

Earthquake jolts Swat
F.P. Report

MINGORA: An earthquake of mild intensity jolted Swat and its surrounding areas on Tuesday but no casualties or property damages were reported. According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre, tremours measuring 4.5 on Richter scale were felt in Mingora city of Swat and surrounding areas. People of the areas where the quake was felt rushed out of their homes.



@thefrontierpost

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXI

No. 158

Regd. No. 241

ZIL-HAJJ 26 1445 -- WEDNESDAY, JULY 03 2024

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

PM calls for enhancing Pak-Tajik trade, ties

Shehbaz, Emomali vow to further strengthen Pakistan-Tajikistan relations

DUSHANBE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed upon expansion of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Tajikistan as the current volume did not reflect the current level of brotherly relationship between the two countries.

Addressing a presser along with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, the prime minister said that today, they had signed a number of MoUs which would be very helpful in furthering their bilateral ties. The prime minister especially mentioned the agreement over strategic partnership. "These agreements will go a long way in furthering our brotherly ties and of course, expanding our scope of cooperation in the coming days," he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also assured Tajik president that he would work closely with him to further cement the brotherly ties not only in fields of agriculture, education, health and promotion of investment but also in expansion of bilateral trade. He underlined that the both countries required to work closely and fix targets as how to increase their bilateral trade and investment, citing transportation of goods from port of Karachi to Tajikistan via Afghanistan and then from Dushanbe to Karachi port via Afghanistan through a railroad connectivity project.

The prime minister termed this existing opportunity as 'an area of huge economic importance for both countries'. The prime minister apprised that he had very fruitful and productive one-on-one meeting with the Tajik president, besides holding delegation level meetings in which they discussed to explore trade and investment opportunities. He said Pakistan would be keen to be a part of China, Tajikistan and Afghanistan trade corridor project, adding 'it would be another opportunity to

broaden the multilateral trade' in the region.

He also expressed the confidence that the CASA 1000, would be completed next year bringing prosperity in this region. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also referred to another MoU pertaining to relaxation of visas requirements and said that it would be very helpful for both countries in further achieving their goals.

The prime minister said the two brotherly countries had been the victims of terrorism; Pakistan faced this menace for years and paid a huge price in terms of human lives and of course, suffered from colossal economic losses to the tune of billions of dollars. Thousands of people from all walks of life laid down their lives to defeat the menace of terrorism, he said, adding the armed forces of Pakistan had been fighting this menace and its officers and Jawans gave huge sacrifices in the line of duty, besides police and other law enforcement agencies personnel also rendered huge sacrifices.

Terming it 'a story of huge sacrifices', the prime minister regretted that unfortunately, it had resurged but it would be suffice to say that they had absolutely resolved to defeat this menace again with collective efforts. The prime minister also offered cooperation to Tajikistan in this regard and said the two countries could fight this menace collectively wherever it existed and in any shape.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated that peace was imperative for progress and prosperity of the region as it was directly linked with the development of the region. The prime minister said today, the world was facing different challenges, the war in Ukraine, and genocide in Gaza in which almost 40,000 Palestinians had lost their lives including children and mothers had been martyred. "It is genocide", he said, adding that the

mankind had not seen such scale of destruction in the recent times.

The prime minister said Pakistan had condemned this genocide in the strongest terms. The prime minister said that Pakistan had raised voice for the support of people of Palestine and maintained that unless their due rights were recognized including the right to freedom as citizens of free Palestine state, permanent peace could not be achieved in the region.

Pakistan also deeply condemned what was happening in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), he said and reiterated that durable peace could not happen without just solution to the Kashmir issue in line with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the implementation of resolutions of the United Nations Security Council in this regard. He also thanked the Tajik president for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation and reiterated an invitation to him to visit Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon expressed satisfaction on the existing fraternal ties and reaffirmed to continue their joint efforts to further strengthen Pakistan-Tajikistan ties.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepen the existing fraternal ties between the two countries which were based on a shared history, culture, geographical contiguity and common faith. On the bilateral front, the two leaders discussed the entire range of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Tajikistan, including trade and economy, investment, connectivity, culture, education, science & technology, defence, humanitarian assistance, parliamentary exchanges, and people-to-people contacts.

(Continued on Back Page)



DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meeting with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahon in Qasr-e-Millat, Tajikistan.

Zardari, Bilour discuss political situation

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister and senior leader of Awami National Party (ANP) Ghulam Ahmed Bilour called on President Asif Ali Zardari here in Islamabad on Tuesday.

They discussed overall political, security and law and order situation of the country. The President emphasized that all political parties need to work together for economic and political stability and addressing the country's problems.

He said consultation and consensus with all political parties on important national issues is inevitable. Ghulam Ahmad Bilour congratulated Asif Ali Zardari on assuming the office of President for the second time.

President summons Senate: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday summoned the Senate to meet on July 4, 2024.

The Senate will meet at the Parliament House on Thursday at 1700 hours, according to a President House press release. The president summoned the session in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Article 54 (1) of the Constitution.

Justice Aalia named as LHC CJ

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) has unanimously nominated Justice Aalia Neelum as the first-ever woman Chief Justice of Lahore High Court (LHC).

The Commission, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, unanimously approved Justice Neelum's name for the coveted position. She was third in the seniority list of the Lahore High Court after the elevation of former LHC CJ Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan to the Supreme Court.

After Justice Shahzad's elevation, Justice Shujaat Ali Khan was appointed as the acting chief justice for the LHC by President Asif Ali Zardari under Article 196. Justice Aalia Neelum, a renowned jurist, started her practice as a lawyer in 1996 and was elevated as a judge of the Lahore High Court in 2013. She has a distinguished career spanning over two decades and has been known for her judicious approach and legal acumen.

The commission also considered the names of Justice Shujaat Ali Khan and Justice Ali Baqar Najafi for the position, but ultimately decided in favor of Justice Neelum. The nomination has been sent to the parliamentary committee for final approval.

Meanwhile, Justice Shafi Muhammad Siddiqui was also nominated for post of Sindh High Court (SHC) top judge.

ECP misinterpreted SC verdict: Justice Minallah

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Justice Athar Minallah on Tuesday remarked that isn't it responsibility of the judiciary to correct mistakes committed by the Election Commission (ECP) who denied the right to a political party by keeping it away "unconstitutionally".

Justice Minallah gave the remark when hearing of the petition of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) challenging the denial of reserved seats in the national and provincial assemblies resumed. A 13-member full court, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, conducted proceedings.

Other judges on the bench were Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan. When Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan started his arguments, Justice Minallah asked him that he did not answer the basic question; the Election Commission (ECP) committed a serious violation of the Constitution by keeping a political party away from the elections, isn't it responsibility of judiciary to correct it.

The attorney general argued that according to the Constitution, [reserved] seats would go to political parties and not to independent candidates. Political parties became eligible for reserved seats if they won at least one seat, he continued. He presented record of reserved seat in 2002 and 2018 general elections.

He said that in the 2002 elections, 20 percent seats were won by independent candidates in Balochistan. Independent candidates were not counted while the reserved seats were being determined. However, an independent candidate who joined a political party was considered a member of that party. At this point, Justice Minallah intervened and the attorney general said that he would answer the question at the end of his arguments. He said the question is, under Article 51, can independent candidates be included in the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC)? Is the SIC eligible for reserved seats or not?

Justice Ayesha Malik said in 2024 general election, a large number of independent candidates have been elected. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah said that the case of independents never came in the court in the past. The number of independents is very high and the case has also been filed in the court, he added. The attorney general said that according to the constitution,

elections are not required to fill a vacant seat if the term of the assembly is less than 120 days.

Justice Muneeb Akhtar observed that political parties are the base of the parliamentary system. The question is, how such a large number of independent candidates returned to assembly? Did the people themselves elect the independent candidates? Did the Election Commission declare them independent? If there's a mistake, shouldn't the court correct this mistake? Shouldn't a legal option be adopted that would remedy this mistake? Justice Jamal Mandokhel remarked that Article 51 mentions seats, not membership. Justice Akhtar said that Article 224 is an exception, otherwise no assembly seat can be left vacant.

Justice Akhtar remarked that it is stated that the ECP is a constitutional body. Now its record shows that these people [independents] are the members of the SIC. How the ECP can deprive them of their seats after acknowledging them as a parliamentary party. The ECP informed the parliament that it [SIC] is a parliamentary party. The records are kept for a reason, the justice added. Justice Ayesha Malik inquired the attorney general is it possible that a political party is not a parliamentary party; if it wins a seat, can it be considered a parliamentary party?

The attorney general said that the elections will determine a parliamentary party. If there are independent candidates, they can join the parliamentary party. Justice Ayesha Malik said that she was not asking about the independent candidate. She said she wanted to know about the right to participate in the elections. According to you, the political party will become a parliamentary party; the question is whether the independent candidates are a political party or not. She said if the ECP does not consider the SIC as a political party, how can it become a parliamentary party?

Justice Shah remarked that people knew that the candidates declared independent belonged to the PTI. The court can dispense justice after taking into consideration all the aspects of a situation. Justice Minallah said that it has been proved that the ECP misinterpreted the court decision. Should the court endorse this unconstitutional interpretation on behalf of the constitutional institution? Do you want us to revive the doctrine of necessity?

Chief Justice Isa remarked that the court decides matter according to the constitution and the law. All judgments taken under the doctrine of necessity fulfilled the requirement of justice. In the absence of concrete evidence, the decision were taken on one's discretion.

Afghan Taliban, Pakistan diplomats meet in Doha

DOHA: In a fresh diplomatic engagement after Islamabad announced an operation against Afghanistan-based terrorists, an Afghan Taliban delegation headed by Afghan interim government's spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid met Pakistani diplomats on the sidelines of the Doha-III conference.

Pakistan and Afghanistan enjoyed close and brotherly ties as South Asian neighbours which lately become strained due to frequent cross-border attacks largely carried out by the banned outfit — Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) — which, according to Pakistan's security officials, operates from the Afghan soil. The Afghan interim government's representatives are currently visiting Doha to attend talks to "discuss increasing engagement with Afghanistan and a more coordinated response to the country, including economic issues and counter-narcotics efforts".

They were due to meet UN officials and over 20 envoys, including the US special representative to Afghanistan as the international community grappled with its approach to Kabul's new rulers., according to Reuters.

During their visit, Pakistani Ambassador to Qatar Muhammad Aejaaz hosted a dinner for the Afghan Taliban delegation at his residence in Doha which was attended by senior diplomats, including Pakistan's Special Representative on Afghanistan Asif Durrani and the country's Deputy Head of Mission in Kabul Ubaid Ur Rehman Nizamani. Durrani posted photos of the occasion on X (formerly Twitter) while welcoming and hosting the Taliban representatives where they discussed developments at the "Doha-III conference, bilateral and regional issues".

The Pakistani envoy to Qatar also reacted to the recent meeting on X, saying: "Very delighted to have hosted tonight the AIG [Afghanistan interim government] and Pakistan delegations attending the Doha-III [conference]." "Both remain neighbours and brothers and have a lot in common, including a strong desire for regional peace and security," Aejaaz added.

It was an "unusual meeting" between both sides, diplomatic sources told media, adding that the Taliban representatives also met an Indian delegation in Doha. The sources said that the latest diplomatic engagement was held in a "positive environment" in which the representatives of the Afghan interim government thanked Islamabad for supporting Kabul's stance in the Doha conference, as well as the latter's backing on a national level. Mujahid wrote on the microblogging website regarding the meeting, "We had a very good evening meeting with Pakistan's special representative Asif Durrani, the ambassador and consuls in Doha." "We thank them for their hospitality and hope for good and constructive relations for both countries," he added. — Agencies

NEPRA introduces new fixed charges

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has announced revised fixed charges for domestic consumers, effective from July 1, aimed at boosting revenue for electricity distribution companies.

According to the latest details, households consuming up to 200 units of electricity will be exempt from fixed charges. For consumers using 301 to 400 units, a monthly charge of Rs 200 will apply, while those using 401 to 500 units will incur Rs 400 per month. Consumers falling within the 501 to 600 units bracket will face a fixed charge of Rs 600 monthly, escalating to Rs 800 for usage between 601 to 700 units. Households consuming over 700 units will bear a fixed charge of Rs 1,000 per month.

The rationale behind these adjustments is to enhance revenue streams for electricity distributors, ensuring sustainability and improved service provision. As these changes take effect, stakeholders anticipate varied responses from consumers affected by the new tariff structure, aiming for equitable distribution of costs across usage tiers. This move by NEPRA reflects ongoing efforts to stabilize the energy sector and meet financial obligations amid evolving consumer needs and market dynamics.

OGRA issues new gas price notification

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has released a new notification regarding gas prices after receiving approval from the ECC. Contrary to expectations, there will be no reduction in gas prices for domestic consumers this financial year, despite earlier proposals for a 10% reduction not being implemented. Effective from July 1st, OGRA has announced an increase in gas rates for captive power plants (CPPs) by Rs 250 per MBTU.

US responds to UN comments on Imran Khan's detention

Jalil Afridi

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Vedant Patel, the Principal Deputy Spokesperson for the US State Department, addressed a question by The Frontier Post regarding the recent statement by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which declared the detention of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan as illegal and unfounded.

When asked if the US would condemn the alleged election fraud and Imran Khan's detention, Patel deferred to the UN for further clarification on their comments. He reiterated the State Department's stance, stating, "In the case of Mr. Khan, you've heard us say this before: This is an internal matter for Pakistan. I don't have any assessment to offer from up here."

Patel's comments reflect the US position of non-interference in Pakistan's internal affairs, while emphasizing that it is up to Pakistani authorities to address these issues. The

US responds to Dar's comments on House resolution

Jalil Afridi

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a press briefing today, Vedant Patel, the Principal Deputy Spokesperson for the US State Department, addressed comments made by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister regarding alleged US interference in Pakistani elections. The Deputy Prime Minister had criticized a House resolution, which saw overwhelming support from 368 congressmen, asserting that it constituted unsolicited interference and undermined the fairness of Pakistan's elections.

When asked if the State Department would condemn the Vice Prime Minister's statement, Patel clarified the US position. "As a standard practice, we're not going to speak to pending congressional legislation," he stated, emphasizing the separation and coequality of the US Congress within the American democratic system.

Patel reiterated the US commitment to advocating for democratic principles and human rights in Pakistan. "Our most senior officials, whether that be Secretary Blinken, Assistant Secretary Lu, Ambassador Blome, have consistently and privately and publicly urged Pakistan to respect the rights of its people in line with its constitution and international commitments," he said. Patel underscored the importance of fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly, and religion, in maintaining a democratic society. The exchange highlights ongoing tensions and differing perspectives between the US and Pakistan regarding democratic processes and international diplomacy.

State Department's response highlights the complexities of international diplomacy and the delicate balance of addressing human rights concerns while respecting national sovereignty.

Dozens dead in stampede at religious event in India

LUCKNOW (AFP / Reuters): At least 116 people, many of them women and children, were killed in a stampede at a Hindu religious gathering in north India on Tuesday, authorities said, in one of the country's worst such tragedies in years.

The stampede happened in a village in Hathras district, about 200 km (125 miles) southeast of the national capital New Delhi, where authorities said thousands had gathered in sweltering late afternoon temperatures. "The incident happened due to overcrowding at the time when people were trying to leave the venue," Ashish Kumar, administrator of the Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, told reporters.

Chaitra V, another senior state official, told broadcaster India Today that peo-

ple may have lost their footing as they sought water in the heat. "There was wet mud at one place where people may have slipped. Also because of the heat, people may have made their way to the spot where water was kept and that could have caused the incident as well," she said. Video clips recorded by news agency ANI, in which Reuters has a minority stake, showed bodies piled into the back of trucks and laid out in vehicles. Purses and bags covered in dust, were heaped up at the venue, with people sitting on their haunches sifting through them to identify their belongings.

Mobile phones were similarly piled together, waiting to be claimed by their owners. A video on social media showed a large crowd packed into a tented area, standing and listening

to devotional tunes as they waved their hands in the direction of the religious leader who sat on a stage. It also showed some women hanging on to the bamboo poles holding up the canopy to get a better view above the heads of the large crowd. Reuters could not immediately verify the social media images.

"There must have been about 50,000 people...at the gate on the highway, some people were going left and some people were going right, the stampede was caused in that confusion," Suresh Chandra, a witness who was at the gathering, told local media. Seema, a woman who travelled from a town almost 60 km away to attend the event, said she was leaving the venue when the stampede occurred. She was accompanied by three relatives, two of whom were killed.

PID (I) No.07/24



PESHAWAR: Adviser to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sports and Youth Affairs Syed Fakhar Jahan along with Pakistan team wicket keeper Muhammad Rizwan and office bearers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sports Writers Association cutting the cake to celebrate 100 years of AIPS.

SWA KP Celebrates 100 years of AIPS

Rizwan says team is disappointed with T20 WC performance

Says doing ‘surgery’ is PCB Chairman’s prerogative

Shahid Afridi

PESHAWAR: National cricket team wicketkeeper batsman Mohammad Rizwan expressed his disappointment over the team's poor performance in the T20 World Cup stating that when the team's performance is lacking it is never due to just one reason various flaws contribute to the poor performance. He remarked that those who cannot face criticism cannot achieve anything in the world. Rizwan was

speaking at the event organized by the Sports Writers Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to celebrate International Sports Journalists Day and the 100th anniversary of AIPS. Rizwan emphasized that his focus remains solely on the ball and bat and that hard work and determination are within an individual's control.

He stated that when playing for the country their only concern is the opposing team and how they can contribute to the nation. He added that there

should be no talk of prejudice in sports.

Rizwan highlighted the strength given to the Pathans by Allah and said that if utilized they can achieve great things. He urged everyone to perform their best in their respective fields and fulfill their roles. In response to a question Rizwan mentioned the upcoming Test series against Bangladesh and that a camp is ongoing in Karachi.

Replying to another question he acknowledged the disappointment with

the T20 World Cup performance and admitted that they deserve the criticism they are receiving.

He expressed gratitude to the nation for their continued support and love despite the disappointment. He noted that winning and losing are part of the game and that many things said about the team have no basis in reality. Responding to a query about surgery within the team Rizwan said it was the chairman's prerogative to make decisions for the team's improvement.

UET Mechanical Engineering Dept holds final year project exhibition



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Final Year Project Exhibition 2024, Department of Mechanical Engineering, UET, Peshawar showcased 36 final year projects by the final year students the other day. Prof. Dr. Qaisar Ali, Vice Chancellor UET Peshawar as chief guest inaugurated the exhibition. Later, the Vice Chancellor, the Chairman and Faculty members visited the projects and appre-

ciated the efforts of the graduating students for their innovative ideas. The event was organized by the Department of Mechanical Engineering under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Hamid Ullah, Chairman with assistance from ASME & IMechE students' societies of the department. The exhibition was sponsored by Building Energy Research Center (BERC), UET, Peshawar.

Prof. Dr. Qaisar Ali, Vice Chancellor UET

Peshawar as chief guest of the closing ceremony urged collaboration between academia, industry and government. "We need to focus on the commercialization of these projects for the benefit of society", he added. To make strong collaboration with industry, a core committee need to be constituted in near future which will bridge the students with industry to provide them multiple opportunities, the Vice Chancellor said.

Prof. Dr. Hamid Ullah, Chairman, Department of Mechanical Engineering while addressing the closing ceremony said that "Final Year Project Exhibition" is a regular feature, arranged every year to celebrate the achievements of the students and encourage them to communicate their project work to the public, especially the industry. The current four batches of the Department of Mechanical Engineering are declared as OBE accredited by the PEC accreditation team during its recent visit of the department, the Chairman said. He appreciated the industries for their participation in the exhibition. He also appreciated the efforts of Dr. Shaukat Ali Shah, Dr. Muhammad Alam Zaib Khan and Final year project exhibition committee for holding a successful project exhibition.

Seizing bulletproof vehicles from elected MPA

PHC seeks response from KP govt

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) ordered restoration of security for former provincial minister and Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Muhammad Iqbal and suspended orders regarding withdrawal his security as well as sought a response from provincial government for confiscating two bulletproof vehicles from him, on Tuesday.

Barriester Mudassir Amir and Barrister Yasin Raza argued that the petitioner elected as an independent candidate from PK-103 North Waziristan and by defeating Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

backed candidate, which had annoyed the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The lawyer also stated that Iqbal's family had been targeted by militants in the past, and his security was essential. He mentioned that Iqbal's brother, cousin, and other relatives had been killed in terrorist attacks, and his own life was in danger.

The counsel informed that MPA Iqbal has procured bulletproof vehicles on the advice of district security liason committee, but on June 14, his security was withdrawn, and his bulletproof vehicles were taken away. The lawyer argued that this was done

on the orders of the Chief Minister, who was angry with Iqbal for not joining the PTI.

PHC's divisional bench comprising of Justice SM Attique Shah and Justice Ijaz Sabi directed provincial government to submit a response regarding the confiscation of bulletproof vehicles from MPA Muhammad Iqbal and suspended transfer orders of security personnel.

CJ PHC visits Khyber's courts, inspected Jail

Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim visited district courts Khyber as well as inspected facilities provided to prisoners at Jail,

on Tuesday. District and Session Judge Khyber along with judicial officers welcomed Chief Justice on his visit.

PHC Chief Justice chaired a meeting regarding problems facing by judicial officers in the dispensation of justice as well as review performance of the district judiciary. He expressed satisfaction over the performance of Judicial Officers of Khyber district.

The Chief Justice also visited various courts and had an informal discussion with the litigants. He directed the District and Session Judge to facilitate litigants as well as the lawyers community.

PHC Puisne Judge expresses concerns over deteriorating law, order in Peshawar

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Senior Administrative Judge Terrorism Courts Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice Ijaz Anwar presided over the 66th meeting on 29th June 2024 at the Peshawar High Court. The meeting was attended by all the Judges of Anti-Terrorism Courts, Additional Chief Secretary Home, representative of Finance Department, Dean Khyber Medical College, and representative of AIG Prisons Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The meeting was commenced with the recitation from the Holy

Quran. The Hon'ble Chair welcomed all the participants. The performance of the ATC Courts was evaluated, revealing that from January 2024 to May 2024, there were 281 pending cases at the beginning of the year, 736 new cases instituted until May 2024, 597 cases disposed of, and by the end of May 2024, a total of 392 cases were pending in ATC Courts, KP.

The chair directed the Judges of ATCs, the Police of the CTD, and the Prosecution to expedite the disposal of terrorism cases without unnecessary delays or adjournments. Regarding the digitalization and automation of the

Courts and the prison, it was reported that 07 out of 13 ATC Courts are linked and remaining 6 ATC Courts would be linked soon.

The chair expressed his serious concerns regarding the law and order situation in the Province, particularly in the Provincial Capital Peshawar. Additional Chief Secretary representing the Home Department of the Provincial Government conveyed the commitment of the Provincial Government and outlined the immediate steps taken for the protection of life and property of the citizens in the capital city of the province.

KKKUK hosts national conference on AI and Libraries

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak's Department of Library and Information Science organized a landmark three-day national conference titled "Exploring the Nexus: Artificial Intelligence and Libraries". Held in collaboration with the Department of Computer Science & Central Library Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Sheringal-Upper Dir, Pakistan Librarians Society, and PASTIC Peshawar, the conference aimed to explore the intersection of artificial

intelligence (AI) with library sciences.

The event drew esteemed speakers and participants from across Pakistan, including representatives from Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, Islamabad, and various parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The conference served as a platform for academics, researchers, and industry experts to deliberate on the transformative impact of AI on library services, information management, and knowledge dissemination.

The closing session of the conference was graced by the presence of

the Worthy Vice Chancellor of Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak, Prof. Dr. Naseer Uddin, who served as the Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shahab, Vice Chancellor of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University and Patron-in-Chief of the event, Dr. Akram Sheikh, Director General of PASTIC, and Prof. Dr. Ali Muhammad Jan, Vice Chancellor of Islamia College University Peshawar, also honored the conference as Guests of Honor during the opening session.

Reflecting on the success of the conference, Dr. Saeed Ullah Jan, Conference Chair, expressed his gratitude to all participants for their active engagement and valuable contributions. He highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in advancing research and innovation in library sciences amidst the rapidly evolving landscape of AI technology.

The conference concluded on a high note with a commitment to further exploration and implementation of AI-driven solutions in library environments, aiming to enhance accessibility, efficiency, and user experience in information services.

Education facility launches for drop out students

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chairman Badizai Haji Ubaid Ullah Khan Khalil has launched an education program for the children of his village in collaboration with UNICEF and SRSP.

According to details, the first session of the program, which included a course package for 6th and 7th grade students, has been successfully completed. Now, the second phase of the program, package E, has started for 8th grade students.

SRSP has provided books, copies, pencils, and other materials for this program. This initiative aims to support children who had to drop out of school due to financial constraints or other reasons.



7th Final Year Engineering Design Projects Expo begins

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Council, Engineer Mir Masood Rasheed, Minister on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Tordher formally inaugurated the 7th Final Year Engineering Design Projects Expo 2024 of Engineering Universities. The exhibition has been organized in collaboration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) here at Hayatabad in Peshawar. Models of various engineering projects prepared by the students of engineering universities across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

have been showcased in the event. Besides, Advisor to Pakistan Engineering Council, Engineer Mir Masood Rasheed, Additional Registrar Engineer Jehanzeb Khan and vice chancellors of various universities, other were also present on the occasion. The Special Assistant inspected the engineering models designed by the students of the universities and showed keen interest in them and appreciated their creative efforts. On this occasion, he also distributed certificates among those engineering students who had completed their six-month field internship with

the support of the Pakistan Engineering Council.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the Special Assistant said that a legislative act has been drafted for hiring 5% of the student's internships of technical training in various industries and now rules for it will also be prepared, so the students learn practical skills without financial hardships. He said that they want that entrepreneurship should be a necessary segment of the syllabus of the universities and technical educational institutes as successful people in practical life have started their careers with entrepreneurship. He said that the provin-

cial government is beginning a mega project of Rs.5 billion for provision of interest-free loan scheme for start-ups and cluster development, saying the students can take benefit of it.

The Special Assistant told the students that our new generation is not lacking dearth of talent and they are very intelligent and capable. Therefore, he urged them to market their creativity and brands to make them useful. For this purpose, he said that can get assistance through the Board of Investment. He urged the students to market their creative endeavors as we have to uplift the province in all aspects.

Abbasi chair first monthly Khuli Khachari

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Under the chairmanship of special assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's for Anti-Corruption establishment Brigadier (R) Muhammad Mossadeq Abbasi first monthly Khuli Khachari of Directorate of Anti-Corruption Establishment was held in Peshawar on Tuesday.

Director Anti-Corruption establishment Rab Nawaz Khan along with the concerned officer of department attended the Khuli Khachari and heard the complaints in detail.

Speaking in the Khuli Khachari Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Anti-Corruption establishment Brigadier R. Mossadeq Abbasi said that the elimination of corruption from government institutions is the main mandate of the Anti-Corruption Establishment. It is a supporting body for com-

plainants.

Abuse of authority in any department will not be tolerated. Anyone involved in damaging or embezzling public funds will be dealt with severely.

Brigadier (ret'd) Muhammad Mossadeq Abbasi directed to take joint measures with the relevant authorities to prevent the advertisement of illegal housing societies and said that the advertisement agencies should carry out the advertisement campaign after verifying the NOC and other relevant documents.

Before purchasing a plot in housing societies, it is mandatory to verify the relevant NOC and documents so that there are no problems and hassles later and avoid wasting valuable capital.

During Khuli Khachari Citizens presented complaints regarding private housing societies. According to the statistics issued by the Anti-Corruption

Establishment, Khuli Khachari were held in ten regional offices of the Anti-Corruption Establishment, in which 52 complaints were registered regarding various departments, while more than 544 people participated in these Khuli Khachari.

Eight complaints were registered in Peshawar, six complaints in Malakand, five complaints in Abbottabad, eleven complaints in Kohat, three complaints in Bannu, eighteen complaints in DI Khan and one complaint in Mansehra.

On complaints about non-compliance with relevant rules in contracts and procurement in various government departments SACM Brigadier (Rtd) Mossadeq Abbasi directed to obtain the details of tenders and procurement from KPRA and directed to take action if irregularities are proven.

Similarly, action was directed on priority basis

on the citizen's complaint related to Mansehra Forest department.

On the complaints regarding non-enforcement of by-laws and illegal allotment of shops in Cooperative Society Tarujabba Nowshera, the Special Assistant directed to verify the complaints.

Brigadier (Rtd) Mossadeh Abbasi directed the Anti-Corruption Establishment officials to track the registered complaints and keep them informed about the progress and action.

Citizens while appreciating the holding of Khuli Khachari by Special Assistant Brigadier (Rtd) Mossadeh Abbasi said that the distance between the departments and the public will be reduced by holding Khuli Khacharies.

Khuli Khachari were also held in the Regional Offices of Anti-Corruption where public registered complaints and issues were heard, and discussed in detail for there early resolution.



In brief

Action against public servants Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Anti-Corruption Establishment arranged 'Kuli Katchery' on the orders of the Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Anti-Corruption Muhammad Mossadeq Abbasi, at the Divisional Office Kohat on Tuesday. The Katchery was attended by the people from different districts of Kohat Division in large number. Most of the problems of the people were related to Patwarkhanas, Thanas, Municipalities, Public Health and Benazir Income Support Program. People openly expressed their individual and collective problems one by one which were answered satisfactorily by the authorities concerned. Assistant Director Anti-Corruption Kohat said that wherever there is corruption in any government department or institution, there will be action and people will be facilitated. He said that problems presented here will be brought into the notice of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through Special Assistant on Anti-Corruption and people concerned will be apprised of progress. Participants while welcoming the holding of Open Katchery on Anti-Corruption said that this it should be continued in the future.

Illegal housing schemes sealed

FAISALABAD (INP): The Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) sealed five illegal housing schemes in the city during an operation here on Tuesday. In line with directions of Director General FDA Muhammad Asif Chaudhry, the operation against unapproved housing schemes was in full swing in the city. After inspecting the legal status, the enforcement team sealed five illegal societies, including Moon Housing near Chak No 68-JB, Madina Green Valley near Chak No 204-RB and 208-RB, Buraq Valley, Qamar Block and Model City Executive. The roads, boundary walls, sewerage and other structures were demolished in the societies through machinery.

Robbers break into ATM F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: Robbers broke into an automated teller machine (ATM) of a private bank at Peshawar-Karachi Indus Highway and fled with the cash. According to police, the shrewd suspects broke open part of the ATM installed outside a gate of a cement factory in Lakki Marwat and fled with the cash. The exact amount of the looted cash from the ATM remains unknown. The police have launched investigation into the matter. Earlier, unidentified men hacked the system of an automated teller machine (ATM) at a bank in Peshawar to withdraw an amount of over Rs 3.3 million. According to details, the accused used a laptop to hack the system of the ATM and withdrew an amount of Rs 33,40,000 from it. "They successfully fled after skimming ATM machine at a Peshawar bank," the police said.

Thousands flock for Urs

PAKPATTAN (INP): The city of Pakpattan is abuzz with spiritual fervor as the 782nd 15-day Urs of the revered Sufi sage, Hazrat Baba Fariduddin Masood Ganj Shukar, commenced. Pilgrims from across the nation have gathered to honor the great Sufi saint. Sajjada Nashin Durbar Alia Dewan Maudood Masood led the centuries-old rituals, offering special prayers for the prosperity and well-being of the country.

PPP demands provision of solar system for Masjid

F.P. Report

BANNU: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) demanded provision of solar plant to Dandekhel Jamia Masjid, an area adjacent to Bannu city, demanding notice from party ministers and assembly members and the governor. PTI government is only making announcements.

Practically nothing is visible in the field. Announce the installation of solar plant for the house of the President of Pakistan and Chairman Saint Allah. These views were expressed by the senior leaders of Pakistan People's Party Shahr Bahadur Khan Dande Khel Saifullah Khan, Dal Fayyaz Khan, Bilawar Khan and Tajzar Ali Khan while addressing the protest demonstration, on this occasion the party workers and regional leaders shouted slogans against the provincial government and the elected representatives of Bannu and adjacent areas in the development projects.

He expressed deep regret over what was done. He said that ever since the PTI government came to power in the province, Bannu has been deprived of development even if the government has given funds, the concerned PTIM NA and MPs have blessed them-

selves.

They said that we will not demand a solar plant from the PTI government. Due to the absence of solar plant in Jamia Masjid, the worshipers are facing serious difficulties in offering prayers, so we all the officials, workers and regional leaders of Pakistan, President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Senate Yousuf Raza Gilani, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa strongly demands Faisal Karim Kundi to provide solar plant to Jamia Masjid of Dandekhel and to take concrete steps to end the backwardness of the area.

D&SJ administrators oath from new cabinet: District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Muzamal said that only with a strong relationship between the bar and the bench, quick and cheap justice will be possible for the people at their doorsteps. There will be a setback in the provision of justice to the people, until then the people will face difficulties in getting justice in the real sense.

All possible measures will be taken by the bar and the judge is obligatory and he expressed these views during the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected cabinet of Bannu Bar Association. Proposed to the judges the problems and difficulties faced by the

lawyers and the development of the bar. Advocate, Hidayatullah Mandan Advocate Malik Ashor Khan Durani Advocate, Malik Amir Khan Mandan, sanan Durani and other senior and junior lawyers were present on this occasion the lawyers of Bannu bar welcomed all the judges on arrival at the bar.

On this occasion, District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Muzamal Khattak said that a strong relationship between the bar and the bench has been established. And for the further strengthening of this relationship, we all have to play a joint role. We have always thought of providing quick justice to the people in the courts. All the disputes of the bar will be resolved by sitting together

Prominent politician passed away: Malik Hamid Khan, a prominent political and social figure known as the Chairman, passed away. Members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, lawyers, leaders of political parties, journalists, and members of various schools of thought participated in his funeral prayers. Khyber Medical University Director Finance Fawad Khan's father was the cousin of CPEC Authority Director Malik Kashif Khan and Housing Foundation Islamabad Director Malik Asif Khan.



HYDERABAD: Newly trained lady police constables participated in passing out parade during ceremony for the 18th basic training course for prison constables and lady prison constables at Sindh Prisons Staff Training Institute.

19 children injured as school collapses Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: At least 19 school children were injured, three of them critically, when roof of a private school caved in Matta tehsil of Swat district on Tuesday.

According to Rescue 1122 the incident occurred in Tangar area of Matta where the roof of a dilapidated private school caved in, injuring 19 children, three of them critically. All the children were recovered from the debris and after first-aid shifted to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Matta.

The school administration said 19 children were in the school when the roof collapsed adding that six children of nursery class sustained critical wounds. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur expressed grief over the incident and prayed for early recovery of the injured students. He also directed for providing best possible medical facilities to the injured school children.

Security arrangements discussed F.P. Report

KOHAT: District Police Officer Muhammad Umar Khan on Tuesday chaired a meeting to discuss security arrangements for maintaining peace on Muharram. The meeting was attended by sub divisional police officers, Station House Officers and police personnel assigned duties for Muharram.

The meeting was told that section 144 would be imposed and egress and ingress points of the district would be under strict surveillance.

It was told that large Muharram processions would be monitored by drone cameras and video recording of meetings and processions would also be done.

EU launches 'Parvaz' initiative to encourage legal migration

Anees Takar

MARDAN: In a bid to stem the tide of irregular migration and its attendant risks, the European Research Institute with the financial support of the European Union has launched a campaign called "Parvaz". The campaign aims to educate young people about the dangers of illegal border crossing and to encourage them to explore legal channels for migration.

The launch of the campaign is timely, given the increasing number of young Pakistanis who attempt to migrate to Europe, America and other countries through irregular means every year. Many of these young people are driven by poverty, lack of employment opportunities and political instability in their home country. However, they often find themselves in precarious situations, facing exploitation, abuse and even death.

Recently, a session was organized in Mardan where experts spoke about the financial and human costs of irregular migration. The session was attended by a large number of young people who were eager to learn about the risks and consequences of illegal border crossing. The experts explained that irregular migration can lead to a range of problems, including detention, deportation and even death.

The project coordinator, Amanullah, explained that despite the risks and said that thousands of people attempt to migrate illegally to Europe, America and other countries every year, putting their lives in danger. He emphasized that Pakistan has numerous resources and opportunities including technical and vocational training centers that can help young people develop their skills and find better employment opportunities.

"The aim of this campaign is to sensitize young people about the risks of irregular migration and to encourage them to explore legal channels for migration. "We want to provide them with information and guidance to make informed decisions about their future," said Amanullah.

According to the Displacement Tracking Matrix of the International Organisation for Migration, 4,065 migrants have arrived in Europe from Pakistan by land and sea till July 2023. Over the last five years, 273,331 Pakistanis were deported from countries across Europe, according to the FIA.

The seminar's speaker, Anees ur Rahman, who has extensive experience in youth development and guidance, highlighted the importance of legal migration and the need for young people to acquire skills and knowledge to make a positive contribution to the economy of their host country. He encouraged young people to explore legal channels for migration and to take advantage of the opportunities available in Pakistan.

"Young people are the future of our country, and we need to invest in their skills

and knowledge to ensure their success. "Irregular migration is not the solution to our problems and we need to work together to create opportunities for our young people," said Anees.

The campaign aims to organize 30 awareness seminars across the country, targeting young people and providing them with information and guidance to make informed decisions about their future. The project coordinator emphasized that with a little effort, research and utilization of available resources, young people can avoid the risks associated with irregular migration and achieve their goals through legal and safe means.

According to the latest data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as of June 2024, a total of 71,776 individuals have attempted to illegally migrate to Europe. Of these, 67,396 arrived via sea routes, while the remaining individuals arrived by land. Tragically, the data also reveals that 1,322 people among this number have been reported dead or missing.

The campaign is a welcome initiative, given the increasing number of young Pakistanis who are risking their lives to migrate to other countries through irregular means. By providing young people with information and guidance, the campaign hopes to reduce the number of irregular migrants and to encourage young people to explore legal channels for migration.

The "Parvaz" campaign is a timely initiative that aims to sensitize young people about the risks of irregular migration and to encourage them to explore legal channels for migration. By providing young people with information and guidance, the campaign hopes to reduce the number of irregular migrants and to encourage young people to explore legal channels for migration.

BISEM to facilitate students: The newly appointed secretary of Mardan Education Board Hazrat Ali while taking charge of his post said that the work of the institution is to provide facilities to the students affiliated to the board. To do justice to this chair and position, by using all our energy, we will try to provide more facilities to the students.

In response to a question, the newly appointed secretary said that the institution will follow the law of punishment and components, but do not believe in social media and air news. The board is a man-made institution. If you point out, every positive criticism will be welcomed, but pointless accusations and targeting someone without justification will never be accepted.

I have served in various positions of the board and Allah Ta'ala has guided us in every field with sincere intentions and we accept the current position as a mission to achieve success with the hard work and dedication of all employees. The series of congratulations in the office of the newly appointed secretary is going on.

JI and PTI backed Dir Paramedics win elections

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The Dir Paramedics group, politically backed by the Jamaat-i-Islami and Pakistan Tahreek Insaf won all the eleven slots of the Paramedical Association (PMA) Lower Dir by defeating the candidates of the Mutahida Paramedics group for the next four years.

According to the results announced late at evening, Mr Matiullah was elected as president of the PMA Lower Dir by securing 248 votes against his rival Haroon ur Rashid who bagged 243 votes. Similarly Gauhar Ali was elected as general secretary, Javed Khan as SVP, Naseer Muhammad as VP I and Badshah Muhammad as VP II, Fazal Ghafoor as coordination secretary, Taimur Jan as additional general secretary, Aftab Alam as joint secretary, Muddasir Hussain as finance secretary, Hussain Akbar as office secretary and

Azizullah as press secretary.

The Mutahida Paramedics group was backed by the PPP, ANP, PML-N and JUI-F. The Mutahida Paramedics group had fielded Haroon ur Rashid for president, Naik Zada for general secretary, Jehan Zeb for senior vice president, Ijazul Hassan and Ahmad Shah for senior presidents, Shah Khalid for joint secretary, Abdullah for press secretary, Salah ud Din for coordination secretary, Amjad Ali for additional general secretary, Arif Shah for finance secretary and Amjad Ali for office secretary slot. The elections for Paramedical Association were conducted at Timergara Rest house, THQ Talash, THQ Munda and THQ Chakdara in a pleasant environment.

Meanwhile Humayoun Khan of the Mutahida Paramedics was elected as president, Jehangir Khan as senior vice president, Ali Ahmad Jan as SVP II,

Muhammad Ibrahim as general secretary, Javed Khan as additional general secretary, Umar Sadiq as finance secretary and Ibrar Khan as chairman of the PMA for DHQ hospital Timergara. The Islamic Insaf Paramedics' Yousaf Khan was elected as SVPI, Nasir Javed as joint secretary, Najibullah as press secretary and Farmanullah as coordination secretary. The election was supervised by an election committee headed by Luqman Gul while Muhammad Yunus performed as presiding officer.

The losers congratulated the winners after the elections and hoped the winners would serve the community sincerely and devotedly. Addressing a celebrating gathering, the PMA newly elected district president Matiullah thanked all the paramedics for showing their enthusiasm and spirit. He said that he would serve the paramedic community irrespective of its political or group affiliation.

Girl killed over marriage of choice

HAFIZABAD (INP): A 20-year-old was strangled to death over marriage of choice in Tajpura area of Hafizabad, police said on Tuesday. The 20-year-old girl held online 'Nikkah' with a youth settled in Ireland and

went to house of in-laws three days earlier.

Father of the girl on pretext of formally organizing the wedding called her to home and later along with father-in-law of girl strangled her to death. The culprits also elec-

trocuted the body of girl to declare it a mishap. The murderers escaped later. The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem and police after registering a case against the father and father-in-law of girl started raids for their arrest.

Threats to indigenous birds and wildlife species in Mohmand

Murad Khan

GHALANAI: While sharing his own experience 27 years old Ibad Ali working as watcher with Mohmand wildlife division said "One I went to Paye-khan, shahdad darra, and tabar areas of upper prang ghaur tehsil in order to search for wildlife species, after covering more than 20 kilometer distance on motorbike, I went to a forest filled with different trees, there was no road, while hiking around 5 km, I saw four monkeys, while eating and playing with each other, but those monkeys were wild, when they saw me, they went into the bushes, I could hardly took 2 photographs, they give me no chance to make some video from them".

"There are many kinds of birds and wildlife species in Mohmand district, but climate change and the illegal hunting is a huge threat to the life of these birds," He added.

52 years old Gul Muhammad Khan (a local journalist by profession) said that there were so many kinds of indigenous birds, but due to climate change, deforestation, scarcity of water and illegal hunting these indigenous birds are vanishing from

Mohmand District.

Recalling the golden days of his village life Mr. Gul Muhammad said that there were different types of plants and crops in our village, that's why these wildlife species and birds will use to come here, there were some migratory birds like Siberian birds as well, which were used to come in a specific season, but the local indigenous birds were found in huge quantity even in our villages and homes.

He said that after Afghan war, the use of weapon and gunpowder has been increased in this area due to which not only migratory birds have been forced to leave this territory but the quantity of local indigenous birds also have been decreased, due to scarcity of food and non-favorable condition for their reproductive life. "But in Talibanization era, on one side the ban has been imposed on girls walking to mountains and on other side, the Nagha (local tradition of ban on cutting of trees for a specific duration on a specific locality) has also been imposed on some mountains, that's why the greenery on Majority Mountains have been

increased once again." He added.

He said that hunting of birds on a large scale through new means like using of nets, Kalashnikov and other rifles is also a major threat to the life of indigenous birds, although the government has been imposed ban on hunting of these animals, but still the local people are doing illegal hunting on a large scale, which is really a serious threat to these birds, because if they have been vanished once, their race will never be produced.

Local Journalist, added that there is a wild mountain area named Prangdara, near halki gandao in Ekka Ghund Tehsil of Mohmand near where there are so many kinds of wild birds and animals, these are totally change from local birds and animals, because a wild cow of that mountain can't be caught easily by human being, usually the people use rifles for their hunting, similarly the birds and even fishes found in those water are also wild having different body and taste.

What are Indigenous wildlife species? Indigenous wildlife

species are those species which are in its known natural range and occurs naturally in a given area or habitat, usually these species are opposed to an introduced species or invasive species. These wildlife species are very much important for our life and they are very much necessary for the Biodiversity of this war-on-terror effected tribal district, because these species have important role in maintain the balance in ecosystem and they are Biological pest controller. Besides this these species have several medicinal values, the Scavengers play important role in clearing our environment and they play their best role in tourism and recreation.

Kiramat Shah Divisional Forest Officer Mohmand wildlife divisionsaid that some indigenous Wildlife species which are found in Mohmand are Chukar, Partridge, Grey Partridge, see-see Partridge, Jackal, Porcupine, Monkey, Fox, Rock Pigeons (Columbia Livia), common Myna, House sparrow, common & rain quail.

About threats to the Wildlife species in Mohmand, the DFO Mohmand, Kiramat Shah said that habitat destruction to defor-

estation, wildfire, fuel wood collection, use of chemical fertilizers insecticides & pesticides. He said that Lack of food availability, Climate change, drought and pollution, Illegal Wildlife trade & hunting, Lack of community participation, wildlife importance, their conservation & protection and mining activities are the common threats to the life of these indigenous species.

DFO Mohmand said "To safeguard these important wildlife species, the wildlife department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government have taken various measures including the enforcement of wildlife law andrestocking and releasing of different species in the wild." Apart from this the wildlife department have established village conservation committee (VCC) and school natural clubs at different tehsils in Mohmand Tribal District and are arranging awareness raising workshops in the whole district and the Mohmand Wildlife Division is celebrating wildlife days in different small towns of Mohmand District." He added.

Although these wild species have some harmful effects on biodiversity and on our health

like, these Birds consume seeds and young plants, they damage crops, these species attack on live stocks of local people and can cause diseases that may spread to domestic animals & livestock.

But on the other hand, these wildlife species play an important role in conservation, sofor the protection and conservation of these wildlife species, the local people must obey wildlife act 2015 and respect officials of wildlife department. The Biodiversity scientists believes that if they cut one tree for fuel wood, it is necessary to plant 10 seedlings. Therefore, we should educate our children about the importance of Wildlife in our environment and control mining activities. In case of wildfire, we need to cooperate with wildlife and forest officials and apply community based conservation and protection methods. Besides this, we should also respect migratory bird's species and try not to involve in any illegal hunting and trading of such species.

The Writer is Freelance Multimedia Environmental Journalist, who can be contacted on Gmail: muradkhanjournalist@gmail.com



‘Myanmar military using banned, restricted weapons’

MAE SOT, Thailand: Once again, the attack came from the sky. The Kachin resistance fighters barely heard the sound of the propellers as the Myanmar military's two drones released their payload above their heads in northern Kachin State in late April.

"I fell down to the ground when the bombs dropped," Aung Nge, a fighter with the Kachin People's Defense Force (PDF), told Al Jazeera from an undisclosed location. "I didn't lose consciousness. I was awake the whole time." The drone attack seriously injured three men who were holed up close to the front line in Kachin State where battles with the armed forces have been escalating since October last year.

In critical condition, field medics sent the men to a hidden hospital deep in the jungle where they could be treated by professional doctors. Within a day of receiving treatment, however, one of the soldiers started to show symptoms the doctors could not understand and his condition began to deteriorate rapidly. Another man from the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), who had been injured in a separate drone strike days after the first attack and appeared to be on the mend with no signs of infection, also took a turn for the worse and died in his sleep. Aung Nge, meanwhile, was about to endure ghastly infections that would spread across his entire body. Doctors told Al Jazeera that the men experienced rapid onset necrosis, an effect not normally seen in a blast wound. Necrosis causes the deterioration of most or all of the cells in an organ or tissue due to disease or the failure of the blood supply. While necrosis can be caused by sepsis, which

appears rapidly and is usually accompanied by a fever, doctors said they could find no physiological reason for the rapid deterioration in their patients. Toxic substances can also trigger such reactions, they said. "In close examination of the wounds, they are rapidly necrotising, easily decomposed and not associated with metallic foreign bodies," Dr Soe Min, the veteran trauma doctor who treated the suspicious cases, told Al Jazeera. He has been treating combat-related cases since January 2022 and has seen and treated hundreds of blast injuries. These cases were different, he said. "After two days, all the wounds became blackish in colour with foul-smelling discharge. The whole left arm had bluish discolouration and the radial pulse was faint. So I had to proceed with mid-arm amputation on the third day," he said of Aung Nge, the fighter who survived.

Under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which Myanmar ratified under a previous quasi-civilian government in 2015, the production, storage and use of chemical weapons is banned under international law. Chemical weapons include riot control substances such as tear gas that can irritate or disorientate soldiers on the battlefield, as well as herbicides and toxins that act on the central nervous system. The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), meanwhile, seeks to limit or ban the use of weapons that might cause soldiers "unnecessary or unjustifiable suffering" or "affect civilians indiscriminately". Myanmar is not among the 126 states that have ratified or acceded to the convention as of July 1 last year, according to the

UN. Myanmar's military, which seized power in a coup in February 2021, has previously been accused of using banned weapons - against the Kachin in 2014 and against the Karen, another ethnic armed group, in 2005. Neither case was proved definitively. The current regime, which calls itself the State Administration Council (SAC), has already been accused of war crimes, including indiscriminate air attacks on civilians and the wholesale burning of villages. Now, fighters are reporting encounters with potentially noxious weapons. In March, the Pa-O National Liberation Army (PLNA), an ethnic armed group, reported that the military had dropped chemical weapons in Hsi Hseng in southern Shan State during clashes. The following month, in eastern Karen State's Kawkaireik Township, another resistance group made similar allegations. The "Joker Column", an armed faction there, alleged that 30 of their fighters experienced symptoms from an attack with what they described as "poison gas bombs". One of the armed group's members said their comrades were struggling to breathe and vomiting. Human rights experts say claims that banned and restricted weapons are being used should be investigated and verified by a credible, independent group.

"It would be quite a major thing if substantial evidence was uncovered, but the evidentiary threshold is, and should be, quite high," David Scott Mathieson, an independent analyst, told Al Jazeera. "It would then need to go to the CCW committee and what ramifications any breach of the treaty would entail. — Aljazeera

Nine killed in Seoul as car ploughs into crowd

SEOUL (BBC): A car has ploughed into a crowd of people killing at least nine in the South Korean capital Seoul, police say. The traffic accident took place at around 21:30 local time (13:30 BST), they added.

As reported by Yonhap news agency, a man believed to be in his 60s drove the vehicle into pedestrians waiting at a traffic stop. At least four more people have been taken to hospital. Police say they are investigating the incident, but warn that casualty numbers might increase.

According to local media, the car was driving in the wrong direction and crashed into two other vehicles before it made contact with pedestrians. Police said the accident took place at an intersection near Seoul city hall. The driver in question, who was arrested at the scene, reportedly told the police the car suddenly accelerated. Six people died at the scene, while three others died later of their injuries. Yonhap, South Korea's news agency, reports that the man arrested was 68 years old. The speed limit in the country is 50 km/h (31 mph) on general urban roads, and 30 km/h in residential areas, according to a recent report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) into the country's road safety. In 2022, pedestrians in South Korea accounted for 35% of all road deaths - a high share compared to other OECD countries, the agency reported. But in the same report, the OECD highlighted that road fatalities in the country had declined in recent years.

Colombia captures one of founders of gang

BOGOTA (AP): Colombian police arrested one of the founders of Tren de Aragua, a transnational gang that was founded in a Venezuelan prison and is now involved in multiple criminal enterprises throughout Latin America, authorities said.

Larry Alvarez was arrested near the town of Circasia in central Colombia, according to a statement released by the country's national police, which shared a video showing a shirtless Alvarez being handcuffed by agents outside a small home. Police said the gang leader had tried to avoid arrest as agents approached. Alvarez, also known as Larry Changa, is wanted in Chile and Venezuela for the alleged crimes of terrorism, financing terrorism, weapons trafficking, extortion and kidnapping, Colombia's police said.

The 45-year-old is believed to be one of the three founders of the Tren de Aragua, a gang that started almost two decades ago in the Tocatoron prison in Venezuela's Aragua state. Recently, the gang has increased its influence in other South American countries, where prosecutors have accused it of running extortion rackets and human trafficking networks that target Venezuelan migrants. Colombian prosecutors have also reported that the gang, whose name means "train" in Spanish, is also involved in drug shipments out of Colombia. Colombian police said Alvarez escaped from the Tocatoron prison in 2015 and resurfaced in Chile three years later. But he later escaped to Colombia as Chilean authorities closed in on him, and entered the country in 2022, using a fake ID. Prosecutors in Chile this year blamed the Tren de Aragua gang for the kidnapping and murder of a former Venezuelan army official who had sought refuge in that country after being accused of leading a plot to overthrow Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

Chilean prosecutors also blamed the gang for the murder of a local police officer, with President Gabriel Boric accusing the Venezuelan government of not doing enough to investigate the leadership of the Tren de Aragua gang - a charge denied by Venezuelan prosecutors.



ATHENS: A firefighter struggles to extinguish a forest fire in the Keratea area of Greece.

Tax hike protests in Kenya killed 39 people: Rights watchdog

NAIROBI: At least 39 people have been killed in recent anti-government protests in Kenya, says the national rights watchdog, as activists gear up for a new round of protests this week.

The toll, announced by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), is almost double the figure previously disclosed by the government for those killed while demonstrating against a raft of unpopular tax increases that have now been withdrawn. KNCHR records indicate 39 people have died and 361 have been injured "in relation to the protests countrywide", the state-funded body said in a statement, adding that the figures covered the period from June 18 to July 1.

It added that there had been 32 cases of "enforced or involuntary disappearances" and 627 arrests of protesters. Largely peaceful anti-tax rallies - led by mostly young Gen-Z protesters - descended into shocking scenes of deadly violence last Tuesday when lawmakers passed the contentious legislation. After the vote was announced, crowds ransacked the parliament complex in central Nairobi and it was partly set ablaze as police fired live bullets at protesters.

It is the most serious crisis to confront the government of President William Ruto since he took office in

September 2022 following a deeply divisive election in a nation often considered a beacon of stability in a turbulent region. In a televised interview, Ruto said that 19 people had died in the protests, but insisted that he did not have "blood on my hands" and pledged an investigation into the deaths. The KNCHR "continues to condemn in the strongest terms possible the unwarranted violence and force that was inflicted on protesters, medical personnel, lawyers, journalists and on safe spaces such as churches, medical emergency centres and ambulances," the rights body said.

"We maintain that the force used against the protesters was excessive and disproportionate." The watchdog also said it "strongly condemns the violent and shocking acts of lawlessness that was exhibited by some of the protesters" including the parliament and other government buildings. Fresh protests have been called by activists starting from Tuesday despite Ruto announcing last week that he would not sign into law the bill containing the tax hikes.

Leaflets have been posted on social media with the hashtags "Occupy Everywhere", "Ruto must go" and "Reject Budgeted Corruption". Kenya's cash-strapped

government had said previously that the tax increases were necessary to service the massive public debt of some 10 trillion shillings (\$78bn), equal to roughly 70 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The International Monetary Fund has urged the country to implement fiscal reforms in order to access crucial funding from the Washington, DC-based lender. Ruto had already rolled back some tax measures after the protests began, prompting the treasury to warn of a gaping budget shortfall of 200 billion shillings (\$1.6bn). In interview, Ruto had warned that the government would have to borrow heavily following the decision to scrap the finance bill.

Analysts say the president's U-turn on the tax laws has left him severely weakened domestically with his administration divided in its response and his opponents rejuvenated. "Enslaved and supported by foreign interests, and never pro-people in its outlook and interests, [Ruto's administration] was bound to face the consequences of its priorities," Willy Mutunga, Kenya's former chief justice, told Reuters news agency. "As long as the material interests of the youth are not addressed, the chasm grows bigger and bigger," Mutunga said. — Aljazeera

Hurricane Beryl strengthens into ‘potentially catastrophic’ storm

BARBADOS: Hurricane Beryl has intensified into a "potentially catastrophic" Category 5 storm, the United States's National Hurricane Center (NHC) said, as it headed towards Carriacou and Petite Martinique, where communications had been largely cut off. "We do hope there aren't any other fatalities or any injuries," he said. "But bear in mind the challenge we have in Carriacou and Petite Martinique." Mitchell added that the government will send people early on Tuesday to evaluate the situation on the islands.

Streets from St Lucia island south to Grenada were strewn with shoes, trees, downed power lines and other debris. Some banana trees were snapped in half by the force of the wind. "Right now, I'm real heartbroken," said Vichelle Clark King as she surveyed her sand and water-filled shop in the Barbadian capital of Bridgetown. The storm is expected to pass near Jamaica and St Vincent and the Grenadines, also experienced "catastrophic winds and life-threatening storm surge" the hurricane centre said. "In half an hour, Carriacou was flattened," Grenada's Prime

Minister Dickon Mitchell told a news conference. He said one person had died, but authorities had not yet been able to assess the situation on the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique, where communications had been largely cut off.

ern coasts of the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The last strong hurricane to hit the southeast Caribbean was Hurricane Ivan 20 years ago, which killed dozens of people in Grenada.

Beryl became the first hurricane of the 2024 Atlantic season and quickly strengthened to Category 4. Experts say that such a powerful storm forming this early in the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from early June to late November, is extremely rare and that climate change probably contributed to its rapid formation. Global warming has helped push temperatures in the North Atlantic to all-time highs, causing more surface water to evaporate, which in turn provides additional fuel for more intense hurricanes with higher wind speeds. "Climate change is loading the dice for more intense hurricanes to form," said Christopher Rozoff, an atmospheric scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in the US state of Colorado. Andra Garner, a New Jersey-based meteorologist, noted that Beryl jumped from a Category 1 to a Category 4 storm in less

than 10 hours. Her research has shown that as water temperatures have risen over the last five decades, it has become more than twice as likely for storms to jump from weak storms to major hurricanes in less than 24 hours. In May, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted above-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic this year, also pointing to unseasonably high ocean temperatures.

At the Chillin' restaurant in Kingston, waiter Welton Anderson said he felt calm despite the hurricane's approach. "Jamaicans wait until the last minute. The night before or in the morning, the panic sets in. It's because we're used to this," he said. Across other islands in the eastern Caribbean, residents had boarded up windows, stocked up on food and filled their cars with fuel as the storm drew closer. Officials in Mexico also began to prepare for Beryl's arrival later this week, with the federal government issuing a statement urging authorities and the population to exercise "extreme caution". — Aljazeera

Angered by Georgia's ‘foreign agent’ law, young protesters try new tactic

TBILISI: Beads of sweat gather on Zviad Tsetskhladze's brow as he shouts into a megaphone, his fist clenched in the air on a sweltering summer's evening. "Sakartvelo!" the 19-year-old student from the Black Sea city of Batumi bellows - using the native name of Georgia, before continuing with a series of catchy pro-European Union slogans.

There are thousands of protesters in the crowd, snaking their way around Georgia's towering parliament building in the capital, Tbilisi. They repeat his words back to him as rows of neatly regimented, stoney-faced police officers look on. Since April, Georgia, a small mountainous nation located at the intersection of Asia

and Europe famed for its rich cuisine and tradition of hospitality, has been rocked by protests in opposition to a controversial "foreign agents" law. The bill, which eventually passed in May, requires organisations receiving more than 20 percent of their funding from overseas to register as "agents of foreign influence".

However, for many young protesters, now is not the time to accept defeat as they continue to heap pressure on Georgian Dream, the governing party seeking to secure a fourth term in power in parliamentary elections scheduled for October 26. Tsetskhladze, a lead organiser in a student protest group, told Al Jazeera that the bill

embodies larger issues for protesters, such as corruption among the governing elites and a political shift away from the EU, to which Georgia gained candidacy status in December. The country's ambition to become a full member of the EU is enshrined in its constitution. Critics say the law resembles Russian legislation, which has been used to crack down on dissent and represents a sudden pro-Russian tilt from the Georgian government.

Mariam Svimonishvili, a social policy analyst, said Georgia's Gen Z - people born between 1997 and 2012 - are determined to signal their opposition to the Georgian Dream, which they see as coming under Russian influence.

"Gen Z is very interested in politics; they are very self-aware, very grounded," she said, placing an English-language novel, Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea, on her lap as protesters swaddled in Georgian and EU flags walked past. "They are on TikTok talking about the bill and what exactly it means for the country," she said. Gen Z is also haunted by memories of the violent five-day conflict in 2008 between Russia and Georgia over the breakaway Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions, she noted, adding more weight to any perceived shift away from Europe towards Russia. Protesters are now focused on "tiring the government" ahead of elections. — Aljazeera

Turkey mediates between Somalia and Ethiopia

ANKARA (AP): Turkey mediated talks between Somalia and Ethiopia to ease diplomatic tensions between the east African neighbors, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said.

Tensions between the two African countries have simmered since Ethiopia signed a memorandum of understanding with the breakaway region of Somaliland in January, which Somalia denounced as infringing upon its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The memorandum was to allow

Ethiopia's access to the sea through Somaliland and in return Ethiopia would recognize Somaliland as an independent country.

The Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, Taye Atske Selassie, and his Somali counterpart, Ahmed Moallim Fiqi, were "able to separately have a candid, cordial and forward-looking exchange" concerning their differences, according to a statement released by the ministry. Turkey's foreign minister, Hakan Fidan, facilitated the talks. A second round

of discussions is planned in the Turkish capital of Ankara on Sept. 2, the Turkish ministry said. "The ministers of Somalia and Ethiopia reiterated their commitment to the peaceful resolution of differences, and expressed their appreciation to (Turkey) for its facilitation, as well as its constructive contributions," the statement read. Somalia and Ethiopia enjoyed peaceful relations prior to Ethiopia's January memorandum with Somaliland.

The Frontier Post

Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

Founder

Bilal Shah Afridi

Chief Executive

Jalil Afridi

Managing Editor

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's

Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar.

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001

Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

Vote pattern sparks French dilemmas

THERE was an apparent sigh of relief that the far-right National Rally (RN), led by Marine Le Pen, with its in-your-face anti-immigrant, anti-European stance and its allies have won 33 per cent of the votes in the elections on Sunday to the National Assembly. But it has caused enough flutter. The one thing that most of the French political parties – the far left, the traditional left, the socialists and the centrists -- and politicians do not want is the RN forming a government because they feel that it would mar the reputation of France as a land of liberty, equality and fraternity.

It is true that RN is less phlegmatic that it was. It has distanced itself from anti-Semitism, which was its calling card not too long ago. The 33 per cent vote in the first round means that the RN and its allies are as far from forming government as they ever were. The left-wing bloc has won 28 per cent of vote, ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's centrists with their 20 per cent. The other parties can hold back the RN and its allies from forming the government. Now France will go into the second or final round next Saturday, and it would require the rest of the political parties to get together to keep the RN and its allies at bay. But it is not as yet a done thing. According to a survey agency, there is a possibility of a three-cornered contest in 306 of 577 seats.

This would result in a hung parliament, and it would not enable Macron to push his legislation through. The left-wing New Popular Front and Macron's Renaissance Party have decided not to field separate candidates if there is a winnable candidate.

The split in the voters by age group is significant. The left-wing alliance had won 48 per cent of the vote in the 18-24 age group, and 38 per cent of the 25-34 years old.

The RN had won 33 per cent among the 18-24 years old, and 32 per cent among the 25-34 years old. But the largest vote for the far-right came in the older age group of 50-59 years old.

So, it points in a way that the RN has not yet won over the younger segment of the population.

The one argument that can appeal to the younger generation is that the immigrants are stealing the jobs that belong to the youth. But the young know better.

They know it is the glaring economic inequality in the French society that is one of the root causes of economic distress in the country.

But contradictions remain. The far-left led by France Unbowed of Jean-Luc Melenchon is fiercely opposed to the traditional left as well as the Macron centrists as it is to the far-right. It is a friction between the far-left and the other non-right parties that can prove to be fatal for the parties and politicians opposed to the RN. The reason Macron called for the snap elections last month was the success of the RN in the European Parliament elections, where it beat Macron's centrists.

He saw a clear threat to France in the rise of the far-right, and he felt that RN negated the idea of France which was rooted in the ideas of the French Revolution. On the face of it, the French polity is a picture of commotion and confusion. It looks as though France is trying to find itself, and keep to what it believes to be its civilizing mission. But beneath the surface, the French politicians are struggling to live up to the ideals of the Revolution.

Important Notice

The Frontier Post will not be responsible for the comments in the articles and letters. The Frontier Post requests the writers of articles and letters to please make sure that they write their email addresses and mention the names of the cities, towns, districts or tehsil of their residences at the bottom of their articles and letters.



Operation Azm-e-Istehkam: Strategic measures for stability and security

Nabiha Nur

OPERATION Azm-e-Istehkam, approved by the government of Pakistan on 22 June 2024; marks a significant shift in Pakistan's counter-terrorism strategy. It symbolizes a clear manifestation of a new push to combat extremism and terrorism, aiming to restore peace and stability across the nation. The name "Azm-e-Istehkam" itself conveys a strong message of steadfastness and determination. "Azm" translates to resolve or determination in Urdu, while "Istehkam" denotes stability or firmness. Together, these words encapsulate the essence of the operation: a resolute commitment to strengthening national security, safeguarding communities, and upholding the rule of law.

Operation Azm-e-Istehkam aims to dismantle terrorist networks and eliminate operational capabilities of those infiltrating from across the border to carry out terrorist activities within the country. By neutralizing threats, the operation seeks to create a safer environment where citizens can live without fear of violence or coercion. Beyond military operations, this comprehensive strategy incorporates measures for long-term stability, including governance reforms, socio-economic development, and community empowerment.

Pakistan undertook extensive major military operations between 2009 and 2017 in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) to combat the escalating wave of terrorism and insurgency. Operation Rah-e-Rast was one of the first major military opera-

tion launched in 2009, primarily focusing on Swat Valley. The operation aimed to reclaim control of the region from insurgents. Operation Zarb-e-Azb, launched in 2014, extended the military's reach into North Waziristan Agency, a notorious stronghold for terrorist networks. Subsequently, Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad was launched in 2017 and it supported local law enforcement agencies in their mission to disarm and eliminate terrorists from all over Pakistan. This initiative marked a critical step in Pakistan's comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism and restore peace and stability within its borders. Operation Azm-e-Istehkam has adopted a nuanced approach that prioritizes the protection and well-being of civilians alongside its security objectives. This approach reflects Pakistan's commitment to upholding human rights and minimizing the adverse impact of conflict on vulnerable populations.

Operation Azm-e-Istehkam employs a strategy of precision targeting, focusing on accurate and intelligence-driven operations to eliminate terrorists and dismantle their hideouts. This approach involves advanced intelligence gathering, leveraging cutting-edge technology and enhanced intelligence-sharing mechanisms, so that security forces can identify and track terrorist hideouts with pinpoint accuracy. Strict protocols are implemented to avoid civilian casualties and avoid the displacement of locals. Simultaneously, the operation emphasizes the importance of addressing the

socio-economic factors that contribute to extremism. By investing in education, healthcare, and infrastructure in vulnerable regions, the government aims to uplift communities and reduce the appeal of extremist ideologies. These developmental initiatives are crucial in addressing the grievances that often lead to radicalization, providing alternative pathways for progress and prosperity. While Army is meant to fight the terrorists, it is crucial that the people actively participate in addressing the underlying causes of terrorism. Dealing with the phenomenon of terrorism requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes and systemic issues that fuel extremism. This also involves a collective effort to eradicate factors such as smuggling, criminal activities, and other illicit practices that fuel terrorist networks.

To sustain the momentum of Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, it requires a coordinated and multi-dimensional approach. Coordinated efforts involving security forces, diplomatic channels, and developmental entities are essential for comprehensive counter-terrorism measures. Strategic alignment across various sectors is also imperative. Additionally, legislative reforms are being pursued to enhance legal frameworks, strengthen law enforcement capabilities, and ensure effective prosecution of terrorist activities. These reforms are critical for creating a strong legal and institutional foundation to support ongoing security

efforts.

Operation Azm-e-Istehkam is expected to have several significant consequences. Reduced terrorist activities and improved governance in affected regions can ultimately encourage economic activities and attract both domestic and foreign investments. Strengthening border management as part of the operation will help curb illegal activities such as smuggling and infiltration, thereby enhancing territorial integrity and reducing cross-border threats. By addressing the root causes of extremism through socio-economic development initiatives in affected areas, the operation aims to promote peace.

Furthermore, these legislative initiatives form part of a broad strategy to strengthen the country's defence against terrorism. By enhancing legal provisions and judicial efficiency, Pakistan seeks not only to punish offenders but also to deter future acts of terrorism through strict legal measures. By addressing these legal gaps, Pakistan demonstrates its determination to combat terrorism effectively and uphold the rule of law. This commitment to safeguarding communities while dismantling terrorist networks is crucial for restoring peace and stability in the nation. As the operation progresses, the continued focus on protecting civilians and maintaining trust with local communities will be key to its long-term success, paving the way for a more secure and resilient Pakistan. The success of Operation Azm-e-Istehkam will likely have a long-term impact on Pakistan's security landscape, shaping future counter-terrorism strategies and policies.

Cyberspace is a place that is not beyond the law

LI YANG

THERE has been an outpouring of public condolences and grief after Hu Youping died on Wednesday having been fatally injured trying to save the lives of a mother and child.

The 54-year-old school bus attendant has touched people's hearts with the courage and kindness she demonstrated in trying to stop a knife attack on a Japanese mother and her daughter at a school bus stop in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, on Monday last week.

The mother and daughter were also injured, but not fatally, before Hu bravely put herself forward to stop the assault by a 52-year-old unemployed man, who was arrested at the scene.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has also expressed condolences to Hu's family. In a statement on Hu's death issued on Friday, the Japanese embassy in China, which flew the Japanese national flag at half-mast in her honor that day, said: "We believe (Hu's) courage and kindness represent that of the Chinese people. We pay tribute to her noble deed."

The public security case, although tragic, would not have made the waves it has were it not for some extreme opinions that appeared online with the

obvious aim of inciting group hatred against the Japanese people.

The accounts spreading

.....
The Chinese Foreign Ministry has also expressed condolences to Hu's family. In a statement on Hu's death issued on Friday, the Japanese embassy in China, which flew the Japanese national flag at half-mast in her honor that day, said: "We believe (Hu's) courage and kindness represent that of the Chinese people. We pay tribute to her noble deed." The public security case, although tragic, would not have made the waves it has were it not for some extreme opinions that appeared online with the obvious aim of inciting group hatred against the Japanese people.
.....

these views on social networking platforms even applauded the criminal behavior of the attacker targeting Japanese children in the name of "patriotism" as a "delayed but righteous

fight back" to let the Japanese repay the "historical debt" they have long owed to the Chinese people stemming from their acts of

aggression against China from the late 19th century to World War II.

It is absolutely necessary for the social media platforms to act promptly to remove these posts and shut

down relevant accounts according to relevant laws and regulations.

The platform companies should take advantage of more technological means to further improve the efficiency of their monitoring so that they can discover and prevent such harmful and extreme views finding a gullible audience.

The network administrative authorities should also trace the online marketing accounts that fabricate and spread harmful extreme views in a bid to grab eyeballs and take concrete actions to eliminate the space in which such views can spread. Cyberspace should not be a land beyond the law. These moves are all necessary to create a clean and healthy environment where people can express themselves in a rational way.

A person's feeling of attachment to their country should not override their humanity or common sense. Those trying to hijack public opinion with their "patriotism" are harming the country by misleading society and ruining its international image. What they actually peddle is nothing but extreme xenophobia or narrow nationalism that brooks no inclusive or open attitudes to the rest of the world.

The rule of law is made to be broken

Belén Fernández

MONDAY was a good day for Donald Trump, the former United States president and current Republican presidential hopeful, who is waging a forever war to "make America great again". The first former US head of state to be criminally prosecuted and convicted of a crime, Trump was indicted by a federal grand jury in 2023 for conspiring to overturn the 2020 election results that produced the Democratic presidency of Joe Biden.

But the US Supreme Court, which has a conservative supermajority, has now conveniently ruled 6-3 that presidents are essentially above the law – in a decision that is unprecedented in the nation's 248 years of existence.

The text of the ruling states: "Under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of Presidential power entitles a former President to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority."

So much for checks and balances and all that good stuff.

The ruling goes on to specify that, while a former president is "entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts", there is "no immunity for unofficial acts". But in distinguishing between "official" and "unofficial" acts, where the hell does one draw the line?

As it turns out, the Supreme Court doesn't really know either. Several pages down in the ruling, we find the ostensible lead-up to an explanation: "When the President acts pursuant to 'constitutional and statu-

.....
So far so good. But then some confusion arises because "the breadth of the president's 'discretionary responsibilities' under the Constitution and laws of the United States frequently makes it 'difficult to determine which of [his] innumerable "functions" encompassed a particular action'". In other words, because the president is the president, any of his actions can at least to some extent be construed as official.

The ruling concludes: "The immunity the Court has recognised therefore extends to the 'outer perimeter' of the President's official responsibilities, covering actions so long as they are 'not manifestly or palpably beyond [his] authority'". Never mind that if you abolish the rule of law, the "outer perimeter" of authority is not exactly, um, palpable.
.....

tory authority,' he takes official action to perform the functions of his office. ... Determining whether an action is covered by immunity thus begins with assessing the President's authority to take that action."

So far so good. But then some confusion arises because "the breadth of the president's 'discretionary responsibilities' under the Constitution and laws of the United States frequently makes it 'difficult to determine which of [his] innumerable "functions" encompassed a particular action'".

In other words, because the president is the president, any of his actions can at least to some extent be construed as official. The ruling concludes: "The immunity the Court has recognised therefore extends to the 'outer perimeter' of the President's official responsibilities, covering actions so long as they are 'not manifestly or palpably beyond [his] authority'".

Never mind that if you abolish the rule of law,

the "outer perimeter" of authority is not exactly, um, palpable.

But never fear, the presidential carte blanche for the abuse of power is not a partisan affair, and the Supreme Court has provided the handy reassurance that "immunity applies equally to all occupants of the Oval Office, regardless of politics, policy, or party".

Sonia Sotomayor, one of the Supreme Court's three dissenting justices, decried the implications of the decision and the dangerous leeway it gives any future US head of state: "Orders the Navy's Seal Team 6 to assassinate a political rival? Immune. Organises a military coup to hold onto power? Immune. Takes a bribe in exchange for a pardon? Immune. Immune, immune, immune."

For his part, Trump – who himself appointed three of the justices who made Monday's decision possible – promptly took to social media to flaunt his pathological attachment to capital letters: "BIG WIN FOR OUR CONSTITUTION AND DEMOCRACY. PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN."

Of course, there is nothing fundamentally democratic about a corrupt and racist plutocracy under which elite tyranny is fortified by a Supreme Court backed by dark money and committed to the systematic dismantling of basic rights.

But, hey, that's what makes America "great".

Anyway, US presidents have long been above international law. It's only fair they should be above domestic law, as well, right?

To date, not a single US head of state, Republican or Democrat, has been officially held to account for inflicting mass slaughter in various

.....

locations across the globe or for implementing coercive economic measures that qualify as a deadly violation of international law in themselves. According to the Washington-based Center for Economic and Policy Research, US sanctions on Venezuela caused more than 40,000 deaths in the country from 2017 to 2018 alone – the first year of Trump's presidency.

Or rewind the clock to President Bill Clinton's reign in 1996 when US Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright offered an optimistic cost-benefit analysis of the estimate that half a million Iraqi children had thus far been killed by US sanctions: "We think the price is worth it."

Now, as the Supreme Court continues to push the "outer perimeter" of any remaining pretences to US democratic integrity, that old saying about rules comes to mind. And as things currently stand, it seems the rule of law, too, was made to be broken.

— Aljazeera

Netanyahu’s ‘fingers’ in Gaza a reminder of past Israeli failures

ISRAEL never learns from its mistakes. What Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is trying to implement in Gaza is a poor copy of previous strategies used by other Israeli leaders. If these strategies had succeeded, Israel would not be in this position.

The main reason for Netanyahu’s lack of clarity about his real objectives in Gaza is that neither he nor his generals can determine the outcome of their futile war on the Strip — a war that has already killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians.

And no matter how hard he tries, Netanyahu will not be able to reproduce the past.

Following the Israeli occupation of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem in June 1967, Israeli politicians and generals saw eye to eye on many things. The government wanted to translate its astounding military victory against Arab armies into a permanent occupation. The army wanted to use the newly acquired territories to create “buffer zones,” “security corridors” and the like to strangle the Palestinians even further.

Both the government and the military found the establishment of new colonies to be the perfect answer to their shared vision. Indeed, today’s illegal settlements were originally planned as part of two massive security corridors projected by then-Labor Minister Yigal Allon.

The Allon Plan was predicated on several elements. Among other ideas and designs, it called for the building of one security corridor along the Jordan River and another along the so-called Green Line, Israel’s pre-1967 borders. The new demarcations were meant to expand Israel’s borders — which were never defined to begin with — thus pro-

viding Israel with greater strategic depth. This plan was the original annexation scheme; it was resurrected by Netanyahu in 2019 and is now being advanced by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich.

Netanyahu is also sorting through previous governments’ archives in the hope of finding a solution

Dr. Ramzy Baroud

homes were destroyed throughout Gaza, particularly in the north. As for the south, thousands of Palestinian families, mostly Bedouin tribespeople, were ethnically cleansed to the Sinai desert.

Sharon’s plan, which was an extension of

rejected at the time but is now trying to revive, seemed to be the rational answer to Israel’s unsuccessful occupation of Gaza. After 38 years of military occupation, the experienced Israeli general, known to Palestinians as “the bulldozer,” realized that Gaza simply cannot be subdued, let alone governed.

ence in central Gaza, known as the Netzarim Corridor — a large “finger” of military routes and encampments that splits Gaza into two. Netzarim, named after a former settlement southwest of Gaza City that was evacuated in 2005, also gives Israel control of the area’s two main highways, Salah Al-Din Road and the coastal Al-Rashid Street.

The Philadelphia Corridor, located between Rafah and the Egyptian border, was occupied by Israel on May 7. It is meant to be another “finger.” Additional “buffer zones” already exist in all of Gaza’s border regions, with the aim of fully suffocating Gaza and giving Israel total control over aid.

However, Netanyahu’s plan is doomed to fail.

The circumstances of the 1967 Israeli occupation of Gaza were entirely different to what is taking place now. The former was an outcome of a major Arab defeat, while the latter is an outcome of Israel’s military and intelligence failures.

Moreover, the regional circumstances are working in Palestine’s favor and the global knowledge of Israel’s ongoing genocide in Gaza makes a permanent war nearly impossible.

Another important point to keep in mind is that the current generation of Gazans is empowered and fearless. Its ongoing resistance is a reflection of a popular reawakening throughout Palestine.

Finally, the Israeli unity that followed the 1967 war is nowhere to be found, as Israel is today divided along many fault lines.

It behooves Netanyahu to revisit his foolish decision to maintain a permanent presence in Gaza, as defeating Gaza is proving to be an impossible task, even for the far superior military of his country.

Mental health under occupation: When can Palestinians

For my colleague Mariam*, every morning is a prayer. After leaving her children at school in a suburb near Nablus, she hopes that nothing will hinder her way back to them when her work day ends.

“We live in an open-air prison, wherever we are, we never feel safe. We have no sense of freedom. We can’t go from one place to another without having this fear ... the checkpoints, the soldiers. Even if you don’t see them on the way, you are always afraid that a settler will attack. I am always afraid for the safety of my family, that they would be hurt, or harmed in any way. It’s that constant

Audrey McMahon

have been living under constant angst and fear of possible threats.

For Palestinians, humiliation at the hands of occupation forces is a daily brutality that has to be endured silently to avoid further violent escalation. This is having a particularly grave impact on men, fathers and young adolescents, who feel disempowered.

In the face of oppression, Palestinians have their humanity and experience constantly denied. The inflicted fear and helplessness from early childhood affect core beliefs and behaviours. Children learn that the world is not a safe place

perseverance. Generations of memories are buried under the rubble along with the bodies of loved ones that could not be taken out and given proper burial. Knowledge and learning accumulated over centuries is wiped out in burned-down universities, schools, libraries, and archives.

The West Bank and East Jerusalem are also witnessing unprecedented violence. Casualties are increasing at a frightening rate. Between October 7 and June 24, 536 Palestinians, including 130 children, have been killed and 5,370 injured. Daily arrests and arbitrary detentions have risen dramatically.

Parents like Mariam live in constant fear because children are not spared in the occupation violence Palestinians face on a daily basis. The traumatic experience of another colleague, Mohammed*, also illustrates this point. Last spring, Ali*, his 12-year-old son, was on his way to school in East Jerusalem when Israeli soldiers standing by the road asked him to stop and show his Palestinian ID. He asked why he had to do that since this was not a checkpoint and explained that he would be late for school. One of the Israeli soldiers physically immobilised him, hurting him in the crotch. The child had the reflex to push the Israeli soldier away in response to the sudden acute pain. Ali was detained and put under house arrest for one week. His parents suddenly and forcibly became both caretakers and “law enforcers”, which profoundly affected family dynamics. In East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank, Palestinians have not known “normal” in decades. The psychological effects of the occupation and of the relentless oppression reverberate through all aspects of Palestinian life. From the control of access to water and food, to home demolitions, checkpoints, and dreadful arbitrary arrests, children, women, and men have been living under constant angst and fear of possible threats. For Palestinians, humiliation at the hands of occupation forces is a daily brutality that has to be endured silently to avoid further violent escalation. This is having a particularly grave impact on men, fathers and young adolescents, who feel disempowered. In the face of oppression, Palestinians have their humanity and experience constantly denied. The inflicted fear and helplessness from early childhood affect core beliefs and behaviours. Children learn that the world is not a safe place to be themselves, that they are constantly under threat for simply being who they are.

fear, anxiety that you feel,” she told me recently upon arriving at work one morning.

Parents like Mariam live in constant fear because children are not spared in the occupation violence Palestinians face on a daily basis. The traumatic experience of another colleague, Mohammed*, also illustrates this point.

Last spring, Ali*, his 12-year-old son, was on his way to school in East Jerusalem when Israeli soldiers standing by the road asked him to stop and show his Palestinian ID. He asked why he had to do that since this was not a checkpoint and explained that he would be late for school.

One of the Israeli soldiers physically immobilised him, hurting him in the crotch.

The child had the reflex to push the Israeli soldier away in response to the sudden acute pain. Ali was detained and put under house arrest for one week.

His parents suddenly and forcibly became both caretakers and “law enforcers”, which profoundly affected family dynamics.

In East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank, Palestinians have not known “normal” in decades.

The psychological effects of the occupation and of the relentless oppression reverberate through all aspects of Palestinian life.

From the control of access to water and food, to home demolitions, checkpoints, and dreadful arbitrary arrests, children, women, and men

to be themselves, that they are constantly under threat for simply being who they are. This worldview forced on Palestinians shatters dreams and kills hope.

Furthermore, occupation violence — whether it is the targeting of children as the capital of Palestinian society or the burning of olive trees as the livelihood and symbol of Palestinian attachment to their land — produces trauma that is passed on from generation to generation.

This inevitably affects the Palestinian social fabric — within communities and even within families. It alters the ways people relate to one another, erodes trust and produces tension.

Many Palestinians describe life under occupation as constantly feeling “makhnouqeen” or “suffocating”: the past almost nine months have been even worse than that.

The current war on Gaza is shifting the goalposts of sheer, utter violence and terror. More than 37,000 Palestinians have been killed, including more than 15,000 children, and more than 84,000 injured.

Behind these numbers are stories of unfathomable pain and loss. Mothers delivering babies under the dreadful sound of bombardments, children bearing the excruciating pain of amputations without anaesthesia, and health workers risking their own lives to treat patients in a collapsed medical system hanging by the last threads of Palestinians’ humbling

including those of children who are often prosecuted in military court.

Military raids of homes have intensified, shattering sleep for families, terrorising children, and humiliating fathers, who too often, are robbed of their agency to protect their families.

Palestinians are often praised for their remarkable resilience and steadfastness. When faced with the threat of annihilation, they have repeatedly shown tremendous courage and determination. Homes, roads, holy sites, and hospitals may be shattered and destroyed forever, but not their spirit. Palestinians continue to persevere in the face of colossal human suffering.

Yet, the praise of Palestinian steadfastness should not normalise the ever-increasing violence against Palestinians. This must end. No people can or should be made to withstand this level of unprecedented brutality for so long.

Beyond international solidarity, the Palestinian people need concrete political actions that lead to moral and political accountability.

The international community must not only stop the war on Gaza, but also put a definite and firm end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands.

There can be no healing without the acknowledgement of the profound collective and historical trauma inflicted upon the Palestinian people; and there can be no acknowledgement without tangible action and assumed responsibility.

As the world focuses on Gaza, Israel is annexing the West Bank

ISRAEL is stepping up its annexation of the West Bank by legalizing settlement outposts, authorizing the building of thousands of units and defunding the Palestinian Authority and stripping it of administrative powers, most recently in the so-called Area B. But what is more dangerous is the plan by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich to transfer legal authority over the West Bank from the military to a civilian entity led by Jewish settlers.

Last week, the Israeli government signed off on a proposal to recognize five outposts — there are dozens of them — as settlements and impose punitive new measures on the PA, including withdrawing some of its civilian authority in Area B of the West Bank. Under the Oslo Accords, that area is run jointly by the PA and the Israeli army. But in recent years, Jewish settlers have been seizing private Palestinian land in Area B for cultivation and settlement in a clear violation of the Oslo Accords.

The PA has exclusive administrative control of Area A, which makes up about 18 percent of the total territory of the West Bank. Area B makes up about 22 percent. Together, they are home to some 2.8 million Palestinians.

Even before Benjamin Netanyahu formed his far-right government in December 2022, previous governments under him had approved plans for expanding the building of settlements in Area C, which makes up about 60 percent of the West Bank, including the entire Jordan Valley and land along the so-called Green Line. It is home to about 300,000 Palestinians.

But under this government, the ultranationalist Smotrich has launched plans to annex the entirety of Area C by transferring powers to a civilian administration, which is run by the settlers. In a taped speech to settlers that was leaked last month, Smotrich spoke explicitly of his plan to annex the West Bank. “I’m telling you, it’s mega-dramatic,” Smotrich said. “Such changes change a system’s DNA.”

The plan was launched 18 months ago and parts

have been incrementally implemented. To deflect international scrutiny, the government has allowed the Defense Ministry to remain involved in the process, according to Smotrich, so that it appears that the military is still at the heart of

Osama Al-Sharif

building of more than 20,000 additional units in the occupied West Bank.

According to UN figures, about 700,000 Israeli settlers live in the occupied West Bank and East

Smotrich agreed to release some funds owed to the PA. But he is clear about his plan to strangle the Palestinian banking system and strip the PA of all authority over Area B.

With the world’s attention focused on the war in

Even before Benjamin Netanyahu formed his far-right government in December 2022, previous governments under him had approved plans for expanding the building of settlements in Area C, which makes up about 60 percent of the West Bank, including the entire Jordan Valley and land along the so-called Green Line. It is home to about 300,000 Palestinians.

But under this government, the ultranationalist Smotrich has launched plans to annex the entirety of Area C by transferring powers to a civilian administration, which is run by the settlers. In a taped speech to settlers that was leaked last month, Smotrich spoke explicitly of his plan to annex the West Bank. “I’m telling you, it’s mega-dramatic,” Smotrich said. “Such changes change a system’s DNA.” The plan was launched 18 months ago and parts have been incrementally implemented. To deflect international scrutiny, the government has allowed the Defense Ministry to remain involved in the process, according to Smotrich, so that it appears that the military is still at the heart of West Bank governance.

West Bank governance.

This is being done without much fanfare and it will make the complete annexation of the West Bank a fait accompli. Already, Jewish settlers have managed to displace hundreds of Palestinian families in Area C through a government-backed campaign of terror. The UN humanitarian affairs office recorded 650 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank between Oct. 7 and March. At least nine Palestinians have been killed by the settlers, while Israeli occupation forces have killed more than 400 throughout the West Bank.

According to Israel’s B’Tselem human rights organization, Israeli settlers and their organizations control some 42 percent of West Bank land. In comparison, 21 percent of the settlements’ built-up areas lie on private Palestinian land. In the year to March, the government approved the

Jerusalem. Smotrich hopes to raise that number to more than a million within months.

As of January, there were 146 Israeli settlements in the West Bank and 12 in East Jerusalem — all are illegal under international law. There are also at least 160 outposts that Smotrich is pushing the government to recognize.

Smotrich’s plan seeks to dismantle the PA or reduce it to an administrative body responsible for providing municipal services to Palestinians in enclaves or cantons that are encircled by settlements. These settlements are under Israeli law and are connected by a Jews-only road network.

For Smotrich, the de facto annexation will ensure that no Palestinian state will ever be created. Netanyahu supports the final objective, with minor disagreements over the tactics. In return for recognizing the five illegal outposts last week,

Gaza, Smotrich is carrying out his war on the West Bank. Aside from the usual condemnations from the international community, no pressure is being applied on Israel to stop its slow encroachment of Palestinian territory.

Apart from fragmenting the West Bank through patchy settlement expansion, the application of Israeli law to settlers and settlements creates a de facto extension of Israeli sovereignty. Although, officially, the West Bank is not annexed, settlers now live under Israeli civilian law rather than military law, which applies only to Palestinians.

The war on West Bank Palestinians includes usurping natural resources. Control over resources like water and land is often shifted toward settlements, reinforcing their permanence and making it harder to dismantle them.

The continued expansion



PSX stays bullish, gains 728 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 728.55 points, a positive change of 0.92 percent, closing at 79,552.89 points against 78,824.33 points on the last working day.

A total of 413,153,249 shares were traded during the day as compared to 306,038,889 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 16.597 billion against Rs 13.746 billion on the last trading day.

Around 431 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 246 of them recorded gains and 128 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 57 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading

companies were WorldCall Telecom with 23,801,419 shares at Rs 1.27 per share, K-Electric Limited with 23,104,501 shares at Rs 4.73 per share and National BankXD with 20,129,727 shares at Rs41.44 per share.

Philip Morris (Pakistan) Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 50.28 per share price, closing at Rs 608.91, whereas the runner-up was Data Agro Limited with a Rs 24.07 rise in its per share price to Rs 291.52.

Sapphire Fibres Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 123.80 per share closing at Rs 1,466.20, followed by Nestle Pakistan Limited with a Rs 69.95 decline to close at Rs 6,931.00.

Rupee shed 03 paise against Dollar
Pakistan Rupee on

Tuesday witnessed a devaluation of 03 paise against the US Dollar in the inter-bank trading and closed at Rs 278.37 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.34.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.7 and Rs 280.55 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 73 paise to close at Rs 298.39 against the last day's closing of Rs 297.68, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.72, whereas a decrease of 47 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 351.45 as compared to the

last day's closing of Rs 351.92.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 01 paise to close at Rs 75.79 and RS 74.20 respectively.

Gold rates remain unchanged at Rs241,500 per tola

The price of per tola 24 karat gold remained unchanged at Rs.214,500 on Tuesday.

The rates of 10 grams of 24 karat and 10 gram 22 karat also witnessed no change and were traded at Rs.207,047 and Rs.189,793 respectively.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs.2,850 and Rs.2,443.41 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market also stayed constant at \$2,324, the Association reported.



Signing Ceremony

United Bank Limited & Lucky Cement Limited

8,000,000,000

(Eight Billion Rupees)

Standby Letter of Credit Facility



KARACHI: Deputy Head - CIBG & FIs UBL Ms. Nadia Tabassum, GM - Treasury LCL Raeel Rafique, Head - Agency & Trustee Services UBL Owais Jamal and DGM - Treasury LCL Aftab Ahmed at signing ceremony.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan commit to enhance bilateral trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan, Azerbaijan on Tuesday agreed for enhancing bilateral economic and trade relations to increase the trade and investment cooperation between two countries.

Both sides determined on the necessity of a long-term and practical mechanism to enhance monitor bilateral trade and cooperation to suggest ways forward to achieve the desired aim.

Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Samir Sharifov, called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan at his office, said a press release issued here. The high-profile meeting was attended by Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Federal Secretary for Comm-

erce Ahsan Ali Mangi, and other senior officials.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the Pakistani government's dedication to forging robust economic relations with other nations. He emphasized that, over the past three months, the government has made significant strides in enhancing diplomatic and economic ties, achieving notable developments.

"Pakistan attaches great importance to its relationship with Azerbaijan. We must continue to advance our cooperation in various sectors including tourism, transport, energy security, and defense, though this requires additional efforts," said Minister Jam.

He also urged the need for an early conclusion of

Preferential Trade Agreement and Bilateral Transit Trade Agreement.

Deputy Minister Sharifov conveyed Azerbaijan's readiness for closer cooperation with Pakistan across all fields of mutual interest.

He apprised that the President of Azerbaijan plans to visit Pakistan soon, during which several MoUs are expected to be signed.

Minister Jam also proposed to hold B2B meetings which may either in Pakistan or in Azerbaijan.

On the occasion, Azerbaijan minister Deputy Minister, Sharifov highlighted the ease of travel between the two countries, noting that Azerbaijan received 55,000 Pakistani visitors last year due to its favourable visa policy.

He also mentioned that Azerbaijan is the first Central Asian country to initiate direct flights to Pakistan, facilitating greater connectivity.

Minister Khan invited Azerbaijan businessmen to invest in Pakistan, citing the country's cost-effective labour market as a significant advantage.

He pointed out Saudi Arabia and China investments in Pakistan encouraging Azerbaijani investors to seize the opportunities available in Pakistan.

The meeting concluded with both sides expressing a strong commitment to deepening economic and diplomatic relations, setting the stage for a new era of cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

GCAA-UAE commence assessment in Karachi

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The GCAA - UAE Aviation Security assessment has commenced at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi. Abdullah Al Kaabi, Senior Director of Avsec Affairs, is leading the two-member team from GCAA - UAE.

Upon their arrival in Karachi, they were welcomed by Air Cdre (R) Shahid Qadir, Director Avsec PCAA.

The opening meeting was attended by APM Irfan Khan and all the concerned airport stakeholders. Over the next four days, the team will be inspecting the implementation of various security measures at the airport, with a specific focus on measures for flights to the UAE.

This assessment is being hosted by the Aviation Security Directorate of PCAA and is part of the ongoing collaborative efforts between GCAA - UAE and PCAA to enhance aviation security standards in the country.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, MSC Tavvishi, Maersk Bering, Sea Journey and Al-Deebal carrying Container, Palm oil, Canola and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminals, Grain Terminal and Port Gas Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile another ship 'Suvari Reis' scheduled to load/offload cement also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on Tuesday.

Eight ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Afra Rossie and Gc Argon left the port on today morning while another container ship 'MSC Tavvishi' is expected to sail on today morning.

Cargo volume of 138,951 tonnes, comprising 87,093 tonnes imports cargo and 51,858 tonnes export cargo carried in 2,328 Containers (542 TEUs Imports and 1,786 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Six ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Hanyu Camellia and Al-Salam-II carrying Chemicals and Gas oil are expected to take berths at respectively EVTL and FOTCO on Tuesday, while three more container ships, Maersk Cape Town, MSC Fie X and W-Kyrenia are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Wednesday.

Gas theft crackdown: 56 connections disconnected: SNGPL

F.P. Report

LAHORE: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 56 connections; Rs2.4 million fine imposed.

In Lahore, the team disconnected 20 connections on illegal use of gas and also imposed a fine of Rs0.25 million against gas

theft cases. The team also lodged 3 FIRs against gas theft cases.

In Multan, the team disconnected 14 connections on illegal use of gas while another 02 on use of the compressor.

The regional team of Gujranwala disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas while another 01 on the use of a compressor and also booked an amount of Rs0.96 million against gas theft cases.

In Bahawalpur, the team disconnected 07 connections on the use of compressors.

The regional team of Faisalabad disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas and also imposed a fine of Rs0.02 million against gas theft cases.

In Mardan, the team disconnected 10 connections on illegal use of gas and also booked an amount of Rs1.2 million against gas theft cases.

Ahsan: ICCI to continue to positive play role

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari Tuesday said that the business community was determined to serve the country by making it an economic hub and investment friendly destination for world to achieve industrial growth and economic development in the country.

Addressing the presidents of different traders welfare associations of Islamabad who called on him, Ahsan Bakhtawari said that ICCI will continue to play the role of a bridge

between the community and the government to foster business development.

He said that that during his election campaign he announced to launch housing scheme for the deserving traders to enable them to have their own accommodations in the capital.

He said that work has been completed with a renowned business group of the capital city which will not only provide residential plots on 25% discount but receive the payments on easy installments.

He said that besides President of ICCI, he is also

continued corporate social responsibilities by installing water filtration plants, water coolers, setting up of free medical camps, provision of computers and laboratory equipment to educational institutions.

Former President ICCI Zafar Bakhtawari said that a comprehensive strategy has been evolved for next ICCI election and underlined the need for strengthening unity for the resolution of problems on priority basis and for the availability of the level playing field for the development of the businesses.

Dowry items for 100 girls' marriages provided



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Team Karachi Welfare Society with the support of Hamdard Pakistan provided dowry items for the marriages of 100 girls from low-income families. A special event was recently held in a local hall in Karachi, where Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, attended as chief guest and distributed goods to the needy. She was accompanied by Hamdard Pakistan's COO Faisal Nadeem, Group Director of HR Abu Talib Bhutto, and

Director of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan Syed Muhammad Arsalan.

In her speech, Ms. Sadia Rashid emphasized the importance of compassion and understanding the struggles of our neighbors and relatives. Syed Muhammad Arsalan highlighted that Hamdard Pakistan is fundamentally a welfare organization dedicated to serving the community, supporting both charitable initiatives and institutions like Team Pakistan.

Representing Team Karachi, President Saqib Zeeshan, Vice President

Zeeshan Alrab Jafri, Board Member Mahmood Arshad, and Board Member Mufti Shakir Siddiqui were present as hosts.

The dowry items, fully supported by Hamdard Pakistan, included dinner sets, bath sets, buckets, cooler jug glass sets, juicer machines, irons, graters, frying pans, tray sets, kitchen sets, steel thermoses, water sets, spice racks, tea sets, strainers, sets of pots, sewing machines, washing machines, pedestal fans, and three dresses for the bride, including cash.

OGDCL collaborates with NCSW for women empowerment



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has partnered with the National Commission on the Status

of Women (NCSW) to empower women and foster their growth within the company.

Ahmed Hayat Lak, MD/CEO of OGDCL, and Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar,

Chairperson of NCSW, on Tuesday, signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to formalize this collaboration. The LoI signing ceremony was held at the OGDCL Head Office in Islamabad.

This strategic partnership underscores OGDCL's commitment to recognizing and honoring the invaluable contributions of women within its operations.

Earlier this year, OGDCL unveiled its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Policy to foster a more inclusive workplace culture.

The collaboration between OGDCL and NCSW is poised to set a new standard for gender inclusivity and empowerment in Pakistan's corporate landscape. OGDCL is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring a workplace where every individual, regardless of gender and background, feels valued, respected, and empowered to thrive.

Delegation of Anjuman-e-Tajiran visits HCSTSI Secretariat

HYDERABAD (APP): A delegation of traders from Anjuman Tajiran Cantt Bazar Hyderabad, led by President Yasir Qureshi, recently visited the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry Secretariat.

The primary agenda of the meeting was to devise a strategic plan to combat sealing of their shops without any legal justification.

The traders praised the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry for being a reliable advocate for their concerns, consistently raising their issues on prominent platforms. The delegation of Anjuman Tajiran Cantt Bazar Hyderabad highlighted that shops within the Cantonment boundaries are being sealed without prior notice, tarnishing the

traders' reputations and severely impacting their businesses.

Dr Muhammad Ismail Farouk Nami, Senior Vice President, Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry, emphasized the Chamber's pivotal role in addressing and resolving traders' issues.

He assured that the grievances of Cantonment Bazaar traders would be communicated to the relevant authorities, and every effort would be made to find solutions.

Elected representatives of the Cantonment Board have the authority to revise this annual rental value during board meetings,

considering the shop's location and the nature of its business.

Vice President of the Cantonment Board, Shahid Aziz, highlighted that he was elected by the general residents especially the traders of Hyderabad Cantonment and is committed to representing and safeguarding their interests.

He urged traders to communicate their complaints to their elected representatives, who are dedicated to resolving their issues. Media Coordinator and elected member, Qazi Ashhad, pointed out that the primary reason for many of the traders' problems was the lack of a uni-

fied platform.

He acknowledged that the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry has now provided this much-needed platform, bridging the gap between traders and the Cantonment Board.

Vice President of Saddar Bazar Anjuman-e-Tajiran Younis Pathan, General Secretary Qaiser Barni, Chairman Ghazi Salahuddin, along with Shahid, Shehbaz, Iqbal Memon, and senior peace committee member from Tando Jahania, Syed Moazzam Shah Jahania and elected member from ward 2, Muhammad Abid Soljar attended the meeting.

Global stocks, euro slip ahead of major elections

LONDON (AFP/APP): Global stock markets slipped while the euro retreated Tuesday on concerns about the potential economic fallout should the far-right win power in France in weekend elections.

London was also lower and the pound traded mixed heading into a UK general election Thursday which the opposition Labour Party is expected to win.

The dollar firmed as

investors weighed the possibility of another Donald Trump presidency after last week's poor debate performance by incumbent Joe Biden.

Wall Street stocks struggled to find direction in early trading as markets await employment data, with analysts pointing to caution while Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell participates in a panel discussion with other

central bankers.

"Political concerns continue to weigh on European stocks," noted Joshua Mahony, chief market analyst at Scope Markets.

"Overall, underlying (European) inflation remains on a downward path, not least because of weak growth, and June data support the expectation of more ECB rate cuts in 2024, perhaps starting next September," said GianLuigi

Mandrizzato, senior economist at EFG Asset Management.

Candidates in France on Tuesday faced a deadline to register for the run-off round of a high-stakes parliamentary election, as President Emmanuel Macron's centrist camp and a left-wing alliance scrambled to prevent the far-right from taking power.

On Sunday, French voters go to polls for the deci-

sive final round of the snap election Macron called after his camp received a drubbing in European elections last month.

His gamble appears to have backfired, with the far-right National Rally (RN) of Marine Le Pen scoring a victory in the first round of voting last Sunday.

Ahead of the vote, official data Tuesday showed eurozone inflation cooled

in June -- but experts said it would be insufficient to convince the European Central Bank, or ECB, to accelerate its rate-cutting cycle despite sluggish economic growth.

Consumer prices have remained stubbornly above the ECB's two-percent target, although the return to easing inflation will no doubt be welcomed by officials. Consumer price inflation in the single currency

area came in at 2.5 percent in June, down from a 2.6-percent rate in May, the EU's statistics agency said.

In Britain, the main opposition Labour party is this week on course to end 14 years of power by the Conservatives and the premiership of Rishi Sunak.

Elsewhere Tuesday, Asia's main stock markets closed higher, with Hong Kong enjoying a rare surge after a recent run of losses.

Name Correction

My correct name is Muzammil Khan while mistakenly written in my Educational documents as Muzammil pleased make the required correction as Muzammil Khan S/o Noor Shah Ghulam R/o Police Colony Peshawar.



In brief

Raza named as Zimbabwe captain

HARARE (Web Desk): Pakistani-born Sikandar Raza will captain a young Zimbabwe squad for the upcoming five-match T20I series against newly-crowned T20 World Cup 2024 champions India. Raza has played 86 T20I matches since 2013, making 1,946 runs with a highest score of 87. Zimbabwe failed to qualify for the T20 World Cup 2024 and are looking to build for the future under new head coach Justin Sammons. The average age of this squad is 27 - and that includes the 38-year-old skipper. They have included Antum Naqvi in the squad but this is subject to the confirmation of his citizenship status. Naqvi was born to parents of Pakistani origin in Brussels, Belgium, and later moved to Australia, but has applied for Zimbabwe naturalisation. The series begins in Harare on 6 July. Squad: Sikandar Raza (captain), Faraz Akram, Brian Bennett, Jhathan Campbell, Tendai Chatara, Luke Jongwe, Innocent Kaia, Clive Madande, Wessly Madhevere, Tadiwanashe Marumani, Wellington Masakadza, Brandon Mavuta, Blessing Muzarabani, Dion Myers, Antum Naqvi, Richard Ngarava, Milton Shumba.

Sanaullah pays tribute to sports journalists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday acknowledged the vital role sports journalists play in promoting sports and highlighted the importance of their work in holding federations accountable for their performance. Speaking at the International Sports Journalists' Day event organized by Rawalpindi Islamabad Sports Journalist Association (RISJA) here at a local hotel, Sanaullah, who also holds the portfolio of Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC), paid tribute to sports journalists for their contributions to the development and popularity of sports. He emphasized that IPC ministry is taking concrete steps to improve Pakistan's representation in international sports events, including the Olympics. He encouraged sports journalists to use their pens to highlight issues in sports federations and promote the development of sports in the country. Sanaullah stressed that the power of the pen can bring significant change and urged sports journalists to play their role in shaping the future of sports in Pakistan. He assured that his ministry is committed to supporting sports development and improving the country's performance in international competitions. He acknowledged that his previous tenure was focused on law and order, but his current responsibility of IPC Ministry has revealed the significant work required in this sector. Sanaullah pledged to improve Pakistan's representation in the Olympics as only four athletes have qualified for the event. He was of the view that the job of sports journalists is not just to cover matches but also to monitor the performance of the federations. They should keep an eye on who is sitting in which federation since when. All of them are taking their privileges but they are not doing the work properly, he said. He encouraged sports stakeholders and organizations to approach him anytime for his support, emphasizing his commitment to enhancing sports landscape in the country.

Djokovic wins in first match since knee surgery

LONDON (Agencies): Novak Djokovic said he was "extremely glad with the way I felt and the way I played" as he won his first match since knee surgery to reach the second round at Wimbledon.

Djokovic, seeking to equal Roger Federer's men's record of eight singles titles at SW19, beat Vit Kopriva 6-1 6-2 6-2 under the roof on Centre Court.

The Serb, 37, had an operation on a torn medial meniscus on 5 June, having aggravated the problem during the French Open. He will next play British wildcard Jacob Fearnley. Wearing a knee support on his right leg, Djokovic showed no signs of discomfort against the 27-year-old Czech qualifier, converting his sixth break point in a lengthy fourth game before racing through the rest of the first set. He broke again early in the second set, stretching his right leg out to stay in a rally and then, in trademark style, converting defence into attack and forcing

Kopriva into going long.

Three further breaks of serve hurried him to victory, Djokovic finishing the match with three consecutive aces as he moved to the next round in style. "I tried to really focus on the game and not think about the knee too much," the 24-time Grand Slam champion added in his on-court interview.

"Everything that I could do, I have done over the last three weeks, along with my team, to be able to play here for you today. I think if it was for any other tournament I probably would not have risked it, would not have rushed as much but I just love Wimbledon, love coming back here."

Sixth seed Rublev upset by Slam debutant

Russian Andrey Rublev became the highest seed to fall in the men's singles, losing 6-4 5-7 6-2 7-6 (7-5) to Argentine Francisco Comesana. At one point the sixth seed smashed his racket against his own thigh six times as he was

frustrated by his play, and his 23-year-old Grand Slam debutant.

American 20th seed Sebastian Korda was also beaten in the first round, losing 7-6 (7-5) 6-7 (4-7) 7-6 (8-6) 6-7 (4-7) 6-3 to French lucky loser Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard.

The 20-year-old, who is 6ft 8in tall, fired down 51 aces and saved all 11 break points he faced from Korda in his first appearance at Wimbledon. French Open runner-up Alexander Zverev had a straightforward success, defeating Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena 6-2 6-4 6-2.

Polish seventh seed Hubert Hurkacz saw off Moldovan Radu Albot 5-7 6-4 6-3 6-4, while Alex de Minaur beat fellow Australian James Duckworth in three tie-breaks. American Ben Shelton, seeded 14th, was two sets to one down overnight against Italian Mattia Bellucci, but fought back when they resumed on Tuesday to win 4-6 6-3 3-6 6-3 6-4.



LONDON: Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays a backhand against Vit Kopriva of Czechia in his Gentlemen's Singles first round match during day two of The Championships Wimbledon 2024.

Pakistan's Awaits Munir crowned Asian 6-Red Snooker champion

ISLAMABAD (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan's cueist Awaits Munir won the Asian 6-Red Snooker Championship after beating Hong Kong's Nansen Wan in the final in Saudi Arabia's Riyadh on Tuesday.

Munir secured a 6-3 victory with the scores of 0-65, 35-26, 27-36, 38-20, 0-65, 13-46, 8-60, 34-0, 27-40.

Munir clinched the first frame with the score of 0-

65, however, he ended the second frame with 26-35, the third frame went to the Pakistani cueist while the fourth was secured by the Hong Kong cueist.

With the game tied at 2-2, Awaits Munir won three sets straight and made his lead 5-2.

He clinched the ninth frame and the Asian 6-Red Snooker Championship final after Nansen's come-

back in the eighth frame.

Munir had qualified for the final after defeating countryman Asjad Iqbal 5-2 in the semi-final a day earlier. He secured victory by winning five consecutive frames after initially trailing Iqbal 0-2.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan's cueist Mohammad Hasnain is the Asian U21 Snooker champion after he defeated

compatriot Ahsan Ramzan 4-3 in the final.

Hasnain also remained undefeated during the group stage of the tournament having beat Shawn Lee of Hong Kong in the last four clash along with defeating Ranveer Duggal of India 4-3 in the quarters.

Ramzan also remained unbeaten in the championship before the final against Hasnain.

ICC's duty to ensure India's participation in Champions Trophy

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Former cricketer Salman Butt termed the International Cricket Council (ICC) responsible to ensure India's participation in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, scheduled to be held in Pakistan.

The former Pakistan captain emphasized that if India do not come to Pakistan to partake in the event then it will be the apex cricketing body's problem.

"If they come, then they welcome, if they don't, the ICC has to deal with it. We

will find out if they can just deal with all the other countries or can do the same with India as well. It will show how much authority they have as a regulator and how neutral they can be," stated Butt on his YouTube channel.

Reportedly, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Jay Shah had allegedly given a green signal regarding the Indian team's participation in the Champions Trophy, citing his remarks that India tar-

get the World Test Championship (WTC) and Champions Trophy after T20 World Cup 2024 triumph.

"The way this team is progressing, our target is to win the World Test Championship final and Champions Trophy. There will be a similar squad playing there. The seniors will be there," the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Shah.

However, Salman Butt is of the view that Jay Shah did not give any sig-

nal regarding India's participation in the Champions Trophy.

"We try sensationalizing everything. There have been a few reports suggesting that Jay Shah has given a positive signal. However, I don't think he's given any signals," said Butt.

"I wouldn't have been excited even if there had been a signal from him because it is the ICC's duty to ensure that all teams visit Pakistan," he added.

Mohammad Amir among 12 players granted NOCs

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday, granted No Objection Certificate (NOC) to 12 players including Mohammad Amir to participate in foreign leagues across the globe.

The 12 players granted NOC by the cricketing body include centrally-contracted players as well as those, who have not represented the country in a long time.

Experienced pacer Mohammad Amir, who came out of retirement for the T20 World Cup 2024, is poised to feature in the County Championship from July 4 to 20. Whereas,

leg-spinner Usama Mir will participate in The Hundred from July 23 to August 20.

Shadab Khan, Mohammad Haris, Salman Ali Agha and Mohammad Hasnain, all bound to partake in the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024, have also been given the green signal by the board.

Pakistan's first-choice right-arm pacer Haris Rauf alongside Zaman Khan and mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed will participate in the Major League Cricket (MLC), scheduled to run from July 5 to 28.

Left-handed batter Fakhar Zaman has been granted NOC from 29

August to 6 October to participate in the Caribbean Premier League.

The set of players, granted the NOCs by the PCB, also features Sohaib Maqsood and Sharjeel Khan, who last represented Pakistan in 2021. The duo will participate in the World Championship of Legends from July 3 to 13.

It is worth mentioning here that the PCB has a policy which prohibits centrally contracted players from participating in more than two leagues besides the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

List of Pakistani players to get NOCs
Abrar Ahmed - Major

League Cricket
Fakhar Zaman - Caribbean Premier League

Haris Rauf - Major League Cricket

Mohammad Amir - County Cricket

Mohammad Haris - Lanka Premier League

Mohammad Hasnain - Lanka Premier League

Salman Ali Agha - Lanka Premier League

Shadab Khan - Lanka Premier League

Sharjeel Khan - World Championship of Legends

Sohaib Maqsood - World Championship of Legends

Usama Mir - The Hundred
Zaman Khan - Major League Cricket.

Shadab wreaks havoc as Strikers crush Falcons in LPL



PALLEKELE (Agencies): Shadab Khan decimated Kandy Falcons with a hat-trick and led Colombo Strikers to a thumping 51-run victory in the third match of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024 here on Tuesday.

The Falcons were on course to chase down the 199-run target as they were 140/5 in 14 overs with skipper Wanindu Hasaranga at the crease. But Shadab Khan turned the game on its head with a hat-trick as the Falcons were reduced to 146/8 at the end of the 15th over.

Dunith Wellalage, who was equally exceptional, took two wickets in the next over to take the Strikers home. Both Shadab and Wellalage bagged four wickets each while Glenn Phillips and Binura Fernando chipped in with a wicket apiece as Colombo Strikers booked Kandy Falcons on 147 to kick off their LPL 2024 with a victory.

In-form batter Dinesh Chandimal once again top-scored for the Falcons as he scored 38 off 26 deliveries.

Besides him, skipper Hasaranga (25), Angelo Mathews (25) and Andre Fletcher (24) made notable contributions while the rest of the Falcons' batters failed to make it into the double figures.

Put into bat first, the

Strikers registered a massive total of 198/7 on the board, courtesy of a combined effort from their batters. Leading the way was wicketkeeper batter Sadeera Samarawickrama, who played a blazing knock of 48, coming off on 26 balls with the help of seven fours and a six.

Samarawickrama was supported in the act by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) international Muhammad Waseem as together they raised a quickfire 78-run partnership for the third wicket.

Waseem scored an 18-ball 32, peppered with two fours and two sixes.

Thisara Perera (38 off 30) and Shadab Khan (20 off 17) played anchoring knocks before Chamika Karunaratne bolstered the total with late fireworks.

Karunaratne smashed two fours and two sixes on his way to an unbeaten 25 off 10. For the Falcons, Hasaranga and Kasun Rajitha picked two wickets each while Dasun Shanaka, Dushmantha Chameera and Agha Salman made one scalp apiece. The resounding 51-run victory took Colombo Strikers to the top of the LPL 2024 standings with two points while Kandy Falcons remained third with as many points.

Costa penalty heroics rescue Ronaldo as Portugal edge past Slovenia

FRANKFURT (AFP): Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa saved three Slovenia penalties to earn his side a 3-0 shoot-out victory after Cristiano Ronaldo redeemed himself from the spot in a dramatic Euro 2024 last 16 clash on Monday.

Portugal forward Ronaldo broke down in tears after missing a penalty in the first period of extra-time in the goalless tie in Frankfurt. But he recovered to convert in the shoot-out as Portugal scraped through to set up a blockbuster clash with France in the quarter-finals.

Slovenia battled valiantly to keep Portugal at bay, with Jan Oblak making a stunning save to keep out Ronaldo's penalty after Diogo Jota was fouled.

However, Ronaldo, Bruno Fernandes and Bernardo Silva all scored in the shoot-out and Slovenia's trio missed, sending the Selecao through in heart-stopping fashion.

"First it was sadness and then it was joy, that's what football gives you, inexplicable moments, a bit of everything," said Ronaldo. "I didn't make a single mistake this year and when I needed something the

most, Oblak saved it.

"Slovenia spent the whole game defending and when that happens, it all becomes difficult." Ronaldo, 39, is still without a goal at the tournament in four appearances, having scored in the five previous editions of the Euros. The Euro 2016 winners dominated the ball and created their first chance after 12 minutes when Silva's inviting cross just evaded Ronaldo and Fernandes could not turn home at the far post.

Slovenia, playing in their first ever knock-out match at a major competition, maintained their defensive shape well and limited Portugal's opportunities.

Former Real Madrid striker Ronaldo directed a soft header at his old nemesis, Atletico Madrid keeper Oblak, under vital pressure from Vanja Drkusic.

The Slovenian defender was booked moments later for bringing down the surging Rafael Leao as he charged towards Oblak's goal. Ronaldo smashed the free-kick narrowly over the bar with the goalkeeper at full stretch. Slovenia produced their first effort on target just before half-time when RB Leipzig

striker Benjamin Sesko fired at Costa from the edge of the box.

Portugal's holding midfielder Joao Palhinha hit the outside of the post with a low drive, the final kick of the first half, after more good work by the menacing Leao. Ronaldo forced a solid stop by Oblak with another venomous free-kick early in the second half as the Al-Nassr forward tried in vain to break down Slovenia's defensive wall.

Matjaz Kek's side had a golden chance to take the lead on a rare burst forward, but Sesko dragged wide after beating the oldest player in the competition's history, 41-year-old Pepe, for pace. Portugal captain Ronaldo thumped yet another free-kick over the crossbar with 20 minutes remaining and Oblak denied him with two minutes to go when he was through on the left.

Oblak thwarts Ronaldo

The pace dipped in extra-time and the first period was uneventful, until the 103rd minute when Jota barged into the area and went down over Drkusic's leg for a penalty. Ronaldo fired it hard to Oblak's left but the goalkeeper produced a stunning save to deny him, tipping his effort



against the post and out.

In half-time of extra-time, Ronaldo was in tears after his miss, and Portugal fans sang his name to try to raise his shattered morale. Slovenia missed another huge opening of their own when Pepe gave the ball away with a loose pass and Sesko stole it to race through on goal.

The forward fired too close to Costa who produced an excellent save with his leg, forcing a penalty shoot-out — Slovenia's first ever.

Slovenia went first and substitute Josip Ilcic's effort was brilliantly saved by Costa.

Ronaldo buried his kick and asked for forgiveness from the

fans behind the goal for his extra-time miss, before Costa saved Slovenia's second from Jure Balkovec.

The brilliant Costa made a third consecutive penalty save from Benjamin Verbic after Fernandes converted and Silva won it as he sent Oblak the wrong way.

**In brief****IRSA releases 320,000 cusecs water**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 320,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 454,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1470.20 feet and was 81.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 244,600 cusecs and 130,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1185.30 feet, which was 137.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 44,600 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 206,200, 171,000, 91,700 and 18,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 87,500 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 46,300 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

ANF recovers 630 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations across the country managed to recover 630 kg drugs, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that 3 different operations were conducted in Balochistan, 510 kg opium and 120 kg hashish were recovered from Pasni, Pishin and Quetta. In an operation, 700 grams weed was recovered from a vehicle intercepted in Scheme 3, Rawalpindi.

Police reunite lost boy with mother

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) reunited a 12-year-old boy with a mental disability to his family here on Tuesday. According to NHMP North Zone spokesman Muhammad Saqib, while patrolling, the motorway police found a boy near Wali interchange in distress who could not speak fluently. After getting information from the nearby areas, the NH&MP handed over the boy to his mother, who belonged to the Charsada area. The boy's mother thanked and hailed the performance of the NHMP for the recovery of his mentally disabled lost boy.

DC calls for strict security

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon has chaired a District Intelligence Committee meeting to review the security arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram here. The senior police officials including the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Special Branch, and SSP Operations, and representatives from various NGOs were present in the meeting, said the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration. In the meeting, the security of Chinese people was also discussed. The officials emphasized that a comprehensive security plan for Muharram would be finalized. DC Islamabad assured that the security during Muharram would be stringent, with all institutions working together under a unified strategy. On the occasion, the DC called for strict checking on the entry and exit points of the Federal Capital. Furthermore, he warned that strict security measures would be adopted for the safety of citizens and no one would be allowed to create law and order situation in the city.

Naqvi commends forces for successful operations against terrorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday commended the successful operations of Security Forces against terrorists in various areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Interior Minister said that security forces have killed nine terrorists and

foiled their nefarious plans.

He added that the nation was proud of its security forces as they have played a historic role in the struggle for a safe and peaceful Pakistan. Interior Minister said the entire world acknowledges the role of our Security Forces in the war against terrorism.

He stated that terrorists will not find any hiding place in Pakistan and this war will continue until the elimination of last terrorist from the country.

He emphasized that the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with its security forces in the war against terrorism.

Ulema's role indispensable for promoting unity: Salik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Tuesday emphasized on the indispensable role of Islamic scholars in maintaining unity, brotherhood, and peace in the country, especially during Muharram-ul-Haram 1446 AH and the days ahead.

He said this during an address at a representative meeting of Pakistan's leading scholars and religious leaders, held at the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) under the chairmanship of Dr. Raghieb Naeemi.

Minister Salik highlighted that the remaining roots of extremism and radicalism in the country were close to being eradicated.

CII Chairman, Dr. Raghieb Naeemi, presented the consensus declaration of the meeting. He stated that the "Azm-e-Istihkam" initiative would not only strengthen the National Action Plan but also achieve the desired outcomes for peace. He emphasized the need to disseminate the Code of Conduct of the "Paigham-e-Pakistan" from the pulpit and niche, ensuring it reaches the very fabric of society.

Additionally, he said promoting a separate code of conduct specifically for Muharram-ul-Haram was crucial, a responsibility that rests with the religious scholars and leaders.

Dr. Raghieb said the declaration underscored the importance of upholding the

Constitution, respecting the basic rights of every citizen, venerating Islamic sanctities, and taking genuine steps to eradicate hate speech, violence, prejudice, sectarianism, and extremism.

Prominent participants of the meeting included Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Maulana Hamid-ul-Haq Haqqani, Maulana Ahmed Ludhianvi, Maulana Tayyab Qureshi, Allama Arif Wahidi, Allama Iftikhar Hussain Naqvi, Mufti Nauman Naeem, Allama Shabbir Maisami, Allama Hameed Imami, Pir Naeqeb-ur-Rehman, Maulana Imtiaz Siddiqui, Senator Hafiz Abdul Karim, and other esteemed scholars.

PR earned record high revenue in year 2023-24: DG

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General (DG) Public Relations (PR) Pakistan Railways Dr. Hassan Tahir Bukhari Tuesday said that his department had reached a record high in revenue earnings of Rs 88 billion at the end of the financial year 2023-24 and providing modern amenities to passengers where they are being facilitated with standardized toilet systems.

Talking to a PTV news channel he said the PR's land-lease revenue was also being increased by Rs10bn for FY 2024-25", adding, that Pakistan Railway credited achievement to the tireless work of the employees.

He said his organization determination to further increase the income to Rs 1 trillion next financial year, adding that with private partnership Pakistan Railway will

get its set targets soon. He said 40% earned 40% increase in revenue as compared to previous years. While explaining the current facilities provided to passengers, he said Pakistan Railway launched a series of ambitious projects aimed at revolutionizing railway infrastructure where a modern international standardized based toilet system was also being introduced for the passenger's facilities.

He said PR striving hard to transform railway stations into dynamic hubs that cater to the diverse needs of passengers, adding that PR stations are enhancing various facilities and amenities, such as accessibility, waiting areas, toilets, WI-Fi, and accurate timing of trains. He said with the start of ML-3 project we will increase our connectivity with neighboring countries like China, adding that

the railways' modernization enhances connectivity and catalysis Pakistan's journey towards becoming a global economic powerhouse.

DG said the passengers have the facility of online booking and e-ticketing through which they can purchase e-tickets for their journey on the official website of Pak Railways or through the smartphone application which is available on Google Play Store.

He said earlier, Pakistan Railways also launched a state-of-the-art dining car for passengers, adding, that Pakistan Railways has also decided to improve the service related to cleanliness and passengers' rest and sleeping. "We are also providing the up-to-the-mark transportation system, Green line project is also a landmark contribution for the Railway department", he added.

Police chiefs assure safety of traders

RAWALPINDI (APP): Regional Police Officer (RPO) Babar Sarfaraz, City Police Officer (CPO) Khalid Hamdani and Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimur Khan paid a visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Tuesday.

President RCCI Saqib Rafiq and Group Leader RCCI Sohail Altaf and office bearers welcomed the RPO and his team.

President Saqib Rafiq said that this is the first time that the three chiefs of Rawalpindi Police have visited the Chamber of Commerce to meet the business community, which shows their seriousness to

strengthen the interaction and communication with stakeholders to solve their problems.

RPO Babar Sarfaraz in his remarks said that the business community is the backbone of country's economy and added that the RCCI was playing an important role in promoting community policing in society. He said the Safe City project in Rawalpindi will be fully operational by the end of this month, which will help in more effective measures against criminal elements.

He emphasized the essential role of the business community in the economy and assured that

all necessary measures would be taken to address their concerns.

CPO Khalid Hamdani assured that addressing the problems of traders was top priority for which Rawalpindi Police was using all resources. CTO Taimur Khan informed the participants about the measures taken to address traffic congestion in the city.

Senior Vice President RCCI Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, Former Presidents, executive committee members, chamber members, and members from various trade associations were also present in the meeting.

Dr. Raghieb unveils comprehensive code of conduct for Muharram-ul-Haram

ISLAMABAD (APP): Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman, Dr. Muhammad Raghieb Hussain Naeemi on Tuesday introduced a detailed code of conduct for Muharram-ul-Haram, guided by the principles of the Paigham-e-Pakistan initiative.

Addressing a press conference in the presence of prominent scholars and religious leaders, he said this code underscores the necessity for all citizens to uphold the Constitution, respect the state, and consistently demonstrate their allegiance.

Dr. Raghieb emphasized to respect for fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution, including equality before the law, social and political rights, and the freedom of expression, belief, worship, and assembly. He firmly rejected any duress in the name of implementing Islam, armed action against the state, violence, and chaos, labeling such acts as rebellion against the spirit of Islamic laws. He said no individual has the right to declare anyone, including government and security personnel, as infidels.

Dr. Raghieb urged the scholars, religious leaders, and individuals from all sectors to fully support the state and its institutions, especially law enforcement and armed forces, to eradicate violence from society. He advised the citizens to avoid participating in movements based on linguistic, region-



al, religious, or sectarian prejudices against the state.

He condemned the promotion of sectarian hatred, armed sectarian conflict, or the imposition of views on others by force as a violation of Shariah and a cause of disorder. He said educational institutions, whether private, public, or religious, have been barred from promoting militancy, providing training, or fostering hatred, extremism, and violence, with legal action to be taken against those involved in such activities.

Dr. Raghieb said strict administrative and punitive measures are outlined against those promoting extremism, sectarianism, and violence, regardless of their organization or belief. While all schools of thought in Islam have the right to preach their respective beliefs, he said spreading hatred or making derogatory remarks or baseless accusations against any person, institution, or sect is strictly

prohibited.

He said the code prohibits any disrespect towards the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), all Prophets, the Mothers of the Believers, the Ahl al-Bayt, the Rightly Guided Caliphs, or the Companions. He emphasized that no individual or group should obstruct the investigation or prosecution of blasphemy cases. Only religious scholars are permitted to explain Shariah principles based on religious doctrine, with the decision to declare someone an infidel falling under the jurisdiction of the court, he added.

Dr. Raghieb said the code also prohibits the promotion of terrorism, the provision of training to terrorists, their recruitment, or engagement in any terrorist activities. He said the curriculum in public, private, and religious educational institutions would include the etiquette of diverging opinions, recognizing educational institutions as the most suitable

places for research on jurisprudential and ideological differences. He said all Muslim citizens and government officials are called to perform their duties in light of Islamic teachings and the Constitution.

He announced to impart Islamic teachings regarding the rights of elderly citizens, women, children, transgender individuals, and all other underprivileged groups at all levels. He said non-Muslim citizens have the right to practice their religion and perform their religious rituals according to their beliefs.

Dr. Raghieb said the code reaffirms Islam's protection of women's rights, prohibiting anyone from depriving women of their right to vote, education, and employment, or from damaging their educational institutions. He warned that practices such as honor killing, Vani, Karo-Kari, and Watta Satta are explicitly forbidden.

PHA authorities directed to upgrade parks of Murree

RAWALPINDI (APP): Director General (DG) Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA), Ahmad Hasan Ranjha has directed the authorities concerned to make all-out efforts to upgrade parks of Murree.

According to a PHA spokesman, during a visit of various parks of Murree, the DG reviewed the facilities being provided to the public in terms of quality recreations.

She informed, the DG instructed the officers concerned about the improvement of parks and to ensure better recreational facilities for the tourists.

According to the orders of the Punjab government, the tourists and local residents were being provided with the best available facilities. The PHA is also ensuring provision of clean drinking water for the tourists in Murree, benches for sitting and better lighting arrangements.

The DG during the visited inspected all the arrangements regarding lighting and sitting, drinking water and other facilities in the parks and orders were also issued to the officers to take all possible steps for improvement of the facilities, she informed.

The spokesman said that the PHA on the special directives of the DG would successfully achieve the plantation target by ensuring a full-scale plantation drive in upcoming monsoon season this year.

Suleri appointed as Member to NSPP BoG

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal government on Tuesday appointed Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri as member, Board of Governors of the National School of Public Policy (NSPP), Lahore.

The Cabinet Secretariat, Establishment Division issued a notification on the appointments approved under the NSPP Ordinance, 2002.

The newly appointed Board of Governors also included Dr. Syed Tauqir Hussain Shah, and Dr. Ali Hasanain. The National School of Public Policy is the lead institution for training and capacity building of senior ranking civil servants in Pakistan. He is a leading

expert on sustainable development, political economy, food security, and climate change. He has served in various national and regional policy-making forums and has represented Pakistan in several official and civil society delegations at the global level. Dr. Suleri is currently a member of the Pakistan Climate Change Council, Board of Directors of the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), Board of Directors of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), and the Government of Punjab's Vice Chancellors' Search Committee for Agricultural Universities.

He has also served as a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council/National Economic Advisory

Council for three terms (2013-2022), the National Advisory Council of the Planning Commission of Pakistan for two terms (2013-2022), and Coordinator of the Prime Minister's Agriculture Transformation Plan (2021-2022). He has been a member of the Finance Minister's Task Force on the Effectiveness of Social Safety Nets (2016-17), the Board of Management (Board of Directors) of Pakistan State Oil (2009-2011), and four judicial commissions on environmental issues formed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad High Court, and Lahore High Court.

Dr. Suleri is a member of the Permanent Organizing Committee of the South Asia Economic Summit.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being utilized for expansion work of Club Road during development work in Federal Capital. —APP Photo

Sherry proposes Youth Climate Caucus at Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday in the maiden meeting of the body proposed the forum for establishing the Youth Climate Caucus at the Senator for giving representation to the young voices in policy making and legislative oversight.

The Committee with Senator Rehman in chair at single agenda item of developing a comprehensive agenda for a plan of action that is both inclusive and responsive to the country needs across all the sectors that reflect climate and environmental values as well as challenges participated by Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, Senator Naseema Ehsan, Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar, whereas Senators Dr Zarqa Suhrawardy Taimour, Quratulain Marri and Taj Haider joined the meeting online.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Sherry Rehman said the Committee would propose the Upper House of the Parliament to establish the Youth Climate Caucus as the younger genera-

tion amid galloping climate crises was anguished and frustrated that needed to be harnessed positively.

She said the Committee with a retrospective approach would hold two environmental public hearings for a national stock take of efforts being made to address the country's spiking up vulnerability to climate change. She informed the members that the Committee would visit the iconic Leopard Preserve Zone in the Margalla Hills National Park that is home to exotic birds, plants, mammals and reptiles species. Since, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination was signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that banned trade or captivity of nonindigenous animals to a foreign country.

She commended the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) for its efforts in controlling poaching, and illegal captivity of endangered species. "A Bengal tiger was rescued by IWMB that was facing maltreatment

and poor health which will be released in its natural habitat," she added.

Senator Rehman called for ban on exotic species' trade and captivity in Rawalpindi and the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). She urged the members to raise issues pertaining to environmental pollution and degradation in the ICT. She mentioned that Smog was the 15th season of Pakistan now, whereas the Committee would also hold public hearing in Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services and would invite all.

Moreover, the Committee's separate sessions on water scarcity, monsoon rain impacts, renewable and clean energy transition, whereas two meetings would be convened a month, she added.

"Climate change cannot be addressed alone by the government but needs public support. Pakistan is going to become water scarce in 2025 and there is plastic pollution in its water bodies and ocean causing fish polluted with plastics proliferating in its meat," she said. The Chair directed to convene the Ministry of Water Resources, Pakistan

Meteorological Department (PMD), Federal Flood Commission (FFC) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to brief on water issues, monsoon rains impacts and preparedness measures to cope with the anticipated devastating rains.

She commended that the NDMA and Ministry of Climate Change in coordination with the provinces efficiently managed cyclone BIPARJOY and the best evacuation plan was prepared at that time. She said water was a serious of Balochistan that demands serious attention of the provincial government whereas the Sindh, Balochistan and Gilgit Baltistan governments have learnt to make evacuation plans.

The committee will visit Gilgit Baltistan to have briefing on glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) as the glaciers were melting due to global warming at an alarming pace whereas the country housed the largest number of glaciers (above 7,000), she added.

The Chair also vowed to develop a personal coalition on plastics to spear-

head the effective phase out of single use plastic items. She regretted that globally only 9 percent of plastics were recycled and it was not possible for developing countries.

She mentioned that during her previous government a National Hazardous Waste Policy was formulated to curb with lethal waste dumping as some foreign countries had dumped their hazardous waste at the shores of Pakistan.

Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar endorsed the Chair's opinion and extended his full support in all endeavours of the Committee. He also urged the Chair to engage educated youth who had done research in climate change.

He regretted that neither the Public nor the governments across the country had interest in managing smog as the issue was raging every year.

Senator, Naseema Ehsan said the human population and number of vehicles ratio so drastic contrast with massive ambient pollution created due to aviation and vehicular industries.

2,000 migrants deported

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations reported on Tuesday that over 2,000 Afghan migrants have been deported from Iran and Pakistan and returned to Afghanistan. A total of 2,450 Afghan migrants entered the country through various border points after being expelled. The ministry specified that those deported entered through the borders of Nimroz province's Islam Qala, Spin Boldak in Kandahar and Torkham in Nangarhar.

Supreme Court flogs 4 people

PARWAN (Ariana News): Supreme Court of Afghanistan announced that four people were flogged for having same-sex relationships in Parwan. These people were accused of having sexual intercourse. Three defendants were each sentenced to one year imprisonment and 39 lashes of punishment and the other defendant was sentenced to two years imprisonment and 39 lashes of punishment by the primary court of Seyed Kheil district of Parwan province.

Mujahid sums up Doha meeting

— says most countries willing to cooperate with Afghanistan

DOHA (Ariana News): Zabiullah Mujahid, the spokesman of the Islamic Emirate, told Ariana News that the IEA realized at the Doha meeting that most countries are willing to help and cooperate with Afghanistan.

Speaking to Ariana News after the two-day meeting in the Qatari capital, Mujahid emphasized that the IEA was however adamant it would not allow any country to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

He also said "the patrolling of planes in the airspace of Afghanistan is a violation and we have condemned it, and we do not accept it for any reason."

According to him, there

are some internal matters that "people have the right to have demands from their system and government, but we do not want these demands to be made by other countries."

He said that at the third meeting in Doha, two issues were discussed: how to help and cooperate with Afghanistan's private sector, and identify the challenges; and secondly assess achievements and challenges in the fight against drugs.

"The issue of alternative livelihoods (to drugs) that is presented to the people is a very important issue because Afghans have suffered a lot in the fight against drugs and millions of dollars have been lost to the people and

Afghans are poor people and there is unemployment in the society. It is too much, and for this purpose, an economic mechanism must be created."

Meanwhile in a post on X, Mujahid said: "Afghans' message reached all the participants."

He added: "Afghanistan needs the cooperation of countries in the private sector, and the fight against drugs and creating alternative livelihoods; most countries discussed cooperation in this sector."

The two-day UN-led Doha meeting on Afghanistan wrapped up. This was the third meeting of its kind but the first that the Islamic Emirate attended.

Afghans call for increased distribution centers

KABUL (TOLONews): Applicants for electronic ID cards told TOLONews that there are not enough distribution centers for electronic ID cards in Kabul and in the provinces and there is a need to increase the number of distribution centers. They added that the lack of electronic ID card distribution centers has caused many challenges for applicants.

Abdul Basir, who came to Kabul for three days from Takhar to receive an electronic ID card, said: "The Asan Khedmat (public service) center must increase in provinces to solve people's problems soon."

At the same time, officials of the NSIA say that they are going to increase the number of electronic ID card distribution centers inside and outside the country shortly.

Mohammad Halim Rafi, the spokesperson for the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA), told TOLONews: "The (NSIA) is trying to increase the number of electronic ID card centers, and in the past few months we have established about 11 centers in different provinces."

According to the officials in the (NSIA), currently, 77 centers across the country are distributing electronic ID cards to citizens.

56-year-old registers for Kankor examination

HELMAND (Ariana News): A 56-year-old man from Helmand, who recently graduated from a night school, plans to take part in this year's university entrance exam, also known as Kankor.

Sayed Wali has already registered for the exam.

Speaking to Ariana News, he said he is very happy he has the opportunity to continue with his studies.

Last week the National Examinations Department started the annual exam process for Grade 12 graduates in Kabul.

Department head, Abdul Baqi Haqqani, said the entrance examination is being conducted in a transparent manner and they are trying to attract more high school graduates to the universities.

But a number of Kabul exam participants have appealed to the Islamic Emirate to allow girls to also write the exam and to allow them to get an education.

Already, 15,000 boys from Kabul city and province have written the exam – which was barred to girls.

Officials warns of heat wave

HELMAND (Ariana News): Helmand officials warned locals on Monday to take measures to beat the heat as temperatures soared to 51 degrees Celsius.

Officials issued the warning to residents in the hope that they will take measures to safeguard themselves against the heat.

According to police, seven people have died in the past few days, after drowning while swimming in rivers in the province in a bid to cool down.

Helmand police meanwhile called on locals to ensure they have enough water with them while traveling, especially in arid areas. Officials also warned that temperatures could rise over the next few months as summer has only just set in.

Monday's temperature in Helmand's capital Lashkargar reached a high of 51 degrees C, with further weather warnings issued for the rest of the week.

Accuweather predicts temperatures upwards of 47 degrees C for the rest of the week. Kandahar temperatures have also been sweltering. The temperature in the provincial capital reached 50 degrees C. The rest of the week will average between 45 and 47 degrees C.

Acting Commerce Minister leaves for Uzbekistan

TASHKENT (Ariana News): Acting Minister of Industry and Commerce Nooruddin Azizi has traveled to Uzbekistan to inaugurate an expo of Afghan products in Tashkent.

Azizi will also participate in a business forum.

Before leaving Kabul, Azizi said that he will discuss the expansion of economic relations, including trade, investment and attracting regional cooperation with the Uzbek authorities.

"During this trip, we want to have more business plans with the Republic of Uzbekistan. Thanks to Allah, there is capacity, there is ability. We hope that our trip will have a good result," Azizi said.

A coal sales contract is also expected to be signed with Uzbekistan.

"We have discussed with Uzbekistan about the export of approximately one million tons of coal.



Uzbekistan has agreed and they worked on the mechanism and we also worked. I am sure that we have made good progress in this field and we are trying to ink a contract with Uzbekistan for one million tons or more," Azizi said.

Two hundred and fifty

Afghan businessmen and investors are expected to participate in the expo of domestic products of Afghanistan in Tashkent.

"They (Uzbeks) have pledged to cooperate with Afghanistan in the areas of electricity and coal export. This expo will play an important

role for Afghanistan's economy, and the two sides will sign agreements," Mohammad Yunus, deputy of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said. The 3-day expo will showcase mostly carpets, handicrafts, precious and semi-precious stones and dried fruits.

Deputy PM Kabir meets former Jihadi commanders

KABUL (BNA): Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs, emphasized that the Islamic Emirate prioritizes the revitalization of the national economy and the construction of infrastructure, striving to respond promptly to the needs of the Afghan people.

According to a press release from the Prime Minister's Office, Mawlawi Abdul Kabir met with several former Jihadi commanders, led by Engineer Sayed Mohammad Ayoub, the former Minister of Water and Power of the Mujahideen government.

The former commanders described the defeat of the United States and the West by the Islamic Emirate and the Afghan people as a historic and significant event, labeling this victory as a source of pride for the entire Islamic Ummah.

They also expressed their satisfaction with the

commencement of reconstruction activities by the Islamic Emirate and assured their full cooperation.

Mawlawi Abdul Kabir acknowledged the Islamic Emirate's deep respect for the Mujahideen's struggle and jihad against the Soviet invasion.

"The aspirations of the Afghan nation, which were not realized after the victory against the former Soviet Union, have been achieved through the immense sacri-

fices of Islamic Emirate. Afghans have attained their goals of ending occupation and establishing an Islamic system," Kabir stated.

Deputy Prime Minister Kabir reiterated that the Islamic Emirate considers the revitalization of the national economy and the construction of infrastructure as its top priorities and is committed to responding promptly to the needs and demands of the Afghan people.

IEA delegation meet envoys from regional countries

DOHA (Ariana News): Zabiullah Mujahid, spokesman for Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan said in a series of posts on X that he had constructive meetings with special envoys of regional countries and discussed mutual relations and how to further strengthen ties.

Mujahid said he had a constructive meeting with the special representative of Pakistan Asif Durrani and Pakistan's ambassador and diplomats to Doha. "We thank them for their hospitality and hope for good and constructive relations for both countries," he said.

Earlier, Mujahid said a quadrilateral meeting between Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Qatar was held in Doha.

In this meeting, the Trans Afghanistan Railway Project, from Uzbekistan to Pakistan, was discussed. All parties requested the early start and completion of this project, Mujahid said. He also stated that he had met with Iranian special envoy Hassan Kazemi Qomi.

This meeting went well, said Mujahid, and that discussions had centered around the strengthening of ties and the overall importance of regional connectivity and cooperation.

The special envoy of Qatar's minister of foreign affairs, Faisal bin Abdullah Al Hanzab meanwhile met separately with Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Roza Otunbayeva; Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Afghanistan, Esmatullah Erkashev; and Special Envoy of Switzerland for Afghanistan Albert Grof.

During the meetings, ways to enhance stability and peace in Afghanistan and support the aspirations of the Afghan people for a decent life were discussed, and the importance of the Doha process to achieve the desired progress was emphasized.

Russian ambassador at

cial envoy Hassan Kazemi Qomi.

This meeting went well, said Mujahid, and that discussions had centered around the strengthening of ties and the overall importance of regional connectivity and cooperation.

The special envoy of Qatar's minister of foreign affairs, Faisal bin Abdullah Al Hanzab meanwhile met separately with Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Roza Otunbayeva; Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Afghanistan, Esmatullah Erkashev; and Special Envoy of Switzerland for Afghanistan Albert Grof.

During the meetings, ways to enhance stability and peace in Afghanistan and support the aspirations of the Afghan people for a decent life were discussed, and the importance of the Doha process to achieve the desired progress was emphasized.

Russian ambassador at



the UN Vasily Nebenzya meanwhile said: "Taliban [IEA] is de facto authorities on Afghanistan, and we've been saying consistently that you have to recognize this fact and deal with them as such. Because whether you like it or not, but this movement is running the country now. And you cannot simply ignore that."

Asked about how far Russia is from removing IEA from the sanctions list, ambassador Nebenzya said: "I cannot tell you a definite answer. But I heard some talks about it. But generally speaking, it is good that Taliban [IEA] was finally invited to Doha this time."

Daudzai calls for UN to remove Otunbayeva

KABUL (Khaama Press): The former Afghan Interior Minister described the Doha summit as "another example of the UN's failure in managing the Taliban and Afghanistan."

Mohammad Omar Daudzai called on the UN Secretary-General to replace Roze Otunbayeva and cleanse UNAMA, stating that the Doha meeting was a waste of time and a deviation from its main purpose.

Daudzai wrote on his social media platform X that the Doha meeting was a waste of time and a deviation from the main path. He said: "It is time for the UN Secretary-General to introduce a new representative instead of Otunbayeva (UN Secretary General's Special Representative in Afghanistan) and cleanse UNAMA."

Mr. Daudzai did not provide further explanation for the reasons for proposing Otunbayeva's dismissal.

Several women and civil society activists had accused Roze Otunbayeva of "whitewashing" her record through a public



lic statement.

The exclusion of women and civil society representatives from the Doha meeting underscores a significant setback for human rights advocacy in Afghanistan. The absence of these voices diminishes the chances of inclusive governance and sustainable peace in the region.

International concern over the Taliban's stance against women's rights and the broader implications for human rights in Afghanistan remains palpable. The international community monitors developments closely, emphasizing the need for inclusive dialogue that respects fundamental freedoms and promotes gender equality. The head of UNAMA justified the Taliban's opposition to the presence of women and civil society representatives and the inclusion of women's rights in the Doha summit agenda.

The UN Secretary-General's representative for Afghanistan said that this group has come from the mountains and war and should not be expected to think like others.

Diplomatic sources previously claimed that the United States and several other countries believe Otunbayeva's positions on Afghanistan and the Taliban are close to Russia.

UN keeps identity of Afghan activists

KABUL (Ariana News): The United Nations refused to provide the names of Afghan civil society members who they are believed to have met with on the sidelines of the third Doha meeting.

Sources told Ariana News however that Zohra Bahman and Mrs. Saba were at the Diplomatic Club, a few kilometers from the Doha meeting venue.

The source also stated that the majority of countries that attended the formal meeting on Sunday and Monday refrained from meeting with the members of the Afghan civil society.

High-level body setup for tackling monsoon emergencies

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday formed a high-level committee to handle potential emergencies during the upcoming monsoon season.

Chairing a review meeting to address the monsoon forecast and potential emergencies, the prime minister decided to personally supervise the response to any flood situations during the monsoon. Prime Minister Shehbaz emphasized integrating advanced monsoon information into national broadcasts, stressing the regular dissemination of weather updates to farmers. He assured full support to farmers during emergencies, emphasizing the need for immediate assistance in such situations.

He instructed all relevant institutions to remain on high alert during the monsoon and directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to support all provincial governments and related agencies. The prime minister directed that advance information about the monsoon be disseminated to people in areas at risk of any emergency during the season. He emphasized that farmers and residents located near rivers and canals should be updated daily through the media and other information sources.

During the meeting, the NDMA provided a detailed briefing on the monsoon forecast and the areas at risk. The forum was informed that heavy monsoon rains are expected in the four provinces during the first and second weeks of July. The forum was informed that this year's monsoon rains in Pakistan will move from the southeast to the north. Rainfall is expected in the Potohar region and the eastern part of Punjab during the first week of July.

The meeting was informed that in the second week of July, there is a possibility of heavy rains in Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Lahore, and Faisalabad, with scattered rainfall anticipated in Bahawalpur, Multan, Sahiwal, and Dera Ghazi Khan divisions. According to the briefing, a flood situation is anticipated in the Sutlej, Chenab, and Ravi rivers during the first two weeks of August. Preparations for relocation and emergency response have been completed in the areas surrounding these rivers. In Sindh, Karachi, Mirpur Khas, Nawabshah, Sukkur, and Hyderabad are expected to experience heavy rains in the second and fourth weeks of July. Additionally, monsoon showers are forecasted for Tharparkar, Badin, Thatta, and Umakot in the third week of August. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, heavy rains are expected in Hazara, Malakand, Mardan, Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu, and Dera Ismail Khan during July. The monsoon rains in the region are expected to persist until the third week of August.

During the briefing, it was mentioned in Balochistan, heavy rains are likely in the border areas with the Sindh coastal belt during the second and fourth weeks of July and the first two weeks of August. Additionally, significant rainfall is expected in Lasbela, Armada, Khuzdar, Barkhan, Sibi, and Zhob in the third week of August. The meeting was told that partial rains are expected in July in Gilgit-Baltistan, while large-scale rains are anticipated in the first three weeks of August, in Skardu, Hunza, Chilas, and Ghizar.

According to the briefing, Gilgit-Baltistan is expected to experience scattered rains in July, with substantial rainfall anticipated in the first three weeks of August. During this

period, rain is expected in Skardu, Hunza, Chilas, and Ghizar. It was stated that there is a possibility of heavy rains and landslides in Azad Kashmir during the first three weeks of July.

The meeting also received updates on preparations for rescue and relief efforts in case of emergencies affecting communities along the banks of the Sutlej and Chenab rivers. During the meeting, it was informed that adequate stocks of boats, tents, drainage pumps, medicines, and other essential items were available. Preparations for the monsoon started in January with emergency response exercises ongoing since March.

The forum was briefed that rescue agencies, Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), Pakistan Army troops, and NDMA remain on high alert in the areas at risk. NDMA has launched a mobile phone application for monsoon alerts, weather conditions, and advance information, which is actively utilized by the public. It was explained that a National Monsoon Contingency Plan has been drafted and distributed to relevant institutions and provincial governments to manage any monsoon-related emergency situations.

The chief secretaries of the four provinces briefed the attendees on their respective action plans to manage the monsoon season and respond to any associated emergencies. Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar, Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Chairman NDMA Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, and other senior officials attended the meeting. The chief secretaries of the four provinces joined the meeting via video link.



ISLAMABAD: Senior leader of Awami National Party, Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

ATC issues arrest warrant for Gandapur

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Anti-terrorism court (ATC) of Islamabad on Tuesday issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

In October 2022, a case was registered against Ali Amin Gandapur in connection with an FIR at the I-9 police station for protesting against the decision of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Gandapur has pleaded the court for exemption of attendance which was rejected by the court.

Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra has held the hearing for today (Wednesday). The court said Gandapur had never appeared before the court after April 2024. It should be noted that the case was lodged for vandalism during the protest against disqualification of Imran Khan.

Tarar for boosting ties with Canada

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, emphasized the importance of strengthening economic ties with Canada during a meeting with the Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Leslie Scanlon, on Tuesday.

In their discussion, Minister Tarar highlighted the mutual benefits of enhanced economic relations between the two countries. They also addressed various key issues, including bilateral relations and the government's economic initiatives.

High Commissioner Scanlon congratulated the minister on assuming the additional portfolio of National Heritage and Culture, alongside his responsibilities in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Minister Tarar underscored the significance of the longstanding and multifaceted relationship between Pakistan and Canada, noting that Ottawa is a major development partner for Pakistan. High Commissioner Scanlon expressed appreciation for the economic initiatives undertaken by the Government of Pakistan.

Medium to high flood in rivers

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: NDMA Tech Team and Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) has forecasted that water flows are likely to increase in all major rivers and their tributaries from 3rd July 2024, River Chenab at Marala and downstream and River Kabul at Nowshera and its tributaries / nullahs will attain medium to high flood levels between 4th July to 7th July 2024.

NDMA is working closely with federal and provincial departments to ensure preparedness and response to this potential emergency. The public is advised to remain vigilant and follow instructions from local authorities. NDMA advises public to stay informed and download 'Pak NDMA Disaster Alert' mobile app for timely alerts and closely monitor weather reports and updates on the flood situation, follow instructions, evacuate immediately if orders are issued by local authorities, protect yourself from floodwater, avoid contact with floodwater, which may be contaminated or contain debris or electrical wires.

Israel strikes Gaza after ordering evacuations

GAZA STRIP (AFP): Israel carried out fresh strikes in southern Gaza on Tuesday, forcing hundreds of Palestinians to flee after the army once again ordered the evacuation of certain densely populated areas. Witnesses reported multiple strikes in and around the city of Khan Yunis, where eight people were killed and more than 30 were wounded, according to a medical source and the Palestinian Red Crescent.

The bombardment came after a rare rocket barrage claimed by the militant group Islamic Jihad, which has fought alongside Hamas. The rockets were aimed at Israeli communities near the Gaza border and were fired in retaliation for Israeli "crimes... against our Palestinian people," said the Al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of Islamic Jihad. The Israeli military said about "20 projectiles were identified crossing from the area of Khan Yunis," most of which were intercepted. It reported no casualties and said artillery was "striking the sources of the fire."

This was followed on Monday by an order to evacuate Al-Qarara, Bani Suhaila and other towns in Rafah and Khan Yunis, nearly two months after an initial order to evacuate Rafah ahead of a ground offensive. Prior to Israel's ground incursion in Rafah, well over one million people had been displaced to Gaza's southernmost city. "Fear and extreme anxiety have gripped people after the evacuation order," said Bani Suhaila resident Ahmad Najjar. "There is a large displacement of residents."

Other parts of the Gaza Strip were reeling from continued fighting nearly nine months into the devastating conflict. Witnesses and the civil defense agency reported Israeli air strikes in the southern Rafah area and in the central Nuseirat refugee camp. And in Gaza City's Shujaiya district, where battles raged for a fifth day on Monday, witnesses reported heavy Israeli tank fire. An AFP correspondent reported Israeli helicopters firing on houses in

Shujaiya, while Hamas's armed wing, the Al-Qassam Brigades, said it was continuing to fight in Shujaiya and Rafah. The Israeli military said troops "eliminated numerous terrorists" in raids in Shujaiya, where air strikes also killed "approximately 20" militants. The military also announced the death of a soldier in southern Gaza, bringing its total toll during the ground offensive to 317.

Netanyahu, who recently declared that the "intense phase" of the war was winding down, said on Sunday troops were "operating in Rafah, Shujaiya, everywhere in the Gaza Strip." "This is a difficult fight that is being waged above ground... and below ground" in tunnels. The war started with Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1,195 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures. The militants also seized 251 hostages, 116 of whom remain in Gaza including 42 the army says are dead.

7 killed in Syria clashes with Turkish forces

AZAZ, Syria (AFP): Clashes between armed protesters and guards of Turkish positions in Syria's north killed seven people, a medical source and a war monitor said Tuesday in a revised toll. The protests Monday in the Turkish-controlled border strip followed a rampage a day earlier against Syrian businesses and properties in central Turkiye, where a Syrian man had been accused of harassing a child.

"Seven protesters have been killed... during exchanges of fire with people guarding Turkish positions," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Six were killed in the city of Afrin and one in Jarablus, said the British-based monitor with a network of sources inside Syria. It did not specify whether the protesters killed were armed or not.

A medical source in

northern Syria also told AFP seven people had been killed in the violence. Calm prevailed on Tuesday morning, AFP correspondents in the area said. On Monday, hundreds of Syrians demonstrated throughout the Ankara-controlled area, with some armed protesters attacking Turkish trucks and military posts, and taking down Turkish flags. Some even attempted to storm crossing points, clashing with Turkish border guards. According to the Syrian Observatory, four border crossings with Turkiye have been shut in the wake of the violence.

The protests also extended to the rebel-held Idlib region, near the Turkish-controlled area, an AFP correspondent and the Observatory said. Earlier Tuesday, Turkish authorities said they detained 474 people after the anti-Syrian riots. Since 2016, Turkiye

has carried out successive ground operations to expel Kurdish forces from border areas of northern Syria. Pro-Turkish forces in Syria now control two vast strips of territory along the border.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan supported early rebel efforts to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad at the start of the war in 2011. But he has reversed course in recent years, with top officials from both countries meeting in Russian-mediated talks. On Friday, Erdogan had pointed to a possible meeting with Assad, saying it was "not impossible." Turkiye, which hosts some 3.2 million Syrian refugees, has been shaken several times by bouts of xenophobic violence in recent years, often triggered by rumors spreading on social media and instant messaging applications.

PM calls for enhancing ties

(Continued from Page 1)

The prime minister who is on a two-day official visit to Tajikistan on the invitation of the president of Tajikistan, met the Tajik president.

Earlier, the official welcoming ceremony was held at Qasr e Millat. Upon arrival at Qasr e Millat, the president of Tajikistan received the prime minister, and he was given a guard of honour. The welcome ceremony was followed by a tete-a-tete meeting and delegation level talks, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. During the talks, the two leaders exchanged views on a wide range of issues of bilateral cooperation, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The two leaders signed the 'Strategic Partnership Agreement', which upgrades bilateral relations to the level of a long-term strategic partnership. The two leaders underlined that the upgradation in bilateral relations would open new vistas of opportunities to further expand multifaceted cooperation. To further deepen and diversify bilateral relations, the two sides signed a number of Agreements/MoUs in the fields of aviation, diplomacy, education, sports, people to people linkages, industrial cooperation,

tourism, etc.

The prime minister also apprised the President of Tajikistan about deteriorating situation of human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and attempts of the Indian government to change the demographic structure of IIOJK. Both leaders also expressed their serious concern over the ongoing situation in Gaza where Israeli atrocities have resulted in the killing of thousands of innocent Palestinians, including women and children.

The two leaders urged the international community to redouble efforts to end the violence and bring peace in the region. "The visit of the prime minister has reinforced the continuation of regular bilateral engagements at the highest-level and marks a significant step towards elevating the longstanding and multifaceted relationship between the two brotherly countries, to the next-level," the press release added.

Earlier in the day, upon arrival at Dushanbe International Airport, Prime Minister of Tajikistan Qohir Rasulzoda warmly received the prime minister. In a gesture of respect and solidarity, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif laid a floral wreath at

the Ismoili Somoni Statue, the national monument of Tajikistan.

PM lays wreath at Ismail Somoni monument: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif laid a wreath at the monument of Tajikistan's national hero Ismail Somoni, short after his arrival for a two-day visit here.

Ismail Somoni is regarded as the historic figure of Central Asia and a hero of Tajikistan, who ruled Tajikistan and Khorasan region in 9th and 10th century, and brought about immense development to the Tajik nation. Earlier, as the prime minister arrived at the Dushanbe airport, he was received by Tajik Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda, Energy Minister Daler Juma, Deputy Foreign Minister Farrukh Sharifzoda, Tajik Ambassador in Islamabad Yousuf Sharifzoda and Pakistan's Ambassador in Dushanbe Saeed Sarwar and senior diplomatic officers.

The prime minister is accompanied by a delegation comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar and Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatemi.

Bushra Bibi granted bail

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Bushra Bibi, wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, has been granted bail by Accountability Court Islamabad. Judge Muhammad Ali Waraich at Adiala Jail Rawalpindi. The decision comes after Deputy Prosecutor General Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi argued against the necessity of her arrest, noting that the Chairman of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had not issued an arrest warrant.

Sardar Muzaffar emphasized that without an arrest warrant, the bail application remains valid, highlighting a similar situation from ten months prior when no arrest warrant was issued for Bushra Bibi.

The court has adjourned further proceedings on the reference until July 5th. During the recent hearing, defense lawyers completed the cross-examination of three prosecution witnesses, bringing the total number of witnesses cross-examined in the case to 27. The development has drawn attention due to its implications for the ongoing legal proceedings and the individuals involved.

Illegal Marriage case hearing adjourned: The District and Session Court Islamabad on Tuesday adjourned former premier Imran Khan and former first lady Bushra Bibi's pleas against sentences in illegal marriage case till July 3.

Additional Session Judge, Muhammad Afzal Majoka conducted hearing on pleas of Imran khan and Bushra Bibi. Khan's counsels Zahid Bashir Dar and Murtaza Turi appeared before the court. Senior counsel Salman Akram Raja also represented the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf founder. In the beginning of the proceedings, the court was requested to wait for some time for PTI's lawyer, Salman Safdar and Khawar Maneka's lawyer Zahid Asif.

Salman Akram Raja requested the court to adjourn the hearing till July 3 citing that he had to appear before the apex court in reserved seats case of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) to which Judge Majoka asked Raja to prepare his arguments by the next hearing. Raja pleaded before the court that malicious intention is a common factor between fraud and ill intention to which the judge remarked that if there was time to reconcile then this case falls in jurisdiction of civil litigation not criminal. "This isn't suffice to say that one would have reconciled if this or that had happened, had he (Khawar Maneka) moved court next day for reconciliation, then it should have been taken differently but he remained silent for six years instead", Raja responded.

Closure of Agri transformation plan: PHC summons Secretary

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) summoned Secretary's Agriculture to appear in termination of 243 employees recruited under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Agricultural Transformation Plan through Agriculture Extension Department, as well as issued notice to Pakhtunkhwa's government for comments in this regard, on Tuesday.

During hearing Justice Ijaz Anwar observed that is government eliminating agriculture to establish housing societies as the project being ongoing in Sindh and Punjab provinces.

The counsel Malik Ghulam Mohiuddin advocate argued that the project was launched two years ago to provide training to farmers on new agricultural techniques and to provide seeds and fertilizers to the growers.

The project had a budget of Rs. 2 billion, but the current government has decided to terminate it and lay off over 243 employees, including Ph.D. and M. Phil holders.

The petitioners claimed that the government's decision is illegal and unjustified, and that it will cause hardship to the farmers who were benefiting from the project. They also pointed out that the project is still ongoing in Sindh and Punjab, and that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's decision to terminate it is discriminatory.

The counsel requested the court to restrain the government from terminating the employees and to direct the government to continue the project. PHC's divisional bench comprising of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Syed Arshad Ali issued notice to the provincial government seeking an explanation for the termination of the employees and the project.

Court forms bench to review PCB scrutiny committee chairman's removal: Peshawar High Court (PHC) has constituted a two-member bench to examine the removal of the Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Scrutiny Committee, following a hearing on a petition challenging the dismissal, on Tuesday.

PHC's divisional comprising Justice SM Attique Shah and Justice Ijaz Sabi, convened to address concerns raised in the petition against the removal of Arab Altaf as Scrutiny Committee Chairman.

The petitioner's lawyer argued that PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi's appointment was allegedly unlawful and detrimental to cricket. Justice SM Atiq Shah queried the petitioner's lawyer about the appointment procedures in other cricketing nations like Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, where independent bodies oversee such appointments, contrasting with Pakistan's political appointment system. The lawyer highlighted that Pakistan could learn from constitutional models in countries like Korea and Afghanistan, which have updated their procedures for transparent appointments.

Following deliberations, PHC adjourned the hearing until July 12, signaling a continued legal scrutiny into the matter. This development underscores ongoing judicial oversight into cricket governance issues in Pakistan.

Ex-spy chief sworn in as new Dutch PM

AMSTERDAM (AFP): Dutch King Willem-Alexander swore in former spy chief Dick Schoof as new prime minister on Tuesday, at the head of a right-wing coalition cabinet with a mission to implement the "strictest-ever" immigration policy in the country. Two hundred and twenty-three days after far-right leader Geert Wilders swept to an election victory that stunned Europe and the world, Schoof took over from Mark Rutte after 14 years in power.

Schoof presented his ministers to Willem-Alexander in the ornate "Oranjezaal" in the royal palace, who each stepped forward to swear allegiance to the king and the constitution. Wilders was forced to shelve his own ambitions to be prime minister to keep rocky coalition talks on track — some negotiation partners considered his anti-Muslim and eurosceptic statements too extreme to lead the nation. Instead, the four coalition partners agreed their party leaders would not be in government, compromising on Schoof, 67, who was previously running the Dutch Secret Service.

Keen marathon runner Schoof will need all his stamina and experience in the halls of power in The Hague to keep the shaky coalition partners on track. Schoof "will have a lot of work keeping ideological and personal conflicts under control", Sarah de

Lange, professor of political pluralism at the University of Amsterdam, told AFP. He has vowed to implement "decisively" the coalition plans for the "strictest-ever admission policy for asylum and the most comprehensive package for getting a grip on migration". The 26-page coalition agreement, titled "Hope, courage and pride", also called to examine the idea of moving the Dutch embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Schoof has said he aims to be "a prime minister for all Dutch citizens", adding: "I am without a party. I don't see myself kowtowing to Mr Wilders". De Lange said Wilders would have plenty of work keeping his own PVV (Freedom Party) in check and Schoof would be given space. "Given his extensive experience leading government agencies, he will surely know how to defend his position," she said. "It is still an open question though, how he will respond if Wilders tries to put him under pressure by voicing public criticism of his functioning" on X, formerly Twitter. A new Ipsos I&O poll published on Tuesday showed confidence in the government had increased to 42 per cent from a low of 29pc in September 2022.

Schoof has played a key role in crisis situations, leading the Dutch probe into the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight

MH17 in July 2014 over war-torn Ukraine. All 298 people on board were killed — 196 of them Dutch — by a Russian-made BUK (medium-range) missile fired from territory held by pro-Russian fighters. A former Labour Party member, Schoof has won the backing of left-wing opposition leader Frans Timmermans, who nevertheless described him as "emphatically Wilders' candidate".

The Dutch lurch to the right comes as far-right parties in several European countries have seen their popularity rise. In France, the far-right National Rally (RN) party of Marine Le Pen won a resounding victory in the first round of parliamentary elections on Sunday. The handover brings down the curtain on 14 years of Rutte in the "little tower" prime ministerial office — a national record.

Rutte, known for riding his bike to work, often crunching an apple on the way, will be the next secretary-general of the Nato alliance, based in Brussels. His term was marked by a series of scandals that brought down his government, but he remained in power, earning the nickname "Teflon Mark" for his survival skills. In a solemn farewell address on Sunday, he apologised for a scandal in which thousands of parents were wrongly accused, in some cases after racial profiling, of fraudulently claiming child allowance.