

Two more rescued F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army rescued a team of Pakistani mountaineers using a military helicopter in a successful operation at Broad Peak, reported on Wednesday. Last day, a team of four Pakistanis successfully climbed Broad Peak, including Anam Uzair and Amar Butt. Anam Uzair and Amar Butt suffered from frostbite and snow blindness during the submission.



@thefrontierpost

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXI

No. 187

Regd. No. 241

MUHARRAM 25 1446 -- THURSDAY, AUGUST 01 2024

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

Hamas chief Ismail assassinated in Iran

TEHRAN: The leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, has been assassinated in Iran, the Palestinian group said. Iran's state television made the announcement of the killing early on Wednesday. A statement by Iran's Revolutionary Guards said that Haniyeh and a security guard had been ambushed in their place of residence, and an investigation is now underway.

Haniyeh, who was the head of the political office of Hamas Islamic Resistance, travelled to Iran for the swearing in ceremony of the reformist president Masoud Pezeshkian. The 62-year-old Palestinian leader had earlier met Pezeshkian and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Sami Abu Zuhri, a senior Hamas official, said: "This assassination by the Israeli occupation of Brother Haniyeh is a grave escalation that aims to break the will of Hamas and the will of our people and achieve fake goals. We confirm that this escalation will fail to achieve its objectives."

"Hamas is a concept and an institution and not persons. Hamas will continue on this path regardless of the sacrifices and we are confident of victory," Mohammed Ali Al-Houthi, head of Yemen's Houthis, said: "Targeting Ismail Haniyeh is a heinous terrorist crime and a flagrant violation of laws and ideal values." Israel has promised to wipe out Hamas after the group conducted a deadly raid into settlements outside the Gaza Strip on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people and taking hostages back to the Palestinian enclave.

Israel soon after launched a devastating military assault in Gaza and has since killed over 40,000 people, mainly civilians. Both sides have been trying to negotiate a hostage release agreement, which would include a cessation of fighting, with the help of the US and regional negotiators. The assassination comes amid an escalation of hostilities between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah, which was blamed for an attack on the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights which killed 12 children on the weekend.

On Tuesday night, Israel struck a Hezbollah stronghold in southern Lebanon, saying that it had killed Fuad Shukur, head of Hezbollah's military operations room, who Israel said was responsible for the attack in the Golan Heights, an accusation the Lebanese group denies. Iran's Revolutionary Guards confirmed the death of Haniyeh — the face of Hamas's international diplomacy as the war set off by the attack on Israel on Oct. 7 has raged in Gaza.

Haniyeh was killed around 2 a.m. (2200 GMT) on Wednesday, Iranian media reported. He was staying at "a special residence" for war veterans in north Tehran. "Further investigations are underway that will be announced soon," it said. NourNews, an outlet affiliated with Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said Haniyeh's residence was hit by an airborne projectile. The assassination was

Avenging Haniyeh's killing is Tehran's duty: Khamenei

TEHRAN (Reuters): Avenging Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh's assassination is "Tehran's duty" because it occurred in the Iranian capital, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday. He said Israel had provided the grounds for "harsh punishment" for itself. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has issued a statement saying Tehran will defend its territorial integrity and dignity, according to Al Jazeera. Here's the statement released by the state media: "Today, dear Iran is mourning its sharer of sorrows and joys, the constant and proud companion of the path of resistance, the brave leader of the Palestinian resistance, the martyr of al-Quds, Haj Ismail Haniyeh. "Yesterday I raised his victorious hand and today I have to bury him on my shoulders. "Martyrdom is the art of men of God. The bond between the two proud nations of Iran and Palestine will be stronger than before, and the path of resistance and defense of the oppressed will be followed stronger than ever. "The Islamic Republic of Iran will defend its territorial integrity, honor, dignity and pride, and make the terrorist occupiers regret their cowardly action."

US not involved in killing: Blinken

WASHINGTON (Reuters): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday the United States was not involved in or made aware of the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. "This is something we were not aware of or involved in. It's very hard to speculate," Blinken said in an interview with Channel News Asia during a visit to Singapore, when asked what impact it could have, according to a transcript.

Tukey, China, Qatar flay assassination

ISTANBUL, BEIJING, DOHA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan condemned the assassination of Palestinian militant group Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and said the killing would not break Palestinians' will. "This assassination is a vile act that aims to disrupt the Palestinian cause, Gaza's noble resistance and our Palestinian siblings' rightful struggle, to break the will of Palestinians, and to intimidate them," Erdogan said on social media platform X. "However, just as until today, the Zionist barbarism will not reach its goals."

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian condemned the Hamas leader's death and said Beijing is "deeply concerned that this incident may lead to further instability in the regional situation", Al Jazeera reported. Lin added that "Gaza should achieve a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire as soon as possible". China, which has historically been sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, hosted rival Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah in Beijing earlier this month. At that meeting, the two sides signed an agreement to form a "national unity government" in post-war Gaza.

Qatar's foreign ministry said in a statement that it condemns "in the strongest terms" the assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, Al Jazeera reported. The ministry "affirms that this assassination and the reckless Israeli behaviour of continuously targeting civilians in Gaza will lead to the region slipping into chaos and undermine the chances of peace". — Reuters, Aljazeera

"a dangerous gamble to undermine Tehran's deterrence," it said.

There was no immediate comment from Israel. The Israeli military said it was conducting a situational assessment but had not issued any new security guidelines for civilians. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Hamas' rival, condemned the killing of Haniyeh and Palestinian factions in the occupied West Bank called for a general strike and mass demonstrations.

Hamas said it would continue the path it was following in the Gaza war, saying: "We are confident of victory." The prime minister of Qatar, which has acted as a mediator in ceasefire negotiations between Israel and Hamas, suggested that the killing could jeopardize efforts to secure a truce in Gaza. "Political assassinations and continued targeting of civilians in Gaza

while talks continue leads us to ask, how can mediation succeed when one party assassinates the negotiator on other side?" Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani wrote on X.

The news, which came less than 24 hours after Israel claimed to have killed the Hezbollah commander it said was behind a deadly strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, appears to set back chances of any imminent ceasefire agreement in the Gaza war. At the same time, the risk of a war between Israel and Hezbollah has grown following the strike in the Golan Heights that killed 12 children in a Druze village on Saturday and the subsequent killing of the senior Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur.

A member of parliament from Iran-backed Lebanese armed group Hezbollah said that his group



UN chief calls strikes 'dangerous escalation'

NEW YORK (AFP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday denounced strikes on Beirut and Tehran as a "dangerous escalation," after Israel targeted a top Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas said its political chief was killed in Iran. "The Secretary-General believes that the attacks we have seen in South Beirut and Tehran represent a dangerous escalation at a moment in which all efforts should instead be leading to a ceasefire in Gaza" and "the release of all Israeli hostages," spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

would be ready to fight a war with Israel, after an Israeli strike on the southern suburbs of Beirut targeted Hezbollah's top military commander. The attack on Iranian soil and death of its close ally will put pressure on Tehran to react against Israel, which has been hunting Hamas leaders since the Islamist group attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and taking over 250 hostage, according to Israeli tallies.

In response, Israel launched a relentless ground and air offensive in the densely populated coastal enclave that has killed more than 39,400 people, according to Gaza health officials, and left more than 2 million facing a humanitarian crisis. The assassination could also encourage Iran's proxies in the Middle East who support Hamas — Lebanon's Hezbollah, Yemen's Houthis and armed groups in Iraq — to seek revenge. Iran's top security body is expected to meet to decide Iran's strategy in reaction to the death of Haniyeh, a close ally of Tehran, said a source with knowledge of the meeting. Iran will "defend its territorial integrity, dignity, honor, and pride, and will make the terrorist occupiers regret their cowardly act" of assassinating Haniyeh in Tehran, President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Wednesday. — Arab News

Raoof shifted to Adiala Jail

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson Raoof Hasan has been shifted to Adiala Jail on Wednesday. On Tuesday, a local court in the federal capital sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Raoof Hasan and other suspects to jail on a 14-day judicial remand in the anti-state propaganda case.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) presented Hasan to District and Sessions Judge Shafiq Bhatti upon completing his physical remand. Hasan was shifted to Adiala Jail on Tuesday late at night. The Adiala Jail administration has also confirmed the development.

On July 22, Islamabad Police arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Information Secretary Raoof Hasan in the federal capital. The arrest was made at the party secretariat in sector G-8. According to Islamabad police, law enforcement agencies conducted a raid on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretariat based on concrete evidence.

The police stated that the PTI Secretariat had been operating as the hub of an international disinformation network through its digital media center. The raid was carried out following information provided by an international social media activist associated with PTI.

Pakistan condemns Ismail's killing

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday condemned the assassination of Hamas's Political Bureau Ismail chief Ismail Haniyeh in Iran capital Tehran.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in a statement, said "Pakistan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including extrajudicial and extraterritorial killings irrespective of the motives."

She said Pakistan is deeply shocked by the tim-

ing of this reckless act, coinciding with the inauguration of the President of Iran, an event attended by several foreign dignitaries.

The spokesperson said Pakistan views with serious concern the growing Israeli adventurism in the region. She said its latest acts constitute a dangerous escalation in an already volatile region and undermine efforts for peace.

Meanwhile, a resolution condemning the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh has been tabled in the National Assembly. The

resolution was submitted by Maulana Ghafoor Haidari, Usman Badini, Maulana Samiuddin and Alia Kamran of the JUI Pakistan.

The resolution said on Wednesday, the Muslim Ummah, especially Palestine, has lost a great revolutionary leader and Mujahid. Ismail Haniyeh highlighted the issue of Palestine and atrocities committed by the Israeli forces on Palestinians at the global level. The JUI strongly condemns the attack on Palestinians, the resolution said.

Patricia hails role of PMYP

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations, RT Patricia Scotland has appreciated Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan for his outstanding contribution to development of youth in Pakistan.

Speaking during a meeting with the Chairman PMYP at the Prime Minister's office on Wednesday, she expressed pleasure and gratitude for the extensive support provided by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme in the region to empower youth.

Patricia Scotland hoped, "With your continued efforts, Pakistan can ascend from being number three to number one in the global employability and entrepreneurship index for youth." Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan briefed the Secretary-General and the Commonwealth delegation on the various initiatives spearheaded by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme.

He outlined the programme's inclusive approach to youth empowerment, including equipping youth with essential skills to enhance their employability under the Skill Development Programme and providing digital gadgets to bridge the digital divide and foster technological advancement under the Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme.

The Chairman PMYP also briefed the Commonwealth Secretary General about the Prime Minister's Youth Loan Scheme which offered interest-free loans to support young entrepreneurs in establishing and growing their businesses. "We are committed and aim to provide all kinds of opportunities to empower youth with the necessary tools and resources to thrive in their careers and entrepreneurial ventures", he added.

Govt cut petrol price by over Rs6 per litre

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Wednesday reduced the petrol price by Rs6.17 per litre for the next fortnight after a drop in oil rates in the global markets, according to a statement issued by the PM Office.

The new prices will be effective from August 1. The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) worked out the consumer prices for the upcoming fortnight, based on the international prices and exchange rate variations, the notification read.

After Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif's approval, the petrol price came down to Rs272.77 from Rs283.63 per litre with a reduction of Rs6.17. The new price of high-speed diesel (HSD) will be Rs269.43 from the existing rate of Rs275.60 per litre following a reduction of Rs10.86.

Similarly, the kerosene oil price fell to Rs177.39 from Rs183.71 per litre after a reduction of Rs6.32 per litre, while the light diesel oil (LDO) rate was decreased to Rs160.53 per litre against the current rate of Rs166.25 per litre following a cut of Rs5.72 per litre.

JI puts forward demands before govt

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A second round of dialogue was held between Jamat-e-Islami and government on Wednesday. The JI had put forward its demands before the governmental committee and said it was committed to prolong the peaceful protest.

Talking to the media after the dialogue, Liaquat Baloch said protest and dialogue would go hand in hand as the party enjoyed the support of the masses. We have repeatedly said the people could not afford to pay the skyrocketing power bills and therefore the government should show some seriousness. On the occasion, Federal Minister Amir Muqam said the government, too, wanted to reduce the prices of electricity, petrol and flour. Some of the demands of the JI are practical and needed to be implemented, he said.

Moreover, PML-N's Tariq Fazal Chaudhary said the dialogue had happened in a pleasant atmosphere and the prime minister also wanted that the people be given relief. He said the government would serve the people more than the resources it has.

As the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) sit-in against inflation including a massive hike in power tariffs entered the sixth day, the party's Vice Emir Liaquat Baloch said Wednesday that the federal government's technical committee "seeks more time to make progress on the protesters' demands".

"The government's technical team agreed with our demands," Baloch said while speaking to journalists after holding the second round of talks with the government's negotiation committee members at Rawalpindi's commissioner's office.

Govt resolved for fast promotion of AI infrastructure, says PM

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that the government was taking all-out measures to provide fast and uninterrupted Internet connectivity to the people.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a three-member delegation of Asia Internet Coalition, headed by Managing Director Jeff Paine, said that the government was implementing a strategy to attract foreign investment in the information technology infrastructure. The meeting featured the discussion on data security, code of ethics for Internet content, and prevention of electronic crimes.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the delegation that the government was working to promote a basic infrastructure based on artificial intelligence. He said the government was resolved to make Pakistan achieve a distinction in AI infrastructure in the region.

He said under the Digital Pakistan Initiative, the whole system was being digitised and expressed the hope that the digitisation of Federal Board of Revenue would prove to be a milestone towards economic digitisation and automation. During the briefing, it was informed that consultation with all stakeholders on the draft of Personal Data Protection Bill was in progress.

Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated the services of Asia Internet Coalition in promoting IT and Internet infrastructure in the Asia Pacific Region. The delegation members apprised the prime minister of the Coalition's services in Pakistan's IT



sector. Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja, IT expert Tania Aidrus and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

Shehbaz emphasises utilising all-out resources for polio eradication: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressing concern over Pakistan being one of the two countries in the world facing the challenge of polio, directed the authorities concerned to utilise all-out resources to rid the country of the crippling disease.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a polio eradication team, said every child should be administered polio vaccine in the areas facing security challenge. He said Pakistan made a significant headway in polio eradication consequent to the dedication of the front line workers, determination of the government and cooperation by the partners. In a briefing to the prime minister about the polio eradication,

he was apprised of two, four and six-month plans. It was told that nine polio cases had been reported in 2024 and that countrywide polio vaccination drives would be launched in September, October and December this year. The prime minister was told that the data of the children missed from polio vaccination had been digitised to ensure their vaccination through digital tracking. Coordinator to Prime Minister on National Health Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmed, PM's Focal Person on Polio Eradication Dr Ayesha Raza Farooq, Secretary National Health Dr Nadeem Mehbob and National Coordinator on Polio Eradication Muhammad Anwarul Haq attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to Mad-e-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah on her birth anniversary, lauding her significant contributions during the Pakistan Movement and for promoting democracy in the country.

NA Body clears Election Act Amendment Bill 2024

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs has passed the Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 by a majority vote, despite significant opposition and absence of key parties.

Chairman Rana Aradat Sharif led the National Assembly Standing Committee's session, where the bill to amend the Elections Act 2017 was reviewed. Bilal Azhar Kayani provided a briefing on the proposed amendments. Tensions flared during the meeting as opposition member Ali Muhammad Khan clashed with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Azam Nazir Tatar over the bill. Tatar defended the bill, asserting that the amendments are in line with constitutional and legal standards.

In contrast, PTI members voiced strong opposition, with Shahida Akhtar Ali emphasizing the need for thorough examination and suggesting that the amendments could be detrimental. JUI's Shahida Akhtar Ali also criticized the process, arguing that the bill requires more detailed scrutiny and re-evaluation. The Election Commission's Secretary stated that the

Commission could not comment on the bill's effects, as this falls outside their purview. Khan further criticized the Election Commission, alleging misconduct and undue influence on political parties.

Ultimately, the committee approved the Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 with six votes in favor and four against. Notably, JUI's Shahida Akhtar Ali abstained from voting, citing uncertainty about the bill's restorative effects, and no PPP members attended the meeting. The bill is now set to be presented to the National Assembly for final approval on Friday.

Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Affairs Committee of the National Assembly Wednesday approved a bill proposing amendments to the Elections Act 2017 in order to bar lawmakers from changing their affiliation at a later stage. The panel passed the bill with the support of eight members, four members opposed it, and Shahid Akhtar, a Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) MNA, abstained from voting.

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tatar said that the matter of independent members joining any politi-

cal party and the issue of reserved seats is clear. Ali Muhammad Khan from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) stated that this is a private member's bill, and therefore, the law minister should not advocate for it. The bill was tabled by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) lawmaker Bilal Azhar Kiyani on Tuesday and the amendments were proposed to the Section 66 and Section 104 of the Election Act, 2017.

The bill proposed that the individuals who contested general election as independent candidate cannot change their affidavit at a later stage to declare affiliation with any political party. "Provided further that an independent candidate shall not, be considered as the candidate of any political party if at later stage he files a statement duly signed and notarised stating that he contested the general elections as a candidate of the political party specified therein," read the bill.

The bill also proposed that political parties who failed to submit list of the reserved seats within the stipulated time to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will not be eligible for the reserved seats.



Iranian consul general calls on governor

LAHORE (APP): Consul General of Iran to Lahore Mehran Movahed Far called on Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations in the fields of education, culture and trade during a meeting at the Governor's House here on Wednesday.

Governor Saleem Haider Khan, on the occasion, offered condolence over the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, head of the political bureau of Hamas, during the meeting with Iranian Consul General Mehran Movahed Far.

The consul general congratulated the governor on assuming office.

He informed about the ease of travel facilities for Pakistani pilgrims under the new policy of travelling by road. He also thanked the Pakistani nation for their help and unwavering support for the suffering Palestinian Muslims.

Governor Saleem Haider said Pakistan and Iran are bound together by religion, culture and historical ties. He said that

Iran is a brotherly Islamic country and Pakistanis has strong bond of love and respect with Irani people.

The governor said the last visit of late president Ebrahim Raisi to Pakistan was a historic and memorable visit. He paid tributes to late Raisi for his role in strengthening Pakistan-Iran relations.

The governor said the late president Ebrahim Raisi during his last visit to Pakistan laid the foundation for new projects by signing various memorandum of understanding (MoUs) between Pakistan and Iran in various fields. He said that the Pakistani government and people were shocked and saddened by the martyrdom of late President Ebrahim Raisi. He assured Irani consul general of considering steps to promote Persian language as chancellor of public and private varsities in Punjab.

Consul General Mehran Movahed Far said the Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to facilitate Pakistan pilgrims in their travel to sacred places in Iran.

He said that there is a

need to expand trade relations between Pakistan and Iran.

He said work was being done on the exchange of delegations of students and teachers between Pakistan and Iran. He also informed about the difficulties faced by the Iranian students in obtaining study visa for admission to educational institutions in Pakistan.

Consul General Mehran Movahed Far reiterated that Iran attaches special

importance to relations with Pakistan. "We want peace, and prosperity for the people of Pakistan," he added.

He further said that roads in major cities in Iran are named after respected Pakistani personalities. He added that a huge highway in Tehran is named after Quaid-e-Azam Jinnah along with the statue of Allama Iqbal erected in Mashhad. The consul general also invited the governor to visit Iran.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Sealed bids invited to the **DHQ Teaching Hospital Kohat** from highly reputed National Manufacturer (s) Importer(s), Authorized Dealers and General Order suppliers for the supply and installation of safe Drinking water plant (Reverse Osmosis) System of Drinking Water as per Rule 6 (2) (a) bidding procedures on FOR basis of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (KPPRA) Procurement Rules 2014.

Bidding solicitation documents containing specification, terms & conditions can be obtained from the office of the Store Keeper (Equipment) from 09:00 am to 02:00 pm during working days by submitting a written request / application on Official Letter head / Letter pad on Rs.500/- (five hundred non-refundable on account of miscellaneous charges).

1. The bidders are required to submit bid security of value Rs. 50,000/- in the form of Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) in favor of "Medical Superintendent DHQ Teaching Hospital KDA, Kohat".
2. Quotations must be typed and printed on company's official letter pad, sealed and signed (each page).
3. The tenders complete in all respect shall reach to the office of the undersigned on **23.08.2024 at 11:30am** and will be opened on the same day at **12:30pm** by the Institutional Tender Opening & Selection Committee in the Conference Room of DHQ Teaching Hospital KDA Kohat in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend.
4. The rates approved will remain valid up to **30th June 2025** as per KPPRA Rules 2014, 31 (A) framework contract / agreement.
5. The bidder / company / firm must be registered of Income Tax, GST, KPRA and Active Taxpayer.
6. All kind / type of Govt applicable taxes will be deducted as per prevailing Govt. rules.
7. No conditional / alternative tender / bid will be acceptable.
8. The bidder shall provide NTN, Sales Tax, Income Tax & KPRA certificates with the tender.
9. Bids received later than the prescribed date, time & venue shall be rejected as per KPPRA Procurement Rules 2014.
10. Bidders are required to offer the most competitive price(s) of their quoted items as no negotiation on quoted price/s shall be allowed under the rules.
11. The competent authority reserves the right to reject all bids under the rule 47 of the KPPRA Procurement Rules, 2014.

**Medical Superintendent
DHQ Teaching Hospital Kohat**

INF/KT/08



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

**Design Review for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development Project (KP-RRDP) ADB Assisted
ADP No 1311/200008 (2024-25).**

**Executing Agency: Communication & Works Department,
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through Communication & Works Department Peshawar intends to Engage Consultants for Design Review for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development Project (KP-RRDP) ADB Assisted) ADP No 1311/200008 (2024-25) from Communication & Works Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa shortlisted consultants.

1. A firm / joint venture will be selected for the services under quality cum cost-based selection (QCBS) method as per procedure / criteria described in the request for proposal (RFP) documents.
2. You are invited to submit a comprehensive Technical proposal in English (Original + two copy) and a financial proposal (Original + one copy) for the services required under the terms of references (TOR's) latest by 27/08/2024 till 12:00 Noon which will be opened on the same day at 12:30 P.M. The original & copy of the proposals shall be sealed in separate envelopes and marked as original and copy. Both these envelopes shall be put in one sealed envelope and addressed to the Project Director PRIP-PIU.
3. RFP documents/TOR's are available in the office of the undersigned and can be obtained on payment of Rs. 1000/- (non-refundable) in form of CDR on any working day during office hours. RFP documents can also be downloaded from the official web site of KP-PRIP (prp.gkp.pk) & C&W Department website (cwd.gkp.pk) whereas a CDR of Rs.1000/- (non-refundable) on account of fee of the RFP documents shall be put in technical envelop.
4. The consultancy assignment as per TOR shall be completed in all respect in 90 days.
5. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled to be held in the office of Project Director PIU-PRIP on 20/08/2024 at 11:30 AM to respond the queries of Consultants.
6. The successful firm shall be subjected to all admissible taxes including stamp duty, service charges, sale tax and any other at prevailing rate.

**Project Director
Project Implementation Unit**

**Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Roads Improvement Project Communication
and Works Department,**

Address: House No. 24, C/3 Circular Road, University Town, Peshawar Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Telephone: **+92 91 9216459**, Electronic mail address: **pdprp.pkha@gmail.com**

www.khyberpakhtunkhwa.gov.pk

INF P No. 1904/24

Hina meets Punjab home secretary

LAHORE (APP): Chairperson of the Women Protection Authority Hina Pervaiz Butt met Punjab Home Secretary Noor-ul-Amin Mengal here on Wednesday to discuss protection of rights of women and marginalised segments of society.

She said the chief minister's mission is to end oppression of women and marginalised segments. She emphasised that standing firmly against the oppressor and ensuring justice for the oppressed was the government mission.

The chairperson mentioned that cases of serious crimes would be pursued to their logical conclusion through the Organised Crime Unit.

The Punjab home secretary said forensic reports in cases related to women should be prepared as a top priority and should be submitted within 48 hours. He assured that the Punjab Home Department would provide all possible support to the Women Protection Authority.

Hina Pervaiz Butt asked women not to feel alone, stating that all state institutions are actively working for their protection.

ATC remands 9 accused in police custody

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday handed over nine more accused to the police on a 7-day physical remand in the playwright Khalilur Rehman Qamar honey-trap case.

Earlier, the police produced 11 accused before ATC Judge Khalid Arshad after an identification parade. The investigation officer submitted that the 9 accused -- Tanveer Ahmad, Qaisar Abbas, Rasheed Ahmad, Falk Sher, Mian Khan, Yasir Ali, Javed Iqbal, Zeeshan Qayyum, and Mamon Haider -- had been identified in the identification process held at the jail. He submitted that the complainant, Khalilur Rehman Qamar, identified them. However, two accused, Maryam and Shumail, the sister and friend of the main accused, Amna Urooj, were not identified in the process, he added. He pleaded with the court to grant physical remand of the accused who were identified in the identification process.

At this, the court discharged the accused Maryam and Shumail from the case and handed over the other 9 accused to the police on physical remand. The court ordered for producing them upon expiry of the remand term.

Artificial price hikes intolerable : CM

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has emphasised that artificial price increases could not be tolerated. During a crucial meeting here on Wednesday, she discussed a comprehensive strategy to control prices of daily-use items, focusing on commodities such as chicken and milk.

This was the second such meeting within a week aimed at formulating a robust mechanism to curb price manipulation.

The CM instructed authorities concerned to launch a special campaign against milk adulteration and enhance the system for

price monitoring and stabilisation. Maryam Nawaz stressed the need for all stakeholders to collaborate in improving supply chain performance. She highlighted that leveraging modern technology is essential to achieving price stability.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, and Price Control Task Force Chairperson Salma Butt were present at the meeting. Also in attendance were Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Secretary Agriculture Iftikhar Sahoo, Secretary Food Moazzam Sipra, Secretary Livestock Masood Anwar, Principal Secretary to

the CM Sajid Zafar Dal, and other relevant officials.

CM reviews 471 road projects: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a special meeting on Wednesday, reviewed 471 road projects under the Road Rehabilitation Programme.

The CM directed the authorities concerned to start construction of roads in the province by September 15. She agreed to complete the Roads Rehabilitation Program by June 30. The CM reviewed 75 projects of road rehabilitation in villages under Rural Roads Rehabilitation Program.

Murtaza pays tribute to Madar-e-Millat on birth anniversary

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza

Wahab on Wednesday paid tribute to Madar-e-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah on her 131st birth anniversary.

In a statement, the Mayor said that Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah is an exemplary model for the Pakistani nation. Her services to the country and the nation are

unparalleled, he said.

He said that in the struggle for the establishment of Pakistan, Madar-e-Millat played an important role alongside the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and dedicated her entire life to realizing the dream of Pakistan's creation. Her great role has left an indeli-

ble mark on our nation, and we are determined to follow in her footsteps, he said.

He further mentioned that on August 25, 1947, Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah accompanied Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to a civic reception held in his honor at the KMC Building, which is a matter of great pride for us.

Talpur inspects shelter home for orphans

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Honorable Minister, Social Welfare, Mr. Mir Tariq Ali Talpur, visited the Sindh Child Protection Authority's Shelter Home for Destitute and Orphan Children, Saudabad, District Korangi, Malir. Accompanied by Mr. Sajid Jamal Abro, Secretary of the Social Welfare Department, Government of Sindh and Mr. Moazzam Ali Mari, Director General, Sindh Child Protection Authority, Government of Sindh.

The visit aimed to monitor the services provided by the Shelter Home, assess the condition of the resident children, and review the progress of ongoing repair and maintenance work in Shelter Home. The Minister sought to understand the challenges and difficulties faced by the children residing at the Shelter Home.

The Secretary, Social Welfare Department provided an overview of the services available for the resident children, including Education, Healthcare Services, Psychosocial Support, Nutritious Meals and Clothing, Recreational Activities, Security Measures and Legal Assistance for court-referred children.

During the visit, the Minister, Social Welfare toured all sections of the Shelter Home, including separate sections for the boys' and girls'. He spend quality time interacting with the children, inquired about their living conditions, and observed their activities. The children expressed satisfaction with their living conditions, available facilities and the quality of meals.

The Minister also visited the dispensary in Shelter Home and inquired about the availability of a doctor. The Secretary, Social Welfare Department informed the Minister that a doctor had been assigned by the Health Department during the interim government

period. The Minister directed that a formal request be sent to the Health Department to appoint a regular general physician for the routine checkup of resident children.

During the visit, the Director General, Sindh Child Protection Authority reported that the Shelter Home management is focused on the education of the children residing there. A request has been submitted for hiring more teachers and an instructor for stitching classes for female residents.

PROJECT DIRECTORATE, EST. OF INSTITUTE OF PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES University of Peshawar

Notice Inviting Bids (Single Stage Two Envelopes Procedure)

Sealed bids are invited from registered contractors / firms / companies for the following works / items under the Project, "Estt of Institute of Peace & Conflict Studies, University of Peshawar" as detailed below:

S #	Name of Work	Estimated Cost Rs.	E/Money Rs.	Requirement For Collection of Bidding Documents
1	Supply & Installation of Solar System at IPCS Building (Estimate Based on MRS-2022 2 nd Bi-Annual)	8,901,919/-	178,038/-	1) Rs.3000/- Tender Form Fee 2) Application on bidder's letter head 3) CNIC/NTN of the prospective bidder 4) Valid Registration with PEC (Codes EE11 -General Electric Works & EE11-Solar/Solar Energy/Solar Energy System) 5) Active Tax Payer's Status with FBR for I.Tax 6) Active Tax Payer's Status with KPRA for STS 7) Valid Registration with AEDB (PIIB) 8) Firm/Company's Registration with Registrar's of Firms/SECP
2	Supply & Installation of Passengers' Lift at IPCS Building	To be quoted by the bidder	2% of the bid	1) Rs.3000/- Tender Form Fee 2) Application on bidder's letter head 3) CNIC/NTN of the prospective bidder 4) Valid Registration with PEC 5) Active Tax Payer's Status with FBR For I.Tax & GST 6) Active Tax Payer's Status with KPRA for STS 7) Firm/Company's Registration with Registrar's of Firms/SECP 8) Valid Certification for ISO 9001:2015
3	Supply & Installation of Sound System at IPCS Building	To be quoted by the bidder	2% of the bid	1) Rs.1000/- Tender Form Fee 2) Application on bidder's letter head 3) CNIC/NTN of the prospective bidder 4) Active Tax Payer's Status with FBR For I.Tax & GST 5) Active Tax Payer's Status with KPRA for STS 6) Firm/Company's Registration with Registrar's of Firms/SECP

Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Meeting	Submission of Bids	Opening of Technical Bids
From the date of advertisement Upto Fri 16 th Aug, 2024	On Thur 8 th Aug, 2024, 10.00am in the IPCS	Upto Mon 19 th Aug, 2024, 10.00am by post/hand	On Mon 19 th Aug, 2024, 10.30am in the IPCS
Source & Address For Tender Inquiries, Collection & Submission of the Bidding Documents is: Mr. Muhammad Shakeel, Project Engineer, Directorate of Works, Opp: Block-D Hostel, University of Peshawar Cell: 0313-9119096, Email: muhammadshakeelup@gmail.com			

CONDITIONS

1. Bids Documents will be issued to the bidders fulfilling the requirements, mentioned against each work/job above.
2. Bids along with E/Money @2% of the bid in the shape of Call Deposit from bidder's account only in f/o the Treasurer, University of Peshawar sealed in envelopes in the manner as specified in the Bid Documents, addressed to the undersigned should reach by the given deadline.
3. In the 1st Phase, Technical Bids will be opened by the Committee in the presence of the concerned bidders, whereas, in the 2nd Phase, Financial Bids of the technically qualified bidders will be opened for which date & time will be later on communicated to the bidders.
4. For the work at S.No.1 above, Additional Security in f/o Treasurer, University of Peshawar, if required, may be deposited in accordance with the SRO.(14)/Vol: 1-24/2021-22 Peshawar, the May 10, 2022.
5. The competent authority reserves the right to reject/accept any or all the bids with solid justification in light of the rules.

Sd/- Prof. Dr. Jamil Ahmad | Project Director

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids (in accordance with **PPRA Rule No. 36(b)**) are invited by below mentioned office for the following requirements in Pak Rs.:-

Description & Bid No.	Bid Fee (PKR)	Fixed Bid Security (PKR)	Bid Submission Date / Time	Bid Opening Date/Time/Place	Last date for issuance of Bidding Documents	Basix (Price)
PROCUREMENT OF SPARES FOR PCAA AIRCRAFT AP-CAB AND AP-CAC BEECHCRAFT KINGAIR I/T NO. HQCAA/1992/257/XXLN	1,000/-	Rs. 883,100/-	20-08-2024 11:00 Hours	20-08-2024 1130 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch)	19-08-2024	F.O.R

Bids may be submitted as per conditions set out in [Bidding documents downloadable \(free of cost\)](#) from the CAA website www.caapakistan.com.pk (visible / downloadable after publication/uploading of Invitation to bid notice) and obtainable physically from the address given below on any working day between 0900 Hrs to 1230 Hrs by paying Bid Fee (non-refundable) through deposit slip in Account No.6-1-2-20614-714-115525 (Title of account "Civil Aviation Authority") in Habib Metropolitan Bank Ltd. Star Gate Branch Karachi and submitting the request letter along with bank deposit slip, proof of Active Taxpayer & GST/NTN Certificates of the bidder. No Bidding Documents would be issued on the Bid opening date. Bids must be dropped in Bid drop Box placed at under mentioned office by or before due date as per schedule.

Bids will be opened in the public on the date, time mentioned in I/T form. If it's holiday/off day on the date of opening, the bid will be opened on next working day at the same time and place.

Note: All bidders downloading the bidding document from CAA website shall immediately inform PCAA through Intimation letter (along with proof of Active Taxpayer List [ATL for Sales Tax] of FBR) and GST / NTN certificates at the address below OR on email: zakir.abbas@caapakistan.com.pk for inclusion in subsequent communication. PCAA will not be responsible for any lack of communication or non-receipt of information/Intimation letter by bidders due to ignorance / violation of this instruction.

Time period for performance of contract: Till the satisfactory completion of contract and warranty period.

PCAA reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids due to cogent reasons which will be communicated to bidders on request. This advertisement is also available on PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk and CAA website www.caapakistan.com.pk.

Warning: Any financial instrument submitted by bidder, if found fake or got dishonored at any stage would result in blacklisting and legal action as per law.

**Additional Director, Logistics (ANS),
Logistics Center (South), HQs Civil Aviation Authority,
JIAP Karachi Pakistan Tel: 021-9907-2765 Fax: 021-99242675**

www.caapakistan.com.pk PID K.291/24

KP-BoIT, TDAP to organize Expo-Investment Conference in Chitral

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment & Trade (KP-BoIT) in collaboration with Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) is organizing an Expo and Economic Development Conference in Chitral for showcasing the local economic and trading sectors to attract investors to invest in the potential sectors of the valley.

The proposed Expo & Economic Development Conference will be likely held during the first week of September this year. About 60 stalls regarding attractive sectors of investment wherein local potential sectors of production and particularly crucial sectors of investment would be erected.

In this connection, a meeting was held here at the KP-BoIT with Special Assistant to Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Khan Tordher in the chair on Wednesday.

Besides, the Director General (DG) TDAP Nauman Bashir, Director Business Facilitation (KP-BoIT) Iqbal Sarwar, Chairman All Pakistan Exporters Association (APCEA) Minhajuddin, president Chitral Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) Sartaj Ahmad Khan, Provincial Chief Small & Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) Rashid Aman, the representatives of KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company (EZDMC), Small Industries Development Board (SIDB), Technical & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA), Bank of Khyber (BoK), Irrigation,

Communication & Works (C&W) and Mineral Department also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, DG TDAP briefed the participants on the aims and objectives of the Chitral Expo & Conference and told that beside higher authorities of the federal and provincial governments, investors from all major cities would also be invited to the event.

The participants were also told that for finalization of arrangements for the Expo & Conference the authorities of TDAP and KP-BoIT will set together to prepare plan for all phases of the event.

Similarly, it was said that Chitral Chamber of Commerce and Industries will also provide its assistances in the holding of the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Special Assistant to

KP CM on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Khan Tordher said that Chitral is highly important in the province in the context of its natural resources as it is rich in various resources.

He said that the marble, fresh fruits, gemstone, tourism, hydropower, dry fruits and handicrafts etc are the potential sectors of Chitral, which are of higher attraction for investment and economic development of the region.

He assured that the provincial government will extend all possible cooperation to TDAP to make the event successful and directed all concerned agencies and departments to identify their responsibilities in this regard to make the event successful and result-oriented from all aspects.



PESHAWAR: Adviser to KP CM on Social Welfare, Mashal Azam Yousafzai visiting Hamza Foundation Welfare Thlessemia Hospital.

Barakwal assures assistance for agriculture development

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Agriculture, Major Retired Sajjad Barakwal, emphasized the critical role of agriculture in the nation's economy, highlighting that "22 percent of the country's GDP is dependent on agriculture."

He underscored the necessity of adopting modern technology and research in the agricultural sector to drive economic growth in both the country and the province.

Addressing the attendees as the chief guest on the concluding day of the three-day international

seminar organized by Bacha Khan University Charsadda at Nathia Gali, Minister Barakwal conveyed the directives of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Ali Amin Khan Gandapur. The Chief Minister has mandated the utilization of all available resources and the removal of obstacles to advance the province's agricultural development.

Minister Barakwal emphasized the importance of university-level research in agriculture, supported by the provincial government and the relentless efforts of agricultural scientists, as a means to prevent future food shortages in the

province.

He highlighted that communicating research findings and advancements to farmers at the grassroots level is crucial for the agricultural sector to significantly contribute to the country's development.

The seminar saw the participation of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Zahid Hussain and Vice Chancellors from various universities.

National and international agricultural experts, including Bacha Khan University Registrar Dr. Aizaz Ahmad Khan and conference focal person Dr. Wajid Ali Shah, discussed innovations in agriculture

and the necessity of policy formulation for the sector.

The seminar's sessions focused on bringing innovation to the agricultural sector at the government level, emphasizing the creation of important policies. The collaborative efforts and insights shared at the seminar aimed to make the country agriculturally self-sufficient and avert future food crises.

At the end of the ceremony, Vice Chancellor Dr. Zahid Hussain presented a souvenir to Provincial Agriculture Minister Major Retired Sajjad Barakwal as a token of appreciation for his contributions to the agricultural sector.

Speakers pay rich tribute to services of economist Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A heartfelt memorial service was held to honor the life and legacy of Prof. Dr. Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi, a distinguished economist, prolific author, and revered academician.

The event, organized by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), brought together family, friends, colleagues, and former students to pay tribute to his immense

contributions to the field of economics and his dedication to education.

Dr. Ashfaq Hasan Khan remarked, "Prof. Dr. Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi was a beacon of knowledge and a mentor to many. His work in economic development and policy has shaped the course of our nation's progress.

His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of economists." Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque added, "Dr. Naqvi's contributions

to PIDE and his efforts in establishing it as a premier research institution are unparalleled.

He was not just an academician but a guiding force for many young economists who looked up to him for wisdom and guidance."

Family members of Dr. Naqvi shared personal anecdotes, reflecting on his humility, generosity, and the values he instilled in them.

His daughter, Ayesha Naqvi, spoke of her father's enduring love for learning and his belief in the transformative power of education.

The memorial service also included a display of Dr. Naqvi's extensive body of work, including his numerous publications and research papers, which have been instrumental in shaping economic thought in Pakistan.

Attendees were given the opportunity to reflect

on his scholarly contributions and the breadth of his knowledge. Additionally, several economists, colleagues, students, and fellows of Prof. Dr. Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi also participated in the memorial online from across the globe.

In closing, a video montage capturing Dr. Naqvi's life and achievements was presented, leaving the audience with a deep sense of admiration and respect for a man who dedicated his life to the pursuit of knowledge and the betterment of society.

Prof. Dr. Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi's legacy will undoubtedly live on through the countless lives he touched and the significant advancements he made in the field of economics.

His contributions will continue to inspire and guide future scholars and policymakers.

Governor plants sapling to start plantation drive

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday planted a sapling here at Governor House to inaugurate plantation drive aimed at promoting environmental sustainability.

The delegation of Dawat-e-Islami led by Muhammad Ahtisham and Gulab Raza Atari informed the Governor about their plantation drive. They said that till date they have succeeded to plant more than

three million plants across the country.

The event marked the beginning of a comprehensive effort to enhance the region's green cover and combat the adverse effects of climate change.

By planting a sapling himself, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi underscored the importance of individual contributions to environmental conservation and set an example for others to follow.

Governor Kundi emphasized

the critical role that trees play in maintaining ecological balance.

He highlighted their benefits, including improving air quality, reducing urban heat, and providing habitat for wildlife.

The Governor also noted that a robust plantation drive would not only contribute to a cleaner environment but also foster a sense of communal responsibility towards preserving nature.

The initiative comes as part of a broader strategy to address environmental challenges and build a sustainable future, said Governor Kundi.

The Governor outlined plans for ongoing maintenance and care of the newly planted saplings. Recognizing that planting trees is just the first step, he stressed the importance of regular monitoring and nurturing to ensure their healthy growth to clean and green the environment.

Meeting stresses to reduce burden of foreign loans

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Financial Advisor, Mzamil Aslam chairing a meeting here Wednesday stressed to reduce burden of foreign loans and to devise strategy to pay the loans that were acquired in past.

The meeting was also attended by tourism advisor, Zahid Chanzeb, secretary tourism, Muhammad Bakhtiar, secretary energy, Muhammad Nisar, debt chief of finance department, Abdul Qayum, financial analyst, Waqas and concerned officials.

Addressing the meeting, finance advisor said that meeting was convened to limit and reduce debts of the province. He stressed to monitor loan

acquiring process and create local resources to complete ongoing projects.

The meeting was also briefed about overall debts of departments and the projects that are dependent on foreign loans. Meeting was also informed about the conditions on which loans were taken and the mode of payment.

Participants also pondered the resistance of people over establishment of toll plazas. The minister said completion of projects would be impacted if these toll plazas were not established.

for mutual as well as benefits for our people.

Therefore, it is high time for all political and other constitutional organs of the state to seek a broader harmony to promote good governance and strengthen democratic institutions to pave way for coming generation to prosper and live in peace.

Moreover, in a situation when the country is encountering terrorism and extremism and financial crunch, political harmony is not just a desirable ideal but a fundamental necessity for the welfare of people, rule of law and supremacy of parliamentary.

The understandings reached previously like Charter of Democracy by PML-N and PPPP need to be reviewed making them more inclusive and acceptable to all forces.

In put by other state organs can also be included in framing any new charter wherein all forces join hands for fighting out challenges, the country is facing presently.

Everybody must understand that people are the ultimate sufferer due to their willful thinking and policies. Therefore, they should forget personal vindictiveness and arrogance for the welfare of poor masses, being crushed by uncontrolled price hike, political uncertainty and in-fighting.

Moreover, any situation where our own political forces fail to stand united for supreme national interests it opens doors for external forces to interference and move forward their nefarious agenda of de-stabilizing our country.



PESHAWAR: An man is busy making a large basket with date palm leaves at his workplace.

Political Harmony: A bedrock for strengthening democracy

PESHAWAR (APP): Democracy, commonly heralded as the best form of government, thrives on expression of the people's will through their elected representatives. But, this journey sometimes becomes tumultuous amidst populism, extra constitutional measures and upheavals.

In many countries this system suffered a severe blow due to political engineering, venomous uprising and unconstitutional acts even by those always propagating democracy and the populist leaders as we recently witnesses in our country.

When the political players enter a deadlock due to their arrogance and haughtiness and close the doors for negotiation, strictly sticking to their stance, the concept of

political harmony and understanding each other's view point fades away.

These uncalled for interruptions leave deep scars on political landscape besides fostering an environment where religious extremism, terrorism and societal and political intolerance creeps in, marring any country's economic and democratic progress very badly.

"The fractured governance structure, built on numerous fault lines, often becomes a catalyst for these extra constitutional steps," said Professor Dr A.H.Hilali, former Chairman Political Science Department, University of Peshawar. "Corruption, mismanagement, nepotism and jobbery often weaken a democratic sys-

tem and rule of law. Moreover, locking horns by different political forces pave way for extra constitutional steps by non-democratic forces."

Most recently, the political temperature in the country and stiffness of rival forces not to sit on table for resolving contentious issues has heightened self-centered politicking.

"Although we have a glaring example of creating Pakistan through a democratic struggle wherein Quaid-i-Azam repeatedly negotiated with other leaders, the formula for division of British India, yet some of our leaders are still too far from such wisdom and approach and difficult to be dealt with," Hilali said.

He feared that a permanent political divide with no channels of communi-

cation would further retard democratic system and if the trend of blame games, accusations and hooliganism continues it would lay inconceivable negative effect on democracy and state institutions.

As in democracy today's rivals are friends of tomorrow, therefore, revisiting their stance by political leaders always brings out some solution to stalemates and deadlocks. But, most of time we see these leaders negating one and other in the name of party policy or political affiliation.

"The PTI founder has taken a harsh stance for not talking to any political party or government for resolution of political issues and his party is mainly restricted to social media statements," remarked Ikhtair Wali Khan, the PMLN KP

Spokesman. "Anybody thinking that the whole nation was standing behind him, is a misperception and nobody can impose his will on other on this basis."

He said a malicious onslaught to push back the contemporary political forces as being done by PTI through malicious propaganda, rather spoils opportunities for negotiations and harmony.

"When the parties have vendetta against sister political forces and allegedly get involved in May 9 type vandalism, attacking PTV and parliament buildings and continuously involve in mudslinging and hurling baseless allegations, they leave minimal space for other parties to negotiate with them."

On the other hands Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

level allegations of rigging the elections the same time forgetting the situation in 2018. If rival forces charge each other with same kind of allegations what can be the way out for reconciliation and harmony.

But, the saner elements of society like Dr Hilali see political harmony as the only panacea to nation's sufferings.

"It is very important for our country as it was passing through difficult time on geopolitical fronts and there is need for broader national unity to steer country out of turmoil."

He strongly advocated to fostering a culture of dialogue and tolerance among political forces, ensuring that differing viewpoints coexist within the democratic framework and political parties

for mutual as well as benefits for our people.

Therefore, it is high time for all political and other constitutional organs of the state to seek a broader harmony to promote good governance and strengthen democratic institutions to pave way for coming generation to prosper and live in peace.

Moreover, in a situation when the country is encountering terrorism and extremism and financial crunch, political harmony is not just a desirable ideal but a fundamental necessity for the welfare of people, rule of law and supremacy of parliamentary.

The understandings reached previously like Charter of Democracy by PML-N and PPPP need to be reviewed making them more inclusive and acceptable to all forces.

In put by other state organs can also be included in framing any new charter wherein all forces join hands for fighting out challenges, the country is facing presently.

Everybody must understand that people are the ultimate sufferer due to their willful thinking and policies. Therefore, they should forget personal vindictiveness and arrogance for the welfare of poor masses, being crushed by uncontrolled price hike, political uncertainty and in-fighting.

Moreover, any situation where our own political forces fail to stand united for supreme national interests it opens doors for external forces to interference and move forward their nefarious agenda of de-stabilizing our country.



In brief

3 robbers killed in encounter

BAHAWALPUR (INP): Three robbers were killed in exchange of fire with police here on Wednesday. According to details, three robbers who came on a motorcycle barged into a shop in Madina Chowk of Khairpur Tamianwali, district Bahawalpur. The robbers took the shopkeeper and customers hostage at gunpoint and sped away after snatching Rs20,000 cash from the shop owner. The police getting the information cordoned off the area and launched search operation. An exchange of fire took place between the robbers and police in which all three robbers were killed and looted cash and arms were recovered from their possession. The police took the bodies of killed robbers into custody and shifted them to hospital.

Two killed, four injured in clash

KANDHKOT (INP): Two people were killed and four others injured when two groups traded fire over mutual issue here on Wednesday. Police said that members of two groups hailing from Gablo police station jurisdiction in Kandhkot exchanged fire over theft issue. In cross firing, two people were killed and four others sustained bullet wounds. Police reached the scene and shifted the bodies and injured to hospital where two people with critical wounds were referred to Sukkur. Tension prevailed in the area as armed men of both groups were entrenched against each other. The police have registered a case into the incident and was making efforts to normalize the situation.

Traffic constable shot and injured

PISHIN (PPI): Unidentified assailants shot and injured traffic constable in Jan Ada area of Pishin on Wednesday. The assailants managed to escape after committing the crime. According to police, traffic constable was shot and injured by unidentified assailants in Jan Ada area of Pishin. The assailants managed to escape after committing the crime. It is the second target killing incident in Pishin during the last 24 hours. The previous night two levies personnel Yasir Ilyas and Abdul Qadeer were killed after unidentified assailants opened fire at levies check post in Killi Makezai area of Pishin. Separately, Deputy Commissioner Pishin on Wednesday convened a meeting on July 31, 2024 at 14:00 hours in the conference hall of the office of Deputy Commissioner, Pishin to discuss law and order situation in district Pishin. Assistant Commissioners Pishin, Karezat, Hurumzai, Barshore, Station House Officers, Additional SHO's of different police stations in district Pishin and Incharge of levies stations in Pishin have been directed to attend the meeting.

Muslim world lost a brave leader

QUETTA: Provincial Adviser on Industries and Crafts and Spokesman of President Asif Ali Zardari Mir Ali Hassan Zehri deeply grieved over the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, the former Prime Minister of Palestine and the head of Hamas, in the Iranian city of Tehran in a cowardly missile attack by Israel. Expressing grief and anger, he has condemned in strong words. In his condemnation statement, he said that the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, the spirit of Palestine's freedom struggle and the leader of Hamas, is a great loss for the world of Islam. Ismail Haniyeh was a hero of the Islamic world and his role in the struggle for the freedom of Palestine will always be remembered.

Roads to be reopen in 2nd phase after ceasefire in Kurram

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat said that after ceasefire in Kurram District, in next stage, all roads of the entire district will be secured and opened for traffic. Similarly, a plan is being devised with the cooperation of the local elders for provision of food items in the district through convey.

This he said while presiding over a meeting held with the representative Jirga of Tori and Bangash Tribes in the district conference room. DIG Kohat, Deputy Commissioner Kurram, DPO Kurram and authorities concerned of the respective departments and institutions also attended the meeting.

The meeting expressed satisfaction over the ceasefire with the full cooperation of local elders and security forces throughout the district. The meeting also appreciated the role and cooperation of the elders of the area in bringing ceasefire and maintaining peace in the district.

Govt fixes head money for five POs

F.P. Report

PARACHINAR: Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa announced head money Rs0.5 million for each of five proclaimed offenders on the recommendations of the District Intelligence Coordination Committee District Kurram and Counter Terrorism Department which endorsement by the Inspector General of Police, on Wednesday.

The POs named Hafiz Rehman resident of Kautri, Arshad Khan resident, Mir Jan residents of Gidu Hamzay, Wajid Gul and Muhammad Rauf residents of Kautri District Kurram with immediate effect.

On this occasion, the Tori and Bangash Tribes beside presenting their demands also condemned the recent unpleasant incidents in strong words and demanded legal action against the responsible persons.

DIG Kohat Sher Akbar Khan told that District Police Officer Hangu and District Police Officer Kohat have been directed to immediately investigate the untoward incidents of Kurram district, arrest the accused and take strict action against those who

shows negligence.

Commissioner Kohat appealed the people of District Kurram to remain peaceful and help the government and law enforcement agencies for maintaining lasting and durable peace in the district. The meeting expressed grief and sorrow over the losses of life and properties during the recent riots across the district and special prayers were offered for the eternal peace of the deceased and early recovery of the injured people.

Students hold protest against KP govt's decision

Anees Takar

MARDAN: The Pakhtun Students Federation (PSF) staged a protest rally and press conference against the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's decision to sell the lands of universities in Mardan. The protesters rejected the decision claiming that it is a conspiracy to deprive Pakhtuns of education.

Addressing the press conference at the Mardan Press Club, PSF leaders including President Abdul Wali Khan University's Garden Campus, Rizwan Rasool, General Secretary Ahmad Khan, Senior Vice

President Kamran Yunus and former Chairman Aizaz Mayar condemned the decision. They said that the government which claims to provide 1.9 million jobs, 500,000 houses and economic zones has instead pushed the province into financial difficulties, forcing it to sell educational institutions' assets.

The leaders criticized the government for neglecting the province which has been affected by terrorism for years, resulting in thousands of deaths and displacement of people. They argued that educational institutions in Mardan are not only benefiting local

students but also those from across the country and abroad.

The protesters pointed out that Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan is one of the top universities in the country with 17,000 students and questioned where the university would expand if its land is sold. They demanded that the provincial government immediately review its decision, warning of widespread resistance if it fails to do so. The protest rally, led by PSF officials held placards and chanted slogans against the government's decision outside the press club.



MANSEHRA: Adviser to KP CM on Tourism, Zahid Chenzeb talking to media persons during his visit to flood hit areas.

Concrete steps for public welfare directed

Fazal Haq

MARDAN: Deputy Commissioner directed the administrative officers and district heads of nation building departments to improve the provision of various services to the people as per the public agenda of the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and ensure the attendance of staff in government offices besides making regular visits to schools, colleges and health facilities and take immediate steps to solve the problems faced by people.

He was addressing a high-level meeting held in his office to evolve a strategy for implementation of the public agenda of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur for good governance. ADC(General) Saeedullah Jan, Assistant commissioners of all tehsils and officers of line departments participated in the meeting. In the meeting, the officers were briefed regarding the eleven-point public agenda of the Chief Minister, which includes the provision of necessary facilities to the citizens who come to the government offices to solve their problems, improve the condition of government and non-government buildings, ensuring availability of effective fire extinguishers, beautification of cities, presence of clean washrooms at offices and public places including petrol pumps, bet-

ter protection of government records, chlorination of water tanks, provision of better facilities to passengers at bus addas, action against illegal speed breakers, parking stands and illegal housing schemes.

Deputy Commissioner Mardan directed administrative officers to crack down on illegal encroachments, demarcation of district council roads, sealing of illegal crush plants, illegal mining and spurious drugs. He said that the data regarding missing facilities in schools and hospitals should be provided to the Deputy Commissioner Office. He directed Officers of all government departments to ensure cleanliness of their offices and safety of government records while administrative officers should monitor price fixing in vegetable and fruit markets.

He said that immediate action will be taken on complaints of adulteration in milk while work will be done to promote local sports and cultural activities in the district. A comprehensive strategy was formulated for the implementation of the public agenda of the Chief Minister, which will be implemented according to the timeline.

WSSCM elects BOB chairman: The Board of Directors (BoD) of Water and Sanitation Services Company Mardan (WSSCM) unanimously elected Engineer Adil Nawaz

as the Chairman of the BoD. They also elected Haroon-ur-Rasheed as the Chairman of the Human Resource, Nomination, and Procurement Committee, Mubina Raziuddin as the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Javed Hussain as the Chairman of the Audit Committee. Deputy Secretary Finance Sardar Bahadur Khan, Deputy Secretary Local Government Zahid Masood, and Assistant Commissioner Burqa Awan also attended.

Addressing the BoD meeting, Chairman Engineer Adil Nawaz, thanked the Board of Directors for his nomination and assured that their confidence would not be shaken regarding service delivery and wellbeing of the company and citizens of Mardan. He stated that the company provides safe drinking water three times a day to five thousand consumers in Mardan city.

The operational cost for one connection is two thousand four hundred (2400) rupees per month, but the company is only collecting two hundred and ten (210) rupees from consumers while the provincial government provides a subsidy of two thousand two hundred (2200) rupees per connection. He emphasized to ensure the use of safe drinking water in protecting the citizens from many water borne diseases.



LANDI KOTAL: People offering funeral prayer of two police officials and passerby, shot dead by unknown armed persons. - F.P. photo

Ismail's martyrdom will not go in vain: Zehri

F.P. Report

QUETTA: The chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, has strongly condemned the brutal killing of Ismail Haniyeh, the former Prime Minister of Palestine and the head of Hamas, in the city of Tehran, Iran. In her condemnation statement, she said that the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, the spirit of Palestine's freedom struggle and the head of Hamas, is a big blow to the world of Islam and his martyrdom will not go in vain. In the struggle for the liberation of Palestine, the name of Hamas Haniyeh will be written in golden letters.

The coward attack and martyrdom of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran actually reflects Israel's war frenzy, which is a despicable act to expand the war imposed on innocent Palestinians. She said that Iran should be fully explained in this regard. It should be noted that the Israeli missile attack on its land is also a question on the sovereignty of Iran. At this time, the world of indifference is that the world, including the Muslim countries and the big institutions claiming peace are criminally negligent and silent on the ongoing atrocities on Palestine.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri added that it is a pity that the organization of Muslim countries and the Arab League do not see any role in this regard. So far, no Muslim country has supported Israel. No action was taken against it. She demanded from the heads of Muslim countries and international institutions to curb Israel's war frenzy and immediately impose all kinds of restrictions, including stopping the oil supply. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri also expressed serious concern over the ongoing brutality on Palestine, she said that hundreds of Palestinians are being martyred on daily basis, but the helplessness and criminal silence of the international organizations is a slap in the face of humanity.

Life is dying in Palestine, the Palestinian population, including children women and the elderly are suffering from malnutrition and even lack of drinking water, but no influential voice is being raised by the inhumane, stone-hearted and insensitive powerful countries and organizations of the world, which is a tragedy. The brutal killing of Ismail Haniyeh is a proof of Israeli aggression and this event is against the rules of international war too. She called on the international community to unite for the survival of the lives of Palestinian citizens and the protection of Palestine and lasting peace in the Middle East.

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Political and social activists from the Lower Dir district on Wednesday complained that due to the non-availability of funds, work on more than 50 development projects had been stopped, causing a wave of concern among the citizens. Talking to local journalists at Timergara they said that local MNAs and MPAs were aware of the situation but could do nothing to get appropriate funds for the projects.

The activists pointed out that the Kalpani Talash bypass road, Mian Kalay to Kambat road, government degree college Gulabad Adenzai, extension of the Postgraduate College Timergara, government girls' degree college Khali, government higher secondary school Yar Khan Banda, estab-

2 cops, passerby killed by unknown armed men

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: As many as three persons including two policemen and a passerby were shot dead and two others sustained bullet injuries by unknown armed persons here at Pak-Afghan highway, Sadu Khel village of Landi Kotal on wee hours on Tuesday, said police.

According to police and local sources, the police party was patrolling on Pak-Afghan road when they were ambushed by unknown militants at Sadu Khel village. In an arm battle two police martyred and a passerby martyred while two police got injured.

The militants managed to flee successfully after committing the crime, police official said. Soon after the incident, additional police force rushed to the spot, cordoned off the

whole area and shifted the bodies and wounded to the Headquarter Hospital Landi Kotal for medico-legal formalities, police official said.

The deceased were identified as Sub-Inspector Alamzeb Afridi, Sepoy Sher Alam and a civilian Naib Shah while the injured included Charwazai checkpoint in-charge Kumandan Afridi and watchman of petrol pump Rehmat Khan.

Later joint funeral prayer of the late police officials and a civilian was offered with State honor on Wednesday morning at Tatara spots ground that was attended by District Police Officer (DPO), Khyber Saleem Abbas Kulachvi besides a large number of people from different walks of life. A smart contingent of police presented salute to the

deceased police officials and floral wreaths were laid on their coffins. Later on, they were buried in their ancestral graveyards.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday strongly condemned the attack on police check post located at Pak-Afghan road Landikotal district Khyber.

In a condolence message, the Governor expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of three persons including two policemen. The Governor prayed Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace, and early recovery of the injured and grant courage to bereaved family members to bear this irripable lose with fortitude. He said that the sacrifices of security forces against terrorism will not go in vain.

USDA opens Kalam road within 24 hours for tourists

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: In a remarkable display of efficiency, the Upper Swat Development Authority successfully reopened the Kalam road to traffic within a 24-hour window, utilizing heavy machinery to clear debris and restore the crucial route.

Director General Shehzad Mahboob, also serving as Deputy Commissioner Swat, reaffirmed the authority's commitment to promoting tourism in the region, stating that all available resources would be leveraged to maintain access to popular tourist destinations.

According to an Upper Swat Development Authority spokesperson, a recent landslide and stream flooding had destroyed a temporary bridge and passageway at Jaal Banar and Qarando, near Kalam in Bahrain Tehsil, Swat. Prompt action was taken following directives from Director General Mahboob, with Deputy Director Karamat Ali Khan swiftly deploying heavy machinery to clear the debris and initiate restoration work.

The road from Jaal Banar was cleared and reopened to all traffic the next day, while the temporary bridge restoration near

Qarando was expedited, ensuring the Kalam to Bahrain road reopening within an impressive 24-hour timeframe.

The spokesperson emphasized that the Director General and Deputy Commissioner have instructed all relevant institutions and the district administration to remain vigilant, ensuring the continuous accessibility of tourist routes. With a significant influx of tourists expected during the summer season, any negligence in maintaining these routes will result in legal action, as per provincial government directives.

Journalists rise vice for voiceless people: Speakers

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Journalist community represents the oppressed portion of the society and through their free journalism ensures provision of basic rights of laymen. A controlled media will never be in favor of a free and civilized society.

The views were expressed by Awami National Party (ANP) provincial head Mian Iftekhar Hussain, central leader of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Senator Mushtaq Ahmad, while addressing on the occasion of a condolence reference for local journalist Khalil Jibrani held at Jirga hall Landi Kotal.

They said that through planned scheme peaceful environment of the Pakhtun belt was being disturbed that was equilent to genocide of them. Pakhtun were not able to bear another

forces military operation as previous ones suffered them a lot, they added. They maintained that the tribal journalist had been murdered only to echo vice for the rights of the tribesmen and demanded for detention of the culprits and compensation for the bereaved family.

They urged the tribesmen to stay united to foil any conspiracy hitching against them. President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Union of Journalist (KPJ) Shams Mohmand, senior journalists Mehmood Jan Baber, Saif-ul-Islam Saifi, Khashefuddin Syed, Waqas Shah, Ibrahim Shinwari, Malik Darya Khan Afridi and others also spoke on the occasion and paid glowing tribute to the former President of the press club and seasoned journalist and said he always devoted his life for

the welfare and betterment of his co-tribesmen.

KPUJ in collaboration with Bara, Jamrud and Landi Kotal, press clubs organized the reference. Political and social leaders, Ullemas and people from different walks of life attended the reference. The tribal journalist had been murdered only to echo vice for the rights of the tribesmen, they added.

They went on that besides an experienced journalist; Khalil Jibrani had visible participation in welfare works, executed in his village. By killing him, the village of Sultan Khel was deprived of a social worker and a true well-wisher of laymen; they said and added his death created a vacuum that will take decades to be filled. At the end Fatiha was also offered for the departed soul.

Dir citizens deplore lack of funds for ongoing development projects

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Political and social activists from the Lower Dir district on Wednesday complained that due to the non-availability of funds, work on more than 50 development projects had been stopped, causing a wave of concern among the citizens. Talking to local journalists at Timergara they said that local MNAs and MPAs were aware of the situation but could do nothing to get appropriate funds for the projects.

The activists pointed out that the Kalpani Talash bypass road, Mian Kalay to Kambat road, government degree college Gulabad Adenzai, extension of the Postgraduate College Timergara, government girls' degree college Khali, government higher secondary school Yar Khan Banda, estab-

lishment of Rescue 1122 offices at Chakdara, Kumbar, Balambat Kandaro link bridge, Timergara beautification, classes at Timergara Medical College and opening of the Koto Hydro power station were yet to benefit the masses. The activists said that work on these projects started during the PTI led previous government but most of the projects remained incomplete.

A senior official of the communication and works department confirmed that due to non-availability of funds, work had been stopped on development projects worth more than Rs 800 million in the Lower Dir district. The official said that funds were not available for the ongoing projects while tenders of new projects were issued, which was stunning.

The activists regretted that the

upgradation of Shaheed Jan Alam hospital Lal Qila had been dropped from the government's annual development program. They said the project had been approved with a cost of Rs 410 million and the local MPA had formally inaugurated it. They said the contractor had initiated construction work on the project but now it had been dropped from the ADP schemes. The activists demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to take notice of the situation and release funds for the incomplete mega projects.

Meanwhile the deputy commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan also chaired a meeting regarding the incomplete development projects during which the additional deputy commissioner finance and planning Jan Muhammad briefed the participants.



Mali army admits ‘significant’ losses in Wagner battle

BAMAKO (BBC): Mali's army has admitted it suffered "significant" losses during two days of fighting involving Tuareg separatist rebels and al-Qaeda-linked militants.

It is rare for the military to own up to battlefield disasters and comes a day after its ally, the Russian mercenary Wagner group, said one of its commanders had died in the fighting that took place during a sand-storm. Neither Mali's military nor Wagner have given figures, but the estimated death toll for Wagner fighters ranges from between 20 and 80.

The clashes took place in the desert near Tinzaouaten, a north-eastern town on the border with Algeria. According to Wagner, its fighters and a detachment from the Malian military were retreating from Tinzaouaten after clashes with separatist forces from the Tuareg ethnic group. Whilst waiting for reinforcements, their convoy was ambushed in attacks by the separatists and militants from an al-Qaeda affiliate, Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM).

This account is backed up by the Malian army, which said one of its units "was encircled by the coalition of terrorist forces" and "fierce fighting began before the arrival of reinforcements", the AFP news agency quotes its statement read out on national TV as saying. "The exemplary bravery and determination

of our soldiers could not avoid a large number of losses in human lives and equipment," it added. Wagner estimated the Tuareg and Islamist fighters had combined manpower of more than 1,000 - and that one of two Russian helicopters that went to the aid of the mercenaries and Malian soldiers was downed. JNIM said 50 Russians and 10 Malian soldiers had been killed, although these numbers have not been verified.

The extent of the coordination between the separatists and Islamists is also unclear. Such groups were allied in 2012 when Islamist militant groups who took over northern Mali amidst a Tuareg uprising. This prompted former colonial power France and then the UN to intervene to stop them advancing south to the capital, Bamako. The Tuareg groups went on to sign a peace agreement with the government, but the jihadists persisted with attacks from their desert bases. Their continuing insurgency was the main reason Mali's military seized power in 2020, accusing the civilian government of failing to provide security.

It pledged to end the militant attacks asking France and the UN to withdraw their forces, and bringing in Wagner fighters. But this resulted in some Tuaregs taking up arms again, as they were angered by the departure of UN peace-

keepers amongst other issues. Tuareg and Arab groups in the north feel ignored by the more prosperous south. Northern Mali is a vast, arid, underdeveloped and sparsely populated area, which the separatists call Azawad. The security situation in the whole country remains precarious - and these recent losses for the Russian-backed junta are humiliating. Russia's defence ministry has been approached for more help by Wagner, but it is unclear whether that will be forthcoming given the war in Ukraine.

A spokesman for Ukraine's military intelligence has been quoted as saying that Ukraine played a role in the recent ambush against Wagner fighters in Mali. He added that "the rebels received necessary information, and not just information, which enabled a successful military operation" against Wagner fighters. A photo published by the Kyiv Post claimed to show Malian rebels holding a Ukrainian flag after the battle. BBC Verify has established this image dates back to a video posted on X in June, in which no Ukrainian flag can be seen, only the Azawad flag. Wagner, under various paramilitary guises, still operates in Africa despite its failed mutiny last year against Russian President Vladimir Putin and the subsequent death in a helicopter accident of its leader Yevgeny Prigozhin.

Interpol operation leads to 206 arrests

LYON (AP): Interpol says more than 200 people have been arrested and some \$1.6 billion worth of illegal drugs and precursor chemicals seized as part of a two-month operation against narcotics trafficking across Europe, North America and Africa.

The international police organization, based in Lyon, France, said Operation Lionfish Hurricane in April and May led to the seizure of 615 tons of illegal drugs and chemicals. In addition, the operation led to the arrest of 206 people and the seizure of 65 stolen cars, some 30,000 commercial-grade detonators diverted from military or commercial mining, and a "narco-sub" - a homemade semi-submersible vessel that's used to transport cocaine through South American waterways and across the Atlantic - in the jungle of Guyana, Interpol said.

"The value of drugs seized in this two-month operation is higher than the GDP of some countries, which clearly shows the scale of the problem facing law enforcement," said Jürgen Stock, head of the 196 member-country organization, in a statement. Statistics from the World Bank show fewer than 20 of the world's smallest countries have economic output of less than \$1.6 billion. Interpol said a record 505 tons of precursor chemicals, used for manufacturing both drugs and explosives, were seized. The operation, part of a series of "Lionfish" operations since 2013, was funded by the British Home Office and involved 31 countries in addition to other international organizations.

Fears grip Russian region bordering Ukraine

MOSCOW: On May 12, Alexander's apartment shook and his window shattered as his city of Belgorod, in the Russian region bordering Ukraine, came under attack. "The neighbouring building was badly damaged, and two or three buildings along the roof had collapsed," said the 31-year-old IT worker. He called his landlady to talk about the damage to the apartment, but she did not pick up. The roof of her building had caved in during the assault. "A lot of lads ran over from neighbouring buildings to sift through the rubble," he said. "She died. The roof had collapsed, too, and the volunteers thought surely everyone had died, but they managed to save a few people even after that."

In total, 15 people were killed and 16 were rescued from the rubble. Belgorod, the capital of the eponymous region, occupies a strategic place in the continuing Russia-Ukraine conflict. A mere 40km (25 miles) from the Ukrainian border, Belgorod served as a base for Russia's invasion since February 2022, making it a target for Ukrainian counterattacks. It has been repeatedly pummeled by artillery barrages and drone strikes that have increased in intensity, according to residents. "I saw and heard the shelling of Belgorod from the very start of the war," said Yuliya*, a 21-year-old journalist who requested anonymity. "It was impossible not to hear it, it touched everyone in the city. Nowhere is safe. Even the city centre, where nothing [bad] ever happened before and it's full of police, government officials, they should protect this area, right? Well, as it happens this isn't true."

There is no doubt that Ukrainian civilians have suffered the most in the ongoing war, with tens of thousands killed and cities like Mariupol completely devastated. According to the local Russian governor of Belgorod, Vyacheslav Gladkov, more than 200 residents of the region have died as a result of hostilities since 2022. More than a thousand others have been wounded, including dozens of children, a number of whom have undergone amputations, he says. The deadliest incident took place on December 30, 2023, when a barrage of rocket fire struck the city during New Year celebrations. Five children were among the 25 people killed. — Aljazeera



BEIRUT: People gathered at the site after Israeli bombardments in capital city of Lebanon.

US Senate passes bill to protect children from dangerous content

WASHINGTON: The United States Senate has overwhelmingly passed legislation designed to protect children from dangerous online content, pushing forward with what would be the first major effort by Congress in decades to hold tech companies more accountable for the harm they cause. The bill, which passed 91-3, was pushed by parents of children who died by suicide after online bullying or had been harmed in other ways by online content. It would force companies to take reasonable steps to prevent harm on online platforms frequently used by minors, requiring them to exercise a "duty of care" and ensure that they generally default to the safest settings possible.

The House of Representatives has not yet acted on the bill. Speaker Mike Johnson, a Republican from Louisiana, has said he is "committed to working to find consensus" but has not indicated whether he will bring the bill to the floor for a vote. Supporters are hoping the strong Senate vote will push the House to act before the end of the congressional session in January. President Joe Biden encouraged the House to send the legislation to his desk "without delay".

"Today our children are subjected to a Wild West online, and our current laws and regulations are insufficient to prevent this," Biden said. "It is past time to act." The legislation is about allowing children, teens and parents "to take back control of their lives online", said Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, who wrote the bill with Republican Senator Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee. He said that the message to big tech companies is that "we no

longer trust you to make decisions for us". The bill would be the first major tech regulation package to move in years and could pave the way for other bills that would strengthen online privacy laws or set parameters for the growing use of artificial intelligence, among others.

While there has long been bipartisan support for the idea that the biggest technology companies should face more government scrutiny, there has been little consensus on how it should be done. Congress passed legislation earlier this year that would force China-based social media company TikTok to sell or face a ban, but that law only targets one company. "This is a good first step, but we have more to go," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat from New York. If the child safety bill becomes law, companies would be required to mitigate harm to children, including bullying and violence, the promotion of suicide, eating disorders, substance abuse, sexual exploitation and advertisements for illegal products such as narcotics, tobacco or alcohol.

To do that, social media platforms would have to provide minors with options to protect their information, disable addictive product features and opt out of personalised algorithmic recommendations. They would also be required to limit other users from communicating with children and limit features that "increase, sustain, or extend the use" of the platform - such as autoplay for videos or platform rewards. The idea, Blumenthal and Blackburn say, is for the platforms to be "safe by design." The message we are sending to Big Tech

is that kids are not your product," Blackburn said at a news conference as the Senate passed the bill. "Kids are not your profit source."

Several tech companies, including Microsoft, X and Snap, have supported the legislation. But there was also criticism that signalled a potential lobbying campaign aimed at the House. Carl Szabo, a vice president and counsel for NetChoice, a tech industry group that represents X and Snap, along with Google, TikTok and Meta Platforms, said in a statement that the law's "cybersecurity, censorship, and constitutional risks remain unaddressed". He did not elaborate. And Meta Platforms, which owns Facebook and Instagram, said in a statement that it supports the development of standards, but it would instead prefer legislation to require app stores to get parents' approval when teenagers download apps.

Blumenthal and Blackburn have said they wanted to put the burden on companies, not parents. They have also worked to find a balance between forcing companies to become more responsible for what children see online, while also ensuring that Congress does not go too far in regulating what individuals post - an effort to head off potential legal challenges over freedom of expression. But some critics say the bill still goes too far. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said the bill could threaten users' privacy and compared it with "book bans and classroom censorship laws". "The House must block this dangerous bill before it's too late," said Jenna Leventoff, a senior policy counsel at the ACLU. — Aljazeera

US hands \$500m military aid boost to Philippines amid China tensions

WASHINGTON: The United States has announced that it will provide \$500m in military funding to the Philippines, as the pair eyes ongoing tensions with China. The announcement came, as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin visited Manila.

The two officials launched an Asia Pacific tour over the weekend, aimed at boosting Washington's influence in the region in a bid to challenge the "strategic challenge" Beijing poses. "We're now allocating an additional \$500m in foreign military financing to the Philippines to boost security collaboration with our oldest treaty ally in this region," Blinken told a news conference alongside Manila's Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo and Defence Secretary Gilbert Teodoro.

Blinken described the aid as a "once in a generation investment" to help modernise the Philippine armed forces and coast-guard. Austin said the funds demonstrate the commitment of the US to take "bold steps to strengthen our alliance". "We are here to build on an extraordinary foundation. We are working to advance our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific," he declared. "This level of funding is unprecedented." Teodoro called the aid a "tremendous boost" to Manila's defence capabilities. Manalo said the Philippines welcomes the "iron-clad commitment" shown by the US to the pair's alliance. Biden and Austin earlier

met with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, who thanked them for helping to make the Philippines more "agile in terms of our responses" in the West Philippine Sea - the term used by Manila to refer to the area in the South China Sea in which a series of escalating confrontations between Philippine and Chinese vessels has taken place over recent months. Beijing lays claim to nearly all of the strategically located waterway. It has built artificial islands, fully equipped with military-type landing strips and shipping ports, and recently enacted new regulations permitting its coastguard to use lethal force against foreign ships in the waters it claims. The Chinese claim overlaps with the competing claims of several neigh-

boursing ASEAN countries, including Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam, as well as the Philippines. Amid the tension, Manila has begun modernising its armed forces, one of the weakest in Asia, and bolstering its coastguard. The incidents in the South China Sea have also raised concern that Washington could be dragged into the conflict with Beijing due to a mutual defence treaty with Manila. At the same time, the Philippines' proximity to the hotly contested sea, as well as Taiwan, would make it a key partner for the US if a conflict were to break out in the region. The announced funding is part of a \$2bn facility for foreign military financing that was approved by the US in April. — Aljazeera

Arrest warrant issued for Libera's ex-minister

MONROVIA (BBC): An arrest warrant has been issued for Liberia's former finance minister following allegations he was involved in a \$500m (£389m) corruption scam.

Samuel Tweh, along with four other senior officials in former President George Weah's administration, have been indicted for allegedly stealing from the government when they were in office. Mr Tweh, who was previously sanctioned by the US for corruption, called the indictment a "politically motivated witch-hunt" against him and other former officials.

The Weah administration, whose six years in power ended in January, was plagued with allegations of corruption and financial mismanagement. When President Joseph Boakai took over, he pledged to crack down on corruption. The five former officials

were indicted for economic sabotage, illegal disbursement and expenditure of public money, criminal conspiracy and other charges.

City Court in the capital, Monrovia, subsequently issued warrants for their arrest. Three of the men - former national security adviser Jefferson Karmoh, state prosecutor Nyenati Tuan and accountancy boss at the Finance Intelligence Agency (FIA), Moses Cooper - were unable to pay bail and have therefore been detained in Liberia's central prison. They or their legal representatives have not yet commented on the allegations.

Mr Tweh and former FIA chief Stanley Ford are yet to be arrested - the police are unsure of their exact whereabouts. It is not the first time the ex-finance minister has been accused of corruption - last

December the US sanctioned him and two senators for "abusing their public positions through soliciting, accepting and offering bribes". Mr Tweh denied this allegation at the time and in response to indictment, he wrote on Facebook: "Today a politically motivated witch-hunt has been officially launched against my person, calling for my arrest. "Over the last six years, I have been a major political target and have faced falsely devilish accusations."

Mr Boakai took office in January after defeating Mr Weah in a run-off election. In his drive to tackle corruption, he declared his assets and ordered an audit of the presidential office. The results have not yet been released. Mr Boakai has also beefed up the General Auditing Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission.

DR Congo accuses Rwanda of jamming flights

DR CONGO (BBC): The Democratic Republic of Congo has accused the Rwandan army of jamming satellite navigation systems affecting civilian flights in the conflict-hit east of the country.

It said Rwanda, which borders DR Congo, was interfering with aircraft

Global Positioning System (GPS) signals through "jamming" and "spoofing" - a type of cyber-crime that involves creating a false identity or impersonation. This posed a "significant risk" to both commercial and humanitarian flights bringing in essential aid for victims of conflict, the gov-

ernment added in a statement.

Rwanda has not yet responded to the allegations. A UN report released earlier this month accused Rwanda of having up to 4,000 troops in DR Congo to help the M23 rebel group in its fight against government government forces.

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

Doubts raised over UN cybercrime text

UN member states opened a two-week meeting on Monday seeking to finalise an international treaty on the fight against cybercrime, a text strongly opposed by an unlikely alliance of human rights groups and big technology companies.

The "United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime" originated in 2017 when Russian diplomats sent the world body's secretary-general a letter outlining the initiative.

Two years later, and despite US and European opposition, the General Assembly created an intergovernmental committee tasked with drawing up such a treaty. "We're at the entrance of the harbour, and on Friday August 9, we'll be docking," said committee chairwoman Faouzia Boumaiza Mebarki at Monday's opening session.

Following seven previous negotiating sessions, "divergences still remain," she noted, while criticism has also continued to mount, according to a report by Agence France-Presse.

While the revised draft includes "some welcome improvements," according to the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, concerns remain "about significant shortcomings, with many provisions failing to meet international human rights standards."

"These shortcomings are particularly problematic against the backdrop of an already expansive use of existing cybercrime laws in some jurisdictions to unduly restrict freedom of expression, target dissenting voices and arbitrarily interfere with the privacy and anonymity of communications," it said in an analysis.

The treaty, according to draft language, would aim to "prevent and combat cybercrime more efficiently and effectively" and to strengthen international cooperation, notably regarding child pornography and money laundering.

But its detractors say the text claims sway over far too expansive a field, as reflected in its subtitle: "crimes committed through the use of an information and communications technology system." The document could thus require governments "to facilitate investigations into things like same-sex conduct, criticising one's government, investigative reporting, participating in protests or being a whistleblower," said Human Rights Watch executive director Tirana Hassan. Rather than a cybercrime treaty, the text "actually resembles a global surveillance treaty that would address all crime," she told reporters, adding that it exceeds "even the most expansive possible interpretation of its mandate."

The 40-nation Freedom Online Coalition warned that the treaty "could be misused as a tool for acts of domestic and transnational repression and other human rights violations."

"To mitigate this risk, it is necessary that the treaty scope is carefully defined and accompanied by necessary safeguards," said a joint statement by the group, which includes the United States, South Korea, Kenya, France and Chile. Debate over the draft has brought together some strange bedfellows – rights groups are aligning with tech mammoths like Microsoft, which said in a written submission that "no outcome is better than a bad outcome."

Nick Ashton-Hart heads the Cybersecurity Tech Accord delegation to the treaty talks, representing more than 100 technology companies. "There is a need for more cooperation by most states, especially developing states, on cybercrime," Ashton-Hart told AFP, but added: "This convention does not have to be the vehicle for that cooperation."

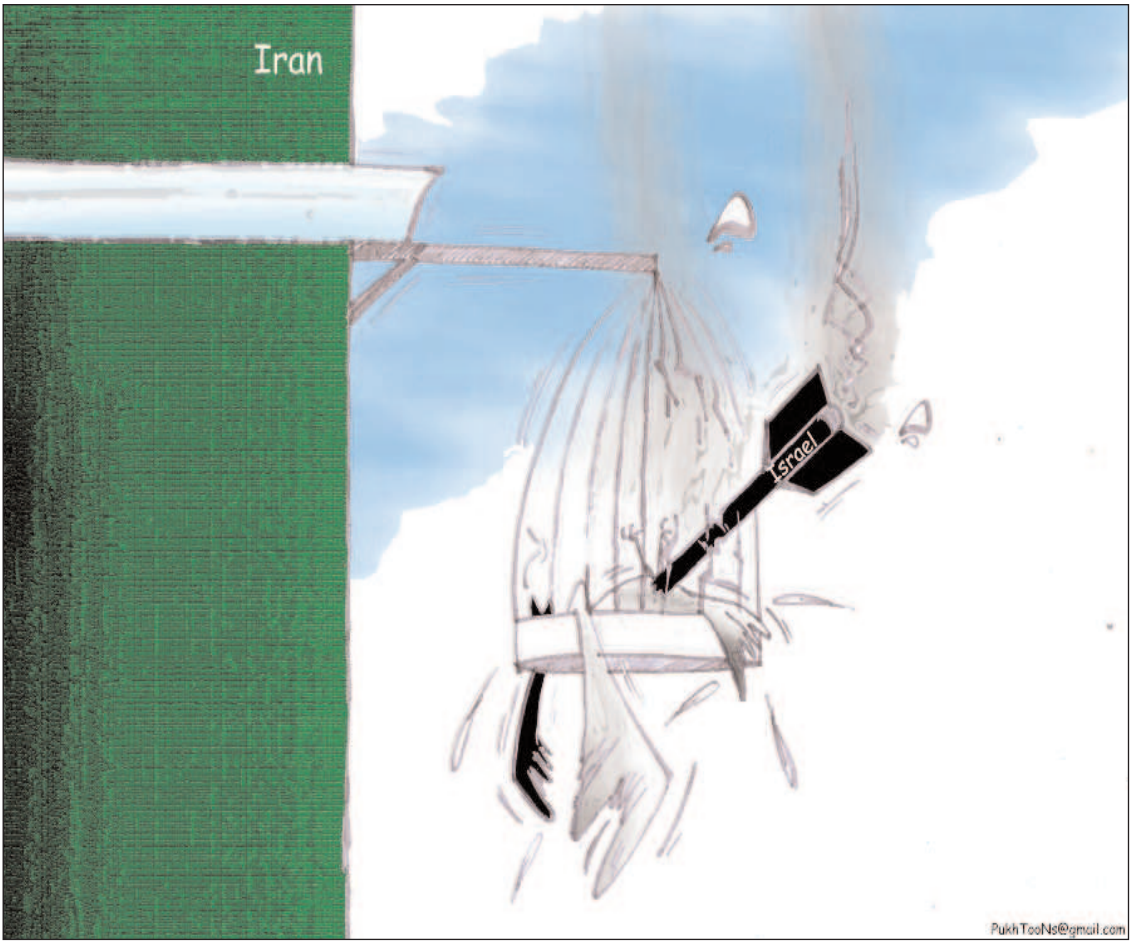
Better options would be either the Council of Europe's Budapest Convention on Cybercrime or the UN Convention Against Organized Transnational Crime, he said.

Unless the current draft is substantially improved, Ashton-Hart added, his organisation will call on member states not to sign or ratify the treaty. "Democratic states would expect opposition from the private sector, very aligned with the civil society world, were this to come up for ratification at the national level," he said.

Russia, meanwhile, has defended its vision. "Excessive attention to human rights provisions in the Convention is significantly detrimental to international cooperation and will in fact hinder the cooperation between law enforcement agencies of states," Russia's delegation said.

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.



US-Iran ties essential to understanding the region's near future

Eyad Abu Shakra

In Lebanon, as well as in Syria and the Occupied Territories, we find many different assumptions and even more predictions. The facts are strange, but developments on the ground are even stranger.

The Lebanese are languishing under their economic and cost-of-living crises. Amid a vacuum at the upper echelons of their government — albeit nominally — their eyes and hearts are on the southern front and what Hezbollah's diplomatic arsenal has in store for them.

With a new Western envoy arriving as soon as another packs his bags in frustration because of the failure to find solutions, things keep getting worse in what has practically become an occupied country. Its politicians are unwelcome guests and decisions are made outside its borders.

Hezbollah's pretext for instigating a conflict with Israel from Lebanon's southern border is that it is on a "support mission" — coordinating and showing solidarity with the Gaza Strip. Yes, in Lebanon, which has been denied proper governance in line with the constitution due to its occupation by Hezbollah, the support for Gaza, which is governed by Hamas (not the legitimate Palestinian Authority), continues ... but it is incapacitated and incapacitating.

Against the backdrop of Israel's aggression, its occupation of Gaza and its displacement of its people, and amid battles on two Arab territories effectively run by forces that have imposed themselves on the legitimate authorities, Iran has emerged as a regional power. In its own way, it

is a partner in the negotiations to manage this region along with the US and Israel. Indeed, the Iranian leadership has mastered this approach of field negotiations since the 1980s.

On the other hand, despite fiery rhetoric and direct threats, the Tehran camp and the Washington-Tel Aviv camp agreed to an "implicit understanding" and "shared priorities" after the Iraq-Iran War.

In fact, the more heated the rhetorical threats from both sides became, the more Tehran expanded its sphere of influence — or rather, its practical occupation — within the Arab world. Some of its security officials eventually felt confident enough to declare that their country runs four Arab capitals ... and they are certainly right.

Iran's expansion in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Yemen, as we remember, did not emerge suddenly or without American and Israeli political and war planners knowing about it. On the contrary, it could not have happened without American-Israeli "facilitation" at every juncture.

Under the pretext that armed Palestinian groups had been present in the country, Israel was allowed to occupy Beirut and half of Lebanon in 1982. This occupation did not end until 2000 and the emergence of Hezbollah.

Then, after February 2005, Hezbollah was handed control of Lebanon.

Meanwhile, under the pretext of Saddam Hussein's nonexistent weapons of mass destruction, the US occupied Iraq. Before the smoke

had cleared from occupied Baghdad, the allies of the mullahs had returned from their exile in Iran to take power and hand Mesopotamia to Velayat-e Faqih.

Claiming to be pushing back against Daesh, the Syrian regime, an ally in Tehran's so-called resistance axis, was rehabilitated. Washington and other Western capitals turned a blind eye to what had happened in Syria. The "red lines" drawn by Barack Obama miraculously vanished. Not long after that, Donald Trump assured the top brass of the Damascus regime that the only goal of the US forces on Syrian soil was to fight Daesh.

Last but not least, international authorities did not see a threat to the Yemeni social fabric in the Houthis' takeover of the country, nor did they see the threat this development posed to neighboring countries or trade on international waters.

Everyone following the political and military developments in the region is familiar with this record. It also highlights the complexities of US-Russian relations on the one hand and Russian-Iranian relations on the other.

There is no doubt that the Ukraine war has created a new global reality, with repercussions for the Middle East.

The growing roles of China and India and their ambitions for the region have also been consequential, as has Israel's accelerating retreat from its commitments to peace, despite some Arab states seeking normalization with it in the hope of weakening the Likud and ensuring that it loses its bet on extremism.

In this climate, Tehran reasserted its role as a regional player, doubling down on its refusal to allow its interests to be bypassed or its status as an influential political, military and oil market player.

Thus, through "strategic allies," as it calls them, or "Tehran's proxies," as the West views them, it made its move on Oct. 7. Unfortunately, the operation served the objectives of Benjamin Netanyahu. He is Israel's worst-ever leader and the most hostile to peace. The operation also caused tremendous humanitarian suffering in the Occupied Territories. And it coincided with the presidential election campaign in Washington, the rise of far-right populism in Europe and India and an aggravating crisis with Russia over Ukraine.

Some now say that the era of implicit understandings and shared priorities between Tehran and the Washington-Tel Aviv camp has come to an end, meaning that Iran's field negotiations have become a risky venture.

On the other hand, others believe that Washington and Tel Aviv have become convinced that the Iranian leadership still believes it has enough cards to negotiate greater influence in the region from a position of strength.

These observers also note that the Gaza war has demonstrated Israel's total reliance on Western logistical support and that Tehran's proxies can obstruct and confuse, as well as create regional tension. In this, they have benefited from the diminishing faith in peace with the current right-wing government in Israel.

Creating a home for peace and coexistence

Yossi Mekelberg

These are very dark days for Israelis and Palestinians. And for those in the midst of the current round of hostilities, the light at the end of the tunnel feels further away than ever. Hence, I was very pleased to read in Monday's Arab News Ronald S. Lauder's opinion piece, "Voices of peace can find strength through unity," which, in its realistic optimism, rightly objects to the notion of dividing the "daughters and sons of Abraham." I agree that we should not be doomed to fight each other to the end of history and fall victim to those who thrive on driving a wedge between Israelis and Arabs, as well as Jews, Muslims and Christians, instead of finding what unites us all in peace.

It was also personally pleasing for me that Lauder, who is president of the World Jewish Congress, chose to write his impassioned plea to bring an end to the horrendous Israeli-Palestinian conflict and divisions between the Abrahamic religions in our very own Arab News — and not for the first time. I was delighted that such a globally prominent Jewish figure chose to write in the newspaper that has been a home for my columns for nearly eight years.

World politics and conflict continue to bring controversy and disagreements on these events to the fore, something that is especially true with the present conflict in Gaza. Nevertheless, Arab News continues to adhere to its ethos of being a welcoming "town square" of open and respectful debate, encouraging different points of view and also reflecting the positive changes that are taking place in our region. I have felt privileged to be part of this conversation.

This is where Lauder's article was vital both in its timing and in its target audience. In the Middle East, we are standing at a very dangerous crossroads. Over what is now nearly 10 months, some of the worst manifestations of human behavior have come to the fore. Even worse, as the war in Gaza continues to rage, the danger of a full-blown war on Israel's northern border, between Tel Aviv and Hezbollah, frighteningly appears to be very much on the cards. This is a war that would harbor the danger of dragging in the entire region, with mainly ordinary people paying the price for the failings and inadequacies of their leaderships.

Hence, those of us who believe that we have more in common than what separates us and that we are all human beings first and foremost should say so loudly and clearly and with no fear. Lauder said it this week and we all, in this paper, advance this outlook as our common cause and mission.

What should unite us over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, something that has been proven beyond any doubt since Oct. 7, is that violence and fantasies of "total victory" and bringing the other side to capitulation are both morally deplorable and politically unachievable. In every aspect of human existence, the conflict has only caused suffering. Although the suffering of the Palestinians is immeasurably worse because they live under occupation

and are militarily, politically and economically weaker, Israelis have also suffered significant losses — the price of not resolving the conflict to the detriment of its society and democracy is evident.

Lauder's contribution is highly significant in underlining the importance of not leaving this conflict only to politicians, but for voices from all communities to involve themselves and throw their weight behind reaching a fair and just solution. Sadly, especially throughout the current round of horrific bloodshed, too much space has been given to the haters and those who speak in zero-sum game terms. There is no doubt in my mind that Jewish communities across the world are invested in seeing Israel coexist peacefully with its neighbors and in supporting the right of Palestinians to self-determination. These are two sides of the same coin.

The key words in Lauder's piece were empathy, understanding and hope, and rightly so. What distinguishes human beings from other forms of existence in nature is the ability to feel and express empathy toward others, as well as equally being hopeful in the bleakest of times. Tragically, in times of war, we also witness extreme cruelty and indifference toward the suffering of others. It is only when we reaffirm that no individual or group of people have superior rights over others, and that our suffering is equal to the suffering of others, that we can move toward establishing a better world. In the case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there is a long overdue imperative to recognize these rights and the suffering of both Israelis and Palestinians, as well as an urgent need to bring this excruciatingly protracted conflict to a peaceful end. For this to happen, both sides need to do more soul-searching than playing of the blame game, they need a more forward-looking stance than that of settling scores, and they need to unite their forces in line with the values of peace, coexistence and reconciliation, rather than along religious or ethnic lines, as important as these identities might be for them.

The alternative has only inflicted calamity and sadly has the potential to do so again in the future with even more hideous consequences. We should also be honest with ourselves that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an asymmetric one and, hence, the stronger and in this case the occupying force has more responsibility to be flexible in its approach to a peace process and agreement. This does not make the Palestinian side always right or just, but the main cards are still in Israel's hands and playing them right is also in its national interest.

I am confident that here, on the pages of this newspaper, we will continue, in our different and unique ways, to promote our common values and the need for justice and fairness for everyone. This is also our guide in our attitude to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and support for a two-state solution that should not be seen as a compromise, but as a manifestation of the Abrahamic people's system of beliefs and as a means of guaranteeing security and prosperity.

How the world can end the Rohingya crisis

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim

As the Rohingya crisis drags on, Bangladesh faces new challenges, with more refugees seeking shelter from the ongoing civil war pouring over its border. The Rohingya in camps in Bangladesh are eager to return home and the International Court of Justice's verdict on July 22, 2022, rejecting Myanmar's preliminary objections, paves the way for eventual accountability for the most persecuted minority in the world. However, critics argue that any repatriation plan must uphold the principle of non-refoulement.

Several pathways for Rohingya repatriation have emerged, involving various national and international stakeholders. The New Lines Institute last month published a groundbreaking report looking at alternative pathways to possible Rohingya repatriation.

The most obvious approach is for Bangladesh to work bilaterally with Myanmar, as it has tried to do since the crisis began. This approach included the signing of a memorandum of arrangement in 2017 that stipulated that the return of displaced persons would begin soon and be completed in a "time-bound manner." However, this approach has faced three major issues: the signing of an "arrangement" instead of a legally binding agreement, a lack of a clear timeline

and a vague process for repatriation. The flexibility allowed Myanmar to delay the process.

Moreover, during these bilateral meetings, a crucial issue seems to have been ignored: Myanmar's potential genocide and crimes against humanity. Despite clear evidence of mass atrocities, Bangladesh's diplomatic gestures, such as gifting ambulances to Myanmar, suggested a softer stance. This subdued approach, despite the moral high ground, has limited progress in repatriation efforts.

The involvement of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has been critical. The 2017 arrangement included provisions for the UNHCR and other UN agencies to assist in the return and resettlement of the Rohingya. However, significant progress has not been made and the focus of these agencies has shifted more toward Bangladesh than Myanmar.

One critical area has been education. The UN has urged Bangladesh to provide education to Rohingya refugees, but the debate centers on the language of instruction. Balancing the need for communication in the host community's language and equipping refugees with skills for their future in Myanmar is essential. A two-fold policy of achieving 100 percent literacy and teaching English could benefit both the Rohingya and the local popula-

tion. In 2019, Bangladesh, Myanmar and China formed a tripartite joint working mechanism for Rohingya repatriation. Several meetings have taken place, with the latest in Kunming in April 2023, discussing a pilot project for repatriation. China's interest in resolving the crisis stems from its investments in both countries and a desire to offset Western influences in Myanmar. China's significant investments in Bangladesh and Myanmar drive its quest for stability. Furthermore, resolving the Rohingya crisis could enhance Beijing's regional and global status. Despite these interests, the tripartite approach has yet to achieve substantial progress. The pilot project plans to repatriate more than 1,000 Rohingya refugees, but mixed reactions from Rohingya representatives and the lack of UNHCR involvement pose challenges. In the past five years, significant strides have been made in addressing accountability for crimes committed against Rohingyas. The International Court of Justice has made two provisional rulings acknowledging the genocide by the Myanmar military and recognizing the Rohingya identity. This was a major legal victory for the Rohingya.

The court's hearings on the Rohingya genocide took place in

December 2019, with Gambia bringing the charges against Myanmar. By January 2020, the court had granted the provisional measures requested by Gambia. The ruling was unanimous, which Myanmar did not anticipate. The court's identification of the group as "Rohingyas" was also critical, countering Myanmar's efforts to deny their identity. This recognition challenges Myanmar's long-standing policy of disenfranchising and dehumanizing the Rohingya people, as enshrined in its 2008 constitution, which ties representation to race, thus excluding them.

Myanmar's labeling of the Rohingya as "Bengalis" or "illegal migrants" has become untenable due to growing international scrutiny and legal pressure. The International Criminal Court and the US have recognized the genocide, further pressuring Myanmar.

Sanctions are a crucial tool to enforce accountability. The West has imposed limited sanctions on Myanmar's military, but broader economic sanctions are necessary. The strategic use of sanctions can compel Myanmar to address human rights abuses and the Rohingya crisis. Companies investing in Myanmar should also be held accountable for complicity in these crimes. Economic pressure, if correctly applied, can incentivize Myanmar to change its policies.

Another possible approach that needs further exploration is decoupling, a policy of separating specific activities from others. Japan, for example, co-sponsored a UN resolution favoring the Rohingya, signaling a shift in its strategic interests. Recognizing the Rohingya identity and inviting their delegations can pressure Myanmar to acknowledge and address the crisis.

Economic incentives could also play a role. A so-called mini-Marshall Plan for the Arakan region could provide the Myanmar military with a legal and profitable alternative to the drug trade, fostering stability and encouraging Rohingya repatriation.

The potential for militancy remains a significant concern. The 2017 attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army and the subsequent military crackdown highlight the volatile situation. The Rohingya youth, particularly those in refugee camps, are at risk of being drawn into militancy if the crisis remains unresolved.

Ten years of maritime resistance in the Mediterranean Sea

EARLIER this month, when Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and her interior minister, Matteo Piantedosi, travelled to Libya to participate in the Trans-Mediterranean Migration Forum in Tripoli, the search and rescue NGO Sea-Watch wished them “all the worst”. In a post on X, the organisation said the “dystopian” Libyan-Italian collaboration on border control would further increase deaths of people on the move across the Mediterranean.

In response, Meloni denounced Sea-Watch for not speaking out against smugglers whom she blamed for the deaths of thousands of people in the Mediterranean and declared that she travelled to Libya “to stop human trafficking, illegal immigration and deaths at sea”.

This exchange between Meloni and Sea-Watch highlights the continuously hostile attitude of European officials towards civilian sea rescuers. Clearly, their presence in the Mediterranean Sea remains a conflictual political issue despite a whole decade of successful rescues.

Next month will mark 10 years since the first non-governmental rescue organisation entered the central Mediterranean in search of migrant boats in distress. In this decade, a large network of solidarity actors has evolved in the central Mediterranean, made up of about two dozen organisations and groups.

Besides the many rescue NGOs, there is Alarm Phone, an activist emergency hotline launched in 2014 that has assisted more

than 7,000 boats in distress so far. In 2017, civil aircraft joined the “civil fleet” to monitor the sea from above and guide rescue ships to boats in distress.

In 2019, a coalition of civil society actors known as the Civil Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre emerged to respond to the failure of state-run Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres to coordinate res-

Maurice Stierl

seems safe to say that EU member states, and in particular the Italian government, are anything but happy that NGOs remain present in the Mediterranean Sea. Over the years, especially from 2017 on, they have done what they can to criminalise civilian rescuers, block them at harbours or delay their rescue

policymakers and politicians like Meloni would much rather see intercepted and returned to their places of departure, even at the cost of their incarceration in torture camps.

Rescue NGOs also remain a problem for EU member states because they are critical in exposing grave human rights violations that involve EU actors and their North African

tinuous harassment by state authorities, the 10th anniversary of their civil engagement in the Mediterranean should give us pause. That we still desperately need nonstate actors to do the heavy and often traumatic task of sea rescue is an indictment of Europe's failure. Instead of opening safe alternatives to sea migration, the European Union has insisted on deterrence, which has resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of lives over the past 10 years.

At the same time, we can also safely conclude that a decade of intensified EU border militarisation in the Mediterranean has failed to stop sea crossings. More than 2.5 million people have crossed maritime borders and entered the EU over the past 10 years. That NGO rescuers remain in demand thus also demonstrates the resilience of migration itself.

Meloni herself has failed to accomplish her own pledges on migration. When she came to office two years ago, she promised to impose a “naval blockade” in the Mediterranean to prevent migrant crossings. In 2023, levels of crossings reached those of the mid-2010s with 157,651 people arriving in Italy. Meanwhile, despite all threats and attempts to block them, more than 20 rescue assets are still sailing the sea in search of boats in distress.

If the evidence of the past decade of EU migration policy failure is anything to go by, Meloni's trip to Tripoli won't change much either. Migration across the sea will continue, and NGO rescuers will remain a desperately needed presence along Europe's deadly borders.

— Aljazeera

Could Palestine decide the US presidential election?

Rami G Khouri

IT has been a dramatic half a month for US politics with a dizzying string of rapid-fire events. Republican candidate and former president, Donald Trump, survived an assassination attempt and emerged bolder and more energised in rallying his base. President Joe Biden withdrew from the presidential race, endorsing his vice president, Kamala Harris, who within a week managed to win enough delegate support to secure the nomination at the upcoming Democratic National Convention set for August 19-22.

Harris has re-invigorated the Democratic campaign, raising more than \$200m in donations, getting 100,000 new voters to register, and securing 170,000 new volunteers within just seven days.

She is also doing better at the polls. Her “favourability” score with the American public rose 8 percentage points to 43 percent in one week. Among likely voters, she is currently polling at 47 percent, just one percentage point behind Trump.

Some of Harris's early success may be attributed to the significant relief many Democrats certainly felt over Biden's decision to step aside. A whopping 87 percent of registered Democrats supported his withdrawal.

But this early momentum is unlikely to hold all the way to the election in early November. And while Harris brought much-needed change to the Democratic campaign, she also represents continuity with the Biden administration, which on certain issues could put her at a disadvantage.

One of these issues is the Israeli genocide in Gaza. Let us remember that one reason Biden was initially seen to be vulnerable was the Arab and Muslim American-led “uncommitted vote” campaign during the Democratic primaries earlier this year. A significant percentage of Democrats voted uncommitted to signal their rejection of Biden's unconditional support for Israel's Gaza genocide.

The results in key swing states particularly worried the Biden campaign. In Michigan and Wisconsin, for example, 101,000 and 47,800, respectively, voted uncommitted. Biden had won both states by margins as small as 154,000 and 20,600 in 2020.

In the latest polls, Harris is trailing Trump by 2 to 10 percent in swing states like Georgia, Arizona, Nevada and Pennsylvania; in Michigan, she is one percentage point behind and in Wisconsin they both poll at 47 percent. In other words, the Arab and Muslim American communities, supported by their many progressive allies, could play a defining role in determining small-margin wins in these states. They may prove key for her victory, if she lags behind Trump in other swing states like Arizona, Nevada, North Carolina or Georgia.

Members of the “Abandon Biden” and “uncommitted” movements have threatened to abandon Harris if she continues Biden's pro-war policy. The “uncommitted” movement has expanded into a growing coalition that

includes other traditional Democratic Party voters, like labour activists, progressive Jews, Black people and Hispanics, and others who support social justice issues. On July 23, for example, seven labour unions representing millions of American workers asked Biden in a joint letter to halt military aid to Israel. It is important to point out that opposition to the Biden administration's policies on Palestine and Israel goes beyond these interest groups. Americans' backing for Israel's war is currently at 42 percent; among Democrats it stands at 23 percent. In other words, the vast majority of Harris's Democratic base does not support Israel's actions, which the Biden administration has wholeheartedly endorsed.

I asked Huwaida Arraf, a Palestinian-American

gressional address on July 24, but she did meet him the following day. Her comments after their meeting offered possible hints about her position on Gaza. She called for a ceasefire, a two-state solution, and a stop to the mass suffering of Palestinian civilians, referring to Palestinian women and children in a humanised way that is rarely heard in Washington.

Seasoned Middle East analyst and justice advocate Adam Shapiro, a Brooklyn native currently based in Michigan, told me, “Harris has to be aware the Israeli genocide in Gaza caused the drop in support for Biden, and we have to see if she does anything about that. Her contrast with Biden is often striking in her style and words, but she has spoken well of reducing Palestinian suffering while also supporting the Biden war policy. Skipping the Netanyahu speech is more

The results in key swing states particularly worried the Biden campaign. In Michigan and Wisconsin, for example, 101,000 and 47,800, respectively, voted uncommitted. Biden had won both states by margins as small as 154,000 and 20,600 in 2020. In the latest polls, Harris is trailing Trump by 2 to 10 percent in swing states like Georgia, Arizona, Nevada and Pennsylvania; in Michigan, she is one percentage point behind and in Wisconsin they both poll at 47 percent. In other words, the Arab and Muslim American communities, supported by their many progressive allies, could play a defining role in determining small-margin wins in these states. They may prove key for her victory, if she lags behind Trump in other swing states like Arizona, Nevada, North Carolina or Georgia.

Michigan-based lawyer, human rights activist, and an “uncommitted” alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention, whether and how her colleagues expect Harris to respond to their demands. She replied: “To get our votes, the Democratic Party must fundamentally change course on Gaza specifically, and on Palestine in general. It cannot keep mistreating us, enabling and funding a genocide of our people, then expecting our votes by warning us that the alternate will be worse. Harris is part of an administration that is complicit in genocide and has done nothing to stop it. While she is seen as slightly better than Biden, this is a very low bar, and will not be enough to get our votes. To have a chance, Harris must distance herself from Biden's policies in a clear and tangible way that goes beyond words. We will no longer accept crumbs.”

This sentiment is widespread among uncommitted members, who have closely followed Harris's statements on Gaza. The vice president did not attend Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's congressional address on July 24, but she did meet him the following day. Her comments after their meeting offered possible hints about her position on Gaza. She called for a ceasefire, a two-state solution, and a stop to the mass suffering of Palestinian civilians, referring to Palestinian women and children in a humanised way that is rarely heard in Washington.

impressive than her words of concern. Now she must show if she can change her position by the time of the November election in a meaningful way.”

The Democratic National Convention may give Harris the platform to make clear her position on Israel and its war on Gaza. As the Democratic presidential candidate, she would have more influence than she does now as vice president. To what extent she is willing to distance herself from Biden's staunch support for Israel's war may determine how much backing she gains from pro-Palestinian progressive Democrats.

“The bare minimum [Harris must do] is to declare support for an arms embargo on Israel before the November vote,” Arraf said. A Harris commitment to respecting international law is another area activists are watching, including a commitment to applying relevant US laws on arms transfers that are used in genocide or other human rights abuses. Others say that there can be changes in the party platform overall, announced at the convention in August.

Russia, Iran forging new links as a result of Ukraine war

Kerry Boyd Anderson

of economic sanctions.

Some of those potential sources of tension and rivalry remain today, but circumstances have changed and both countries are pursuing closer bilateral relations, particularly in military cooperation.

The first factor that really opened up a new path in current Russia-Iran relations was the war in Syria. While maintaining their own interests and military approaches, Russia and Iran also cooperated to support the Assad regime. Their roles were different — for example, Iran offered desperately needed ground forces while Russia's primary contribution was air power — but they shared the goal of ensuring the Assad regime's survival. The coordination necessary to achieve this mutual goal helped to develop new connections between the Russian and Iranian militaries.

The war in Ukraine was the second major factor driving a closer Russian-Iranian military relationship. When Russia launched its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, it badly overestimated its ability to quickly conquer much of the country, leading it into a war that has now lasted more than two years and required major military resources. Two aspects of

the war significantly contributed to ties between Tehran and Moscow: Russia had a pressing need for military materiel and Moscow joined Iran in facing severe economic sanctions.

Military links between Russia and Iran are not new. However, until recently, those ties went mostly one way, with Russia providing various forms of military assistance, technology and weaponry to Iran. Russia's assistance was important to Iran but also limited. The war in Ukraine has reshaped the Russia-Iran relationship. As Hanna Notte and Jim Lawson last week wrote on the “War on the Rocks” website: “Cooperation has moved past the previous patron-client dynamic, with Iran emerging as a key enabler of Russia's air and ground campaign in Ukraine.”

Iran has played an important role in helping to meet Russia's battlefield needs in Ukraine. The war has consumed huge amounts of munitions on both sides and Iran has helped to meet Russian supply needs. Furthermore, Iran has grabbed global attention by providing Russia with, according to media reports, more than 2,000 armed

drones, which have played a significant role in the war. Russia is also developing a factory in Tatarstan designed to improve upon and mass produce the Iranian drones.

The shared experience of trying to cope with intense sanctions has also strengthened the relationship between the two countries. In the past, both sides had reasons, at different points, to approach certain types of bilateral trade and investment with caution, fearing that they might run afoul of Western sanctions. However, since 2022, both countries have faced severe sanctions that have disrupted their economies and reoriented trade relationships. This reality has removed concern that working together might worsen the sanctions against them, while also creating an incentive for the two countries to help each other circumvent the sanctions.

The Russia-Iran relationship is likely to remain one of convenience rather than a committed alliance. The two countries have a complicated history and very different governance styles and cultural values. Pragmatically, their interests do not always align. For example, Moscow will try to strengthen relations with Iran without alienating the Gulf Arab states or

Iran — not an easy balance, especially while Iran supports the Houthis.

Nonetheless, Moscow and Tehran have reasons for deepening ties. Leaders in both countries view the world largely through an anti-US lens and see themselves as sharing the goal of undermining American interests. Together, they can create more problems for Washington in Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia than they can alone.

Russia and Iran are both likely to face economic sanctions for a long time, which increases the incentive for them to expand bilateral trade and financial links to help counter the impacts of sanctions. In just one example, the two countries are pursuing increased Russian investment in Iranian oil and gas projects.

Iran is likely to remain reliant on Russia for assistance in areas requiring more advanced technologies, such as space, nuclear and air defense, while Russia may become increasingly reliant on Iran to provide large quantities of munitions and drones. Even if the war in Ukraine ends, the deepening ties between the two countries sets the stage for years of enhanced cooperation.

— Arab News

ARMED drones have come to play a major role in the war in Ukraine, as highlighted by attacks by both sides in recent days. The drones used by Russia include ones provided by Iran. Russia's need for drones and munitions to fight its war against Ukraine has provided Iran with an opportunity, and military relations between Russia and Iran are reorienting toward a closer relationship that will have long-term implications.

Relations between Iran and Russia have a complicated history. Iranians remember the history of Russia trying to dominate Persian land and how Russia and the UK divided their country into spheres of influence. In more modern times, Tehran and Moscow have held very different ideologies and views on religion. Previously, the two countries were competitors in global energy markets. They have often held different interests in the Middle East, the South Caucasus and Afghanistan. Conflicting interests and perspectives limited cooperation between the two countries. Another obstacle was that both states had reason to worry that close cooperation might draw the ire of Western states and the threat

Archaeology as a weapon? — Western countries vs China

RECENTLY, the British news magazine The Economist published an article criticizing “the use of archaeology as a weapon by the Chinese government” in the context of the archaeological excavation at the Mo'er Temple Site in Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. This article reflects the common bias of the Western world towards the Chinese archaeological community.

Modern archaeology is a discipline that uses scientific methods to study the remains and artifacts of the past in order to understand human origins and gain knowledge for the future. However, as powerful nations often try to establish their historical legitimacy, archaeology has frequently been used as a weapon by those in power. The role that Western archaeology has played in the formation of Western-centric perspectives is no exception, and this can be seen through four main aspects:

Firstly, it is in the tradition of classical archaeology. Since the Renaissance, European scholars have sought to find their roots in the past. Through the systematic collection of ancient artifacts and large-scale excavations of ancient cities like Pompeii, the long-lost Greco-Roman civilization reemerged and was viewed by the modern Western countries as the source of its own superiority.

Secondly, it is in the quest for human history during the prehistoric period. In the 19th century, scholars such as C. J. Thomsen questioned the biblical account of Creation through their study of the Stone Age and the development of the theory of biological evolution. This led to the progressive view of history replacing the degenerative view of history. Against this backdrop, social Darwinism, which regarded the West as the most advanced society, was born.

Thirdly, it is in the use “culture - history”

research method. This approach aims to reconstruct the ancient cultural and ethnic lineages with archaeological remains, but has often been misused by racists. The research on the origins of the Germanic people by German archaeologist Gustaf Kossinna, for example, was later exploited by his disciples to support Nazi Germany's theories of racial superiority and genocide.

Lastly, it is in the processual archaeology that became popular in the second half of the 20th century. This school of thought, based on multilinear evolutionism, seeks to study the universal laws of human social evolution through scientific methods. While it acknowledges the dynamic nature of evolution, it insists on the uniformity of these laws, which are based solely on Western experiences and neglect other voices in human history.

These examples demonstrate how Western archaeology has been used as a weapon by

those in power.

In contrast, Chinese archaeology has never been used as a weapon to undermine others.

Chinese archaeology originated in the 1920s as a result of the introduction of Western knowledge into China, and its main line of development was established by Chinese scholars who had studied abroad, such as Fu Sinian, Li Ji, and Liang Siyong. The critical examination trend of ancient history during the New Culture Movement weakened the credibility of Chinese ancient history but failed to provide a new foundation. Scholars from the Institute of History and Philology with Academia Sinica took up the challenge and attempted to reconstruct ancient history using scientific archaeological methods in order to trace the roots of Chinese civilization.

After the founding of New China, Chinese archaeology continued the mission of reconstructing ancient history

Ding Geng

and gradually built a spectrum of ancient Chinese material culture through the study of archaeological materials. It also focused on discussing the productive forces and relations of productions, economic foundations and superstructures, as well as the stage characteristics of social development in ancient China. This reflective understanding of national heritage and the expectations for the future are undoubtedly valuable.

Since the 1980s, Chinese archaeology has shifted its focus from “reflecting on national heritage” to “reconstructing values”. For example, prominent archaeologist Su Bingqi summarized the characteristics of Chinese civilization as being “pluralistic and integrated” and “like stars shining all over the sky”, and presented a trilogy of the origins of Chinese civilization as “ancient states, regional states, and dynastic states”. Academic initia-

tives such as a project to trace origins of the Chinese civilization have reevaluated the complexity of prehistoric Chinese society and outlined the continuity of Chinese cultural lineage.

From a comparison between Chinese and Western archaeology, we can see that the criticism by The Economist is unjustified.

Firstly, the early stages of Chinese archaeology had the intention of “tracing back national history”, but this should be understood as a reaction against colonialism and the influx of Western knowledge. From the perspective of cultural pluralism advocated by the Western academic community today, China, as a civilization beyond the Western world, defending its historical roots is beneficial for achieving cultural diversity in the world.

Secondly, the Western countries mistakenly assume the existence of a “Sino-centric view” as a counterpart to the “Western-centric view” and therefore hold hostile

ity towards the Chinese academic community. However, Chinese archaeology has already surpassed this narrow view. Classic theories such as “pluralistic and integrated pattern” describe Chinese civilization as an open system with multiple structures. Furthermore, Chinese archaeology recognizes the contributions of foreign influences in agriculture, technology, religion, as well as the continuous interactions between China and its neighboring regions as important factors in the development of Chinese civilization.

Lastly, when it comes to the Mo'er Temple Site and archaeological research in Xinjiang, Xiyu, or the western regions (a term used to describe today's Xinjiang and Central Asia in the past) had already been within the sphere of influence of central dynasties in ancient China as early as the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 24), as evidenced by administrative mechanisms, language

and written records, and cultural customs. Although Buddhism originated in India, the Buddhist culture at the Mo'er Temple Site exhibits strong characteristics of China's Central Plains, resulting from Buddhism's eastward transmission to Central Plains and subsequent flowing back westward combining Chinese features. Scholars like James A. Millward, who deny the position of Xinjiang in Chinese civilization based on the argument that the political and military control of the central dynasties in Xiyu was not thorough enough, fail to understand the concept of diversity and adhere to a nation-state mindset that emphasizes the boundaries of nation, ethnicity, and culture must coincide. They are the true proponents of Central Plains centrism.

In conclusion, Chinese archaeology is not a weapon but has already developed a perspective that transcends the notion of civilization centrism.

— China Daily

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. Office of the Addl. Inspector General of Police, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar invites sealed bids under National / Competitive Bidding from well-reputed firms themselves, or from their authorized sole distributors, or from their authorized dealers, or from their authorized partners for the financial year 2024- 2025 for the following:-
Extra Low Voltage Safety, Security & Communication System with Complete Installation and Commission (CCTV, IP Intercom, Fire Alarm EN, Access Control, Sound System, Communication System with Additional Backup System) for Interrogation rooms & Police Stations lock ups.
2. Bidding shall be conducted through Single Stage-Two Envelopes Bidding Procedure comprising a single package containing two envelopes as per KPPRA Rules- 2014. Each envelope shall contain separately technical and financial bid clearly marked in bold & legible letters. The firms are bound to provide complete information of the bidder along with its postal as well as valid email address and phone number/s on each of the respective envelope.
3. Bidding documents, detailed description, and quantities of items, can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours till **13/08/2024** against the non-refundable cash payment of Pak Rupees Two thousand (Rs. 2000/-PKR). The Bidding Documents can also be downloaded from the following official website of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, Peshawar at www.kppolice.gov.pk
4. The bids shall reach the Office of the undersigned through registered Dak or Courier Services on or before **13/08/2024 at 11:00AM**. The bids shall be opened on the same day by the Procurement committee in the presence of Representatives of the bidders who chose to attend at 11:30 AM in committee room of Office of the Addl. Inspector General of Police, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar. Bid submitted after due date & time shall not be entertained.
5. The bid must be accompanied with Bid Security @ 2% of the bid value in the shape of Demand Draft (DD) or Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) in the name of the undersigned.
6. The bidders shall submit an undertaking, on stamp paper, in their Technical Bids that the requisite Bid Security is included in their Financial Bid. Late bids will be treated as non-responsive.
7. Bids/Rates shall be quoted in Pak Rupees and on FOR basis inclusive taxes where applicable.
8. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the bids as per provisions contained in Rule 47 of KPPRA Procurement Rules 2014.

**Addl. Inspector General of Police,
Counter Terrorism Department (CTD),
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.**

Tel: 091-9212518-19

Email: addlig@ctdkppolice.gov.pk

Fax: 091-9212530

INF(P)186724

[illegible]

INF(P) 1880/24



In brief

PFF NC conducts referee course

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalization Committee (NC) conducted an introductory referee course in Islamabad. This three-day course aimed to enhance the participants' physical, technical, tactical and theoretical knowledge of refereeing, said a press release. A total of 24 participants attended the course to improve their refereeing skills. The sessions were led by PFF Referee Manager Khurram Shahzad and Physical Instructor Yasir Rehman, who provided expert guidance throughout the training. A PFF NC spokesperson emphasized the dedication to advancing refereeing standards in Pakistan, stating, "PFF NC is committed to improving refereeing through various developmental courses. We have additional courses planned for the coming months, focusing on different aspects of refereeing, to further support this initiative."

PBBF forms new scrutiny committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) has formed a new Scrutiny Committee to investigate the affairs of the Karachi Basketball Association (KBBA) and evaluate the affiliated basketball clubs. Initially, Mahfooz-ul-Haq was appointed as the chairman of the committee, said a press release. However, due to personal reasons, he excused himself from the position. Consequently, the PBBF reconstituted the committee, appointing Muhammad Ashfaq as the new chairman. The committee also includes Islam Khan Niazi and Wasim ur Rehman as members. The newly formed committee has been tasked with thoroughly scrutinizing the operations and governance of the KBBA. The PBBF has expressed confidence that the committee will conduct a comprehensive review and submit its findings in a timely manner. This initiative reflects the PBBF's commitment to ensuring transparency and accountability within its affiliated bodies.

PSB to hold month-long Sports Festival

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) is set to ignite the nation's sporting spirit with a month-long extravaganza to mark the Independence Day. A diverse range of sporting events will be held across the country, from the bustling metropolis of Karachi to the serene landscapes of Abbottabad from August 1 to 31. The initiative aims to nurture young talent and prepare athletes for national and international competitions. According to the game calendar prepared by the Pakistan Sports Board to celebrate the month of Independence, the National Women's Netball Training Camp for the Asian Championship will be held in Karachi and Islamabad from August 1 to September 23. The Ju-Jitsu Championship will take place from August 4 to 7 in Lahore. The Ten Pin Bowling Independence Cup Championship will be held from August 8 to 10 at the Pakistan Sports Board in Islamabad. The National Clay Shooting Championship will run from August 8 to 14 in Karachi. The Inter-Diplomatic Tennis Cup (for diplomats) will be from August 9 to 11 in Islamabad. A Training and Coaching Course for Level One and the Independence Day Weightlifting Cup will be held from August 10 to 14 in Lahore.

Younis reacts to Waqar getting major position in PCB

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Former Pakistan captain Younis Khan reacted to the reports of Waqar Younis getting a major role in the ranks of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Reports emerged on Tuesday that PCB Mohsin Naqvi has decided to hand over the power to make cricket decisions to Waqar.

The sources further claimed that Naqvi would oversee the administrative affairs only, while Waqar would be responsible for all the decisions regarding international and domestic selection committees, players' No Objection Certificates (NOCs) and other important cricket matters.

According to the PCB Constitution 2014, the chairman has the authority to delegate his power to

someone, thereby enabling the transfer of powers to Waqar.

Meanwhile, Younis Khan, during an interaction with the media here on Wednesday, backed PCB Chairman Naqvi's decision to hand the reigns of the cricket affairs to Waqar Younis.

"I've played under Waqar Younis and I think it's a good sign that he's coming back to the cricket board," said Younis. "Waqar Younis has the opportunity to solve the [cricketing] issues," he added. Younis further commented on the recent dip in the Pakistan men's cricket team's performance and emphasized the need to improve the infrastructure.

"Pakistan's performance used to be on the top in the past. I think we need to work on our infrastructure," Younis said.

The former captain, who led Pakistan to their maiden T20 World Cup title in 2009, also called for the resumption of the bilateral cricketing ties between fierce rivals Pakistan and India.

"Pakistan-India cricket should go ahead. I wish someone like Pervez Musharraf would come and restore Pak-India cricket," said Younis. Younis Khan also expressed his desire for India to visit Pakistan for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

He also highlighted that the Pakistan team was always treated with respect whenever they visited India. "I wish to see Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli playing in Pakistan [in Champions Trophy 2025]. Whenever we toured India, we were treated with utmost respect," he concluded.

National Street Child football team qualifies for playoff stage in Norway Cup

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Street Child Football Team has secured their third consecutive victory in the Norway Cup, defeating Norwegian club Ostersi by 3-1 in the final group stage match.

With this win, the team has qualified for the playoff stage, maintaining their unbeaten streak in the tournament. Captain Muhammad Adeel, Shahid Anjum and Abdul Ghani scored goals for the national team.

Both teams were equalized with 1-1 goal each in the first half while Pakistan team scored two goals and secured their lead.

The National Street Child Football Team will play their first playoff match on August 1.

Mohammad Adeel, the captain of the national street child football team, while talking after the match, said we have practiced hard and learned new techniques.

The national street child football team is the runner-up in Norway Cup 2023.

Manchester City fined over £2 million for delayed kick-offs

LONDON (AFP): Manchester City have been fined £2.09 million (\$2.68 million, 2.48 million euros) by the Premier League for 22 instances of delaying the kick-off or restart of matches, it was announced Wednesday.

The English champions have accepted the punishment, which relates to rule infringements over the past two seasons, the league has confirmed.

This issue is unconnected to the 115 charges City are facing for alleged breaches of the Premier League's financial regulations.

A Premier League statement said: "The Premier League and Manchester City FC have entered into a sanction agreement after the club accepted it had breached Premier League Rule L.33 relating to kick-off and restart obligations." City have been punished on a sliding scale for each offence.

Their first, a delay of one minute and 18 seconds to the start of the second half against Crystal Palace in August 2022, led to a warning.

But fines ranging from £10,000 to £200,000 have been imposed for each subsequent breach.

The longest delay was two minutes and 46 seconds for the start of the final game of the season against West Ham last season, when City clinched a record fourth successive English title.

The statement added: "Rules relating to kick-offs and restarts help ensure the organisation of the competition is set at the highest possible professional standard and provides certainty to fans and participating clubs.

"It also ensures the broadcast of all 380 League matches around the world is kept to schedule."

City have not commented directly but the ruling said: "The club has apologised for the accepted breaches... and confirmed that it has reminded the club's players and football management teams of their responsibilities in complying with Rule L.33."

Pakistan U19 to take part in UAE Tri-Series in November

PESHAWAR (APP): The Pakistan men's U19 cricket team will take on Afghanistan and host United Arab Emirates (UAE) in a 50-over Tri-Series from November 13-26.

Pakistan will face the UAE in the event opener, venue for the event would be confirmed in due course time. The tournament would be played on a double-league format with the top two sides qualifying for the final.

This series will be played in the build up to the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup 2024 and will provide an excellent opportunity to the three sides to finalize their preparations for the competition, whose details will be announced by the ACC in due course.

With the PCB National

U19 Cup (one-day) and Championship (three-day) due to commence in October, these events will be good platforms and opportunities to the emerging and talented cricketers to perform consistently so that they can impress the selectors and strengthen their claims for the tri-series and the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup selection.

PCB Director International, Usman Wahla while talking to media men said: "We are delighted that the Pakistan Men's U19 team will be taking part in a highly competitive U19 tri-series in the UAE just before the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup. This will be a great opportunity for the young players to grow and nurture their skills."

"The PCB is thankful to the Emirates Cricket Board for arranging this tri-series which also shows strong bilateral ties between both the Boards and our shared commitment towards developing young players," he said.

U19 Tri-Series (50 overs) fixtures (venue to be confirmed in due course):
13 November – Pakistan vs UAE
15 November – Afghanistan vs Pakistan
17 November – UAE vs Afghanistan
19 November – Pakistan vs Afghanistan
21 November – Afghanistan vs UAE
23 November – UAE vs Pakistan
26 November – Final.

Climber Shigri's body retrieved from K2's bottleneck

ISLAMABAD (APP): An outfit of high-altitude porters (HAPs) has successfully retrieved the body of climber Muhammad Hassan Shigri from the bottleneck of K2 at a staggering 8,200m and reached advance base camp. Shigri tragically lost his life at this perilous spot last year.

This marks the first-ever rescue mission of its kind on K2 from such an extreme altitude. The feat happens to fall on the very same day that K2 was first ever submitted 70 years ago. The team dug out the body from bottleneck of snow on Monday (July 29) and reached advance base camp (ABC) at an incredible speed on



Wednesday (July 31) at approximately 6:30pm.

Climber Naila Kiani, approached by Hassan's family for assistance, leveraged her ongoing Mahreq clean-up project at K2 to undertake this humanitarian mission. Utilising the existing infrastructure kept the costs minimal, and the project was organised swiftly. Previous attempts to

fund such expeditions were too costly and did not receive approval. By conducting this mission on a not-for-profit basis, the team managed to reduce costs to one-third of the original estimates provided to the Gilgit-Baltistan government. However, the mission is yet to receive sponsorship to fund the humanitarian effort.

Key team members included climbers Dilawar Sadpara, Akbar Hussein Sadpara, Zakir Hussein Sadpara, Mohammed Murad Sadpara, Ali Mohammed Sadpa, Naila Kiani (Project Lead), Imran Ali (Logistics Manager), Wali Ullah Fallahi (DC Shigar).

GB women's hockey earn first win of Olympics

PARIS (Agencies): Hannah French scored the winning goal as Great Britain boosted their chances of progression at the Paris Olympics with a 2-1 victory over South Africa.

French's third-quarter strike gave Team GB their first win of the women's tournament at Yves-du-Manoir Stadium, following defeats by Spain and Australia that had put them bottom of Pool B.

South Africa opened the scoring inside six minutes when Kayla de Waal nudged the ball in after a penalty corner. But a fine strike from Olympic debutant Amy Costello, in a penalty corner move straight off the training pitch, brought GB level before half-time.

Moments after hitting the



post, French took her chance at the second time of asking. After beautifully controlling a lifted pass, she struck the ball hard past South Africa goalkeeper Anelle Lloyd. "Back-to-back losses sucked the air a little bit out of us, but it's tournament hockey, we've still got two more games to go so it was thinking forward rather than looking back," said Costello.

"In Tokyo the girls lost two in the pool and still came out and got a bronze medal. We've still got

potential to win two more games, so always forward-focused." French added: "Today was all about the three points, so I was thankful to see [her goal] go in the back of the net. It doesn't matter who scores it."

The win moves GB up the pool standings into fourth, with Australia and the United States still to play on Wednesday. Only the top four from each pool of six will progress to the quarter-finals. GB face the United States on Thursday in their penultimate pool match, before taking on Argentina on Saturday.

They have won a medal at the past three Olympics, including that memorable gold in Rio eight years ago, sandwiched by bronzes in both London and Tokyo.

Tearful Marta sent off as Brazil lose to Spain



BORDEAUX (AFP): Brazil legend Marta exited the pitch in tears on Wednesday after being sent off in her side's 2-0 defeat by World Cup holders Spain which left them in danger of a group-stage exit in the women's Olympic football tournament.

Marta was shown a straight red card in first-half stoppage time in Bordeaux for a rash and dangerous high tackle on Spain captain Olga Carmona right in front of the referee.

The 38-year-old was inconsolable as she walked off the pitch in what could turn out to be her final act at an Olympic Games.

The multiple winner of the FIFA women's world player of the year award is appearing at her sixth

Olympics and featured in the teams that won silver in 2004 and 2008.

Her hopes of appearing again in this tournament first depend on whether Brazil make it through to the quarter-finals.

Athenea del Castillo tapped in midway through the second half to put already-qualified Spain ahead, and Alexia Putellas curled in a beauty for the second goal in the 17th minute of an interminable amount of injury time.

Spain's third straight win in Group C means they will head to Lyon for a last-eight tie on Friday.

Japan finished second in the group after beating Nigeria 3-1 at the same time in Nantes, with Maika Hamano, Mina Tanaka and Hikaru Kitagawa scoring their

goals, the latter from a fine free-kick.

Christy Ucheibe replied for Nigeria, who go home without a point.

Japan, silver medallists in 2012, will play their quarter-final in Marseille.

Brazil, who finish with three points, can still go through to the last eight as one of the two best third-placed sides in the three groups, but that depends on the outcome of Wednesday's remaining matches.

Even if they do go through to the last eight, Marta would have to hope Brazil remain in the competition long enough for her to return after suspension.

The United States have already qualified from Group B before facing Australia, with Germany taking on Zambia at the same time. Later on, Canada take on Colombia in Nice in Group A and the reigning Olympic champions have to win if they are to advance.

That is after an appeal against a six-point deduction related to a drone spying scandal was dismissed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport earlier on Wednesday.

Hosts France need a point against New Zealand to guarantee their own progress.

Zheng ends Kerber's career to reach semi-finals

PARIS (AFP): Zheng Qinwen became just the second Chinese player to reach an Olympic singles semi-final on Wednesday, ending the career of former world number one Angelique Kerber.

Zheng, the women's world number seven, fought back from a break down in the deciding set, sealing a 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 7-6 (8/6) win on her fourth match point. Only China's Li Na has previously played an Olympic singles semi-final in either men's or women's tennis, reaching the last four at the 2008 Beijing Games.

There were six breaks of serve in a topsy-turvy first set before 36-year-old Kerber, a silver medallist at the 2016 Games, won the tie-break. Zheng battled back to level the match but was in deep trouble when trailing 4-1 in the decider.

However, she broke Kerber to love in the seventh



game to rein in the German and get back on serve, with the set going to a tie-break. Zheng, who hit 64 winners in total, took charge against her exhausted opponent in the breaker, establishing a 6-3 lead, but she squandered three match points.

However, as the drama mounted under the roof of Court Philippe Chatrier, Zheng made her fourth match point count as

Kerber dumped a forehand into the net in the final shot of her tennis career.

The German, now ranked at 212 in the world, announced last week that she would retire at the end of the Games after returning from maternity leave at the start of the season.

"What can I say? I gave everything," she said. "I have loved playing tennis. Now I can leave in peace."

Tahseenullah elected as President KP Jiu Jitsu Association

PESHAWAR (APP): Tahseenullah Khan was elected as the President of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Jiu Jitsu Association and Naem Jan as Secretary General in an election meeting held here on Wednesday.

In this connection, the General Council of Jiu Jitsu Association was held under the Chairmanship of Syed Abid Shah, in which the election of new officials was carried out according to the constitution of the association under the Pakistan Sports Board Policy.

The meeting was attended by Dr Haris Ashraf, representative of Pakistan Jiu Jitsu Federation and Sabir Khan and Amal Gul Afridi on behalf of Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa acted as observers.

Barkat Ali, Haider Ali from Malakand Division, Naveed Rehman, Fazal Muhammad from Peshawar

Division, Salimullah from Dera Ismail Khan Division, Ghafar, Rahb Haider from Kohat Division, Muhammad Kamran from Mardan Division, Sajid Kayani from Hazara Division, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Jiu Jitsu Association Secretary General Tahseen Ullah, Treasurer Sajjad Khan, Vice President Ahmad Ala Gul Afridi and Aamir Khan participated.

Other elected officials included Senior Vice President Ala Gul Afridi, Vice Presidents Riaz Marwat, Aamir Khan, Muhammad Kamran, Joint Secretary Hazrat Ali, Joint Secretary Women Rahb Haider, Treasurer Sajid Khan, Executive Body Members Ghaffar, Sajid Kayani, Shoaibullah, Muhammad Saleem are included.

Syed Abid Shah while addressing the meeting said that the sport of jujitsu is gaining popularity all over the world

and this sport is played throughout the province. He congratulated the new officials and hoped that the cabinet would take all possible measures for the promotion of jujitsu and the welfare of the athletes across the province.

In his brief speech, Tahseen Ullah Khan, the newly elected president, thanked the house for reposing confidence in him and assured that he would work hard for the promotion of Jujitsu in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said soon a Inter-District and Inter-Region Jiu Jitsu Championship for boys and girls would be organized so that good and competitive teams could be selected through competitions instead of a selected lot. He said a refresher course would also be organized in due course of time so that the new coaches and referees would be updated accordingly.



In brief

IRSA releases 347,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 347,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 509,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1526.89 feet and was 128.89 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 307,500 cusecs and 180,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1202.15 feet, which was 154.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 44,600 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 255,400, 194,800, 145,600 and 79,900 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 77,900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 51,900 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Police arrest two bike lifters

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested two bike lifters and street criminals and recovered four stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession, said a Police spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, Waris Khan Police Station managed to net two bike lifters namely Maqsood and Faizan and recovered four stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Rawal, Nasir Nawaz said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind bars.

ANF recovers 242 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country recovered 242 kg drugs and arrested 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that 2.5 kg ice was recovered from a parcel booked for New Zealand at a courier office in Rawalpindi. 96 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near a restaurant in Quetta. 64 intoxicated tablets were recovered from an accused arrested near GCP Chaman. Over 40 kg hashish and 30 kg opium were recovered from 2 suspects netted in Sheikhpura. 40.8 kg hashish and 15.6 kg opium were recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Ravi Toll Plaza Lahore and 3 accused were arrested. The spokesman said that 2.4 kg hashish was recovered from two accused in Sadder in Rawalpindi. 300 grams ice and 200 grams heroin were recovered from the possession of an accused near Chowk Sambaryal. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.

AIOU announces exam schedule

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University has announced the schedule of Matric, FA, and I. Com exams for the Spring 2024 semester. According to the AIOU, the exams will commence on September 02 at exam centers across the country. The date sheet is available on the university's website, (www.aiou.edu.pk), while roll number slips are being uploaded to students' portals.

Senator Sherry criticise MoCCE's lack of coordination

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairing a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman along with the Committee members expressed serious concerns about the Ministry of Climate Change's planning, priorities and preparedness in addressing Pakistan's climate and environmental policies.

The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam, the Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change, and officials from relevant departments.

Senator Rehman expressed her profound disappointment with the Ministry's presentation on climate change. "I am appalled at the lack of clar-

ity, coordination, and capacity displayed in the presentation. As the Chair of the Standing Senate Committee, I expected to see a clear strategic plan, priorities, and initiatives to address this pressing issue."

Marking the urgency and scale of the challenges Pakistan faces, Senator Rehman said that climate change is a national crisis requiring a coordinated, yet technically proficient response. "I am shocked to see an outdated last century presentation with no clear priorities, no flagship initiatives, and no strategic NDC agenda or updates."

The Senator also voiced grave concerns over the Ministry's lack of ownership of key initiatives and policies, with a status quo approach that had little hope of impacting policy outcomes or meeting

national commitments. She called for a redesign of priorities as well as the development of a tailored climate finance strategy by the Ministry to meet the country's specific needs and sensibilities. "What is also worrying is the profound level of disconnect within the ministry with its own institutional mandate. It is the ministry's job to forge strategic partnerships and communication with other ministries, but the institutions within the Ministry of Climate Change are not even coordinating among themselves. The Committee was appalled at the egregious lack of coordination amongst the Ministry's own departments," Senator Rehman pointed out.

Senator Rehman stressed the need for a comprehensive communication strate-

Tessori offers condolences following Ethiopia Landslide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori on Wednesday visited the Ethiopian embassy to express condolence on demise of over 230 people in landslide incident, in Gofa Zone of the Southern part of Ethiopia.

Upon arrival at the embassy, Special Envoy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia Jemal Beker Abdula, received the Governor Sindh. The Governor Sindh expressed solidarity with the government and people of Ethiopia over the tragic incident and sympathized

with the bereaved families.

He expressed his support and commitment to jointly work with the government of Ethiopia in addressing the climate change issues.

Ambassador Jemal Beker briefed the governor about relief and rescue efforts of the government of the Ethiopia being carried out for permanent relocation of the affected persons in sustainable manner.

The ambassador also highlighted the Green Legacy Initiative of Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Dr. Abiy Ahmed which was aimed at combating climate challenges and ensuring food security in the country

and region as well.

He informed the Governor that Ethiopia had planted more than 40 billion seedlings of indigenous plants of fruits, vegetable and animal feed in the last four years through massive mobilization of the masses. Ambassador Jemal Beker expressed his commitment to work with the Government of Pakistan for addressing the climate change issues through joint initiatives under the Green Legacy Initiative. The matters of mutual interests including bilateral and multilateral cooperation also came under discussion during the meeting.

NAB warns against scammers posing as officials

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Islamabad has advised the general public to be beware of those who deceive people by impersonating as high ranking NAB officials.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the general public is hereby informed that some elements have been found impersonating themselves as Senior NAB officials and coercing government officials and busi-

nessmen through phone calls/SMS/WhatsApp calls/fake letters and other tactics to extort money or obtain illegal concessions.

NAB has no direct or indirect association with these actions. NAB issues call up letters on official letterhead and does not make phone call/SMS/WhatsApp message for any correspondence. General Public is hereby advised to be aware of such malicious acts. If anyone pretends to be NAB

official and compels into illegal activities or blackmails for money, same may immediately be reported to the following contact number/email address.

Remember that legal action is already being taken against such culprits and many have been arrested. The public can contact at Phone Number: 051-9216549, Mobile/WhatsApp No: 0303-0111684 or Email Address: complaint.int@nab.gov.pk.

Minister urges opposition to collaborate on key challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Wednesday has made a heartfelt appeal to the opposition parties to join hands with the government and work towards healing the nation's deep-seated wounds.

Talking to a Private news channel, he stressed that the government is willing to listen to the opposition's ideas and work together to find solutions that benefit the people, adding, in the leadership of Mian Shahbaz Sharif, the government is fully determined to bring betterment in the economy of the country and we are working day and night to

achieve our target goals.

He further said that the government has reaffirmed its commitment to boosting the country's value-added exports by establishing industries that drive value-added growth.

This strategic move aims to enhance the nation's export competitiveness, reduce reliance on traditional commodities, and increase foreign exchange earnings, he added.

By prioritizing value-added exports and industry growth, the incumbent government is poised to unlock the nation's full economic potential, drive innovation, and secure a brighter future for generations to come, he added.

Replying to a question, he said we are now going towards export led growth and we are establishing industrial zones through the relocation of Chinese industries which will help us in this regard.

Political stability is the linchpin for progress and prosperity, and the incumbent government recognizes its paramount importance, he added.

As the country grapples with numerous challenges, the government is making concerted efforts to establish a stable political environment, essential for revitalizing the economy and addressing the pressing concerns of its citizens, he mentioned.

Outsourcing of RWMC to help improve sanitation system

RAWALPINDI (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi, Hasan Waqar Cheema here on Wednesday said that outsourcing of Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) would help improve sanitation system in Rawalpindi district.

The DC in a meeting was given a detailed briefing regarding outsourcing of RWMC. The DC said that the outsourcing is being done to further improve the sanitation system. Hasan Waqar informed that organized sanitation systems are being introduced in Rawalpindi city as well as in

all tehsils of the district. For the first time in the history of Punjab, work is being done on such a large scale to ensure cleanliness, he added.

The DC directed the officers that the outsourcing process should be completed and all the arrangements should be finalized in this regard. Manual and mechanical sweeping, waste collection, drain cleaning and waste disposal would be ensured, he said adding, preference would be given to such companies which have modern machinery.

For the first time, special attention is being given to garbage dump-

ing, Hasan Waqar Cheema informed. Every tehsil must have at least one environment friendly dumping site, the DC said. Any negligence in cleanliness operations after outsourcing would not be tolerated, he added.

The municipality department would monitor outsourcing system digitally including biometric attendance, vehicle tracking management system, vehicle weighing at dumping site, digital fleet monitoring and container clearance through geo-tagging and prompt resolution of the complaints, the DC informed.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House. —APP Photo

gy to raise public awareness about climate change. She also critiqued the Ministry for its lack of awareness about plastic regulation and its failure to track

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). "It is astonishing that the Ministry is unaware of the plastics regulation while it was on the agenda,

and there is no tracking of our NDCs," she asserted.

Furthermore, she drilled down the significant oversight of omitting any mention of energy transition, a key aspect of climate strategy, in the presentation. "Energy transition is a crucial part of our climate action plan, and its absence in the presentation is deeply

concerning," she added.

On the occasion, PM's aide, Romina Khurshid Alam informed the Committee that the Ministry officials were working on making national priorities during the Climate Change Authority formulation and would deliver a comprehensive briefing in this regard to

the forum in the next meeting. She added that the Prime Minister had notified two task force committees on heatwaves and floods that were closely working with NDMA and public communication campaigns were underway amid strict monitoring and compliance with the provinces.

FIA granted three-day custody of accused

ISLAMABAD (APP): A lower court on Wednesday granted the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) a three-day physical remand of three accused in a major corruption case involving the Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation (APPC), the state-run news organization.

The Anti-Corruption Wing of the FIA presented the three accused—Ghawas Khan, former Project Director at APPC; Musawar Imran, former Deputy Director; and Saad Muddasar, former Chief Computer Engineer—before Civil Judge Judicial Magistrate Muhammad Abbas Shah.

At the beginning of the hearing, the FIA's investigation officer explained that the accused were arrested following the dismissal of their interim bail petitions by the high court. The officer requested a fourteen-day physical remand to facilitate the recovery of records and funds.

In response, APPC's counsel, Sardar Yaqoob Mastoi Advocate, argued that the accused, all members of the procurement committee, had submitted 60 cheques to the AGPR with forged signatures. He alleged that Rs124 million, public money, was embezzled through these fraudulent activities and urged the court to grant the FIA's request for physical remand to recover the stolen funds.

Defense attorneys opposed the request, contending that the case dated back to 2022, involving a total of 11 accused. They noted that their clients had been on interim bail for four months and had cooperated with the investigation. They requested the court to deny the physical remand.

After considering the arguments, the court approved a three-day physical remand of the accused.

It is pertinent to mention that Islamabad High Court's (IHC) Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri had dismissed the interim bail petitions of the accused the previous day, leading to their arrest by the FIA outside the courtroom.

APPC's legal advisor, Sardar Yaqoob Mastoi, informed the high court that the accused had attempted to evade arrest despite the lower court's termination of their bail. He alleged that the accused had inflicted significant financial loss on the state-run news agency through their corrupt actions.

Azam Tarar chairs meeting of body for drug pricing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Wednesday chaired the first meeting of the committee formed to give recommendations for independent drug pricing in the country.

Under the directions of the prime minister, a committee has been constituted to address drug pricing in Pakistan, said a press release. The meeting was attended by relevant stakeholders who presented an overview of the operations of independent price authorities and their functions worldwide, highlighting best practices.

The committee deliberated on the best model for Pakistan, considering various viewpoints from all stakeholders. It was decided that a detailed working paper will be prepared for the next meeting. This paper will identify the current issues related to the pharmaceutical industry, with a focus on pricing in the market.

Key areas to be addressed include, issues related to pricing in the market, medicine imports and the market distortions they cause and categories of drugs that fall outside the domain of government

pricing. Additionally, efforts and plans will be made to create a favorable environment to attract back international pharmaceutical companies that previously operated in Pakistan.

The committee emphasized that the functions of pricing and regulation are distinct. The regulator's role is to ensure the standards of medicine, whereas pricing should be driven by market mechanisms without state control. Further updates will be shared as the committee progresses in its efforts to improve the pharmaceutical industry's framework in Pakistan.

China pledges 20,000 health kits for schoolgirls

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Embassy of China on Wednesday announced to donate 20,000 health kits for the schoolgirls in Balochistan with an aim to ensure their well-being.

Under the inspiring theme of 'She Power', the noble initiative aims to significantly promote the use of essential hygiene products, and foster a culture of health awareness.

The launching ceremony, held here at the Chinese embassy was graced by distinguished guests, including Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq commended the embassy's initiative, which he said, would have a profound and

far-reaching impact on the health of women.

He also mentioned the generosity of the Chinese government in donating a solar system to the parliament and implementing various other initiatives.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed optimism about the future of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), anticipating a surge in new projects and collaborations.

In his remarks, he also praised the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping and acknowledged China's unwavering commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and fostering sustainable development in Pakistan.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong said distribution of health kits would be a pivotal step towards achieving

the goals of improved health facilities.

He highlighted the strengths of both Chinese and Pakistani women and acknowledged their vital role in bolstering economic stability. He reiterated China's commitment to intensifying cooperation with Pakistan, aligning with the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China and his productive meeting with the Chinese leadership.

The Ambassador underscored the significance of agriculture exports in fortifying Pakistan's economy and highlighted various projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), including the Gwader airport. Senator Saleem Mandviwala was also present.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister and Chairman PCB Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui distributing Sports Kits and Track Suits among the students during distribution ceremony at Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG), F-6/2.

Gov't steers economy back on growth path: Ihsan Afzal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Industry, Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan said here on Wednesday that the country's economy, left reeling by the previous Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government, has been put back on track by the incumbent political dispensation.

"Ever since PTI Imran Khan is in jail, the economy of the country is moving towards betterment," he said while addressing a press conference along with Spokesperson of government on legal affairs, Barrister Aqeel Malik.

Highlighting some key indicators, he said that inflation had decreased significantly, falling to 12.6 percent in June 2024 from 38 percent in June of the previous year. Ihsan said that the government is committed to

reducing the inflation rate to a single digit by 2025, and efforts were currently underway to achieve this goal.

He said that the Pakistani rupee also stabilized, and things are moving in a positive direction. Although it was challenging to stabilize the exchange rate, we've successfully achieved it. The country's exports have also shown significant growth in the fiscal year 2024, with an increase of \$3 billion, reaching to a total of \$30 billion while remittances were also showing positive growth.

Fitch rating has also upgraded the country's debt outlook, adding it happened only because of the restoration International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. He emphasized that the current government has a comprehen-

sive plan to uplift every sector adding work on the privatization and rightsizing of the government was going on.

He said that the government was determined to provide relief to the common man. The coordinator said the Prime Minister and his team have worked tirelessly to achieve economic recovery. He underscored that the government has protected 84 percent of domestic electricity consumers, who consumed 200 units, adding there would be no price increased in their bill for next 3 month as the government has allocated Rs 50 billion for this purpose.

He said that the government has also announced a package of Rs 175 billion for industry besides taking measures to reform this sector.

Shaheen meets Natalia

KABUL (BNA): Mohammad Suhail Shaheen, head of Political Office of IEA in Doha, Qatar, announced a significant meeting with Italy's Chargé d'Affaires for Afghanistan, Mrs. Natalia Quintavalle. This announcement was made on Shaheen's social media platform X. During their discussion, Suhail Shaheen and Mrs. Quintavalle covered various pressing topics including the current political climate, the state of bilateral relations, and cooperation in the health sector.

Kabir attended ceremony

KABUL (BNA): Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs of IEA, attended the inauguration ceremony of Iran's newly elected President, Masoud Pezeshkian. The event, held in Tehran, was attended by representatives from numerous countries and international organizations. In addition to attending the ceremony, Mawlawi Abdul Kabir extended his congratulations to President Pezeshkian on his election, wishing him success and progress in his new role.

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

Diarrhea outbreak in Bamyan: 5,000 children and adolescents treated

BAMYAN (TOLONews): Doctors at Bamyan Provincial Hospital report an increase in diarrhea cases in the center and districts of this province. They say that since the beginning of Saratan (solar calendar), they have treated over 5,000 children and adolescents.

Basiroddin Maroof, chief physician at Bamyan Provincial Hospital, said: "This summer, we had 5,432 diarrhea patients, most of whom came from the center, districts of Bamyan, and neighboring provinces."

Excessive heat, lack of hygiene, transmission of viruses, and poverty are said to be the main causes of the diarrhea outbreak.

Dr. Agha Shafa has stated: "Environmental hygiene, the economic level of the community, and the type of child nutrition affect the disease. Most children suffer from malnutrition and easily contract diseases."

Dr. Zalmai Golzad added: "The usual cause of this disease is a type of virus that becomes more active in hot weather, and poor hygiene is another contributing factor."

Dr. Ali Kazem Mousavi advised: "For patients with diarrhea, rice water, yogurt, and bananas should be given, and iced water, sugary, and fatty foods should be avoided."

Families of some patients express concern over providing healthy food and treatment for their children due to poverty and unemployment.

Khadija, the mother of a sick child, said: "Life is not good, and I cannot afford treatment for my child outside the hospital."

According to doctors, in addition to diarrhea and vomiting, many children are also suffering from measles and malnutrition and are currently under treatment in this hospital.

Carpet production faces market challenges

BADAKHSHAN (TOLONews): Several carpet weavers in Badakhshan say that carpet production in this province has increased, but the lack of a market for sales remains a serious challenge.

They are calling on officials in the caretaker government to market these products.

However, the Badakhshan Directorate of Industry and Commerce said that the construction of a special women's trade center in Faizabad, the provincial capital, is underway, and nearly 70 women are engaged in carpet weaving there.

The women in this workshop said that carpet production has increased compared to previous years, but the lack of a suitable market for sales and a carpet washing center are serious challenges they face.

Roya, a carpet weaver, said: "There are many challenges in this sector, for example, there is no market or washing facilities for carpets. If these problems are resolved, our products will sell well."

Regarding this, Sohaila, another carpet weaver,



added: "We ask the Islamic Emirate to create a market where we can sell our products."

The increase in carpet production in Badakhshan is said to be due to girls who have been deprived of education now turning to carpet weaving.

Abdul Ali Yaftali, the head of the Badakhshan Carpet Weavers' Union, said: "The girls who were school students and were unemployed at home came forward, and carpet weaving has grown significantly."

The Badakhshan Directorate of Industry and Commerce pledged to make efforts to market these women's handicrafts

and establish a special women's trade center in the province.

Samaruddin Rahmani, the director of business affairs at the Badakhshan Directorate of Industry and Commerce, said: "The Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Badakhshan is seriously working on this issue to hold exhibitions for carpets and other entrepreneurs' products."

According to statistics from the Badakhshan Directorate of Industry and Commerce, more than a thousand women in 15 districts of this province are currently engaged in business activities, and this trend is increasing.

Eight new schools to be built in Faryab

FARYAB (TOLONews): The Directorate of Education of Faryab states that the construction of eight boys' and girls' schools has begun in this province, funded with 118 million Afghanis in financial assistance from Norway.

Upon completion, these schools will provide proper shelter for at least 3,000 boys and girls in Faryab.

According to the Directorate of Education of Faryab, these schools are being built in the districts of Qaisar, Almar, Pashtun Kot, Chahar Saye, and the city of Maimana.

Mohammad Tahir Jawad, the Director of Education of Faryab, said: "Today, we witness the foundation-laying of eight schools across Faryab,

which will be laid over two days with a budget of over 118 million Afghanis funded by donor institutions, and they will be completed within the next six months."

Residents of Faryab say that in the past two decades, due to the lack of schools in remote areas of the province, many of their children have been deprived of education.

Habibullah Wahidi, a resident of Faryab, said: "Previously, there were economic problems, and Muslims couldn't send their children to schools via rickshaws, so most were deprived. We even have individuals who have four children who have grown up but remain illiterate."

Allah Dad, another resi-

dent of Faryab, said: "These two schools have been built between two villages. God willing, it will be a source of pride for both villages. In this area, people are completely illiterate. Our people and our children are thirsty for knowledge and literacy."

Sayed Tajuddin, a teacher, said: "Out of the 28 schools we have in Almar district, 10 schools lack proper buildings, and students are learning under tents, in the shade of trees, and in rented houses, enduring many challenges each year."

There are currently 498 schools in the province, with approximately 305,000 students engaged in education in these schools.

Afghanistan embassies continue consular services

KABUL (Khaama Press): Zalmai Rasoul, the Afghanistan Ambassador to London, has responded to the suspension of consular activities by some Afghan consulates in European countries, stating that the Afghan consulate in the United Kingdom will continue its operations without interruption.

In a statement released on Tuesday, July 30th, he affirmed the embassy's commitment to supporting the rights and interests of Afghan citizens abroad.

Ambassador Rasoul emphasized that "the Afghanistan Embassy in London firmly declares that all consular and diplomatic services will continue without any disruption." He added that "we are committed to supporting the rights and interests of Afghan citizens abroad and will utilize all our resources and facilities to provide the best possible services."

Yesterday, the Taliban Ministry announced that the activities of 14 Afghanistan diplomatic and consular missions in European countries, which operate without coordination with the ministry, were deemed "unauthorized and a clear violation of accepted principles."

The ministry's statement indicated that the Afghanistan missions in London, Belgium, Berlin, Bonn, Switzerland, Austria, France, Italy, Greece, Poland, Sweden, Norway, Canada, and Australia were considered invalid due to their refusal to cooperate and coordinate with the ministry.

In response, Nazifullah Salarzi, the Afghanistan

Ambassador to Belgium, has confirmed that consular services at all Afghanistan consular missions in Belgium and the European Union will continue. He asserted that the Afghanistan Embassy in Belgium remains recognized by the host country.

The conflicting statements from Afghanistan's diplomatic representatives highlight ongoing issues within Afghanistan's foreign service operations. Despite the Taliban administration's decision to invalidate certain consular activities, key representatives, such as those in London and Brussels, maintain their commitment to uninterrupted service.

This comes amid the fact that no countries currently recognize the Taliban regime in Afghanistan as a legitimate government.

Afghanistan conducted \$10b in trade in last year

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Afghanistan has announced that the country has conducted \$10 billion in trade over the past year.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the ministry highlighted the achievements of the past year, detailing that this total includes \$1.8 billion in exports and over \$8 billion in imports.

However, this imbalance is a concerning indicator of the country's economic health. The disproportionate ratio of imports to exports suggests a troubling dependency on foreign goods and services, which may undermine local industries and contribute to a persistent trade deficit.

The statement also noted significant increases in exports to various countries, with Kazakhstan up by 2.5%, China by 16%, Iran by 19%, Turkey by 53%, and Russia by 54%. Additionally, the ministry reported that 100 new production factories have started operations, approximately 1,000 industrial companies have been issued licenses, and over 23,000 investment licenses have been renewed.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce stated that over the past year, direct employment opportunities have been created for 646,015 individuals, while indirect opportunities have reached around 4.4 million. The ministry attributed these job opportunities to the empowerment of small and medium enterprises and various agreements.

Previously, the National Statistics and Information Authority had reported that Afghanistan's export and import value for the fiscal year 1402 reached \$10.3 billion.

Meanwhile, there is a significant imbalance between exports and imports. This discrepancy not only raises questions about the sustainability of economic growth but also signals potential vulnerabilities in Afghanistan's trade strategy and economic stability. Addressing these disparities will be crucial for achieving a more balanced and resilient economy.

Detentions, torture of ex-security forces

KABUL (Khaama Press): In its latest report, UNAMA revealed that from April to June 2024, it documented at least 60 cases of arbitrary detention, 10 cases of torture and mistreatment, and five cases of killings involving former government officials and former Afghanistan security forces members.

The report specifies that among these killings, unidentified individuals carried out four, and one was attributed to the Taliban.

According to UNAMA, during this period, eight armed attacks and separate clashes resulted in 16 civilian deaths and 27 injuries.

Some of these attacks were attributed to the Islamic State's Khorasan branch targeting Shia communities, with incidents occurring in Kabul, Herat, Bamyan, Kandahar, and Badakhshan. The report notes that there were four instances of shootings and armed assaults linked to ISIS, while four clashes in Badakhshan were reportedly conducted by the Taliban.

The Taliban reportedly conducted four clashes in Badakhshan.

UNAMA's report addresses ongoing restrictions imposed by the Taliban on women and girls, including limitations on their rights, reduced salaries for female civil servants, and restrictions on movement and employment. The report highlights that the Taliban has ordered the suspension of three media outlets and has detained four journalists in Parwan and Khost for broadcasting music and collaborating with media organizations.

IE extends condolences over Ismail's death

KABUL (Ariana News): The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid early Wednesday described slain Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh as an "intelligent and resourceful Muslim leader" who made great sacrifices.

He said the IEA administration considered it an Islamic and humanitarian obligation to defend Hamas and condemn the atrocities perpetrated by Israel.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan once again strongly requests influential parties, especially (from) the Islamic and Arab world, to do their best to stop the Zionist invasion and atrocities in the region," Mujahid said on X.

Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran after attending the inauguration of Iran's new president early Wednesday.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the assassination but suspicion quickly fell on Israel, which has vowed to kill



Haniyeh and other leaders of Hamas over the group's October 7 attack on Israel that killed 1,200 people and saw some 250 others taken hostage.

In a statement issued by the IEA around midday Wednesday, the authorities said "it was with profound sorrow that we received the news of the martyrdom of Dr. Ismail Haniyeh."

The IEA also stated that

"Haniyeh was a distinguished, wise, and resolute Palestinian leader who made significant sacrifices in his successful struggle and Jihad, fulfilling his commitment in this manner."

The Islamic Emirate also stated that Haniyeh was "left behind a legacy of resistance, selflessness, patience, perseverance, struggle, and practical sacrifice for his followers."

The IEA extended its condolences to Haniyeh's family, the leadership of Hamas, and "the Mujahideen who continue to resist the Zionist invaders."

Once again the Islamic Emirate authorities condemned "the atrocities, bombings, and genocide perpetrated by the Zionist regime against Palestinian Muslims as egregious crimes against humanity."

Afghanistan imports 17,000 tons of wheat in first quarter

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Industry and Commerce said that in the first three months of the current solar year, 17,000 tons of wheat worth over one and a half million dollars has been imported to Afghanistan from various countries.

The ministry's spokesperson Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad said that most wheat imports have been from Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, India, Turkmenistan, and the United Arab Emirates.

Jawad said: "Wheat imports to Afghanistan have come from Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, India, Turkmenistan, and the UAE. In the solar year 1402, it amounted to 1,000 tons worth 20.6 million dollars,

and in the first three months of the current solar year, about 17,000 tons worth 1.6 million dollars."

Although the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock has reported a 13% increase in wheat yields, the yield has decreased in some provinces and increased in others. For example, in province of Daikundi, yields have decreased, but in Faryab, wheat yields have increased.

Hafizullah, a farmer from Faryab, said: "This year, the wheat harvest was very good. There was rain too, but there was no market. If the market is not good, we will lose the harvest."

Khan Mohammad, a farmer from Daikundi, said: "Since last year, no wheat has been left, and this year, the wheat we harvested has reached three or

four hundred. The water was good, but ultimately the seed did not fully mature."

Meanwhile, officials in the Islamic Emirate say that Afghanistan has not yet achieved self-sufficiency in wheat production and annually buys the required amount of wheat from neighboring and regional countries.

Misbahuddin Mustaeen, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, told TOLONews: "In the year 1403, approximately 14 million hectares of land across the country have been dedicated to wheat cultivation, which will yield over 5 million metric tons of produce."

On the other hand, the Chamber of Agriculture and Livestock urges traders

and officials in the Islamic Emirate to import wheat instead of flour to ensure the investments made in the country's mills are not wasted.

"Wheat should be imported because it is a good alternative to flour. The mills currently in Afghanistan cannot compete with others, and flour tariffs are very low. The silos that traders have invested in here are now idle," said Mirwais Hajizadeh, deputy of the Chamber of Agriculture and Livestock.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, Afghanistan needs 6.9 million metric tons of wheat annually, and the country is striving to achieve self-sufficiency by expanding the cultivation and production of improved wheat seeds.

Ministry signs MoU with Northern Governmental Coal Company

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum has announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Northern Emirati (Governmental) Coal Company.

According to a press release, the MoU was signed by Sheikh-ul-Hadith Zia-ur-Rahman Al-Aryoubi, Deputy Minister for Planning and Policy, and Mawlawi Abdullah Hamid, head of the Northern Governmental Coal Company.

The agreement is part of a broader initiative directed

by the esteemed Supreme Leader to enhance the management of Emirati (Governmental) companies. As part of this initiative, companies that previously operated under various government departments have been consolidated under a new administrative entity known as the Supreme Administration of Emirati (Governmental) Companies.

Consequently, the Northern Emirati Coal Company has been transferred from the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum to this new administrative



body.

This restructuring aims to streamline operations and improve the management and oversight of

resources and activities involving Emirati companies, fostering better efficiency and coordination in the sector.

Activists urge Congress to recognize gender apartheid in Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): Three women's rights activists from the United States have called for the Taliban's gender apartheid in Afghanistan to be recognized as a crime against humanity. The activists, Heather Barr, Wahida Amiri, and Mitra Mehran, emphasized the severe lack of justice for Afghan women and girls.

During a special session of the US Congress on human rights in Afghanistan, the activists painted a grim picture of the situation faced by Afghan women and girls. They criticized the ineffective diplomatic efforts that have failed to improve their conditions.

Heather Barr of Human Rights Watch pointed out that both the UN Special Rapporteur and Afghan human rights activists have called for the Taliban's treatment of women to be recognized as gender apartheid. She

stressed that this recognition should be incorporated into international legal frameworks.

Barr described the plight of Afghan women as shocking and alarming. She noted that private discussions between Western diplomats and the Taliban have not led to any significant improvements. She condemned the exclusion of women representatives from the third Doha meeting as a major victory for the Taliban.

Wahida Amiri urged US Congress members to take action based on human dignity and international human rights conventions. She called for the US government to recognize Taliban crimes against Afghan women as crimes against humanity under Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute.

Amiri appealed to the committee to officially acknowledge gender apartheid in Afghanistan

and recognize the Taliban as leaders of such a regime. She emphasized that her plea reflects the voices of Afghan people, including women and children.

Amiri also highlighted that US support has facilitated the Taliban's repression of women and girls. She criticized the US for engaging in negotiations with the Taliban despite warnings from Afghan women and democratic forces, which led to a peace agreement.

She further criticized the US government for providing millions of dollars in humanitarian aid to the Taliban despite their oppressive policies. Amiri urged Congress to prevent taxpayer money from being used to support the Taliban.

Mitra Mehran addressed Congress, detailing how the Taliban has increasingly restricted the rights of women and

girls since taking power. She pointed out the removal of women's employment, education, freedom of expression, and access to healthcare and social activities.

Mehran called on Congress to recognize gender apartheid as a crime against humanity and condemned the Taliban's actions against women's rights organizations. She highlighted Amnesty International's reports of the detention and torture of protesting women.

The urgent appeal from these activists highlights the severe human rights violations perpetrated by the Taliban. Recognizing these actions as crimes against humanity could pressure the international community to take decisive steps to address the ongoing crisis and support Afghan women and girls in their fight for justice and equality.

US-funded program opens doors to new opportunities for youth

F.P. Report

MULTAN: US Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Andrew Schofer and Consul General Lahore Kristin Hawkins welcomed 300 new students in Multan to the US government-funded English Access Scholarship Program – an opportunity for youth ages 13-20 from disadvantaged communities to improve their English skills, learn about American culture and develop leadership abilities.

"The Access program is about far more than just gaining English-language proficiency. It develops future leaders by teaching leadership skills that extends beyond the classroom and into practical life," said DCM Schofer.

The English Access Scholarship Program is one of the highlights of the

longstanding cooperation between the United States and Pakistan. Since 2004, more than 27,000 Pakistani students have graduated from the Access program, including more than 6,000 in Punjab Province. The US Mission is currently sponsoring English programs in three cities across Punjab – Faisalabad, Multan, and DG Khan – and looks forward to continuing its educational partnerships across Pakistan.

While in South Punjab, DCM Schofer also visited the Lincoln Corner at the University of Education in Vehari. The US Mission in Pakistan's network of 20 Lincoln Corners at universities across the country offer a welcoming space for open dialogue, where students can use technology and learn employable skills for the future. Lincoln Corners

also provide access to vital resources on exchange programs, studying in the United States, scholarships, and English language learning.

DCM Schofer also attended the Pakistan-US Alumni Network's South Punjab Chapter reunion, which included alumni from Multan, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalpur, DG Khan, and other districts. Since 1950 the US government has fostered mutual understanding through educational exchanges, benefiting thousands of individuals. More than 44,000 Pakistanis are alumni of these opportunities. Pakistani alumni of US exchange programs play a significant role in the US-Pakistan relationship, and many are leaders in business, education, government, and the non-profit sector, contributing positively to their communities.

Khadijah to relinquish US citizenship

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Designer Khadijah Shah announced that she is relinquishing her US citizenship to accept a reserved National Assembly seat for women on the PTI's ticket, after former premier Imran Khan offered it to her. Pakistani law prohibits dual nationalities from serving as members of parliament.

"Making the decision to relinquish my US citizenship, which guarantees freedom, safety, and opportunity, was not easy," Shah wrote in an Instagram post. "However, Pakistan is my motherland, the place I call home, and the country where I've built my life. I cannot give up on it and my people."

She maintained that she personally experienced "unimaginable injustice over the last year and a half", but that the adversity instilled a sense of purpose within her. Shah added that she was driven by her desire to make a difference for Pakistan. "I'm honoured that Chairman PTI and my lifelong hero, Imran Khan, considered me worthy of representing his party and being part of his vision for Pakistan. I accepted his offer to take the reserved seat and hope to live up to his expectations and those of my fellow citizens," the designer stated.

Imran, Qureshi to appear via video link

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday ordered jail authorities to present Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan and vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi via video link on Sept 7 in a vandalism case.

ATC judge Tahir Abbas Sipra conducted hearing on vandalism case against Khan and Qureshi. Judge Sipra asked about Qureshi's whereabouts and whether he was a convicted prisoner, to which Qureshi's counsel responded that he wasn't a convicted prisoner and was languishing in Kot Lakhpat Jail as a political prisoner.

Later, judge Sipra adjourned hearing till Sept 7 and ordered jail superintendent to present Khan and Qureshi through video link in the next hearing. It must be remembered that twin cases of vandalism had been registered against Khan, Qureshi and the PTI workers in Khanna Police Station, Islamabad.

Several parts of country suffer internet outages

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Internet services were disrupted in parts of the country on Wednesday. The development has caused a great deal of problems for the people belonging to different fields while it also affected the work in banks and government offices.

Earlier, on July 26, the social media applications had been interrupted due to the experiment of a new internet security system named as firewall. In many reports, it has been mentioned that the process of firewall has caused the speed of the internet to slowdown which many officials corroborated. It was added in the reports that the installation of firewall started in January.

KP CM: Industry sector to be developed on modern line

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has directed the quarters concerned to come up with a comprehensive and integrated strategy for promoting industrial activities as well as attracting private sector investment in the province, adding that the provincial government's ease of doing policy must be implemented in letter and spirit by further strengthening one window operation, digitizing all the affairs of subsidiaries of the industry department and devising an effective mechanism of coordination among relevant departments.

"The ultimate goal is to develop the industry sector on modern lines for which the autonomous bodies under the department have to perform exceptionally well", he remarked. Chairing a meeting of the Industries and Technical Education Department held here the other day, the chief minister outlined the policy

guidelines and issued necessary directives for reforms in its subsidiaries including Small Industries Development Board (SIDB), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (EZDMC), Board of Investment and Trade (BOIT) and Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA).

The Chief Minister has directed that experts in the relevant fields should be included in the board of directors of aforementioned autonomous bodies, further directing for necessary amendments in the relevant legal framework with the purpose to align these important subsidiaries with the needs of modern era. He also directed the quarters concerned to collect data about causes for the closure of industries, further directing them to propose steps for immediate rehabilitation of the closed industrial units in the province.

Similarly, the chief minister directed for work on

value addition of local products, utilization of available state land for establishing new economic zones and the steps for providing low cost electricity to the industries in the province. Ali Amin Khan Gandapur further directed to come up with viable proposals for making the unfunctional woodwork centers functional and more profitable.

He also underlined the need to align the existing system of technical training with the contemporary needs and requirements, and directed that a viable plan should also be devised for this purpose. Technical training in the relevant field should be made mandatory for recruitment against electrician, carpenter, cook and all other technical posts in government departments, he directed. Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Industries Abdul Karim, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan, Secretary Industries Amir Afaq and higher authorities of SIDB, EZDMC, BOIT and TEVTA attended the meeting.



BEIRUT: Members of Imam al-Mahdi Scouts carrying coffins of Hassan and Amira Fadlallah, two siblings who were killed an Israeli strike in Lebanon.

Governor Kundi visits Kurram peace sit-in

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday visited the sit-in of Kurram district people and assured to resolve their problem.

Flanked by former federal minister Sajid Hussain Turi and MPA Riaz Khan, the Governor visited the sit-in outside Peshawar Press Club and said that it was a tragic and unforgettable incident which claimed the lives of more than 40 persons. The Governor said that after the 18th Amendment the powers have been shifted to provinces.

He said that it was the

responsibility of the Chief Minister and IGP to visit Kurram in helicopter and play role. He said that issue should be resolved according to traditions of the area. He said that we have grief and sorrow over the demise and injured persons.

The Governor asked the federal and provincial government to pay to the affected families. The Governor assured to play role as a bridge between center and province to resolve all the problems. It is worth to mention here that the residents of Kurram District have been holding a protest camp outside the Peshawar Press Club for the last several days,

demanding immediate action to address their grievances.

The camp, which has seen features banners outlining their key demands. The protesters are calling for an immediate ceasefire in Kurram District, the reopening of the Thall-Parachinar road, and the urgent transfer of all injured individuals to Peshawar. They are also demanding immediate implementation of a commission established to resolve land disputes, the dismantling of all posts under administrative supervision, and urgent measures to establish peace in the district.

Bilawal shocked over losses in rain related incidents

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed profound grief over the tragic loss of lives and property caused by the recent rains in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. He has urged the provincial government to provide immediate and non-discriminatory financial assistance to the affected individuals and families.

In a statement issued by the Media Cell Bilawal

House, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari highlighted the severe impact of the rains on various districts including Mansehra, Kohat, Bajaur, Chitral Upper and Lower, Dir Upper, Swat, and Swabi. He noted that the situation in these areas is critical, with significant damage and distress among the residents.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of lives, particularly in Shabqadar and other affected areas. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the fami-

lies mourning the loss of their loved ones, including the heartbreaking incident where 11 members of a single family perished in Kohat.

He urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to conduct a comprehensive survey of the damages due the rains and to ensure that financial assistance reaches the victims promptly and without discrimination. He emphasized the importance of taking proactive measures to prevent landslides and other accidents during the monsoon season.



QUETTA: Activists of Baloch Yakjehti Committee block Saryab Road during a protest for acceptance of their demands.

Flooding devastates Chitral infrastructure

F.P. Report

CHITRAL: Chitral is reeling from severe flooding following torrential rains, resulting in widespread destruction of roads, bridges, and homes.

In the Golain Gol area of Chitral, 14 houses and a connecting bridge have been washed away by the floods. Additionally, roads at three locations have been submerged, causing the closure of the Chitral-Mastuj-Gilgit road to all traffic. The severe weather has cut off communication with residents and led to long queues of vehicles.

Despite the catastrophic conditions in Golain Gol, relief efforts have yet to commence, and affected individuals remain without tents, exposed to the elements. The victims have urgently appealed for immediate relief operations and safe shelter.

The Meteorological Department has forecasted rain across various regions including Chitral, Dir, Swat, Malakand, Shangla, Kohistan, Battagram, Torghar, Mansehra, Abbottabad, and Buner. Thunderstorms are expected in Bajaur, Mohmand, Swabi, Mardan, Charsadda, Khyber, Kohat, Karak, Hangu, Kurram, and Orakzai, with some areas experiencing heavy rainfall. DI Khan, North and South Waziristan may also see intense rainfall at certain locations. The Meteorological Department has advised that heavy rains could increase water flow in streams and rivers in Galiyat, Kohistan, Swat, Shangla, Khyber, Nowshera, and Swabi, potentially flooding low-lying areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Landslides in mountainous regions could disrupt roads. Travelers and tourists are urged to exercise caution.

Recent rainfall data shows Peshawar received 14 mm, Chitral 15 mm, Dir Upper 50 mm, and Dir Lower 12 mm. The highest rainfall was recorded in Balakot at 102 mm, Malam Jabba 73 mm, Ghalani 31 mm, and Saidu Swat 31 mm. Temperatures ranged from 34°C in Peshawar to 20°C in Malam Jabba and 26°C in Chitral.

Police ordered to produce missing journalist

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has summoned the investigation officer (IO) of Sambrial police station in Sialkot in a case related to alleged kidnap of Sambrial Press Club Chairman Rana Shahid Mahmood. Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh of the LHC passed the order on the plea moved by the son of the journalist who went missing from Sambrial.

The judge directed the police to produce Rana Shahid Mahmood in the court and adjourned further hearing till Aug 6. The directives came after police failed to locate Mahmood who was allegedly kidnapped on July 1 from a local cafe in Sambrial.

Rana Fraz Shahid, the son of the journalist, approached the Lahore High Court that his father went missing. He said unknown people picked up his father from a local cafe. He said his father was a professional journalist and a social worker. The unknown men, he said, shifted him to some unknown location after kidnapping him.

Notice issued to FIA DG on Azma's plea

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) Wednesday issued a notice to the Director General Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on a petition filed by Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari, seeking action against persons involved in sharing her edited video on social media.

Chief Justice LHC, Aalia Neelum heard the petition filed by the information minister as an objection case and overruled the objection after hearing the initial arguments from the petitioner's counsel. The court directed the registrar's office to fix the petition for hearing on Thursday.

Azma Bukhari had sought action against those involved in sharing an edited video of her on social media. She alleged that PTI activist Falak Javed Khan edited and disseminated the video online. She argued that the incident had defamed her on social

media and violated her constitutional rights. She asked the court to direct the FIA to take action against the respondents and submit a compliance report.

After attending the case proceedings, the provincial minister while talking to media said that her videos were being uploaded again and the FIA had neither taken any action nor summoned anyone in this case. She criticized PTI members for pretending to be innocent while being involved in uploading her videos. She emphasized that she was taking a stand for herself and other women in the country. She said, "Today, a hearing took place on my petition, but no satisfactory progress has been made so far. The LHC chief justice has kindly fixed my petition for hearing on Thursday after removing the objections," she added.

The Punjab Information Minister stated that these people were not refraining from their malicious practices, but Allah had given

her enough strength and courage to endure all this. "What is the last option left for other women, except committing suicide? So should we commit suicide?" she queried. "A woman like me, who holds a public office, also has to visit the courts in the morning to seek relief for herself," she added.

Responding to a question, Azma Bokhari mentioned that she had learned a three-member committee had been constituted by the FIA regarding this case. "This committee has neither contacted me to date, nor do I know what they are doing," she added. "Those who committed indecency are still roaming free. Allah knows what kind of guarantees have been given to them. I have identified many fake accounts in the petition, but now it's not my job to point out who is posting from these fake accounts again. It should be the task of the institutions and the FIA to identify these fake accounts," she concluded.

PHC directs uninterrupted electricity to jails

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Ijaz Anwar ordered provision of uninterrupted electricity to all prisons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province during nighttime, on Wednesday. PHC also directed Peshawar Electricity Supply Company (PESCO) authorities to ensure that no load-shedding occurs in any prison during nighttime.

The court has also ordered prison authorities to address the issues of prisoners on a priority basis. If necessary, the federal and provincial governments will be directed to provide separate feeders for electricity supply to prisons.

PHC made these remarks during the hearing on plea of prison named Khurshid Ali Khan convicted for life imprisonment from Haripur Jail. The bench expressed concern over the plight of prisoners due to load-shedding and

lack of facilities.

PHC Bar Association president Fida Gul, Additional Advocate General Nauman Mohib Kakakhel, Additional Chief Secretary Abid Majeed, Inspector General (IG) Prisons Usman Mehsud, and Chief Executive Officer PESCO Akhtar Hamid Khan appeared before the court during hearing. The court asked the authorities to explain why prisons are facing load-shedding, despite the government's claims of prioritizing prisoner welfare.

PESCO CEO informed that load-shedding is scheduled in proper interval of time. However, Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim remarked that he had personally observed the conditions of prisoners while added that the welfare of inmate is government's responsibility.

PHC's Chief Justice further remarked that prisoners are infected with skin diseases which is multiplied by load-shedding. In the meantime, Additional Chief Secretary informed the court that emergency

funds had been allocated for prisoner welfare, and installation of large fans and air coolers was underway in various prisons, while the facilitation is completed in Peshawar, Mardan, and Haripur Jails.

The court emphasized that prisoners' issues should be addressed on an emergency basis, as they are unable to sleep during the day due to lack of facilities and are further affected by nighttime load-shedding. Justice Ijaz Anwar suggested exploring solarization options to reduce reliance on expensive electricity.

PHC directed the Additional Chief Secretary to submit a detailed report within 14 days, outlining the steps taken to address prisoner issues and resolve their complaints while adjourned further hearing till 13th August. PHC's divisional bench comprised of Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Ijaz Anwar also sought an explanation from authorities for not granting various types of concessions to prisoners as part of their sentences.

'TTP declared 'Fitna al-Khawarij'; 'Khariji' to precede terrorists' names'

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In a move to shift its war on terror from a physical to an ideological front, the government on Wednesday categorised the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as "Fitna al-Khawarij."

The government also made it mandatory for all institutions to use "Khariji" before the names of perpetrators of terrorist attacks on Pakistan, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Interior.

The notification, which comes at a time when terrorists have intensified attacks on armed forces, intends to expose the real "ideology" of the banned militant outfits, which it asserts have "distorted the image of Islam under the guise of religion."

According to the notification, titles such as 'Mufti' and 'Hafiz' will not be used for individuals associated with terrorist organisations, while in all correspondence and documents, the term

"Khariji" will be written and read before their names. The notification adds that the TTP terrorists have no genuine interest in the religion and such "corrupt elements" are referred to as "Fitna al-Khawarij."

The ministry directed all government institutions to implement the order immediately and use the terms in their letters and documents. Subsequently, the interior ministry banned two more terrorist outfits, including the Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group (HGBG) and Majeed Brigade (MB).

The interior ministry approved the recommendations to ban the militant groups monitoring them for two years, according to the notification. Following the interior ministry's nod, the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) added the aforementioned groups to the proscribed organisations' list. Pakistan witnessed a surge in terror activities over the past few months, particularly in its Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and

Balochistan provinces.

According to the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) Annual Security report, during the second quarter of 2024, the country suffered 380 violence-linked fatalities and 220 injuries. These stats include casualties of civilians, security personnel, and outlaws, it said. As a result of as many as 240 incidents of terror attacks and counter-terror operations, a mentioned. The KP and Balochistan, both of which share borders with neighbouring Afghanistan, have faced the brunt of terrorist attacks and reported nearly 92% of all fatalities and 87% of attacks — with the former suffering 67% and the latter 25% of all fatalities in the second quarter of 2024.

The federal government, intending to cope with rising terrorism, including cross-border infiltration, last month launched operation "Azam-e-Istehkam," a renewed national anti-terror drive as part of the National Action.