has called her "crazy," "nuts" and "dumb as a rock." Republicans in Congress disparage her as a diversity hire. Right-wing activists and trolls have smeared her online with racist, sexist and sexualized barbs.

The attacks on Kamala Harris, the first woman and first Black and South Asian person to serve as US vice president, have intensified in the days since she consolidated support to become Democrats' likely presidential nominee. The demeaning racist and sexist attacks threaten to distract from the Republican Party's concerted effort to focus on Harris' policies. Trump allies, including some members of the "Black Americans for Trump" coalition, warn that disparaging Harris could hurt him in his outreach to Black voters, a crucial demographic in the Nov. 5 presidential election.

In interviews with nine Republican lawmakers and 11 Black Republican women who back Trump, eight said personal attacks on Harris should be avoided. While guarded in their comments and emphasizing their continued support for Trump, several expressed worry over the tenor of the attacks and whether the onslaught could harm Republicans at the ballot box. "I think there is a way to critique her without going underneath her clothes," said P Rae Easley, a Black conservative radio show host in Chicago and a member of the "Black Americans for Trump" coalition, a loosely organized group of Black allies backing Trump.

Several members of Congress echoed her sentiments. "I'm going to oppose Vice President Harris because of what she's done, not who she is," said Representative Dusty Johnson, who chairs the 75-member Republican Main Street Caucus. "Some of this ugliness is unbecoming of a great country."

Others said the attacks on Harris' personal life were no different than Democrats attacking Trump over his personal and family life. "It's a nasty fight. Democrats have a tendency to play victim," said Madgie Nicolas, co-chair of Haitians for Trump and the Faith and Freedom Coalition's national director of African American voices. The tension suggests Trump campaign efforts to tie Harris to President Joe Biden's record – particularly on immigration, crime and the economy – risk being overshadowed by personal attacks that show no signs of slowing. "Going after Kamala Harris as a 'DEI hire' is breathtakingly stupid," said Republican pollster Whit Ayres, who has worked on campaigns for US Senator Marco Rubio, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and others. "It's going to backfire," Ayres said, adding that Harris had an "incredible array of far left-wing policies" that

could be targeted.

DEI stands for "diversity, equity and inclusion" initiatives aimed at increasing representation of women and people of color in the workforce to address longstanding inequities and discrimination. The term "DEI hire" is now used to suggest a person is not qualified for their role and has been chosen on the basis of their race or gender. Ayres said the disparaging rhetoric would alienate women and "anyone who isn't far-right." The Trump campaign did not directly respond to questions about whether it had discussed trying to tone down personal attacks on Harris.

Trump's inflammatory rhetoric has emboldened people with racist beliefs to express them, according to rhetoric experts, critics and past public opinion polling. The former president has a history of attacking political opponents, including other Black women in power such as Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, who is prosecuting his election interference case in Georgia, and US District Judge Tanya Chutkan, the judge assigned to the federal case against him for attempting to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

At a rally in North Carolina on Wednesday, Trump did not go after Harris on gender or racial grounds. Instead, he painted a potential Harris presidency in apocalyptic terms. "She is a radical left lunatic who will destroy our country," Trump said. Trump spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said voters would reject Harris not because of her race and gender, but because of her failed policies.

A spokesperson for Harris, whose nascent campaign has generated a groundswell of grassroots fundraising and activism, said she is staying focused on her work. "These attacks are backfiring and even Republicans know it," said Sarafina Chitika.

Online attacks against Harris were ramping up even before Biden dropped out on Sunday, according to researchers and a Reuters review of posts on the X platform, although exact data is hard to come by. Some of the recent posts refer to sexual acts and speak of Harris' past relationships in lewd terms. Others disparage her for not having biological children, echoing a comment Trump running mate JD Vance made in 2021, when he criticized Harris and other Democrats as "a bunch of childless cat ladies who are miserable at their own lives."

Harris has two stepchildren with her husband, lawyer Doug Emhoff. Emhoff's ex-wife on Wednesday called such attacks "baseless" and described Harris as a "loving, nurturing, fiercely protective" co-parent. Disinformation researchers say the online attacks do not appear to be coming from a specific epicenter and are now so prevalent that most accounts are merely "amplifiers" of already-existing narratives.

US Representative Michael Cloud, a member of the ultraconservative House Freedom Caucus, defended Republicans who have disparaged Harris as a "DEI hire." "Those were Biden's words, actually," Cloud said.

Biden has not called Harris a "DEI hire." At a campaign appearance with Harris in May, he spoke of the values of DEI and having a diverse administration. "And it starts at the top with the vice president," Biden said. Trump has nicknamed Harris "Laffin' Kamala," mocking her laugh, and "Lyin' Kamala," claiming she tried to hide Biden's aging from the public. At a Sunday rally in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the former president called her "crazy" and "nuts."

Kelly Dittmar, a political science professor at Rutgers University, said the nicknames appeared to be playing into stereotypes about women's voices and emotions, as well as seeking to emulate African American pronunciation. "The actual laughing and cackling goes back to tropes about not wanting to hear women's voices," Dittmar said. "It's not the laugh itself. It's to characterize her as annoying. I think the nicknames are trying to cue the fact she's Black."

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson, who attended a closed-door meeting this week where party leaders urged members to concentrate on policy issues, told Reuters on Thursday that he had not spoken to Trump or the Trump campaign about how to message regarding Harris. "This campaign will be about policies," Johnson said. "And I think everybody will be discussing that in detail, and I think we'll win on that basis."

Easley, the radio show host, said she suggested to Trump campaign officials they engage Black allies more to counter Harris "without the veil of racism being attached to it." She and several other Black Republican women who spoke to Reuters said they did not like the personal attacks, with some noting their own experiences confronting higher standards and expectations as Black women, or having their qualifications questioned.

"As a Black woman myself, I don't appreciate when people start saying because of the color of your skin, that makes you a DEI hire. I don't think that's fair to anyone," said Corrin Rankin, vice chair of the California Republican Party, who said she met Harris when they both worked in San Francisco. However, Rankin said she felt Biden's vow to pick a woman or person of color as his running mate in 2020 had allowed that term to take hold. Other Trump allies warned that his attacks could alienate some voters. "I am hoping that his advisers will encourage Trump to pull it back," said Camilla Moore, chair of the Georgia Black Republican Council. "Because it could hurt in the long run."



RAWALPINDI: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman talking to media persons at Liaquat Bagh.

ATC adjourns hearing till Aug 27 in May 9 vandalism

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Special Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Judge Muhammad Iqbal Khan adjourned the hearing of a case against Pakistan Tehreek Insaf leaders and workers till 27th August in 9th May 9 vandalism.

The prosecution requested for recording statements of Counter-Terrorism Department in-charge, Doctor who performed the post-mortem of the citizen who died during the protest and SHO Khan Raziq Shaheed police station in the case.

The counsel argued that over 100 PTI leaders and workers are nominated, including Provincial Minister Meena Khan Afridi, MPAs Fazal Elahi, Asif Khan, and Irfan Salim, Former ministers Taimur Salim Jhagra, Kamran Bangash and Former Mayor of Peshawar Arbab Asim in the case.

SC orders overhaul of air pollution regulations

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has mandated a comprehensive revision of air pollution regulations, emphasizing the need for stringent measures to combat environmental degradation.

In a detailed 17-page order issued by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah on July 11, the court underscored the fundamental right of every citizen to live in a clean and transparent environment. The ruling highlights the severe impact of air pollution, citing that one in nine global deaths is attributed to it, with the World Health Organization reporting 7 million annual deaths due to pollution.

The court's order notes that Pakistan, along with Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, ranks among the most polluted countries, with Pakistan being the second most polluted nation globally. It highlights the dire consequences of pollution, including increased risks of cancer and heart disease affecting both humans and wildlife.

The Supreme Court has specifically directed the immediate closure of three stone crushing plants in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) responsible for severe environmental pollution. Additionally, the court has ordered a review of 900 other stone crushing plants operating in KP by the provincial environmental protection agency. Federal and provincial governments are now required to revise their air pollution regulations and submit a progress report. The court has scheduled further hearings on the case for the first week of November to assess the progress of these critical reforms.

Three killed in firing on vehicle

F.P. Report

PANJGUR: At least three people were killed and another injured in firing of armed men on a vehicle here on Saturday, Levies sources said.

Armed men sprayed bullets on a vehicle in Baglagar, mountainous area of tehsil Gwargo of district Panjgur of Balochistan. As a result of firing, three people including Nasir, Ishaq and Jumma were killed and Abdul Wahid was injured.

BD authorities detain student protest leaders

DHAKA: Bangladesh authorities have taken three student leaders, who helped coordinate rallies against government job quotas, from a hospital following days of deadly nationwide protests and state-imposed curfews and communication blocks. Officers reportedly forced the discharge of three leaders of the Students Against Discrimination movement from the Gonoshasthaya Kendra hospital in the capital, Dhaka.

Police had initially denied that Nahid Islam, Abu Bakar Mazumdar and Asif Mahmud were taken into custody. But Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan subsequently told reporters: "They themselves were feeling insecure. They think that some people were threatening them."

While Khan did not confirm whether the three had been formally arrested, he told reporters late on Friday, "We think for their own security they needed to be interrogated to find out who was threatening them. After the interrogation, we will take the next course of action."

Security forces also picked up a ward boy from the hospital in the Dhanmondi area and seized the phones of

Islam's mother and wife, along with those of Mazumdar and Mahmud. The incident took place an hour after an Al Jazeera team tried to interview them, but their rooms had been cordoned off.

Islam had told reporters last week that he feared for his life after being taken from a friend's house and tortured. At least 150 people have been killed and thousands have been arrested since the protests turned violent last week as pro-government student groups attacked rallies. The protests were initially peaceful and focused on opposing a quota system that reserved 30 percent of government jobs for family members of those who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence from Pakistan in 1971.

The Supreme Court last week scaled back the reservation to make 93 percent of jobs merit-based, and the government formally accepted the move. But after the deadly crackdown on protesters and imposition of a curfew in tandem with a heavy throttling of internet access and phone communications, student leaders have made nine demands, including a public apology from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the

sacking of police officers, multiple ministers and university chiefs.

The curfew has been relaxed for increasing hours each day, limited internet connectivity has been restored and a number of businesses have been allowed to reopen. But many restrictions remain in place – amid a suspension of protests by the student leaders due to the bloodshed – further hurting the economy, which was already dealing with high inflation and youth unemployment.

Mohammad Arafat, Bangladesh's minister of state for information and broadcasting, told Al Jazeera in an interview that "third-party" actors, including "extremists and terrorists", have been fuelling the unrest. The United Nations high commissioner for human rights, Volker Turk, called for an independent investigation into alleged human rights violations, saying many people "were subjected to violent attacks" by government-affiliated groups. A group of UN experts also separately called for an independent investigation into what they said was a "violent crackdown on protesters" by the government. — Aljazeera

93% of milk samples found substandard in KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority launched its largest-ever milk sample collection and testing drive, total samples, 93 percent (541 samples) were found to be adulterated, substandard, and harmful to health, while only 7 percent were satisfactory.

The Authority collecting 583 milk samples from businesses associated with large and medium-scale dairy operations across the province. A detailed report was released, following the conclusion of the 10-day special milk sampling and testing campaign. The report stated that 26 teams, led by assistant directors, were formed to collect samples from large and medium-level dairy businesses.

The samples were sent for testing to the state-of-the-art laboratory established by the Food Authority in Hayatabad, Peshawar. According to the report, the total samples were collected from approximately 324,000 liters of milk, of which only 7% (42 samples) were found to be of satisfactory quality. Additionally, water was found in 417 samples, glucose in 106, formaldehyde in 17, fat deficiencies in 224, and protein and other mineral deficiencies in 488 samples.

The report also indicated that 18.18% of the samples contained dry powder milk, 15.7% sucrose, 4.1% salt, 2.91% formaldehyde, and 1.3% sorbitol. The report further revealed that at divisional level, 94% of samples in Peshawar, 87% in Mardan, 88% in Kohat,

97% in Malakand, 84% in Hazara Division, and 100% in Bannu and D.I. Khan were found to be substandard.

Wasif Saeed stated that for the first time, milk samples were analyzed on a large scale using the state-of-the-art Milko Scan technology. He explained that the samples were collected in sterilized bottles with ice packs and all necessary SOPs were followed, for the testing purpose.

Wasif said that a crackdown against the milk adulteration mafia has been initiated, leading to the closure of 12 milk sellers in the black and red categories in Peshawar Division and eight in Malakand and revoking their licenses along with imposing heavy fines. He added further that actions are ongoing across the province.

‘Atomic bomb hell must never be repeated’

TOKYO (BBC): It was early in the day, but already hot. As she wiped sweat from her brow, Chieko Kiriake searched for some shade. As she did so, there was a blinding light - it was like nothing the 15-year-old had ever experienced. It was 08:15 on 6 August 1945. "It felt like the sun had fallen - and I grew dizzy," she recalls.

The United States had just dropped an atomic bomb on Chieko's home city of Hiroshima - the first time a nuclear weapon had ever been used in warfare.

While Germany had surrendered in Europe, allied forces fighting in World War Two were still at war with Japan. Chieko was a student, but like many older pupils, had been sent out to work in the factories during the war. She staggered to her school, carrying an injured friend on her back. Many of the students had been badly burnt. She rubbed old oil, found in the home economics classroom, onto their wounds. "That was the only treatment we could give them. They died one after the next," says Chieko.

"Us older students who survived were instructed by our teachers to dig a hole in the playground and I cremated [my classmates] with my own hands. I felt so awful for them." Chieko is now 94 years old. It is almost 80 years since the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and time is running out for the surviving victims - known as hibakusha in Japan - to tell their stories.

Many have lived with health problems, lost loved ones and been discriminated against because of the atomic attack. Now, they are sharing their experiences for a BBC Two film, documenting the past so it can act as a warning for the future. After the sorrow, new life started to return to her city, says Chieko. "People said the grass wouldn't grow for 75 years," she says, "but by the spring of the next year, the sparrows returned." In her lifetime, Chieko says she has been close to death many times but has come to believe she has been kept alive by the power of something great.

The majority of hibakusha alive today were children at the time of the bombings. As the hibakusha - which translates literally as "bomb-affected-people" - have grown older, global conflicts have intensified. To them, the risk of a nuclear escalation feels more real than ever. "My body trembles and tears overflow," says 86-year-old Michiko Kodama when she thinks about conflicts around the world today - such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the Israel-Gaza war. "We must not allow the hell of the atomic bombing to be recreated. I feel a sense of crisis."

Michiko is a vocal campaigner for nuclear disarmament and says she speaks out so the voices of those who have died can be heard - and the testimonies passed on to the next generations. "I think it is important to hear first-hand accounts of hibakusha who experienced the direct bombing," she says. Michiko had been at school - aged seven - when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

Amina handed over to police on remand

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Amina Urooj, accused of orchestrating the kidnapping of renowned Pakistani dramatist Khalilur Rehman Qamar through a honey trap, has been placed under a four-day physical remand by the police.

The anti-terrorism court of Lahore, presided over by Judge Khalid Arshad, issued a detailed one-page written order. The court found the request by the investigating officer to be justified, thereby approving the four-day physical remand of the accused. According to the court's decision, Amina Urooj will be in police custody from sunrise to sunset and will be presented in court again on July 30.

The written judgment details that Inspector Imran Yusuf, the investigating officer, presented Amina Urooj in court and sought a 20-day physical remand to facilitate the recovery process. The case involves a dramatic turn of events where Amina Urooj allegedly lured Khalilur Rehman Qamar to her home under the pretense of discussing a new drama project. Upon his arrival, armed men abducted him. Qamar was reportedly released after paying a substantial ransom to his captors. The court's decision marks a significant development in this sensational case, as investigations continue to uncover further details.

Trump plans more outdoor rallies

WASHINGTON (Reuters): Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said on Saturday he would continue to hold outdoor rallies, disregarding a recommendation from the US Secret Service not to do so following an assassination attempt earlier this month.

"I will continue to do outdoor rallies, and secret service agreed to substantially step up their operation," the former president wrote on his Truth Social site. They are very capable of doing so. No one can ever be allowed to stop or impede free speech or gathering!!!! Trump was wounded two weeks ago when a 20-year-old gunman shot at him during a campaign rally in Western Pennsylvania. The FBI on Friday confirmed that Trump was struck on his right ear by a bullet.

Trump plans a campaign rally on Saturday in Minnesota as he tries to recapture momentum after Vice President Kamala Harris' whirlwind week that saw her emerge as his new Democratic opponent. Trump's event with vice presidential running mate Senator JD Vance brings him to a Midwestern state that has not chosen a Republican presidential candidate in 52 years, as the former president seeks to press into territory that became friendlier in the last few months before President Joe Biden dropped his reelection bid.

Harris, the first Black woman and first Asian American to serve as vice president, swiftly consolidated Democratic support after Biden exited the race and endorsed her to succeed him on Sunday. A handful of public opinion polls show she appears to have made up some of the ground Biden, 81, lost after a disastrous debate performance.

Trump's campaign event in St. Cloud, Minnesota, will take place in an 8,000-seat hockey arena, an indoor venue that complies with the US Secret Service's recommendation that he avoid large outdoor events following an attempt on his life at a rally in Pennsylvania two weeks ago. No Republican presidential candidate has won Minnesota since Richard Nixon in 1972.

Harris, 59, will attend a private

fundraiser on Saturday, after a series of campaign stops this week in which she laid out the themes that will animate her campaign. Harris' campaign said the fundraiser in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, would raise more than \$1.4 million with some 800 attendees, including singer-songwriter James Taylor.

Harris has sought to counter her background as a former prosecutor with Trump's record as a convicted felon and has argued that her campaign is about looking to the future, while Trump's wants to take the country into the past. Her rise to the top of the ticket has reenergized a campaign that had faltered badly amid Democrats' doubts about Biden's chances of defeating Trump, 78, or his ability to continue to govern should he succeed.

She raised more than \$100 million in the 36 hours after Biden's departure, according to her campaign. Trump and Vance, 39, have attempted to tie Harris to what they say is the Biden administration's failure to corral high inflation and stem a surge of migrants at the southern border with Mexico. Republicans have also portrayed Harris as more liberal and extreme than Biden.

Earlier on Saturday, Trump is set to speak at the Bitcoin 2024 conference in Nashville, part of a broader Republican effort to court crypto holders ahead of the Nov. 5 election. The party has promised lighter regulation for crypto, while Trump recently slammed Democrats' attempts to regulate the sector. The former president indicated he would like to see expanded bitcoin mining by US firms, even though he called bitcoin a "scam" in 2021.

"It's not a shift in the Republican Party as much as it is a revolution," Republican Senator Bill Hagerty of Tennessee told Reuters this week at the conference. Trump will host a fundraiser in Nashville prior to his remarks at the conference, with tickets ranging from \$60,000 to over \$800,000 per person. Donors can contribute via digital currency as well, according to an event invitation.

Palestinians shortly after its ally Hamas attacked southern Israeli border communities on Oct. 7, triggering Israel's military assault in Gaza. Hezbollah is an Iran-backed militant group and the most powerful military and political force in Lebanon.

US Representative Debbie Dingell, a Democrat from Michigan, which is home to Lebanese Americans in Detroit and elsewhere, applauded the move and estimated it would cover 11,500 people. — Aljazeera

White House grants deportation reprieve to Lebanese

WASHINGTON: The White House will offer deportation relief and work permits to an estimated 11,500 Lebanese nationals already in the US, due to conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, US President Joe Biden said in a memo. The measure, under an authority known as Deferred Enforced Departure, will allow Lebanese nationals to remain in the US for 18 months and could be renewed.

The announcement comes after

Vice President Kamala Harris pressured Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday to help reach a Gaza ceasefire deal that would ease the suffering of Palestinian civilians, striking a tougher tone than Biden. Harris has emerged as the likely Democratic presidential nominee after Biden ended his campaign on Sunday.

Israel and Hezbollah have been trading fire since Hezbollah announced a "support front" with