

Three terrorists killed in Dera F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Three terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire between security forces and militants here at Saggi Bridge in the limits of Daraban Police station. According to police, the CTD along with other law enforcement agencies received information about the presence of some terrorists at Saggi Bridge in Daraban Tehsil, who were looting the citizens.



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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet.

12 dead in Israeli strike on school shelter

GAZA STRIP (AFP: Gaza's civil defense agency said an Israeli strike on a school-turned-shelter killed at least 12 people on Tuesday, while the Israeli military said it struck a Hamas command center. "Our crews retrieved 12 martyrs from the Mustafa Hafiz school, which was bombed by the Israeli occupation west of Gaza City," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

Thousands of displaced Palestinians had sought refuge in the school, he said, amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military said the school was targeted because it housed a command-and-control center.

"Hamas terrorists used the command-and-control center to plan and execute attacks against IDF (Israeli army) troops and the State of Israel," the military said in a statement. It said it carried out a "precise strike on terrorists who were operating" inside the school. Bassal had earlier given a toll of seven dead and 15 wounded in the strike, which he said had hit the second floor of the school building.

The latest death toll figure could not be independently verified. AFP photos showed the school reduced to rubble, with scores of Palestinian men and women, many holding children, fleeing the site after the strike. In recent weeks, the Israeli military has struck several schools across Gaza, primarily in Gaza City, accusing them of housing Hamas command centers, which the Islamist group denies.

Earlier this month, the military had struck the Al-Tabieen School in Gaza City, which according to the civil defense agency killed 93 Palestinians, while the military said 31 militants died. Tens of thousands of displaced people have taken refuge in schools since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7 after Palestinian militants attacked southern Israel. That attack resulted in the deaths of 1,199 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures.

'Wait for Iran's retaliation against Israel could be long'

DUBAI (Reuters): There could be a long wait for Iranian retaliation against Israel, Iran's Revolutionary Guards spokesperson Alimohammad Naini said on Tuesday. The Middle East has been bracing for Iran's avowed retaliation over the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on July 31. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied that it was behind the killing. "Time is in our favor and the waiting period for this response could be long," Naini said, referring to potential retaliation against Israel.

He said "the enemy" should wait for a calculated and accurate response. Iranian leaders were weighing the circumstances and the Islamic Republic's response might not be a repeat of previous operations, he added, according to Iranian state media. Iran and Hamas have accused Israel of carrying out the strike that killed Haniyeh hours after he attended the inauguration of Iran's new president Masoud Pezeshkian. The United States has asked allies that have ties with Iran to persuade it to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East, as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is in the region to push for progress toward a Gaza ceasefire. Naini said that Tehran supported any move that led to an end to the war in Gaza and helped its people, but added: "We do not consider the US actions sincere. We consider the US to be a party to the (Gaza) war."

It's time to end ongoing war: Sisi tells Blinken

CAIRO: President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has met with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, underlining the robust strategic partnership between their two nations. Their discussions also reaffirmed a commitment to advancing joint efforts to restore security and stability in the region.

The two sides reviewed the Egyptian-American-Qatari mediation efforts to reach a ceasefire in Gaza and bring about an exchange of hostages. El-Sisi and Blinken exchanged views on the results of the latest negotiations, held last week in the Qatari capital, Doha, and on ways to achieve progress. Blinken briefed El-Sisi on the outcome of his visit to Israel, stressing the US commitment to calming the situation and reaching an agreement. He expressed huge appreciation for Egypt's role and constructive efforts. El-Sisi emphasized that it was time to end the ongoing war, resort to the voice of reason and wisdom, and uphold the language of peace and diplomacy. He warned of the dangers of the conflict expanding regionally and confirmed that saving lives should be a major driving force for all parties. A ceasefire in Gaza must be the beginning of broader international recognition of an independent Palestinian state and the enforcement of the two-state solution, he said, adding this would be the fundamental guarantor for stability in the region. The meeting was also attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and Director of the General Intelligence Service, Major General Abbas Kamel, as well as US Ambassador Herro Mustafa Garg. — Arab News

ures.

Militants also seized 251 people, 105 of whom are still held captive in Gaza, including 34 the military says are dead. Israel's retaliatory military offensive against Hamas has killed at least 40,173 people in

Gaza, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry, which does not give a breakdown of civilian and militant deaths. Most of the dead in Gaza are women and children, according to the UN human rights office.

Russia says it advances in eastern Ukraine

MOSCOW (Reuters): Russia said on Tuesday its forces had taken control of what it described as the strategically important logistics hub of Niu-York in eastern Ukraine, part of Moscow's grinding drive to capture the entire Donetsk region. Even as Ukrainian troops seek to advance in Russia's Kursk region after a surprise cross-border attack that began on Aug. 6, the fate of Niu-York - which Reuters could not independently confirm - is a reminder that Russian forces are still pressing on with their own offensive in eastern Ukraine.

Russia separately announced the formation of new military groupings in Kursk and two other border regions as it tries to repel the incursion without diverting forces from front lines deep inside Ukraine. Defence Minister Andrei Belousov said a new coordinating body had "already" begun working round the clock to liaise between regional authorities, troop commanders and the defence ministry.

But the timing of his announcement - a full two weeks after Ukrainian forces smashed through Russia's western border - served to emphasise the delayed nature of Moscow's response. He did not say why such smooth coordination had not been possible previously. Ukraine's top commander Oleksandr Syrskyi said on Tuesday his forces had pushed 28-35 km (17-22 miles) into Russia, capturing 1,263 sq km (488 square miles) of territory including 93 settlements - figures that Reuters could not independently confirm. Russia has vowed to crush the incursion, but has shown no sign it is close to expelling Ukrainian forces.

The operation has boosted Ukrainian morale, and Kyiv believes the seizure of territory and Russian prisoners has strengthened its hand in any potential negotiation. But independent military analysts say Kyiv has gambled by pulling some of its most effective combat units away from the defence of

front lines in eastern Ukraine, where Russia is continuing to advance.

The capture of Niu-York, if confirmed by Ukraine, would mark another incremental success for Russia and would open the door to further possible strategic important gains. The town, whose name is pronounced like "New York", has been devastated by heavy shelling and bombing by Russian forces who have used drones to dislodge Ukrainian forces from fortified positions.

With a pre-war population of just under 10,000, thousands of whom have since fled the fighting, the town is on the railway line to Sloviansk, one of the cities in Donetsk which Moscow has long wanted to take. Donetsk is one of four Ukrainian regions which Russia says it has annexed even though it does not fully control all of it, a territorial claim which Kyiv and the West have rejected as illegal and one which Ukraine has vowed to reverse by force.

Pak launches surface to surface missile

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan on Tuesday conducted successful training launch of surface to surface ballistic missile Shaheen-II. The training launch was aimed at training of troops, validating various technical parameters and performance evaluation of different sub-systems incorporated for improved accuracy and enhanced survivability.

Today's training launch was witnessed by senior officers from Strategic Plans Division, Army Strategic Forces Command, scientists and engineers of strategic organizations.

Director General Strategic Plans Division appreciated the technical prowess, dedication and commitment of scientists who contributed towards this land mark achievement. The President, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Services Chiefs congratulated the scientists and engineers on this achievement.

Three BLA terrorists killed

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Mastung District. During conduct of the operation, after an intense fire exchange, three terrorists of BLA were sent to hell while three of them got injured.

These terrorists were involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area and were also responsible for shahadat of Deputy Commissioner of Panjgur, Mr. Zakir Ali, on 12 August 2024. Today's operation has avenged the heinous act and has brought the perpetrators to justice. Security forces of Pakistan in step with the Nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

IHC seeks clarity for net slowdown

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC), led by Chief Justice Aamir Farooq, has sought clarity on the recent internet slowdown across the country before passing any orders. The Chief Justice made these remarks while hearing a petition challenging the reduced internet speed and the installation of a firewall.

Advocate Iman Mazari represented the petitioner, expressing concerns over the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority's (PTA) silence on the issue. During the proceedings, Chief Justice Farooq questioned the cause of the internet slowdown, directing inquiries to be made with the PTA or the Ministry of Information.

Technology to ascertain the reasons behind the disruption. The court emphasized the need for a responsible official from the relevant ministry, knowledgeable about the situation, to brief the court. The Chief Justice indicated that those with direct knowledge of the matter would be summoned to provide explanations.

The Frontier Post

Six staffers of Adiala Jail held F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Security agencies have expanded investigations and arrested six more members of the jail staff over aiding PTI founder. The detained staff members of the jail also included three women, it revealed. The detained jail employees have been included a sweeper, two lady wardens and three CCTV monitoring personnel. Security officials have taken mobile phones of the employees in their custody.

Electricity relief package to Punjab This is right of people: PM informs cabinet

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that instead of politicking, the provincial governments should follow the Punjab government's course of providing relief to electricity consumers, scraping a chunk from the trillions of rupees transferred to them under the National Finance Commission.

The prime minister, chairing the meeting of the federal cabinet, said that the Punjab government had spared Rs 45 billion out of its own development budget to provide Rs14 per unit relief to the electricity consumers, utilising 200 to 500 units for a two-month period.

"This is the right of the people. The federal government has zero contribution to this relief package... Other provinces should also do the same. If the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government wants to give such relief to the people, we will be happy. But politicking should be avoided and facts should not be distorted," the prime minister commented.

Rubbing the criticism by a KP government representative alleging any discrimination by the federal government, he explained that it had nothing to do with that package. He told the cabinet members that almost 60% of the NFC funds went to the provinces. The federal government had to face immense challenges in the form of the payment of loans and interests on foreign-funded projects that benefited the whole of the country.

He told the meeting that the federal government had also allocated Rs50 billion to provide a three-month relief to domestic consumers using up to 200 units of electricity which constituted around 86% of the total domestic consumers. Besides, he said, in partnership with the Balochistan government, 28,000 tube wells would be solarised in the province costing Rs 70 billion, out of which Rs 55 billion would be borne by the federal government. This would benefit 28,000 farmers besides addressing the issue of power theft, he added.

The prime minister said that the federal government, in consultation with the provincial governments, was working on long-term measures to stabilise the economy and boost the country's trade and exports. He said the federal government would take all such measures after taking the IMF on board, unlike the PTI's "irrational" step of violating the agreement which had taken the country to the brink of default.

Highlighting the outcome of the

Shehbaz reiterates Pakistan's support for Palestinian people's right

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and strongly condemned Israel's barbaric actions against innocent Palestinians in Gaza.

The prime minister, in a meeting with outgoing Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Jawad A.A. Rabei who called on him here, said Israel's barbarism since October 7, 2023, led to the heart-wrenching killing of over 40,000 innocent Palestinians, including women and children, and more than 90,000 injured. He reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment and support for efforts to find a just and lasting resolution of the Palestine issue through a two-state solution with the creation of an independent state of Palestine with pre-1967 borders and Al Quds as its capital, in accordance with relevant UN resolutions. Ambassador Jawad thanked the prime minister for his support for the Palestinian cause as well as for the hospitality extended to him during his five-year tenure. He lauded Pakistan's historic and consistent stance on Palestine and its contribution to the international efforts for peace and stability in the region. The ambassador thanked the Government of Pakistan for providing much-needed humanitarian assistance and offering scholarships to Palestinian medical students to complete their studies in Pakistan. The prime minister wished the Palestinian ambassador success in his future endeavors.

Meta's VP for Asia Pacific Simon Milner meets with Premier

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A five-member delegation from technology giant Meta, led by Vice President for Asia Pacific Simon Milner, met with the Prime Minister in Islamabad on Tuesday to explore potential collaboration opportunities in Information Technology (IT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Pakistan. In a discussion with the delegation, the prime minister highlighted the immense potential in Pakistan's information technology and digital media sectors. He also noted that, for the first time in the country's history, a record budget has been allocated to promote information technology. The prime minister expressed his intention to leverage Meta's expertise in information technology and artificial intelligence. He also instructed the relevant authorities to address and resolve all issues related to Meta's operations in Pakistan. The Meta delegation informed the prime minister about the company's services in Pakistan and the Asia Pacific region. They also highlighted that Meta has organized the region's first artificial intelligence competition in Pakistan. Both sides reiterated working together for the development and promotion of digital media and artificial intelligence sectors in Pakistan.

government's economic policies, Prime Minister Shehbaz told the meeting that inflation had been reduced from 38% to 11.5% but more efforts were yet needed to improve further the situation. He also emphasised the efforts to meet the revenue target of Rs13.5 trillion and overcome the losses of the power sector.

The prime minister drew the cabinet's attention to the deaths and destruction caused by the heavy rains and consequent flash floods in parts of the country and lauded the efforts of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with the provinces and PDMA's. The cabinet also offered

Fateha for the people who lost their lives in the rain and flood-related incidents and also the soldiers who sacrificed their lives in different incidents of terrorism.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the government had established the Pakistan Education Endowment Fund to support children from low-income families to obtain higher education.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Israr Khan Kakar, the newly elected President of Oxford Union of UK's Oxford University, said that a 20% quota had been allocated for the youth of Balochistan under the Pakistan Education Endowment Fund.

Youth development vital for future growth: CASS



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan nears its centennial year of independence, engaging in thoughtful discussions to envision a prosperous future becomes imperative. This Catalyst Conversation, organised by the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, was designed to facilitate such discourse. The session was guided by insights and expertise of Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Chairman Sanobar Institute and former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.

Air Marshal Zahid Mehmood (Retd), moderator for the session and Director at CASS, initiated the discussion by reflecting on the creation of Pakistan - a saga marked by struggle and sacrifice under the guidance of visionary leaders. He stressed that as Pakistan approaches its centenary, it is crucial for all Pakistanis to learn from the past 77 years and chart a forward-looking course aligned with the original vision of its founders and the aspirations of its people. He also highlighted that the responsibility for Pakistan's development extends beyond policymakers and national leaders to every citizen.

On the main subject 'Pakistan of 2047,' Distinguished Speaker, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry (Retd), discussed the formidable challenges and potential strategies for envisioning a prosperous future for Pakistan. During his talk, he noted the difficulty in predicting the nation's future given the current political and economic climate and regional conflicts.

Ambassador Chaudhry stressed the importance of having a clear vision and long-term socioeconomic development plans, similar to those implemented by nations like the United States, China, and Singapore. He outlined several critical challenges facing Pakistan today, including inadequate devolution of power; substantial portion of the population not contributing to the tax base; excessive reliance on donor aid to balance economic shortfalls; and lackluster export growth. Additional issues highlighted included weak economic growth; water and food insecurity; bureaucratic barriers for the private sector; non-competitive knowledge economy, and insufficient development of human resources.

Despite these challenges, Pakistan's potential was underscored by its young population, rich natural resources, and strategic geographic location. Ambassador Chaudhry advocated for a citizen-centric approach, as originally championed by the country's founder - Quaid-i-Azam.

Ambassador Chaudhry outlined several key reforms needed to transform Pakistan's potential into reality, including stable political governance through decentralisation; economic self-reliance; living within means; continuity of economic policies; and ease-of-doing business to facilitate the private sector. He also called for streamlining regulations; enhancing tax compliance; non-partisan accountability; and significant investments in human development, particularly in education and skill development for youth in emerging technologies such as AI. The speaker concluded by stating that with these reforms, Pakistan could look forward to a peaceful and prosperous future by 2047, marking the centennial of its independence. Conversely, without such reforms, the future remains uncertain.

In his concluding remarks, Air Marshal Javid Ahmed, President of CASS, Islamabad, pointed out dual nature of the challenges Pakistan faces, with both known and unknown elements. He stressed the immediate need for action and the pivotal role of think tanks in fostering foresight and developing a balanced perspective for the nation's future. He remarked on critical imbalance in the national narrative, which often oscillates between two extremes, underscoring the importance of grooming current and future leadership to better address these difficulties.

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Sindh govt orders probe into child brides

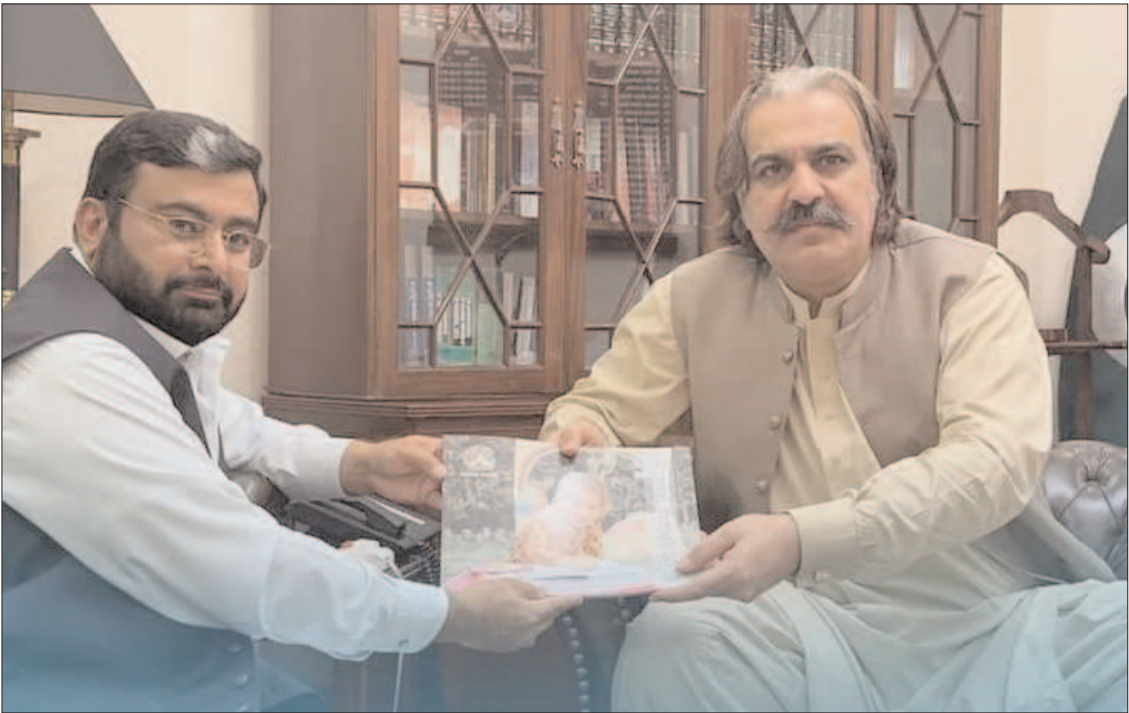
KARACHI (AFP): A Pakistan provincial government has ordered an inquiry into child marriages in areas affected by floods in 2022 following an exclusive AFP story on the subject.

Pakistan's high rate of marriages for underage girls had been inching lower in recent years, but after unprecedented floods in 2022 rights workers warned that such weddings were on the rise due to climate-driven economic insecurity. In a report published on August 16, AFP spoke to girls married at the ages of 13 and 14 in exchange for money at villages hard hit by the floods in Sindh province.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has ordered an inquiry into the matter, his spokesman Rasheed Channa told AFP. "The Chief Minister wants to understand the social impact of the rains on the people of this area. After the report is submitted, he will visit the area and generate recommendations."

"My personal opinion is that there has always been this tradition of early marriages, but the floods have made people very desperate." In the village of Khan Mohammad Mallah, 45 underage girls have been married since last year's monsoon rains - 15 of them in May and June this year, the NGO Sujag Sansar told AFP.

The summer monsoon between July and September is vital for the livelihoods of millions of farmers and food security, but scientists say climate change is making them heavier and longer, raising the risk of landslides, floods and long-term crop damage.



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur appreciated Muslim Hands three decade services for community during meeting with Regional Director Rahim Ullah.

Govt committed to promote quality education: Dar

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has called for building bridges of peace and harmony while rejecting the extremism and hatred.

Addressing the National Youth Convention here in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said responsibility rests with the youth to promote unity and tolerance. He said we have to undertake joint efforts to take the country towards the path of progress while rising above all sorts of differences. He expressed government's firm commitment for promotion of quality education to empower the youth.

The Deputy Prime Minister, while addressing the gathering, said during the 2013-2018 PML-N government era, Pakistan was projected to become a member of G-20 nations as the country was taking off that time with two percent food inflation, 3.7 percent consumer price index, six percent growth and the most stable currency in South Asia.

Talking about the PDM government, he said it was aimed at saving Pakistan as its enemies desired to see it default. Ishaq Dar said Pakistan's youth had the potential to become change makers but it required unity, a continuous learning process and setting aside hatred, extremism and personal biases.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan said the government is committed to empower youth through several revolutionary initiatives. He said the incumbent government is taking crucial steps for the betterment of the youth. He urged the youth to play their due role in country's development as it is also their responsibility.

Minister for Power Awais Leghari, addressing the gathering, said the nation will soon hear good news about his ministry which aims to lessen burden on the electricity consumers. The Minister said the incumbent government is committed to reduce electricity tariff and is making serious efforts to reform the country's power sector. He advised the youth not to waste time over fake news regarding the issue of IPPs.

Awais Leghari said Pakistan and China have agreed to convert coal plants to use local coal in the country. He said after 2018, the depreciation of the rupee and the rise in interest rates have played its role in jacking up the capacity payments to IPPs.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja said Islamabad IT Park will be ready for the youth in which all the required needs of the market will be available. She said the IITP will create 10,000 job opportunities for the IT related students of the country.

Civil Society calls for eliminating deadly industrially produced trans fatty acids

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: In a joint statement leading civil society organizations of Pakistan has urged government to taking urgent policy measures to eliminate deadly industrially produced trans fatty acids (iTFA) from the all sources of food supply chain. This was said during the media session hosted by Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) in a local hotel of Islamabad. The event provided journalists and media professionals with comprehensive insights into the challenges associated with the presence of iTFAs in the diet.

"Cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and stroke are the major killers of Pakistanis. Every single day delay in adopting WHO recommended best practice policy in eliminating iTFA from the diet means more people are dying due to this deadly substance lurking in our food supply" said Mukhtar Ahmed Ali, Executive Director, CPDI. "Pakistan is among the top consumer of

iTFAs in the region due to absence of a comprehensive policy unlike other countries in the region" he added.

Partially Hydrogenated oils (PHO) are the major source of iTFAs and every single food where these oils are used contain these deadly substances in the diet. "Limiting iTFAs from the all dietary sources to no more than 2 percent of total fats through a single regulation and imposing ban on PHOs is the right approach for Pakistan to address this concerning situation" said Munawar Hussain, Country Lead Pakistan at Global Health Advocacy Incubator.

Recent studies and market analysis of our food sources have highlighted the urgent need for measures to mitigate the adverse effects of these substances, which are commonly found in processed food items. "In a recent research conducted by Heartfile and Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research 2/3rd of the brands tested claiming virtually trans fats free were having a high amount

of iTFAs. In addition, tea whiteners, shortenings, street foods, fried items and bakery items are among the major sources of iTFAs in the food supply chain." said Dr. Saba Amjad, Chief Executive Officer Heartfile.

The event was attended by the large number of leading journalists and representatives from the civil society organizations. During the session, Pakistan's health statistics, key gaps in food related policies and best practices from the region and other countries were discussed. The civil society organizations expressed their concern over the grave situation of rising diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in the country. They highlighted that government needs to take policy measures by declaring public health emergency to advance policies like regulating iTFAs from all dietary sources, imposing ban on PHOs, enacting front of pack nutrition labelling and warning signs on ultra-processed foods, and removing unhealthy foods from public institutions.

Monsoon rain spell in Lahore to continue

F.P. Report

LAHORE: A heavy monsoon spell continues in Lahore, with black dark covering Lahore and different areas experiencing light and heavy rains.

The maximum rain, 28mm, on Tuesday was recorded in Nishtar Colony. As forecast earlier by the Meteorological Department, heavy rainfall lashed Lahore for the second consecutive day. Difference areas of Lahore experienced heavy rainfall, including Lakshmi Chowk, Gulberg, Upper Mall, Jail Road, Kalma Chowk, Walton Road, and Ferozepur Road.

Meanwhile, the strong winds along with the rain made the weather pleasant and breaking the intensity of heat. As rain continued to lash the city, passers-by tried to seek shelter. A large number of citizens were seen seeking cover under the Metro bus track to avoid the rain.

According to the Meteorological department, the current spell of rain will continue for the next three days. On the other hand, monsoon rains continue to wreak havoc in Balochistan, with the recent monsoon spell



PAF BASE, PESHAWAR

TENDER NOTICE : SPORTS EQUIPMENTS / SPORTS FIELDS

PAF Base requires "Purchase of different Sports equipments like Cricket, Football, Hockey, Badminton, Squash, Tennis, Volleyball, Athletics, Shooting, Golf, Boxing, Ski, Basketball, Open Air Gym and Indoor Gym equipments / machines and maintenance / uplifting of different Sports Fields for financial year 2024-25". Last date for submission of tenders is **05 September, 2024**, at 1000 Hrs. Tenders will be opened on the same day, at 1300 Hrs. The Officers Commanding reserves the rights to accept / rejection any / all tenders, on technical grounds.

Note: Quotations may be sent in favour of Sports Officer, PAF Base, Peshawar. Detail specifications may be obtained on Telephone No.: 091-9505031 - 5215, Mobile No.: 0323-9411311 / 0333-8945649



WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES PESHAWAR

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Re-AUCTION NOTICE FOR RECYCLABLE MATERIAL AT WSSP TRANSFER STATIONS AND LAND FILL SITES



Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar intends to dispose of the recyclable material from the following sites of WSSP on "AS IS" "WHERE IT IS" basis through open auction which will be done lot wise as per following details.

Lot #	Name of Site	Location	Estimated Amount of Recoverable Per month	Token Money (Security)	Date / time & place of Auction
1	Recyclables Zone A Transfer Station	Charsadda Road, Near Nishat Mill	1,196,025	250,000	10th September 2024 at 11:00 am WSSP Zone – E office, Ring Road near Landi Arbab Overhead bridge,
2	Recyclables Zone B Transfer Station	In Front of Hazarkhawai Grid Station, Ring Road	932,345	250,000	
3	Recyclables Zone E Transfer Station	In Front of Hazarkhawai Grid Station, Ring Road	880,071	200,000	11th September 2024 at 11:00 am WSSP Zone – E office, Ring Road near Landi Arbab Overhead bridge,
4	Recyclables Zone D Transfer Station	Warsak Road STP, Behind Prime Hospital, Warsak Road	702,735	150,000	
5	Recyclables Land Fill Site (LFS)	Shamshatoo	909,910	200,000	
			1,2010,285	250,000	

The open auction will be held as per above tabulated schedule by WSSP Auction committee at WSSP Zone – E office, Ring Road near Landi Arbab overhead bridge, Peshawar. The interested bidders / parties wishing to participate in the auction may obtained auction documents from WSSP website or from WSSP office free of cost. The bidders will be required to submit a call deposit as token money in the name of Chief Executive officer WSSP on or before auction date, along with copy of CNIC, contact details. The call deposit of unsuccessful bidder will be returned. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled to be held **3rd September 2024 at 3:00 pm in WSSP** conference room as per below mentioned address. The highest ranked bidder will sign a contract with WSSP for the period of one year for collecting recyclables on the terms and conditions mention auction document which can be downloaded from WSSP website. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject the bid or bids assigning cogent reason thereof.

General Manager HR/Admin/ Procurement
Local Government Complex, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Plot # 33, Street No. 13, Sector E-8, Phase-VII, Hayatabad, Peshawar. Office Phone # 091- 9219098.

Mpox virus: New airport guidelines issued

F.P. Report

KARACHI: New preventive measures have been introduced at airports to curb the spread of monkeypox. The revised guidelines mandate strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by civil aviation authorities, airlines, and ground handling companies.

Under the new directives, the Border Health Services Department will enforce passenger screening and isolation protocols at airports. Additionally, all flight crews arriving from abroad will undergo mandatory health screenings.

The guidelines stipulate that the Airport Security Force (ASF) will secure isolation areas at airports, while the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) will ensure that foreign nationals do not receive on-arrival visas without health clearance. FIA will also be responsible for providing passenger information to health authorities.

Customs officials, in collaboration with border health authorities, will inspect imported goods. Passengers arriving in Pakistan will undergo thermal screening, and aircraft will be subject to thorough disinfection. Airlines are also required to supply masks to passengers to enhance safety measures. These comprehensive guidelines aim to bolster the country's defenses against monkeypox and ensure the health and safety of travelers.

Punjab drafts cybercrime act with severe penalties

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Punjab has drafted a new 'Punjab Cybercrime Control Act 2024,' proposing severe penalties ranging from 3 months to 14 years for various cybercrimes. This landmark legislation aims to establish the province's first dedicated cybercrime agency, a significant step in tackling digital offenses.

The draft will be presented to the Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs of the Punjab Cabinet for initial approval. The proposed Act includes stringent measures against cyber terrorism, child pornography, and sexual exploitation, classifying these offenses as non-bailable and offering protections for victims and witnesses.

Name Correction

My correct name is Syed Shoraim son of syed Tahir Shah. While Shoraim Ali Shah has been written in documents by mistake, correction should be done. Syed Shoraim s/o Syed Tahir shah

Gilani underlines need of resolving civic issues

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, directed the departments concerned to resolve the civic issues faced by the citizens to facilitate them.

He issued the instructions during a meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Wasim Hamid Sandhu, DG MDA, Rana Saleem Khan, DG NADRA, Syed M. Tanvir Abbas, and CO Metropolitan, Iqbal Khan, who called on him at Circuit House here on Tuesday.

He stated that the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) outdated pipelines should be replaced on priority so that citizens may not face water stagnation on roads and drainage problems in streets especially in

Multan as authority head.

The DC, DG NADRA and DG MDA briefed him about the public service delivery of their departments and informed that they would work for the betterment of the public in their capacity. Mr Gilani reminisced that education and health sector services his forefathers extended for masses of South Punjab especially for Multan.

He stated that they had constructed Multan International Airport (MIAP), Head Muhammad Wala Bridge, flyovers and improved the overall infrastructure of the city as former PM which resulted in uplifting the city's face. Former MPA, Dr Javid Siddiqi, PPP leader Naem Khan and others were in attendance.

Body reviews progress, addresses missing file case

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Senator Abdul Shakoor Khan on Tuesday chaired the meeting of the Senate Functional Committee on Government Assurances held at Parliament House.

During the meeting, Secretary Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs provided a briefing to the Committee on the assurances given by the Government, specifically addressing their current status and the steps taken towards their implementation by the relevant Divisions.

The Committee was informed that reports of 23 assurances have been submitted between 2019 and 2024. The Secretary further explained that when there was a delay in the submission of a report, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs coordinates with the concerned Ministry for submission of the report. If still the report was not provided, a reminder was sent to

the concerned Division, and if necessary, further reassurances are sought. The Chairman of the Committee emphasized the importance of thoroughly reviewing the submitted reports to ensure compliance. He underscored the necessity of detailed scrutiny to confirm whether the required actions have been taken.

Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro asked the relevant departments to provide details on the Hyderabad and Sukkur Motorway, while Senator Dost Muhammad Khan stressed the need for information regarding the slowing of internet services, which has become a significant issue nationwide.

Additionally, the Committee discussed the missing file for House in Sector I-10/4, Islamabad. The affected individual stated that it has been three and a half years since the file was reported missing. The officials from the concerned department assured the Committee that the

issue of the missing file would be solved by September 6, 2024. The Chairman of the Committee directed to expedite the matter of the file in question and urged the initiation of legal proceedings against those responsible for its disappearance.

Chairman Committee Senator Abdul Shakoor Khan also directed that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs keep the Committee on board about matters related to Government assurances. He suggested again conducting a detailed scrutiny of each report that has been submitted.

The meeting was attended by Senator Gurdeep Singh, Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro, Senator Dost Muhammad Khan, Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Senator Haji Hidayatullah Khan, Senator 'Al-Haj Muhammad Umer Gorgaj, the Secretary of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, and the senior officials from the concerned Divisions and Departments.



MUZAFFRABAD: Acting President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Latif Akbar addressing a press conference.

محکمہ شول و پٹنیر ضلع چارسدہ غیر پختون خوا

ری ٹینڈر نوٹس

ری ٹینڈر برائے سپلائی راشن سال 2024-25

محکمہ شول و پٹنیر تحصیل ایجوکیشن اینڈ ویمن ایپارٹمنٹ حکومت صوبہ خیبر پختون خوا، ڈسٹرکٹ چارسدہ کے زیر نگرانی و پٹنیر، شلیر، بوم (پناہ گاہ) اور سحالی مرکز برائے عادی نشینات افراد چارسدہ کو معیاری راشن کی سپلائی رڈز ان کی بنیاد پر برائے مالی سال 2024-25 کیلئے رجسٹرڈ فروم سے سربمہر ٹینڈر مطلوب ہے۔

(1) ٹینڈر دہندگان کو کسی ایک دفعاتی یا صوبائی رجسٹریشن ایکٹ کے تحت رجسٹرڈ ہونے کا ثبوت پیش کرنا ہوگا۔

(2) ٹینڈر دہندگان کو غیر پختون خوا ٹو ڈیپٹی اینڈ ضلحال نوڈز و تھانوں کی طرف سے اسٹیکس سرٹیفکیٹس انڈر سیکشن 15 آف 2014 KPFS & HFA Act کے تحت لگانا بھی لازمی ہوگا۔ رجسٹرڈ اکوٹیشن منسوخ کیا جائے گا۔

(3) صرف ہفزم ٹینڈر میں حصہ لے سکتے ہیں جو انکم ٹیکس اور سیکلنگس ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے ساتھ رجسٹرڈ ہوں اور جس کا نام **Active Tax payer** لسٹ میں شامل ہوں۔

(4) ٹینڈر دہندگان کو پیش کردہ دستی فزری اوقات کار کے دوران وصول کیے جانے کے لیے صرف انہی مجوزہ ڈاکوٹیشن ٹینڈر راشن قابل قبول ہونگے۔

(5) فروم کا تحفظ فیڈل میں تجزیہ ضروری ہے جس میں اس نے کسی بھی سرکاری ادارے کو راشن کی کامیاب سپلائی کی ہو اور اس کا ثبوت ٹینڈر کے ساتھ منسلک کرنا لازمی ہے۔

(6) ٹینڈر کے ساتھ کسی بھی ٹینڈر ٹیکل سے کم یا بیش 2% جو کہ 300,000 (تین لاکھ روپے) جتا ہے گا یا کال ڈیپازٹ بنام زیر دستگی لگا کر ضروری ہے ورنہ ٹینڈر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

(7) ٹینڈر دہندگان کو اس کے ثبوت کے طور پر اپنا بینک انٹیفنٹ لگا کر ضروری ہوگا اور اس انٹیفنٹ کو بینک سے تصدیق کرانا لازمی ہوگا۔

(8) ٹینڈر بڈر لیمٹ کو زیر دستگی کو سونہ 6 ستمبر 2024 بروز جمعہ یوٹ 10 بجے تک پہنچ جانے چاہیے۔ جو کہ اس دن 11 بجے ٹینڈر دہندگان یا ان کے مقرر کردہ نمائندوں کے سامنے ڈسٹرکٹ آفیسر شول و پٹنیر ڈیپارٹمنٹ رجسٹرڈ نوڈز و تھانوں پر مقرر شدہ فروم چارسدہ کے دفتر میں کھولے جائیں گے۔ ستمبر 6 2024 کو 10 بجے کے بعد کوئی بھی ٹینڈر وصول نہیں کیا جائے گا اور نہ ہی کوئی ٹینڈر قبول کیا جائے گا۔

(9) فروم کا نام ہیجہ پر Affidavit دینا ہوگا کہ تحفظ فروم کبھی سرکاری یا نجی ادارے سے ڈیپازٹ نہیں رہ چکا ہے۔ جس کا نمونہ زیر دستگی سے حاصل کیا جا سکتا ہے۔

(10) فروم کی طرف سے تمام سپلائی ڈسٹرکٹ چارسدہ میں واقع مختلف اداروں کو FOR کی بنیاد پر کرنا ہوگی۔

(11) تمام ٹیکس حکومت کی موجودہ پاسی یا قوانین کے مطابق ملانے چاہیئے۔

(12) پریچر ٹیکس کو کسی ایک یا جملہ ٹیکس دہندگان کو منظور یا غیر منظور و جو بات کی بنا پر مسترد کرنے کا حق حاصل ہوگا۔

(13) ٹینڈر ایکسٹنشن کے عمل پر دیا جائے گا جس فروم کا ایک ٹیکس کاپی مل ہوگا ٹینڈر راسی کو ملے گا۔

(14) ٹینڈر، KPRA کے ویب سائٹ پر موجود ہے۔

ڈسٹرکٹ آفیسر

شول و پٹنیر ڈیپارٹمنٹ چارسدہ آفس نوٹن ہر 091-6514060

INF(P) 2116/24

Chinese is important means of communication between two civilizations: Muazmmil



F.P. Report
PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister KP for Finance Mr. Muazmmil Aslam has said that the Chinese language is an important means of communication between two civilizations, two nations, and in this age of technology, the need to learn foreign languages is more important than ever. He expressed these views while addressing the students who completed Chinese language course at China Window Center Peshawar here on Tuesday. On this occa-

sion, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Advisor Muzamil Aslam distributed certificates among the students and teachers and also thanked the organizers of China Window Center for providing excellent service to the public despite limited resources. Mr. Muazmmil Aslam said that 26% of the world's electricity is produced in China, which means that one in four units of the world's electricity is produced in China and after the United States, China is the second largest eco-

they will provide interest-free loans of upto 0.5 million rupees to the youth. With these interest-free loans, the youth of KP can start small businesses, he added. Advisor Finance said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is starting education card project after health card activation and the financial condition of the province is in a much better position than before. Compared to govt of Punjab and Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has purchased wheat with cash and in this year, they have released about eleven billion rupees for health card project so far, Mr. Muzammil Aslam said. Advisor finance further said that 37 billion rupees will be issued during this financial year only for universal health card project while a surplus budget of one hundred billion rupees has also been given on June 30 last year.



PESHAWAR: Minister for Health Syed Qasim Ali Shah on Tuesday visited Bacha Khan International Airport Peshawar to review the arrangements against Mpx.

Qasim announces sstablishment of Autism Therapeutic Clinics

F.P. Report
PESHAWAR: The Minister of Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, has announced the establishment of Pakistan's first Autism Therapeutic Clinics across the province to cater to the mental rehabilitation of the 150,000 children diagnosed with autism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These clinics will operate on a no-profit-no-loss basis, ensuring affordable care for all affected children. The clinics are set to be established in Peshawar, Haripur, Mardan, Charsadda, Mansehra, Swabi, Chitral, Dera Ismail Khan, Swat, and Dir, targeting both urban and remote areas of the province. According to the Autism Society of Pakistan's 2023 data, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is home to 150,000 children with autism, with no existing government-run facilities for their mental rehabilitation. A significant number of these children belong to remote areas, where no centers are currently available for their treatment and rehabilitation. Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah emphasized the importance of inclusive development, stating, "Living a normal life is a fundamental right of every child. Isolating a child from society due to their mental condition or social background is a mark of backwardness. Prioritising the mental rehabilitation of these children can make them valuable contributors to our development." In a significant development, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Department of Health and the Autism and Learning Disabilities Organization to establish these clinics. Under this MoU, the clinics will be set up in district hospitals across ten districts over the next five years. The Department of Health will provide the necessary space and resources for these clinics in the district hospitals. These clinics will be staffed with qualified psychologists who will offer specialized services for the mental rehabilitation of children with autism.

Online domicile procedure challenged at PHC

Humayun Khan
PESHAWAR: A writ plea has been filed against Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's decision for introducing online domicile certificates in the Peshawar High Court (PHC) while Additional Chief Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs, Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, and Managing Director KPIT Board Peshawar made as respondents in the case. The plea filed by Hamad Hussain advocate and argued that the provincial government has abolished manual domicile certificates and started issuing online domicile certificates, which has caused difficulties for illiterate citizens. The e-domicile tracking system has been launched, but many citizens in the province are illiterate and face difficulties in obtaining online domicile certificates. Similarly, many citizens do not have access to the internet. According to the petition, manual domicile certificates were issued within two to three days, and citizens could obtain them from the relevant Deputy Commissioner's offices. However, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Home and Tribal Affairs Department has changed this procedure and made it online. The online system is very complicated and takes 15 to 30 days. There is also a risk of citizens' privacy being compromised through online applications. The petition further states that under the Constitution, facilities should be provided to citizens, but here, the procedure has been made more difficult and complicated. The petition requests that the court should suspend the online domicile certificate system till final decision is made and issue orders to restore the manual domicile certificate system.

Ali Hassan successfully defends MPhil dissertation



PESHAWAR (APP): Ali Hassan, a public servant, has successfully defended his MPhil dissertation in department of Political Science at Islamia College, University, Peshawar. Worked under the supervision of Dr. Amir Ullah Khan, Chairman of the Political Science Department, Islamia College University, Ali Hassan defended his Mphil thesis titled "Impact of Nuclearized South Asia on Economic Prosperity: From Offensive-Defensive Security Perspective (2008-2022)." The defense was held in the presence of an esteemed panel, including external examiner Dr. Manzoor Ahmad, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan. Dr. Ahmad lauded Hassan's work for its in-depth analysis and contribution to understanding the complexities of nuclear deterrence and its effects on economic prosperity in South Asia. Ali Hassan research delved into the delicate balance of power in the region, exploring how the nuclearization of South Asia has influenced the economic trajectories of the involved nations, particularly from a security standpoint. His findings provided new insights into the interconnectedness of military strategy and economic development in a nuclear-armed environment. In a heartfelt gesture, Ali Hassan dedicated his academic achievement to his late grandparents, parents, and uncles, acknowledging their support and guidance throughout his journey. The completion of his MPhil marks a significant milestone in his academic and professional career, and his work is expected to serve as a valuable resource for future research in the field. The defense concluded with commendations from the panel, recognizing Ali Hassan's dedication and the scholarly merit of his research. Dr. Amir Ullah Khan expressed his pride in supervising such a rigorous and impactful study, noting that Ali Hassan's success reflects the high academic standards of the Political Science Department at Islamia College, University, Peshawar.

Government urged to save marble sector

PESHAWAR (APP): Sahil Khan Salarzai an active leader of Marble Mines and Industries owners association had urged Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to realise its responsibilities in saving the Marble industries which are taking its last breaths due to stock of issues and wrong delusions on the part of rulers. Through a press statement on Tuesday, Sahil Khan states, that there are some six thousand marble factories in Pakhtunkhwa. It is mostly private sector. According to him the Marble industry is the only sector after the production of honey in Pashtunkhwa where 100 percent raw material, labour, artist belong to Pashtuns. He added that in this industry four lakh Pashtuns are employed at this time but unfortunately, due to the high electricity and insecurity, sixty percent factories are closed and one lac people are unemployed in the last month due to some of Marbles. According to factories, one unit of electricity was calculated at Rs. 8 hundred. But Sahil Khan while showing irony over lacking of proper attention to this important sector which play a key role in provincial economy.

Frequent traffic jams irks Peshawarties



PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar, once celebrated as the "City of Flowers," is now grappling with severe traffic congestion, unnerving Peshawarties. The city's streets are choked with an influx of unregistered rickshaws, taxis, and outdated buses, exacerbating an already traffic jam mostly worsened by the illplanned Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Where residents once reveled in the aromatic splendor of seasonal flowers during monsoon, they now face a more unpleasant reality due to traffic mess affecting its residents. The rise in unregulated vehicles has contributed significantly to air pollution, leading to an uptick in respiratory and seasonal illnesses among the populace. Traffic snarls stretch from Hastangri to the Malik Saad Shaheed bridge, creating a daily struggle for commuters including students, lawyers, businessmen, and government employees. This congestion is compounded by frequent strikes by provincial government employees on the GT Road in front of the KP Assembly, further complicating travel during peak hours. The BRT project, criticized for its poor planning, has narrowed the GT Road and obstructed traffic flow. The blockage of 'Suray Bridge' by demonstrators and the movement of VIP convoys have only intensified the traffic chaos. Areas like Gulbahar, Hastangri, and Firdus, alongside Dabgari Garden—home to a cluster of private hospitals and clinics—are particularly affected. Here, patients and their families face lengthy delays, with ambulances often caught in traffic jams, adding to their distress. Sajid Ali, an orthopedic patient from Nowshera, recounted a harrowing experience of being stuck in traffic for over two hours on what should have been a 30-minute journey.

He described the ordeal as the most stressful he has faced since retiring three years ago, exacerbated by the overburdened BRT buses which, following the removal of older vehicles, often leave passengers standing. In response, the Transport Department spokesman has noted that many of the problematic tri-wheelers are operating without proper permits and has vowed to take stricter measures against these illegal vehicles. New feeder routes for the BRT, including connections from Hayatabad Phase-I, Regi Model Town, Warsak Road, and Chamkani to Pabbi, have been approved to help alleviate some of the traffic congestion. Additionally, efforts are underway to improve the situation with the construction of a new general bus stand on 303 kanal at Sardar Ghari, adjacent to the BRT main terminal. This development is expected to provide a long-term solution to the city's traffic woes once completed. Despite these measures, Peshawar's residents continue to face significant daily challenges especially of traffic and air pollution, as the city navigates the complex interplay of infrastructure changes and an overburdened transport system.

CS for providing a conducive environment for businesses

F.P. Report
PESHAWAR: On Tuesday, a delegation representing the Hotel and Bakers Association met with Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary. The meeting was attended by relevant secretaries, representatives from the Halal Food Authority, KPRA (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority), District Administrations, and other concerned officials, while the commissioners participated via video link. In the meeting, the delegation informed the Chief Secretary about the issues faced by hotels and bakeries and presented various suggestions. On this occasion, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary attentively listened to the problems of hotel and bakery owners and assured them of all possible cooperation in resolving these issues. He stated that providing a favorable environment for businesses is one of the government's priorities, and the government is committed to provide a conducive business environment for a stable economy, as thousands of people's livelihoods are linked to these businesses. The Chief Secretary emphasized the need to facilitate businesspeople, and similarly, hotel and bakery owners should ensure cleanliness and the availability of quality food items at their hotels and bakers. He further added that the use of technology is essential to facilitate business people regarding tax matters and to maintain transparency at the government level. He also stressed the need for district administration and relevant departments to enhance their communication with businessmen and traders.



PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry meeting with a delegation of Hotel and Bakery Association.

Kundi expresses outrage over ban on entry of Chinese tourists in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor sought a report from the higher authorities on preventing Chinese tourists from entering KP. He said the step of the provincial government was not against the interest of the province but also against the country. Governor Kundi said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has been trying to destroy Pakistan-China relations since day one, adding that barring the Chinese tourists from entering KP was beyond understanding. The provincial government was spoiling the bilateral relations between the two countries as per the instructions of its leaders.



PESHAWAR: Regional Director Muslim Hands Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rahim Ullah Khan talking to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi during a meeting at Governor House. MPA Ahmad Khan Kundi is also present.



In brief

Tehsildar, others suspended F.P. Report

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah has under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Program "Awami Agenda" (Jaza ya Saza) raided Kohat Tehsil Office and various Offices of the Revenue Department. He on this occasion, suspended the Naib Tehsildar Kohat Altaf Khan and Girdawar Inamullah on the spot for poor record keeping and cleanliness condition. He appointed the Additional Deputy Commissioner Kohat Iqbal as an Inquiry Officer and directed him to submit his Report within 3 days. Commissioner Kohat ordered the complete cleaning of the entire building of Tehsil within 24 hours. He said that Tehsil Building is of historical importance which was constructed in 1910. It is a symbol of high architecture, but due to the negligence of the staff posted there, its overall condition is very bad and pathetic. The Commissioner while directing the cleaning of this historical building within 24 hours, said, its past glory will be restored and maintained in its original structure at all costs. On the occasion, Additional Assistant Commissioner was also with him. Meanwhile, the Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah will listen to the problems of the people of Kohat Division directly on Land Line number 0922-9260002 on Thursday, August 22, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM in E-Khuli Katchery, while the people can also use the Commissioner Kohat Division Facebook Page live to record their issues and grievances.

Five injured in road mishap F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: Collision between car and coaster on Kamalia Road, 5 people seriously injured. According to the details, the car was going from Rajana to Kamalia while the coaster was going from Kamalia to Rajana. A collision took place in which 5 people were seriously injured. The team of Rescue 1122 reached the spot and provided medical aid to the injured and 5 riders were trapped in the condition of serious injuries, they were taken out by cutting the glass and window and taken to Civil Hospital Rajana and seriously injured were shifted to DHQ Hospital Toba Tek Singh.

Eight injured in Dir road mishap F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Eight persons including women and children were injured when a van skidded off the road near the district jail Timergara here on Tuesday, Rescue 1122 officials said. They said the Rescue 1122 emergency team along with a disaster vehicle rushed to the site and shifted the injured including Zakaria 16 and others to the district headquarters hospital Timergara. The Timergara police registered a case and started investigations. Meanwhile the Rescue 1122 district emergency officer Sanaullah met with the deputy commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan and briefed him about the issues faced by the Rescue 1122. He said the Rescue 1122 did not have its own building in the Lower Dir district; the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had given approval to build the station on the state land. The DC appreciated the services of the team and promised to resolve the issues faced by it.



QUETTA: Members of Government Teachers Association holding a protest for acceptance of their demands.

Appointment of principal at TMC sought

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The All Parties Conference held in the Lower Dir district has demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to make public the inquiry report regarding the funds' embezzlement of the Timergara Medical College (TMC). The demand was made during an all parties conference arranged by the Dir Quami Pasoon at Timergara here the other day. The politicians agreed to bring masses onto the roads if the principal was not appointed to the TMC within a week.

The event was addressed by the president of Dir Quami Jirga and former MNA Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, former PML-N provincial minister Malik Jehan Zeb Khan, JI district emit and former MPA Izazul Mulk Afkari, former MPA Saeed Gul, JUI-F district chief Sirajud Din, PML-N district general secretary Sardar Javed Tajik, PPP district secretary information Alam Zeb advocate, Dir Quami Pasoon chief Malik Jehan Alam Yousafzai, district bar former president Abid Hayat

and others.

The speakers said that so far Rs 2.12 billion had been spent on the TMC project which had been inaugurated several times by PTI founder Imran Khan, former chief minister Pervaz Khattak, JI former chief Sirajul Haq at various occasions. They said that over 150 employees including clerical staff, assistant professors and associate professors had been recruited but it still lacked a Principal. They said that classes at the college could not be commenced without the appointment of its principal.

The speakers said that there had been reports about the funds embezzlement in the college. The all parties conference demanded the government to make public the inquiry report about the corruption in the college funds.

JUI-F election: Maulana Shamsul Arifeen was elected as president and Qari Mubarak Syed as general secretary of the JUI-F for Timergara tehsil for the next five years. The election was held at Timergara under the supervision of Haji Muhammad

Ikram and Qazi Sajid Mahmood. More than 200 members of the JUI-F general council participated in the voting. The party district chief Sirajud Din and other leaders were also present.

Blind murder case: SP investigation Rashid Ahmad, DSP investigation Bakht Jamal Khan and DSP Iqbal Nasim informed local journalists during a press briefing here that police after hectic efforts and carrying out technical investigation had traced a blind murder case. The official said that a woman hailing from the Sarai village of Talash was found dead in a mysterious circumstance a month ago and her husband had charged his rivals while registering a case.

They said that police arrested Asadullah, Raza Hussain, Javed Hussain and Fida in the case but investigation proved them innocent. They said the husband Umar Wahid was taken into custody who confessed to his crime that he had killed his wife. The investigators said that police also recovered a Kalashnikov used during the crime for the possession of the accused.

ADC children bites by snake in Hafizabad

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Two children of Additional Deputy Commissioner were bitten by a snake and both children were taken to DHQ Hospital. According to the details, the children of Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance Hamid Nasir Goraya were sleeping in the residence located in the District Complex when at night, a three-foot-long snake entered there and bit the seven-year-old daughter and eleven-year-old son of Hamid Nasir Goraya.

On the screams of the children, the employees killed the snake and the two children were immediately taken to the hospital from where they were shifted home after treatment. It is pertinent to mention that many snakes have been killed in the district complex before.

'Kuli Katcheri' held: SE GEPCO Gujranwala

Cantt. Region Aamir Mehmood set up an open court in GEPCO's subdivision located in Bijli Mohallah to listen to the complaints of consumers and issued orders for their redressal on-the-spot.

On this occasion, a poor woman whose electricity cable cost Rs. 4,000 also approached the SE for relief in the bill, on which the SE paid the bill of the said poor woman from his own pocket. SE said that redressal of consumers' electricity complaints is among their priorities and they are always present to solve the problems of consumers.

He also urged the GEPCO employees not only to treat the customers with good manners but also to perform their duties sincerely to solve their problems. Xen Zulfikar Joya, SDO Mohammad Ramzan and WAPDA Union Regional Secretary Abdul Razzaq

Mughal were also present on this occasion.

Skilled workers key for development: In order to eliminate poverty and improve standard of industrial production, the trained skilled manpower is playing important role that is why, the Punjab government is focusing on imparting technical and vocational training to the youth.

This was stated the Principal Government Technical and Vocational Training Institute for Women Sukheki Mandi, Khalida Rafique while distributing certificates among students who complete two months vocational training in different traders during Skilled Boot Summer Camp held during summer vacation. She said that 70 female students get vocational training during two months and they were enable to get jobs in industrial units.

KKKUK announces admissions F.P. Report

KARAK: According to the announcement by Director Admission Umairuddin, Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak has started admissions for Phd, M.phil, BS in 4-year BS program in Applied Physics (Nanotechnology, Bioinformatics, Botany, BBA, Chemistry), Communication and Media Studies, Computer Science, Economics, Education, English, Geology, Library and Information Sciences, Maths, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Renewable Energy, Zoology, Associate Degree in Education (ADE two years) B.Ed 1.5 years in MPHIL programs, Bioinformatics,

Management Sciences, Communication and Media Studies, Computer Science, Education, English, Library and Information Sciences, Physics while the PhD programs include Management Sciences, Library and Information Sciences and Physics, this time the university has made available both physical and online application for the convenience of students. To apply online, go to

<https://kkkuk.edu.pk/admission-open-university-link-and-download-the-admission-form>. Now, students can also apply online. The last date for online admission is 05 September 2024. Applications received late will not be considered. According to the press release, if any student faces a problem in online application, he should contact the Directorate of Admission of the university during office hours, from there the problem of online application will be solved.

Flood effects 10 villages F.P. Report

LARKANA: Due to the flood of water in the Indus River near Moin Jo Daro area of Larkana district, due to water flowing from nearby villages at Peer Noor shah, more than 10 villages are under water.

Residents of Adam Kalhoro, Aman Mamnani, More Mamnani, Ali Sher and other villages are moving to a safe place, while there is a fear that the cultivated crops worth millions of rupees will also be lost due to water coming under water.

APC setup jirga for rights of Mardan

Fazal Haq

MARDAN: All political parties have formed Loya Jirga for the rights of Mardan against the government's decision to sell the lands of universities and ring roads for the Jirga, was elected as the President Imran Mandori, while was elected as the General Secretary Maulana Amanat Shah Haqqani, as the spokesperson of the Jirga Mushtaq Seemab and Syed Fawad as the Advocate Secretary of Social Media were appointed.

After the all-party meeting of all political parties last week, the second important meeting was held at the ANP office on Monday evening Imran Mandori of ANP, Maulana Tajul Amin Jabal of JUI (F), Ibrahim Biland of Jamaat-e-Islami, Taj Ghani of Muslim League (N), Maulana Waliullah of JUP (Imam Noorani), Peoples Party were present in the meeting. K Aslam Khattak, Advocate Ashraf Hoti of PNP, Abdul Salam Khan of Quami Watan Party, Parvez Khan of PMAP, Akbar Ali Kashmiri, Mushtaq Seemab, Hafiz Inam and of Mardan Press Club, M Bashir Adil and others participated.

In the meeting, the determination was reiterated that they will fight against the government's decision to sell the lands of universities and Ring Road on all fronts and no one will be allowed to play with the future of the children of Mardan. It was decided in the meeting that contacts will be made with elected representatives of Mardan and other important personalities.

The speakers said that

the time has come to fight for the rights of Mardan beyond various political affiliations. After discussing various proposals in the meeting, Loya Jirga Mardan comprising representatives of all political parties was established, for which Imran Mandori was unanimously appointed Maulana Amanat Shah Haqqani, Mushtaq Seemab and Syed Fawad Advocate as Social Secretary Media has been appointed.

Meanwhile, under the leadership of Additional Assistant Commissioner Takhtbhai Sahar Anwar, an Kuli katcheri, On Tuesday, was organized for women in Government Girls High School, Mazdoor Abad Road, on the instructions of DC Mardan Mian Behzad Adil, to highlight the problems of women under the public agenda of the government and to solve them. Director Social Welfare, EDO Female DMS Takhtbhai Dr. Rubina ADBISPAD NADRA and heads of various institutions participated on this occasion.

On this occasion, the women piled up complaints against various institutions, on some of them AAC Sahar Anwar issued orders to the heads of the concerned institutions to resolve the rest of the complaints. Sahar Anwar while addressing the open court said that all the problems of women will be solved on priority basis.

The positive effects of women's Kuli katcheri, coming, due to which most of the problems of women will be solved at their doorsteps. On this occasion, Sahar Anwar said that

this series of Kuli katcheri, will continue, God willing.

Seminar arranged: In the opening ceremony of Tehsil Administration and Takhtbhai Youth Development Unit Academy, a seminar was held regarding the awareness campaign on the dangers of drugs. On Tuesday, in which special guests were SP Headquarters Rizwan Habib and Assistant Commissioner Takhtbhai Junaid Khalid and other dignitaries of schools of thought. Young people also participated.

Addressing the seminar, SP Headquarters Rizwan Habib said that the young generation is the valuable capital of the country and the anti-social elements want to trap the youth in the swamp of drugs, especially ice, and stake their future. Public awareness activities are to be supported and in this regard, parents and teachers should fulfill their national duty to make the future of the young generation successful. Avoid the use of ice and become a civilized citizen in the society and make it your motto to serve the country and the nation.

He gave an awareness lecture about the harms of drugs, especially ice, and said that the purpose of the special awareness campaign regarding drugs is to provide awareness to the students of schools, colleges and universities about the harms of drugs. The participants of the seminar appreciated the measures taken by the Mardan Police against drug dealers and other criminal elements and vowed to cooperate with the police in preventing and countering drugs.

Swat jirga express solidarity with police

Shaif Ullah

MINGORA: A crucial meeting of the Swat Quami Jirga working committee, chaired by Irfan Chitan, was held at a local hotel, attended by prominent leaders, including Mukhtar Khan Yousafzai, Sher Shah Khan, Alhaj Zahid Khan, Ahmad Shah Khan, Abdul qahar Khan, Sher buhadar Khan, Akhtar Ali Khan and others.

In a unified statement, leaders of the Swat Quami Jirga asserted that the region is experiencing complete peace and order, contradicting claims of terrorism. However, following the announcement of Operation "Azmi Istehkam," a surge of security forces entered Swat, occupying mountain tops in

various areas.

Subsequent attacks on police stations and sniper gunfire have resulted in the martyrdom of Constable Mushtaq in Tehsil Matta, with additional youths injured. The Swat Quami Jirga expressed deep concern and condemned the state institutions' role in perpetuating terrorism, emphasizing that protecting citizens' lives and property is the state's responsibility.

The Jirga's statement raises questions about the official narrative surrounding the operation and the true forces driving the violence in Swat. As tensions escalate, the people of Swat and the Jirga demand answers and accountability from the state.

They assured the people of Swat that the Jirga will

not abandon them and expressed solidarity with the police. The leaders also announced a grand meeting of national and social leaders on September 8, 2024, to devise a plan against terrorism. They warned that if the government fails to act, the people will be forced to implement their own plan to protect themselves.

The meeting concluded with prayers for the martyred constable Mushtaq and a resolution demanding compensation for his family, financial support for injured police personnel, and the restoration of the abolished University of Engineering of Swat and University of Animal Science of Swat. The Jirga also criticized the cut in Swat's development funds and demanded its reversal.

Admn assures to address problems of disabled persons

F.P. Report

BARA: To address problems of special persons, a Kuli Kachehri was organized in tehsil Bara on Tuesday.

Besides Additional Deputy Commissioner Khyber, Nauman Ali Shah, Assistant Commissioner, Bara Shahabuddin Deputy Superintendent Police, Bara Circle Swalzer Khan, Dr Alamgir of Health Department, Education

Officer Sher Zaman, representatives of Social Welfare, WAPDA, Rescue 1122, NADRA etc. and number of disabled persons were among the participants of the open court.

Speaking on the occasion Nauman Ali Shah said that the special persons were the significant part of our society and efforts would be made to provide equal opportunities to the persons with disabilities so that they can lead

productive and dignified lives. The incumbent was serious about working for the welfare and betterment of the special persons, and that was the reason that the Kuli Kachehri was initiated to appraise their miseries, he added.

He maintained that the district administration will adopt concrete steps to remove a sense of deprivation among the disabled persons in Khyber.

Pakistan at its 77th

Laiba Khan

IQBAL once underscored a profound philosophical connection between freedom and sovereignty, stating, "Sovereignty is the immediate corollary of the conception of freedom." What Iqbal meant was that true freedom cannot exist without sovereignty. For a nation or people to be genuinely free, they must have the power to govern themselves independently, without external control.

Freedom, in this sense, is not merely an outcome of sovereignty but an essential part of it. Without freedom, sovereignty is incomplete, as the ability to make independent decisions and determine one's destiny is fundamental to the concept of true freedom.

After 77 years of independence, Pakistan today stands as a symbol of resilience and strength, an impregnable state fighting both internal and external battles. The recent Independence Day was a vivid testament not only to the unwavering strength and valor of the nation but also to the unity, tolerance, and endurance of its people. As Pakistan continues to

navigate complex challenges, its enduring unity and shared hope for a better future underscore the spirit of a nation that refuses to be broken.

This resolve was powerfully echoed by Pakistan's military supremo during his address at the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Independence Day Parade. His speech served as a bridge between the strength of the people and the role of the armed forces, underscoring the deep connection between national unity, sovereignty, and security. He emphasized the military's unwavering commitment to defending the country from both internal and external threats, while highlighting the resilience that has been a hallmark of Pakistan's journey.

The Chief of Army Staff's (COAS) reaffirmation of the military's commitment to combating terrorism underscores Pakistan's multi-faceted approach to addressing militancy. His focus on the resurgence of militancy, especially in KPK, highlights the ongoing existential threat posed by extremist

factions. However, Pakistan has made significant progress in curbing the influence of such banned outfits. This success can be attributed to a combination of sustained counter-terrorism operations, heightened border security, robust anti-terrorism legislation, and improved civil-military coordination. These factors have collectively reduced the operational capabilities of militant groups, marking a notable achievement in Pakistan's broader security strategy. However, the persistence of the threat indicates that ongoing vigilance and strategic collaboration remain essential to completely eradicating terrorism from the region.

Acknowledgment was also accorded to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) for their steadfast support of law enforcement agencies in the ongoing struggle against disruptive forces. He recognized their crucial role in maintaining stability and security in the region, acknowledging the bravery and resilience they have demonstrated in the face of challenges.

The Army Chief emphasized that the entire nation is deeply indebted to these courageous individuals, who remain unwavering in their commitment to countering those who seek to destabilize Pakistan. Their dedication not only bolsters the efforts of security forces but also reflects a broader spirit of national unity and determination. This collective resolve is essential in overcoming adversity and ensuring a secure and peaceful future for the country. This acknowledgment of the people of KP for their steadfast support of law enforcement highlights their pivotal role in Pakistan's ongoing battle against disruptive forces and the acceptance and bravery of their sacrifices in the higher echelons. The Army Chief's recognition underscores the deep interdependence between civilians and security forces in maintaining stability, especially in regions most affected by extremism.

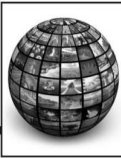
General Munir's emphasis on Pakistan's ability to maintain a principled and stable stance amid rapid global and regional changes

highlights the country's diplomatic resilience. His acknowledgment of Pakistan's commitment to pacifism, ethical governance, and peaceful resolutions underscores the nation's strategy of aligning with international norms, despite the shifting geopolitical landscape. This approach has not only preserved Pakistan's integrity but has also reinforced its standing on the world stage. The analysis reflects how Pakistan's consistent dedication to diplomacy and ethical values enables it to navigate complex challenges while maintaining global respect and influence.

A clear desire was articulated for fostering strong and positive relations with Afghanistan by the Chief of Armed Forces himself, emphasizing the critical importance of maintaining and enhancing these ties. He urged that efforts should be concentrated on building goodwill and cooperation between the two brotherly, Islamic neighboring nations. Undoubtedly, strengthening this relationship is essential for regional stability and mutual prosperity. Afghanistan needs to

take decisive action against extremist forces in Afghanistan, specifically targeting those involved in un-Islamic and destructive activities. By addressing these disruptive elements with firm measures, both nations can ensure that their partnership remains robust and focused on constructive engagement, ultimately contributing to a more stable and peaceful region.

Army Chief stated that "Pakistan came into being to stand out among the comity of nations. Pakistan is a fait accompli and it cannot be undone". This powerful assertion underscores Pakistan's indomitable spirit and unwavering resolve in the face of adversity. Despite enduring significant economic hardships and confronting persistent security challenges, the resilience of Pakistan's people remains remarkable. Their collective fortitude not only upholds the nation's sovereignty but also reinforces its position as a steadfast and enduring entity on the global stage. Pakistan's military capabilities and the unyielding resolve of its people undoubtedly serve as the foundation for its continued stability and progress.



Ukraine orders families to leave key city of Pokrovsk amid Russian advances

KYIV: Ukrainian authorities have issued an urgent order to families with children to evacuate the eastern city of Pokrovsk, where the Russian army is bearing down fast despite a lightning Ukrainian incursion into Russia's Kursk region.

Local authorities said Russian forces are advancing so quickly that families must leave the city and other nearby towns and villages starting Tuesday. Around 53,000 people still live in Pokrovsk, officials say, while some have already fled their homes as Russia's army advances. Donetsk governor Vadym Filashkin called decision to evacuate "necessary and inevitable".

Pokrovsk is one of Ukraine's main defensive strongholds and a key logistics hub in the Donetsk region. Its capture by Russia, which invaded Ukraine in February 2022, would compromise Ukraine's defensive abilities and supply routes and would bring Russia closer to its stated aim of capturing the entire Donetsk region. One of Kyiv's attempts to ease the pressure on its eastern front was the unexpected August 6 incursion into Russia's Kursk region, which among other goals aimed to unnerv the Kremlin and compel it to split its military resources. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that the daring incursion is trying to create a buffer zone that might prevent further attacks by Moscow across the border, especially with long-range artillery, missiles and glide bombs. That operation was continuing under tight secrecy.

Russia's relentless six-month slog across Ukraine's Donetsk region following the capture of Avdiivka has cost it heavily in troops and armour. However, the onslaught has gradually



paid dividends as Ukrainian defenders have no choice but to pull back from positions blown to pieces by Russian artillery, missiles and bombs. Russia wants control of all parts of Donetsk and neighbouring Luhansk, which together make up the Donbas region.

In Pokrovsk, residents have just two weeks to leave the city safely, officials said in an interview with the United States-funded Radio Liberty. Officials warned last week that Russian forces were rapidly advancing and were just 10km (6 miles) from the city's outskirts. Oleksandr Syrsyii, Ukraine's military commander-in-chief, said that "heavy battles" were taking place in the Pokrovsk area. The nearby town of Toretsk, whose capture would open the door for a Russian advance on the key stronghold of Chasiv Yar from the south, is also under heavy pressure, he said. Russia's Defence Ministry said that its forces had captured the

town of Zalizne in Donetsk, as its offensive against the nearby city of Toretsk gains steam.

Zalizne, which Russia calls by its Soviet-era name of Artyomovo, adjoins Toretsk, a mining town and longtime bastion of Ukrainian forces operating in the Donbas region. The Institute for the Study of War said Russian forces have been advancing roughly two square kilometres (0.8 square miles) per day in the Pokrovsk region over the past six months. They have relied on frontal infantry assaults from village to village, notching incremental progress as they make their manpower and material advantages tell, the Washington-based think tank said. Pokrovsk officials were meeting with residents to provide them with logistical details on the evacuation. People were offered shelter in western Ukraine, where they will be hosted in dormitories and separate houses prepared for them. — Aljazeera

Hillary Clinton says it's time Kamala broke 'glass ceiling'

CHICAGO (BBC): Taking the stage on the opening night of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke to a crowd of thousands about the time she had shattered one of America's biggest glass ceilings by becoming the first woman to win a major party nomination for president.

"When a barrier falls for one of us, it clears the way for all of us," she said, echoing her convention speech from eight years before. But while her bid for the presidency in November 2016 was historic, it ultimately led to defeat, when she lost the election to Donald Trump. Now, she told the crowd, the time had come to pass the torch to Ms Harris, as the Democratic Party took its next shot at putting a woman in the White House.

"Together, we've put a lot of cracks in the highest, hardest glass ceiling," Ms Clinton said. "On the other side of that glass ceiling is Kamala Harris raising her hand and taking the oath of office as our 47th president of the United States." Times have changed since Ms Clinton set out to become the first female president of the United States, according to several female delegates and politicians attending the 2024 DNC in Chicago. Back then, she made her gender a central part of the campaign - a move Ms Harris has seemingly avoided. But whether the political backdrop has transformed enough for the vice-president to reach the nation's highest office remains an open question. Ms Clinton "shattered a lot of glass for

many people", said Mynyon Moore, the chair of the Democratic National Convention Committee, told reporters. But, she said: "It's not easy. We're trying to shift the mindset of people." Women politicians and delegates who spoke to the BBC said they faced a number of barriers in politics, both in running for office and while serving their communities.

When Mallory McMorrow, a state senator from Michigan, ran for office in 2018, she remembers one woman in her district asked if she was planning on having children. "She told me to my face, this is not a job for a mom," Ms McMorrow said. She went on to become the second senator in Michigan history to give birth while in office. Judy Mount, the first African-American female chair of the Florida Democrats, said it took years for women to be able to serve as chairs of their state political parties.

"People just do not want to see a woman in charge of anything," she said. "They do not." During her run for president in 2016, Ms Clinton fell victim to many of these same obstacles. She faced a barrage of criticisms over her appearance, her clothing and even the sound of her voice. She came into the race with more "baggage" than the average candidate, said Deloris Hudson, an Ohio delegate to the DNC. Voters judged Ms Clinton not only based on her own credentials and record as secretary of state but also on her relationship with her husband, former President Bill Clinton, Ms Hudson said.

Ms Hudson said many women

judged Ms Clinton for staying with her husband after he had an affair with Monica Lewinsky, an intern in the White House. "A lot of women felt, once the affair occurred: 'Was she as a strong woman as she could've been because she stayed by her man?'" Ms Hudson said. But ultimately, it was Ms Clinton's loss to Trump in 2016 that sparked women's marches across the country and propelled a record number of female candidates to run for office in 2018. Now, 28.5% of the House of Representatives is female, compared to just 19.1% in 2017, according to the Pew Research Center. Meanwhile, over the past decade, the percentage of Americans who believed men were better suited for politics than women fell continuously, according to data from the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center.

Several elections later, Ms Harris does not face the same pressure as Ms Clinton to be "everything to every woman", Ms McMorrow said. "Since then, we've seen more women running and winning at every single level all the way up that allows us more freedom and flexibility to be ourselves," she said. Though the vice-president's aides and allies have pointed to the deep-rooted sexism she's faced over her career, Ms Harris has tried to focus on her record rather than her gender identity. While Ms Clinton tried to galvanise voters around her female candidacy, coining the slogan "I'm with Her", Ms Harris has largely avoided conversations about gender.

Bank boss among missing in Sicily disaster

SICILY (BBC): Morgan Stanley International bank chairman Jonathan Bloomer and Clifford Chance lawyer Chris Morvillo are among the six people missing after a luxury yacht sank in a storm off Sicily. Sicily's Civil Protection told the BBC.

UK tech tycoon Mike Lynch, 59, and his daughter Hannah, 18, were earlier also reported unaccounted for after the incident about 700m (2,300ft) from the Mediterranean island's shore.

The 56m Bayesian was carrying 22 people including Brits, Americans and Canadians. Fifteen people were rescued, including a one-year-old British girl. Sicily's Civil Protection also confirmed that the body of the ship's cook was recovered. The yacht capsized at about 5:00 local time after a heavy storm caused water-spouts, or rotating columns of air.

A search operation was due to recommence at 06:30 local time (05:30 BST) on Tuesday, Italian newspaper La Repubblica reported. The British-flagged yacht with 10 crew and 12 passengers sank near the port of Porticello, just east of Sicily's capital Palermo. Witnesses told Italian news agency Ansa that the Bayesian's anchor was down when the storm struck, causing the mast to break and the ship to lose its balance and sink. The wreckage lies on the seabed at a depth of 50m, and divers are preparing to resume their search for the missing, Mike Lynch, one of the missing passengers, is known by some as "the British Bill Gates". He co-founded software company Autonomy, before selling it to American computing giant Hewlett-Packard (HP) in 2011 for \$11bn (£8.6bn). But an intense legal battle following the high-profile acquisition loomed over Mr Lynch for over a decade. He was acquitted in the US in June on multiple fraud charges, for which he had been facing two decades in jail. The sinking of the yacht came on the same day that Mr Lynch's co-defendant in the fraud case, Stephen Chamberlain, was confirmed by his lawyer as having died after being hit by a car in Cambridgeshire.

The Bayesian's registered owner is listed as Revtom Ltd. The superyacht can accommodate up to 12 guests in six suites. The yacht's name is understood to be based on the Bayesian theory, which Mr Lynch's PhD thesis was based on. Mr Lynch's wife Ms Bacares is named as the sole legal owner of Revtom, which is registered in the Isle of Man. Mr Lynch's wife, Angela Bacares, was one of the 15 people rescued. A British mother and her one-year-old daughter also survived. The mother, named locally as Charlotte Golunski, later described how she was holding her baby above the surface of the sea to save her from drowning.

Iran hacked Trump campaign, US intelligence confirms

WASHINGTON (BBC): Iran was behind the recent hack of Donald Trump's presidential campaign, US intelligence officials have confirmed. The FBI and other federal agencies said in a joint statement that Iran had chosen to interfere in the US election "to stoke discord and undermine confidence in our democratic institutions".

The Trump campaign pointed the finger at Iran on 10 August for hacking its internal messages. Iranian officials denied it. Sources familiar with the investigation told the BBC's US partner, CBS News, that they suspect Iranian hackers also targeted the campaign of Democratic presidential contender Kamala Harris. "The [intelligence community] is confident that the Iranians have through social engineering and other efforts sought access to individuals with direct access to the Presidential campaigns of both political parties," US intelligence officials said in

the statement. "Such activity, including thefts and disclosures, are intended to influence the US election process." The Trump campaign was reportedly sent a spear-phishing email - a message designed to look trustworthy in order to get the target to click on a malicious link. The Harris campaign said last week it had also been the target of a spear-phishing attack, though it was unsuccessful. The agencies that released statement, including the FBI, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, said the tactics were "not new" and noted that Russia and Iran had employed such methods during previous US elections. It remains unclear what information, if any, was stolen during the hack. Trump said the hackers were only able to obtain publicly available information. The New York Times, Politico and The

Washington Post said they were leaked confidential information from inside the Trump campaign, including on its vetting of his running mate, JD Vance.

The outlets have so far declined to offer specifics. US officials said it was clear Iran wanted to shape the outcome of elections it believes are "particularly consequential in terms of the impact they could have on its national security interests". The American intelligence agencies added that they had "observed increasingly aggressive Iranian activity during this election cycle". There has been growing concern about potential Iranian hackers.

Recently, Microsoft said it had seen "the emergence of significant influence activity" by groups linked to Iran. Before he dropped out of the White House race last month, President Joe Biden's campaign was targeted by Iranian hackers, as was Trump's, according to Google.

Doctors take on Mpox amid conflict in DRC

GOMA: It's dawn at the mpox treatment site at Nyrangongo General

Referral Hospital, north of the city of Goma, and Congolese medics are already hard at work, calmly and efficiently screening, isolating and caring for patients infected with the disease.

Two days prior, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued its highest alert level for mpox after the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) declared the viral disease previously known as monkeypox a continental emergency. But for doctors in DRC - who have been tackling the latest mpox outbreak since 2022 amid medicine shortages, an ongoing rebellion in the east, and after years toiling on the front lines of Ebola epidemics - the challenges have become routine.

In between the stream of patients visiting the Nyrangongo Hospital for all number of ailments, teams of hygienists and other health providers tend to mpox patients in a separate white tented area where those suffering from the highly infectious disease can be isolated to avoid any risk of contamination. Among them, shopkeeper Madam Nyota Joyeuse is resting in a small three-bed tent. The 35-year-old mother of two fell ill about a week prior. She had a headache, fever, muscle aches and a slight flu, so assumed it was malaria, which is common in North Kivu. But when her symptoms weren't easing days

later, she finally came to the clinic.

"I felt as if the whole universe had fallen on my head when I was told I had monkeypox," she tells Al Jazeera, worried that her health had deteriorated and her business would come to a halt. But the treatment she's receiving is helping her. "Fortunately, that's promising. May the Almighty bless those who take care of us," she says from her hospital bed. Originally named "monkeypox" when it was first identified in monkeys in 1958, the name of the disease was updated to "mpox" in 2022 to reduce stigma. Endemic to parts of Central and West Africa, mpox is related to the virus that caused the now-eradicated smallpox, and can be fatal in severe cases.

Although outbreaks are common in DRC, health experts say the recent rise is due to a new strain, clade 1, that is spreading faster and wider than ever before. This week, the WHO said cases have been detected in 13 African countries, as well Sweden, Pakistan and the Philippines. The Africa CDC said cases are up 160 percent in 2024 compared with the same period last year. In DRC the disease has been detected in all 26 provinces. As of this week, the country recorded more than 16,000 cases of mpox, resulting in about 570 deaths this year. Badiambila Mulumba, the medical director of Nyrangongo Hospital, tells Al Jazeera his facility began treating mpox this June, and has since regis-

tered 278 cases referred to them - "both positive and negative cases", he says.

As of August 10, there were 78 positive cases at his facility, but no deaths. "We continue to control cases. There are mild and serious cases, but no deaths," he tells Al Jazeera. Rachel Maguru is an attending physician at the North Kivu Provincial Hospital, another government facility, in downtown Goma, where she treats mpox patients. She tells Al Jazeera many people arrive for treatment only after the disease manifests on their skin. Mpox causes a distinctive rash that eventually forms pustules.

"What's real is that many patients don't discover the disease early on. They become aware of it once their skin manifests an unusual form of gall," Maguru says, concerned. The hospital where she works had treated 10 positive cases up until August 10, all of which were declared cured. She takes this as a positive sign that all mpox patients in her care will recover and circumstances around the disease will improve. "We're not under pressure from this pandemic. We've [previously] had to deal with others like Ebola and coronavirus. With this experience behind us, we're also facing this mpox," she says. This part of eastern DRC was home to an Ebola treatment centre during the 10th outbreak of that epidemic, which claimed more than 2,000 lives between 2018 and 2020. — Aljazeera

'My family died in front of my eyes'

DHAKA (BBC): Fayaz and his wife believed they were moments from safety when the bombs began to fall: "We were getting on the boat one after another - that's when they started bombing us." Wails and shouts filled the air around 17:00 local time on 5 August, Fayaz* says, as thousands of scared Rohingyas made their way to the banks of the Naf river in the town of Maungdaw.

Attacks on villages earlier in the area meant this was what hundreds of families, including Fayaz's, saw as their only option - that to get to safety, they had to escape from western Myanmar to Bangladesh's safer shores. Fayaz was carrying bags stuffed with whatever they had managed to grab. His wife was carrying their six-year-old daughter, their eldest was running alongside them. His wife's sister was walking ahead, with the couple's eight-month-old son in her arms. The first bomb killed his sister-in-law instantly. The baby was badly injured - but alive. "I ran and carried him... But he died while we were waiting for the bombing to stop." Nisar* had also made it to the riverbank by about 17:00, having decided to escape with his mother, wife, son, daughter and sister. "We heard drones overhead and then the loud sound of an explosion," he recalls. "We were all thrown to the ground. They dropped bombs on us using drones." Nisar was the only one of his family to survive. Fayaz, his wife and daughter escaped and would eventually make it across the river. Despite his pleas, the boatman refused to allow Fayaz to bring the baby's body with them. "He said there was no point in carrying the dead, so I dug a hole by the river bank and hastily buried him."

Now they're all in the relative safety of Bangladesh, but if they are caught by authorities here they could

be sent back. Nisar clutches a Quran, unable still to process how his world was shattered in a single day. "If I'd known what would happen, I would never have tried to leave that day," Nisar says. It is notoriously difficult to piece together what is happening in Myanmar's civil war. But the BBC has managed to construct a picture of what happened on the evening of 5 August through a series of exclusive interviews with more than a dozen Rohingya survivors who escaped to Bangladesh, and the videos they shared. All of the survivors - unarmed Rohingya civilians - recount hearing many bombs exploding over a period of two hours. While most described the bombs being dropped by drones, a weapon increasingly being used in Myanmar, some said they were hit by mortars and gunfire. The MSF clinic operating in Bangladesh has said it saw a big surge in wounded Rohingyas in the days that followed - half of the injured were women and children.

Survivors' videos analysed by BBC Verify show the river bank covered in bloodied bodies, many of them women and children. There's no verified count of the number of people killed, but multiple eyewitnesses have told the BBC they saw scores of bodies. Survivors told us they were attacked by the Arakan Army, one of the strongest insurgent groups in Myanmar which in recent months has driven the military out of nearly all of Rakhine State. They said they were first attacked in their villages, forcing them to flee, and then were attacked again by the river bank as they sought to escape. The AA declined to be interviewed but its spokesman Khaing Tukha denied the accusation and responded to the BBC's questions

with a statement which said "the incident did not occur in areas controlled by us". He also accused Rohingya activists of staging the massacre and falsely accusing the AA. Nisar stands by his account, however. "The Arakan Army are lying," he says. "The attacks were done by them. It was only them in our area on that day. And they have been attacking us for weeks. They don't want to leave any Muslim alive." Most of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims live as a minority in Rakhine - a Buddhist-majority state, where the two communities have long had a fraught relationship. In 2017, when the Myanmar military killed thousands of Rohingyas in what the UN described as "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing", local Rakhine men also joined the attacks. Now, amid a spiralling conflict between the junta and the AA, which has strong support in the ethnic Rakhine population, Rohingyas once again find themselves trapped. Despite the risk of being caught and returned to Myanmar by the Bangladeshi authorities, Rohingyas survivors told the BBC they wished to share details of the violence they faced so it would not go undocumented, especially as it unfolded in an area that is no longer accessible to rights groups or journalists. "My heart is broken. Now, I've lost everything. I don't know why I survived," Nisar says. A wealthy Rohingya trader, he sold his land and house as the shelling increased near his home in Rakhine. But the conflict intensified faster than he expected, and on the morning of 5 August, the family decided to leave Myanmar. He is crying as he points to his daughter's body in one of the videos: "My daughter died in my

arms saying Allah's name. She looks so peaceful, like she's sleeping. She loved me so much." In the same video, he also points to his wife and sister, both severely injured but alive when the video was filmed. He could not carry them out as bombs were still falling, so he made the agonising choice to leave them behind. He found out later they had died. "There was nowhere left that was safe, so we ran to the river to cross over to Bangladesh," Fayaz says. The gunfire and bombs had followed them from village to village, and so Fayaz gave all his money to a boatman to carry them across the river. Devastated and angry, he holds up a photo of his son's bloodied body.

"If the Arakan Army didn't fire at us, then who did?" he asks. "The direction that the bombs came from, I know the Arakan Army was there. Or was it thunder falling from the sky?" These accusations raise serious questions about the Arakan Army, which describes itself as a revolutionary movement representing all the people of Rakhine. Since late last year, the AA, part of the larger Three Brotherhood Alliance of armed insurgents in Myanmar, has made huge gains against the military.

But the army's losses have brought new dangers for Rohingyas, who have previously told the BBC they were being forcibly recruited by the junta to fight the AA. This, together with the decision by the Rohingya militant group ARSA to ally itself with the junta against the Rakhine insurgents, has soured already poor relations between the two communities and left Rohingya civilians vulnerable to retribution. One survivor of the 5 August attack told the BBC

that ARSA militants who had aligned themselves with the junta had been among the fleeing crowd - and that might have provoked the attack. "Even if there was any military target, there was a disproportionate use of force. There were children, women, the elderly that were killed that day. It was also indiscriminate," says John Quinley, a director of the human rights group Fortify Rights, which has been investigating the incident. "So that would leave us to believe that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a war crime did happen on 5 August. The Arakan Army should be investigated for these crimes and Arakan Army senior commanders should be held accountable."

This is a precarious moment for the Rohingya community. More than a million of them fled to Bangladesh in 2017, where they continue to be restricted to densely-packed, squalid camps. More have been arriving in recent months as the war in Rakhine reaches them but, it's no longer 2017, when Bangladesh opened its borders. This time, the government has said it cannot allow any more Rohingyas into the country. So survivors who can find the money to pay boatmen and traffickers - the BBC was told it costs 600,000 Burmese kyat (\$184; £141) per person - then have to slip past Bangladeshi border guards and chance their luck with locals, or hide in Rohingya camps. When Fayaz and his family arrived in Bangladesh on the 6 August, the border guards gave them a meal but then put them on a boat and sent them back.

"We spent two days afloat with no food or water," he says. "I gave my daughters water from the river to drink, and pleaded with some of the

others on the boat to give them a few biscuits from the packets they had." They got into Bangladesh on their second attempt. But at least two boats have capsized because of overcrowding. One woman, a widow with 10 children, said she had managed to hide her family during the bombing, but five of her children drowned when their boat overturned. "My children were like pieces of my heart. When I think of them, I want to die," she says, weeping.

Her grandson, a wide-eyed eight-year-old boy, sits beside her. His parents and younger brother also died. But what of those who were left behind? Phone and internet networks in Maungdaw have been down for weeks but after repeated attempts, the BBC contacted one man, who wished to remain anonymous for his own safety. "The Arakan Army has forced us out of our homes and are holding us in schools and mosques," he said. "I am being kept with six other families in a small house."

The Arakan Army told the BBC that it rescued 20,000 civilians from the town amid fighting against the military. It said it was providing them with food and medical treatment, and add that "these operations are conducted for the safety and security of these individuals, not as forced relocations". The man on the phone rejected their claims. "The Arakan Army has told us they will shoot us if we try to leave. We are running out of food and medicines. I am ill, my mother is ill. A lot of people have diarrhoea and are vomiting." He broke down, pleading for help: "Tens of thousands of Rohingyas are under threat here. If you can, please save us." Across the river in Bangladesh, Nisar looks back at Myanmar. He can see the shore where his family was killed. "I never want to go back."

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Seize every cease-fire chance in Gaza

In a seemingly positive step toward achieving a truce in Gaza, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Monday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had accepted a "bridging proposal" presented by the United States to tackle disagreements blocking a cease-fire deal in the territory, and urged militant group Hamas to do the same.

The top US diplomat, on his ninth trip to the region since October, said it was a "decisive moment", and "maybe the last" opportunity to secure a cease-fire and free the Israeli hostages being held by Hamas. However, he said that even if Hamas accepts the proposal, negotiators will have to spend the coming days working on "clear understandings on implementing the agreement", adding there are still "complex issues" requiring "hard decisions by the leaders".

Israel started the war against Hamas after the group's cross-border Oct 7 attacks in which more than 1,200 Israelis were killed and 250 taken hostage, according to Israeli authorities. More than 100 of those hostages remain in Hamas' hands in Gaza. The peace deal currently under discussion calls for a three-phase process in which Hamas would release all the Israeli hostages, in exchange for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Gaza and a release of Palestinian prisoners.

Such a deal is desperately needed given the dire situation in Gaza after more than 10 months of the Israeli campaign to wipe out Hamas, which has basically devastated the territory and plunged the 2.3 million Palestinians living there into an "epic humanitarian catastrophe". Israel's military operations in Gaza have killed more than 40,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities.

The ongoing peace talks have gained a sense of urgency in recent days after the targeted killings of Hamas' political leader in Teheran, capital of Iran, and a top commander of military group Hezbollah in Lebanon that were blamed on Israel. The assassinations have raised fears of a larger scale regional war as Iran and Hezbollah have vowed revenge. Many believe that should a peace deal be forthcoming, it would help prevent any further escalation of tensions and diminish the chance of a full-scale war.

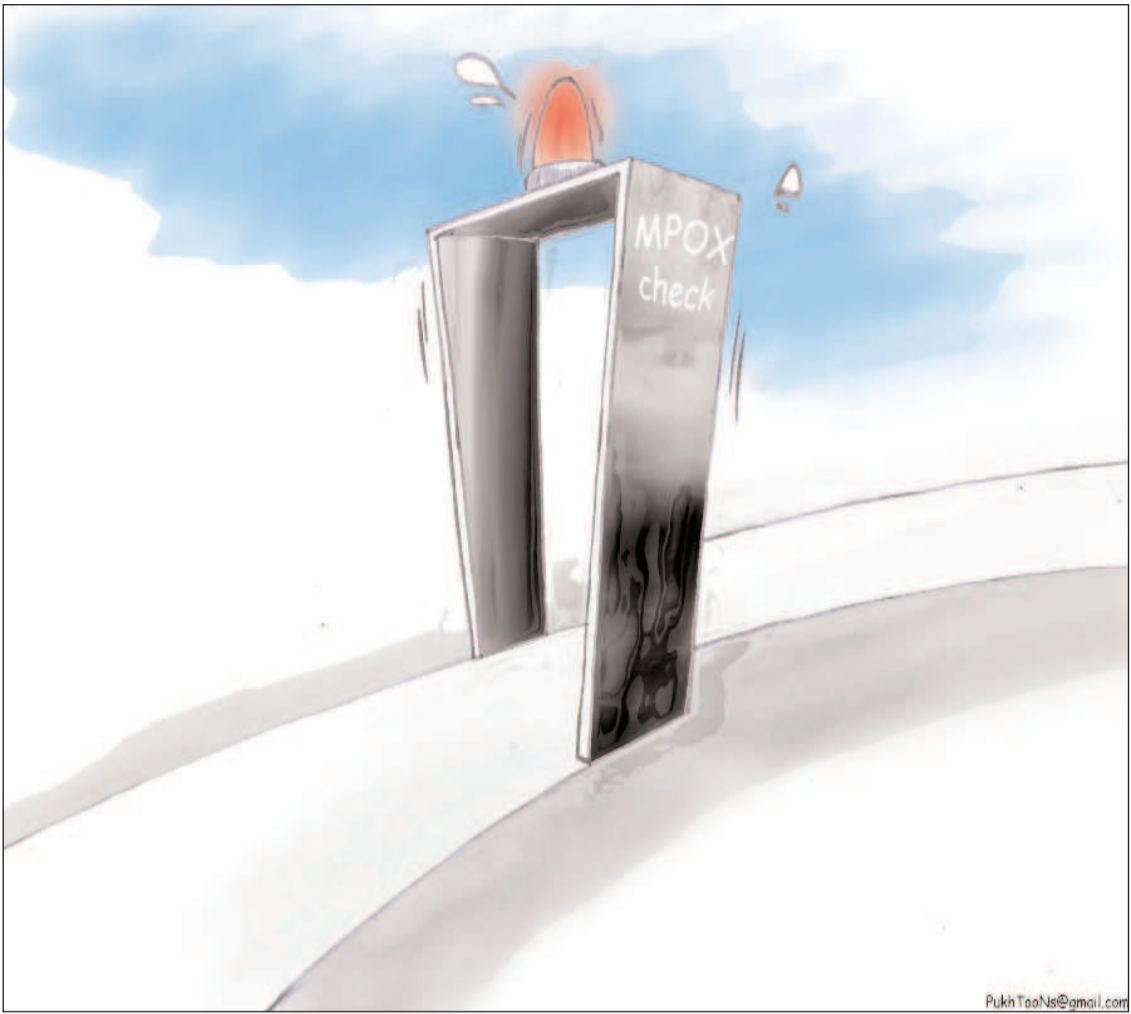
The major obstacle to reaching an immediate cease-fire comes from the deep mistrust that Hamas harbors of the US as a mediator, which the group believes is siding with Israel. Hamas has accused Israel of trying to prolong the war with new conditions set in the peace deal. Other remaining sticking points include the number of Palestinian prisoners to be released and how far back Israeli forces should withdraw.

While details of the latest "bridging proposal" are still unavailable, there are concerns how far it will go, given the strong opposition that exists within Israel to any compromise with Hamas. Some far-right members of Netanyahu's governing coalition have previously threatened to withdraw their support for Netanyahu should there be a cease-fire deal that stops short of Hamas' total destruction.

Given all this, it will be extremely hard to clinch a cease-fire deal. Yet despite that, the international community must not cease making efforts to contribute to a permanent and comprehensive cease-fire in Gaza, and work together to bring an end to the conflict there as soon as possible. The US, in particular, has an obligation to spare no efforts to rein in the radical forces in Israel so as to prevent the peace process from being derailed, again.

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Gaza: Words are fine, but deeds decide peace

Michael Jansen

ISRAEL'S war on Gaza and constant attacks in this region loom large on the agenda of the Democratic National Convention convening today in Chicago to confirm Kamala Harris and Tim Walz as the party's nominees for president and vice president. The convention in hot and sultry August has become the summer's most exciting event. In attendance are 5,000 delegates, 50,000 visitors, and 15,000 media folk, 12,000 volunteers, and tens of thousands of uninvited protesters.

Violence and the threat of all-out war in the distant Arab world has fuelled tensions and divisions within the Democratic Party and disruptive protests are expected in locations reserved for demonstrations and the forbidden avenues and streets leading to the United Centre sports stadium hosting the Democrats.

Nevertheless, there will be a false show of party unity with addresses by outgoing President Joe Biden, former presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama and ex-candidate Hillary Clinton who lost to Republican Trump in 2016. Harris will address the assembly on closing day, Thursday.

Among the peaceful protesters are organisations of US citizens of Arab and Muslim background. University students who took part in pro-Palestinian campus demonstrations and sit-ins could resist police intervention.

They could be joined by the far left "March on the DNC 2024" which has a membership of 200 groups and asks supporters to "stand with Palestine" and "End US aid to Israel." This coalition castigates Democrats as capitalist exploiters and calls on grassroots organisations to take the fight for "exploited and oppressed people" to the convention.

The Poor People's Army,

which demands economic justice, has permission to rally at a park five kilometres from the convention venue and will be addressed by no-hope third-party candidates Jill Stein and Cornel West, before marching towards the United Centre. Some members of this group have walked from the mid-July Republican Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 130 kilometres from Chicago.

The Associated Press quoted spokeswoman Cheri Honkala who said, "Poor and homeless people are being brutalized, with tents and encampments destroyed and bulldozed away, from San Francisco to Philadelphia to Gaza and the West Bank. These preventable human rights violations are being committed by Democratic and Republican leaders alike." "Regardless of who the nominee is, we're marching against the Democrats and their vicious policies that have allowed Israel to kill over 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza," Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression spokeswoman Fayaani Aboma Mijana told the Associated Press.

There could be clashes between leftists and rightist supporters of Republican candidates Donald Trump and JD Vance confirmed at that party's convention.

The federal government has provided \$50 million in funding for Chicago's forces of law and order. More than 30,000 protesters could mass to condemn the Biden administration's total support for Israel at a time Gaza's fatalities have reached 40,000 and wounded 84,000. Convention organisers and the authorities are determined that this event does not follow the example of the 1968 Democratic Convention when widespread leftist anti-Vietnam war rallies were met with brutal repression by the Chicago police, the Illinois National

Guard and other security agencies. Investigators later branded the crack down a "police riot." Disruption is also likely inside the convention hall. Among the 5,000 delegates 36 are from the Michigan-based disproportionately influential "uncommitted" movement launched during the primary elections to express opposition to Biden's embrace of Israel. This movement gained 100,000 votes in the Michigan primary and another 600,000 in other states. This amounted to a rejection of Biden in several key swing states - including Michigan, Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin - which will decide the presidential contest in the Electoral College.

Fearing boycotts of the November election and desertion to third party pro-Palestinian candidates, senior Democrats have held meetings with "uncommitted" leaders and their allies. Harris met with the Abdullah Hammoud, the mayor of Dearborn, Michigan, with the aim of clarifying her positions on Israel. Dearborn has the largest concentration of Arab-background voters in the US.

Before a recent rally near Detroit, Harris briefly courted "uncommitted" co-founders Abbas Alawieh and Layla Elabed who urged her to back an embargo of weapons shipments to Israel.

While she listened to them, once news of the encounter leaked, her national security adviser Phil Gordon said she does not back an arms embargo.

Arab and Muslim-background US citizens are not alone in having a stake in the Harris-Walz partnership. The Jewish Democratic Council of America has bought \$250,000 worth of ads urging Jewish voters in the seven battleground states to

vote for Harris. A virtual event staged by "Jewish Women for Kamala Harris" attracted more than 30,000 participants. US-Israeli activist Alana Zeitchik said she was backing Harris as a leader who will push for ceasefire "that will free the hostages and alleviate the horrific suffering for Palestinians in Gaza," Haaretz reported. Hopefully this will happen well before the election.

Polls show that some 70 per cent of Democrats (and 35 per cent of Republicans) favour the impositions of conditions on military aid to Israel but the Biden administration - in which Harris still number two - has ignored its committed constituency and pumped billion of dollars worth of bombs, warplanes, and munitions into Israel's Gaza war while vetoing three UN Security Council resolutions for a ceasefire. International and domestic pressure compelled Biden to put forward a three-stage ceasefire proposal on May 31st. Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu imposed conditions on his acceptance to draw out negotiations while Hamas agreed to its terms after conceding its central demand that the ceasefire should permanent from the outset.

While Harris supports the proposed deal and the release of hostages, she is not trusted by the anti-war camp because of her partnership with Biden. In attempt to alleviate concerns, her campaign said in an unconvincing statement.

"She will continue to meet with leaders from Palestinian, Muslim, Israeli and Jewish communities, as she has throughout her vice presidency." Words and meetings are fine, but deeds are demanded. These include urgent Biden-Harris implementation of the ceasefire and provision of massive existential aid to Gaza's 2.3 million hungry, sick, and wounded Palestinians who risk death by living day by day.

Human shields yet another Israeli violation

Chris Doyle

ISRAEL has violated practically every single human right of Palestinians in Gaza over the last 10 months. Palestinian life is disposable. Even the dead have been violated. The rape of prisoners is seemingly acceptable.

However, one aspect that is rarely commented on is Israel's use of Palestinians as human shields. Hamas is routinely accused of using human shields. Its taking of hostages and holding them close to its combatants and leaders is a blatant violation of international law. The Israeli argument is that Hamas members embed themselves in civilian areas, including schools and hospitals. No doubt this is true, but the extent is unclear.

Yet, with Israel bombing 17 schools in July alone, what is happening is that Tel Aviv has determined that it is acceptable to bomb a crowded school that acts as a civilian shelter on the

become a shield, meaning they would suffer extraordinary violence as a result and often for days, weeks and months at a time. Civilians, as in the case of Gaza, are often trapped and have no ability to change this status. Israel has abused this to justify horrific levels of bombardment.

But Israel also has a long history of using involuntary human shields and is doing so again in Gaza. Israeli armed forces have used Palestinian civilians to search buildings and tunnels for booby traps and fighters prior to Israeli soldiers going in. They are even dressed in Israeli uniforms but can be spotted as they wear sneakers not army boots and are cuffed behind their backs. Videos have been leaked that show Palestinians going down tunnels while tied to ropes to hunt for any explosives.

According to the Israeli nongovernmental organization Breaking the Silence,

Italian forces accused their Ethiopian opponents of hiding weapons and fighters in hospitals back in the 1930s, just as Israel accuses Hamas of this now. Many of the accusations Israel has made of the misuse of hospitals in Gaza were not backed up by evidence or were subsequently determined to be false. Remember the model of the huge bunker that Israeli officials produced, claiming that this was what they would find under Al-Shifa Hospital.

..... basis that there may be a small number of Hamas members there. Israeli spokespeople do not claim that those members are in active combat. This violates the duties of Israel to distinguish at all times between civilian and military, and also the issue of proportionality.

The use of human shields has a long history. Such shields can either be voluntary, involuntary or proximate. Voluntary human shields were promoted by Mahatma Gandhi in India, for example.

Involuntary human shields are prohibited in international law under the Geneva Conventions and, since 2005, have been outlawed in theory in Israel. It is when a warring party forces people to serve as protection against their will.

Italian forces accused their Ethiopian opponents of hiding weapons and fighters in hospitals back in the 1930s, just as Israel accuses Hamas of this now. Many of the accusations Israel has made of the misuse of hospitals in Gaza were not backed up by evidence or were subsequently determined to be false. Remember the model of the huge bunker that Israeli officials produced, claiming that this was what they would find under Al-Shifa Hospital.

Such an installation was never located. But it did allow Israeli propagandists to deflect criticism for the bombing of hospitals, reaching a situation where today the bombing of a hospital barely elicits even a condemnation.

The term "proximate shields" has been coined to describe those civilians found close to belligerents. This is the most common type of shield in modern-day warfare. The population of an entire city could

which takes testimonies from serving soldiers, the practice is so widespread in Gaza that it could be determined as a "protocol." Israeli soldiers have been told: "Our lives are more important than their lives." Evidence also indicates that Palestinians were used in preference to trained dogs as the latter were seen as more valuable.

This is another state-sanctioned policy. Israeli reports state clearly that the chief of staff is fully aware. Officials also know that Palestinian children have been used, as well as the elderly.

The use of human shields is not restricted to Gaza. Evidence abounds of Israeli soldiers using human shields in the West Bank. Human rights groups reported three boys being used as such in Tulkerem in May. And a wounded Palestinian was strapped to the front of a military jeep in Jenin the same month.

Israel's use of Palestinians as human shields has a long history. Palestinians were certainly used in the West Bank during Operation Defensive Shield in 2002. In Gaza, soldiers' testimonies reveal that shields were also used during Operation Cast Lead in 2009. "Sometimes a force would enter while placing rifle barrels on a civilian's shoulder, advancing into a house and using him as a human shield," according to one soldier.

But who holds Israel to account for this? The answer, as ever, is nobody. As with a whole raft of human rights abuses and chronic violations of international law, a dark veil of omerta shrouds international statesmen. The hypocrisy is rank, as Hamas is widely accused of the same crime, while Israel is barely ever questioned.

A partnership to build a multipolar world

Mauricio Santoro

THERE was a time when only partnerships between rich countries (of the Global North) carried any significance in international relations. Not anymore. Brazil and China are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations as one of the key interactions in the emerging world order.

From difficult beginnings, Brazil and China have built strong economic and political ties in several areas — from trade and investment to climate change. At the core of their common agendas are two main goals: helping each other prosper, and working together to build a multipolar world order in which power is distributed in a fair manner and developing countries get their due share and say.

In 1974, Brazil was ruled by General Ernesto Geisel, head of a conservative military regime, while Chairman Mao

Zedong was at the helm of the Chinese nation. Despite their different political outlooks, both governments were pragmatic enough to recognize in each other as emerging economies and important players of the Global South. The other common factor was their similar stances on global affairs in international organizations such as the United Nations.

In the initial years of reform and opening-up, China looked to Brazil's impressive fast-paced growth in the 20th century as a source of inspiration for successfully launching development projects such as special economic zones. The Brazilian hydropower dam on the Paraná River was a reference to build the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River, and the Carajás mining complex in the Amazon has worked in cooperation with Chinese miners.

Also, working together, Chinese and Brazilian scientists and diplomats

developed the innovative China-Brazil Earth Resource Satellite program to build satellites — five have been built so far.

In 1993, China and Brazil entered into a "strategic partnership", making Brazil the first developing country to do so. A common aspect of their foreign policies today, the concept of strategic partnership was new at the time. The decision to establish a strategic partnership suggested Brasília and Beijing realized their relationship was exceptionally important, beyond daily concerns. And in 2012, China and Brazil elevated bilateral relations to a "comprehensive strategic partnership".

The global commodity boom in the 2000s gave the Sino-Brazilian partnership economic muscle. A rising China with double-digit growth created excellent opportunities for Brazil's agribusiness, and the mining and oil sectors,

with its exports, led by soybean, iron ore and oil, skyrocketing. In 2009, China became Brazil's largest trade partner, replacing the United States from a position the latter had held since the 19th century. Sino-Brazilian trade is still increasing, and the bilateral trade volume last year exceeded \$157 billion.

For China, Brazil, with a market of more than 200 million consumers, is one of the biggest trade and economic partners outside Asia — behind only the US and Germany. Today, Chinese companies export industrial products to Brazil and have made massive investments in the country, building infrastructure facilities such as ports and railroads, while creating jobs. Major Chinese enterprises such as the State Grid, Huawei and BYD are significant investors in Brazil, well-liked in the Brazilian market and operate without

the political restrictions they often face in the West.

Over the past years, the Sino-Brazilian partnership has been extended to new areas, such as environmental protection. Since the Paris Agreement of 2015, Brazil and China have been coordinating their climate diplomacy and playing bolder roles in the fight against climate change, by developing green technologies and renewable energy like wind and solar power. Chinese companies have a significant economic presence in the Amazon and have been taking appropriate measures for the preservation of the ecology. For example, COFOCO only purchases soybean that carry a certification proving they were not grown on farms created by illegally clearing forest land.

Besides, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and his Chinese counterpart share many values, including the com-

mitment to build a community of the Global South, in order to promote common development and help reform the world order to make it fairer and equitable. Both leaders are also opposed to the conflicts and tensions triggered by the US-led West, including the Israel-Palestine and Russia-Ukraine conflicts.

Moreover, Brazil is recovering from a long decade of political crisis and economic stagnation, and looks to China as an able and trusted partner that can help it overcome the many challenges it faces. For Beijing, too, Brasília is a trusted partner which supports China in economic, trade and other disputes with the United States and the European Union. Going beyond bilateral relations, Brazil and China are also partners in several groupings, including BRICS and the G20. And they will continue to support each other both in normal times and in times of crisis.

Geneva talks are only the start of bringing Sudan's war to an end

THE conflict in Sudan is not one that is going to lend itself to quick fixes. For that reason, hopes have not been very high for the round of negotiations that was launched in Geneva last week.

For a start, the Sudanese Armed Forces are not in official attendance. This is despite their leader, Gen Abdel Fattah Al Burhan, receiving a US State Department invitation, in a message from Secretary of State Antony Blinken. This little-noticed development may have been intended to promote the Geneva talks, but it seems to have had the opposite effect.

More probably, Gen Al Burhan is holding out for next month's 79th UN General Assembly meeting in New York. The US has an obligation to grant him a visa to represent Sudan. So his side's decision to boycott Geneva does not seem likely to derail his trip, should he decide to go as he did last year.

Washington might wish, however, that it had not come down so decisively on his side. US officials have given heavy backing to the Geneva talks, promising that these negotiations would take on the Jeddah mediation agenda that has been at the centre of international efforts to end the bloodshed in Sudan.

The opposition Rapid Support Forces, on the other hand, have had a delegation in Geneva from the outset. In fact, they

have had one from the time the preparatory talks were held there.

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The Jeddah Declaration may not have been implemented by the opposing sides, but it holds importance because those sides signed up to it in the first place. While the three goals seem far away from being achieved, they are the pillars that any peace talks must be built on.

And indeed, even though the army representatives have not turned up in Switzerland, there has been some small progress. Participants and observers at the talks have welcomed announcements that the Adre border crossing as

Damien McElroy

well as the Dabbah route to the provinces of Darfur and Kordofan would be opened by the SAF, as the factions agreed to co-operate with humanitarian deliveries.

While Tom Perriello, the US special envoy for Sudan, conceded that face-to-face talks between the protagonists would not be possible,

he told a briefing at the outset of the week that gains, such as the announcement to open the routes, would be important. With the scale of food deprivation now thought to endanger 25 million Sudanese, any progress in this regard is to be welcomed.

Brinkmanship by Gen Al Burhan has seemed to be an outcome of the recent assassination attempt that he survived. But it is also true that among his own allies, the social media campaign to boycott Geneva has left him with less wriggle

room on staying away from the Swiss initiative. Some diplomats suggest that this is because the move to convene the meeting was seen to be popular.

The mood in the city of Port Sudan seems to be more resolute and confident than it has been previously. But what is not likely to shift much, as a result of the current rounds of

attempted mediation, are the timeframes for a resolution. This is partly because of the temporary factors playing out for the armed forces' leadership.

Focus on Sudan can be expected to play a big role at next month's UNGA meeting. The Saudi determination to see the commitments made in March 2023 in Jeddah cannot be doubted. And the wider steering group of countries is also determined to keep this process on track.

At some point, the new UK government can be expected to use its role as

the penholder on Sudan at the UN Security Council, too. The governing Labour party's appointees at the Foreign Office can be expected to come under pressure from the Sudanese community to show that London is fulfilling its historical obligations to the country.

Despite the evolving developments on the ground and the swings of initiative on the battlefield, these are the factors that will dictate the time-frame for meaningful talks.

Full-scale negotiations are certainly possible. If nothing else, the meeting in Geneva demonstrates that potential, even if they are marred by the failure to get full representation. Yet it is important to note that, while the political will or appetite for talks can be nurtured, it is very fragile and starting from a long way behind where it should be.

Right now, the mood among the factions and their commanders is clearly not ripe to take new risks for negotiations. This is where the work of the special envoys on the conflict is especially crucial in the months ahead. There are openings for negotiations, and only back-and-forth shuttling between the protagonists can get the situation to a better place.

This work has its myriad challenges, but if humanitarian aid access can be improved as a result of Geneva, the painstaking efforts could start to bear fruit across the wider agenda.

Why I am not voting for Kamala Harris

I registered to vote in 1998, and I have voted Democrat ever since. I have not always felt good about the candidates on the Democratic ticket. In fact, I have usually felt angry, disillusioned, disappointed and dirty after casting my vote. Still, it felt like part of the job of being a citizen of a pseudo-democracy. It was not the only work to be done, but it was something.

This November, however, I plan not to vote for the Democrats in the election. If the party's presidential candidate, Kamala Harris, does not change her policy on Israel, I will not be casting a ballot for her.

And I will not be the only one. More than 700,000 Americans have cast an "uncommitted" vote in the Democratic primaries, demonstrating their rejection of the Democratic Party's "iron-clad" support for Israel.

If Harris wants the progressive vote, she has to support an arms embargo on Israel and stop funding the Israeli genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. This is a red line for many of us who have not bought into her liberal cult of personality.

When President Joe Biden finally dropped out as the 2024 Democratic nominee on July 21, I was not one of the many people celebrating his endorsement of the vice president. Harris was on the wrong side of history as San Francisco's district attorney when she opposed criminal justice reform, and she has been on the wrong side of history in regards to Israel, which she is a staunch supporter of.

Still, a small part of me hoped she would be savvy enough to understand the power of the "uncommitted" movement – which is conditioning voting on support for an embargo on Israel and a permanent ceasefire in Gaza – and the level of outrage felt by those opposed to the ongoing genocide, funded these past 10 months by US aid. I was wrong.

At a rally in Detroit on August 7, Harris was met by a group of anti-genocide, pro-Palestine protesters chanting, "Kamala, Kamala, you can't hide! We won't vote for genocide!" In a democracy, this is a perfectly reasonable and acceptable (if not necessary) action.

Politicians serve the people, and the people have the right (and the responsibility) to make demands on their political leaders, especially when the latter are asking for their votes and campaign donations.

Yet Harris decided to respond: "You know what? If you want Donald Trump to win, then say that. Otherwise, I'm speaking."

What purpose does this attitude serve? The protesters were merely expressing their demand that Harris pledge to stop arming Israel amid its genocidal war on Gaza. A

Maura Finkelstein

war that has brought the official death toll in Gaza to more than 40,000; some estimates project that number to reach 186,000 or even higher. A war that has put one million children at risk of famine, according to the international nonprofit organisation Save the Children. A war that has decimated Gaza's health sector, bringing back polio infections for the first time in 25 years.

Many of us spend our days scrolling through the most horrific images imaginable – toddlers beheaded by Israeli air strikes, people burned alive in their tents, emaciated children who die of starvation, political prisoners brutally raped by Israeli soldiers.

The atrocities go on and on. My days and nights are haunted by these images, and none of this would be possible without US aid, without our tax dollars.

But Harris doesn't want to engage these very reasonable demands – to

If Harris wants the progressive vote, she has to support an arms embargo on Israel and stop funding the Israeli genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. This is a red line for many of us who have not bought into her liberal cult of personality. When President Joe Biden finally dropped out as the 2024 Democratic nominee on July 21, I was not one of the many people celebrating his endorsement of the vice president. Harris was on the wrong side of history as San Francisco's district attorney when she opposed criminal justice reform, and she has been on the wrong side of history in regards to Israel, which she is a staunch supporter of.

stop funding this slaughter, this genocide, this horrific violence. Instead, she wants to be celebrated for being charismatic, for her affect, for her vibes.

This politics-as-vibes is not new. It is nothing more than celebrity culture bleeding into politics. Another word for it is fascism.

I am reminded of Erik Larson's 2011 book In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin, which tells the story of William Dodd, the US ambassador to Germany from 1933 to 1937 and his family. Over the years since the book was published, I have thought occasionally of Dodd and often of his daughter, Martha, who accompanied him to Berlin.

The ambassador was chairman of the history department at the University of Chicago at the time of his appointment, and he just wanted to be left alone to finish his book about the antebellum American South. He was somewhat concerned but not too alarmed about what was happening in Germany, telling President Franklin Roosevelt, "Give men a chance to try their schemes" as the Nazi Party prepared to deny Jews citizenship.

Martha, on the other hand, was swept up by the "glamour" of the Nazi Party and its social scene, dating and sleeping with Nazi officers.

So many liberals I know are a form of William or Martha Dodd. Like William, they are either too consumed with their own comfort to care too much about the daily atrocities experienced and endured by Palestinians, or, like Martha, they approach politics through the frame of celebrity culture and good feelings, happy to fangirl Harris, whose charisma and Beyoncé-scored inspire-ads overwhelm the pesky reality of genocide.

This is, after all, about feeling good. "Don't spoil our fun!" they scream at me (and so many others) on social media. This anti-outrage is deafening. But you cannot just live off vibes.

In a memoir written a few years after she left Nazi Germany, Martha admitted to just not really liking Jews all that much. This casual anti-

Semitism foreshadows today's liberal attitudes towards Palestinians, a disregard rooted in Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism, which is driving a genocide. This is a make-or-break moment – we must pressure the Democrats to change their position on Gaza before the elections in November. While we should all be doing absolutely everything we can to stop the genocide, the bare minimum right now is demanding that a presidential hopeful, in need of our votes, commits to ending US funds to Israel. It is not that complicated. Harris may be the lesser of two evils when it comes to Donald Trump, but the lesser of two evils is still evil. If she wants to win in November, she needs to give us more than vibes and celebrity culture – she needs to make a real commitment to ending the genocide in Gaza, first and foremost by not funding it. Anything less than this will lose her the progressive vote and, quite possibly, the presidency. If this happens, the liberals across the country will likely blame a nebulous "leftist-progressive" block, but in the end, this loss will be on Harris herself.

Why the 20-minute city is a natural fit for the Gulf

AS city leaders around the world seek out design strategies to help them enhance central business districts to be more lifestyle-oriented, in recent years the concept of walkable cities has grown in popularity – particularly in cities such as Dubai and Doha.

Vibrant neighbourhoods where all the essentials – restaurants, shops, schools, as well as hospitals and clinics – typically lie within a 20-minute reach are redefining city living. But for these types of cities to be successful, they must prioritise sustainability, inclusivity and specialised design, while remaining accessible and connected.

The growing threat posed by climate change, coupled with the expectations people have for the places in which they live, is driving urban planners to look for new ways to reinvigorate existing areas and build spaces that meet sustainability goals. As a result, designers are increasingly adopting interdisciplinary approaches that include urban green cover and public spaces that can withstand and adapt to environmental, social and economic stresses.

Although there has been a tendency in the Middle East for mixed-use develop-

ments to be within large, enclosed boxes, the past few years have witnessed successful examples of models that veer away from this formula. The result is a shift towards reducing the amount of energy used to cool large volumes of atrium space, designing physical connections to our outdoor environment and connecting open spaces to the surrounding urban fabric of the city to encourage physical movement.

In fact, many of these principles are deeply rooted in the culture of this region, such as the shading of outdoor spaces and using the direction of buildings to create wind tunnels. But perhaps due to rapid modernisation, such principles may have been forgotten.

A new mixed-use development in Riyadh called 1364ah Lifestyle Centre is a great example of inclusive design. This lifestyle centre is inspired by natural strata formations prevalent in the rugged landscape that surrounds the city. It also integrates services, retail, dining and entertainment options in a single location, reducing the need for long commutes, and allowing residents and visitors to fulfil their daily needs in one place.

The mall's location in the Diplomatic Quarter, a key area of Riyadh, makes it

Tim Martin

accessible to those living and working nearby. Its proximity to offices, embassies, healthcare facilities and residential areas ensures that people can access services without needing to travel far, aligning with the 20-minute city's goal of reducing travel time and improving convenience.

The cost-of-living crisis is another trend that urban planners need to consider. Although this is a global challenge, some cities in the Middle East have experienced skyrocketing inflation regarding housing prices. For instance, inflation in Turkey reached nearly 80 per cent in 2022, according to the World Economic Forum – the highest level in 24 years. A resulting trend of increased price consciousness has resulted in a "value hacking" mindset, where consumers seek to maximise their budgets without sacrificing quality.

Urbanisation is another significant driver of the increasing demand for housing, particularly in rapidly growing cities. As more people move to urban areas for better opportunities, the pressure on housing markets intensifies. This migration leads to higher demand for residential spaces, often out-

pacing the supply, which can result in skyrocketing property prices and rental rates.

In the Middle East, urbanisation is occurring at a particularly rapid pace, with cities like Riyadh, Dubai and Doha experiencing substantial population growth. This surge is putting additional strain on housing availability, making the provision of affordable, well-planned urban housing a critical challenge for urban planners. This challenge could potentially be met through strategic partnerships between mission-driven developers, housing authorities and even non-profits.

Designing around the 20-minute city concept calls for a move away from general master planning to specialised city design that meets blended work-life demands.

Today, urban planners and designers must consider more mixed-use, flexible approaches that integrate living, working and leisure into every district, as well as development to cater to the varied needs of urban dwellers. An example of this is Msheireb Downtown Doha, a \$5.5 billion, 310,000 square metre project.

Its sustainability can be seen in how it preserves her-

itage sites, uses local materials, leverages natural light and ventilation, and adopts green technologies for efficient water and electricity use. One notable achievement is the reduction of energy consumption by 32 per cent as landscaping on roofs, streets and internal courtyards contribute to the project's low carbon footprint.

Within the Middle East, authorities are actively embracing the walkable city approach with regards to existing urban areas, and those that have yet to be built. For instance, the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan recognises the significance of time in people's lives and acknowledges that effectively managing and utilising time for commuting and meeting basic needs is crucial to enhancing residents' quality of life.

As we look to the future, urban planners in the region are using innovative design strategies to create even tighter neighbourhoods, while forecasting future societal habitation trends, as far as 10 years down the line, given the average project timeline.

The region is going to quickly move to 20-minute cities, meaning planners must find bespoke solutions to ensure such metropolises thrive now and in the future.

China, Vietnam start new chapter of traditional ties

THAT Vietnamese President To Lam chose China as the destination of his first foreign state visit after being elected as the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) shows the new Vietnamese leadership attaches great importance to its relations with its northern neighbor. Lam's three-day visit to China that concluded on Tuesday will help carry forward the Sino-Vietnamese relationship.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China, pointed out that the CPC and the CPV have passed down their shared ideals and beliefs from generation to generation, forging the traditional friendship of "comrades-plus-brothers" between the two countries.

Lam has vowed to enhance the Vietnam-China comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, and push forward the building of the Vietnam-China community with a shared future that carries strategic significance, firmly pursue the one-China policy and

support China in achieving national reunification.

The important talks, as well as a series of concrete bilateral cooperation agreements on industry, finance, education and health, etc, show China and Vietnam have begun a new chapter of traditional friendship.

Strategic significance to both countries

First, during the Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Vietnam in December last year, the two sides agreed to build a China-Vietnam community with a shared future, which carries strategic significance for the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries.

During Lam's visit both parties have unequivocally stated their commitment to advancing the establishment of a China-Vietnam community with a shared future through tangible actions. And Lam has reiterated that the new Vietnamese leadership will continue the Southeast Asian country's foreign policy vis-à-vis China.

Second, Lam has indicated that his country wants to develop friendly political relations with China by

increasing communication and engaging in mutually beneficial cooperation. The fact that China and Vietnam are both socialist countries makes their inter-party communication a distinctive feature of the overall bilateral relationship.

The top Chinese leader and late CPV Central Committee general secretary Nguyen Phu Trong exchanged visits three times, and the two sides' senior leaders visiting each other's country several times, which is unprecedented in the history of the two countries. In fact, the two countries' deep understanding has facilitated the development of bilateral relations. As the new top leader of Vietnam, Lam has a clear understanding of the complexity of China-Vietnam relations, and his visit to China is expected to help bring the top leaders of the two countries maintain stable, and promote the long-term development of bilateral relations.

Visit to boost economic ties

Third, Lam's visit will inject new momentum into the two sides' economies. Since the Chinese top leader's visit to Vietnam

Liu Litao

last year, the two countries have been engaging in high-quality trade and economic cooperation. According to China's official data, the two-way trade volume hit \$145 billion in the first seven months of this year, with China continuing to be Vietnam's largest trading partner and leading investor in new projects in the country.

Vietnam media reported that China is still the largest consumer of Vietnamese fruits and vegetables, with its imports in the first half of this year accounting for 64 percent of Vietnam's total exports of agriproducts. China is also the largest market for Vietnam's durian exports, accounting for 92.4 percent of the total exports of the fruit by Vietnam.

Of course, the two sides are aware that the trade traffic bottleneck has seriously restricted their economic exchanges because of Vietnam's unnecessary security concerns. Fortunately, the spillover effects of the China-Laos Railway have reduced some of Vietnam's security concerns and Lam's visit

may help improve infrastructure connectivity between the two sides.

In the first seven months of 2024, a total of 6,850 twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) containers of goods were shipped via China-Vietnam freight trains departing from south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, marking a 16-fold increase year on year.

Fourth, China and Vietnam can promote people-to-people exchanges because people-to-people bonds are an important part of international relations. In recent years, cultural exchanges between the two sides have flourished, with more than 23,000 Vietnamese students studying in China.

People-to-people exchanges have the potential to enhance the perception of Chinese people among certain Vietnamese individuals, which may have been distorted due to conflicts and external influences during certain periods.

Fifth, China and Vietnam are expected to manage their differences

and improve bilateral relations by overcoming the existing and emerging challenges, not least because they have vowed to prevent individual issues from affecting their overall relationship.

The South China Sea issue is the source of the biggest difference between the two countries. The Chinese government issued a statement in March on the baseline of the northern part of the Beibu Gulf, which was not welcomed by Vietnam. And in July, China firmly opposed Vietnam's submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf to extend its undersea shelf in the South China Sea, and lodged stern representation with the Vietnamese side on the issue.

However, since both China and Vietnam have made the pursuit of peace and development in the region a main goal of their foreign policy, they are not likely to intensify their disputes over the South China Sea.

Instead, during Lam's visit, both sides said they should better manage the differences and prevent the

disputes from escalating.

China has achieved the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020, while the year of 2021 marks the centennial anniversary of the founding of the CPC, and is pursuing to build a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious by the middle of this century, while 2049 marks the centennial anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

On the other hand, Vietnam's two centennial goals are to develop the country into a modern industrial base and upper-middle income society by 2030, the centenary of the founding of the CPV, and transform the country into a high-income society by 2045, the centenary of the establishment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

And sixth, Vietnam's "bamboo diplomacy" allows it to develop comprehensive strategic partnership with many countries and continue to view its relations with China as the top priority in its foreign policy.

That's why Vietnam is not likely to join any bloc to constrain or isolate China, because it acknowledges that China has helped it become a peaceful and prosperous country. In short, Vietnam will not become a tool of other countries to check China's peaceful rise.

Although Vietnam has been developing its relationship with the United States and hopes to upgrade Hanoi-Washington ties, the US has not removed Vietnam from its list of countries to which export of advanced technologies is restricted, and continues to consider Vietnam a non-market economy. Also, Vietnam has realized the US' true intention of driving a wedge between Beijing and Hanoi to fulfill Washington's narrow political goals.

Hence, China and Vietnam are expected to deepen cooperation and fulfill their responsibility of safeguarding regional peace and promoting development. In short, although China and Vietnam differ on certain issues, the differences will not dictate their overall relationship.

— China Daily



Pakistan Stock Exchange loses 84 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 84.82 points on Tuesday, showing a negative change of 0.11 percent, closing at 77,745.52 points against 77,830.34 points on the last working day.

A total of 380,717,441 shares were traded during the day as compared to 471,749,071 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 11.237 billion against Rs 16.915 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 446 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 196 of them recorded gains and 183 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 67 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 101,859,421

shares at Rs 10.21 per share, Yousuf Weaving with 35,808,078 shares at Rs.6.46 per share and Flying Cement with 17,469,961 shares at Rs 11.58 per share.

PIA Holding Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.81.10 per share price, closing at Rs 892.10, whereas the runner-up was Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited with a Rs 76.40 rise in its per share price to Rs 17,600.00.

Mari Petroleum Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.25.64 per share closing at Rs3,262.64 followed by Atlas Honda Limited with Rs 19.82 decline to close at Rs 606.21.

Rupee gains 10 paise against dollar

Pakistani rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 10 paise against the US dollar

in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.34 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.44.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.70 and Rs 280.40 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 89 paise to close at Rs 308.38 against the last day's closing of Rs 307.49, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.89, whereas an increase of 74 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 361.83 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 361.09.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by

02 paise and 01 paise to close at Rs 75.78 and Rs74.18 respectively.

Gold rates up by Rs700 per tola to Rs260,700

The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs700 and was sold at Rs260,700 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs260,000 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs600 to Rs223,508 from Rs222,908 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs204,882 from Rs204,332, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs2,950 and Rs2,529.14, respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$10 to \$2,512 from \$2,502, the Association reported.



ISLAMABAD: A labourer on way carrying a sack of onion at Fruit and Vegetable Market.

Rice exports grow by 75.70%

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rice exports from the country during the first month of the current financial year grew by 75.70 per cent as compared to the exports of the corresponding month of the last year.

During the month of July 2024 over 274,004 metric tons of rice valued at \$205.746 million were exported as compared to the exports of 172,302 metric tons worth \$117.102 million in the same month of the previous year, according to the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

In the first month of the current financial year, the exports of Basmati Rice grew by 135.18 per cent as 91,303 metric tons of Basmati Rice valued at \$92.532 million were exported against the exports of 32,546 metric tons costing \$39.346 million of the same month of the last year. Meanwhile, 178,617 metric tons of other rice worth \$113.214 million were exported as compared to the exports of 139,756 metric tons costing \$77.756 million in the same month of the last year, it added.

Food group exports from the country during the first month of the current financial year grew by 44.77 per cent as compared to the exports of the corresponding month of the last year, the data revealed.

During July 2024, food commodities valued at \$475.767 million were exported as compared to the exports of 328.632 million in the same month of the last financial year, it added.

Provision of grant to SMEs: SCCI chief opens facilitation desk

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Fuad Ishaq, president of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday inaugurated a Facilitation Desk for provision of a grant to small and medium scale businesses and industries announced by International Organization of Migration.

The initiative aims to facilitate business community regarding availing of a cash grant of International Organization of Migration (IOM) for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), said in a statement here.

It is mentioned here that the International Organization of Migration (IOM), a UN body, has announced a cash grant for small and

medium enterprises (SMEs) through their Enterprise Development Fund (EDF).

This grant is for business expansion, boosting productivity and especially creating jobs.

Fuad Ishaq, President SCCI in his remarks on the occasion appreciated the IOM and asked small scale businesses and industries to take full benefit from this grant.

He said SCCI has always been on the front foot for safeguarding interests of small and medium enterprises and will keep on supporting this important sector of the economy.

The chamber president said federal and provincial governments take pragmatic steps for ease of doing

business and provision of interest-free loans to the business community.

Later in the day, members of the business community visited the chamber house wherein officials of IOM briefed them about the procedures for availing cash grant for launching of small businesses and industries.

Officials on the occasion said a grant up to Rs5million will be given to more than 120 SMEs of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

They furthermore said grants will be available for companies and the business community affected by war or natural disasters in various trades, aimed at reviving and promoting these businesses.

Mobilink Bank launches easy-to-use in-app inheritance calculator

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has launched an easy-to-use in-app inheritance calculator made accessible through its Dost app. The cutting-edge financial tool is designed to empower individuals, especially women, by providing clear insights into their inheritance share. The calculator's launch is a testament to the Bank's commitment to promoting financial inclusion and social justice through this initiative.

The inheritance calculator is integrated into the

Bank's consumer app, Dost App and addresses the longstanding inequity in inheritance distribution. By democratizing access to financial information, the calculator simplifies the complex process of determining potential inheritance shares or amounts.

To accurately calculate an individual's inheritance share, users are required to provide details about the deceased and their heirs. The tool also includes a detailed heir chart (family tree) outlining the relationships between all parties involved. It determines the specific shares allocated to different categories of heirs

based on their familial ties to the deceased.

"We believe that every individual has the right to financial independence and security," emphasized

Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, Interim CEO of Mobilink Bank. "Through this inheritance calculator, we are committed to giving a voice to the women who lack the tools and knowledge to understand their inheritance share and are often denied it. Our platform provides clarity and helps individuals, particularly women, to calculate their rightful inheritance share within minutes. By addressing the challenges of cultural

variations, data privacy, and informal practices, we want to ensure that our users know their due share and claim it rightfully."

With a steadfast commitment to building an inclusive environment, the Bank offers a comprehensive suite of products and services designed to meet the diverse needs of its growing customer base.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and digital services to nearly 160 million customers in six dynamic markets that are home to 7% of the world's population.

BML forms strategic partnership with Avanza Solutions

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Bank Makramah Limited (BML) has entered into an agreement with Avanza Solutions to further strengthen their digital transformation initiatives, showcasing their dedication to implementing cutting-edge technologies to enhance customer interactions and optimize business processes.

Under this partnership BML will benefit from Avanza's leading Novus Suite platform. A signing ceremony was held at BML's Head Office, Karachi in this regard, attended by President and CEO Jawad Majid Khan accompanied by Deputy CEO Farhan Baig and Head of ADC Ashfaq Naveed along with Avanza Solutions' CEO Omer Ahmed Khan, CBO Jalil Ahmed Farooqui, COO Danish Farooque with other team members.

Avanza's Novus Suite is a comprehensive, state-of-the-art solution designed to revolutionize digital banking operations. It integrates multiple core banking functionalities into a single, cohesive platform, providing financial institutions with the tools they need to stay ahead in a rapidly evolving industry. The Novus Suite is not just a product; it is a transformative solution that enables banks to deliver secure, efficient, and personalized services to their customers.

The recent upgrade at



Bank Makramah incorporates several key components of the Novus Suite, including Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) - a robust middleware solution that enables seamless integration across various banking channels and systems, ensuring a smooth flow of data and communication.

It also provides an advanced platform for the management of card issuance, personalization, and lifecycle management, enabling Bank Makramah to offer secure, flexible, and customized card services to its customers.

Furthermore, it offers a powerful switching solution that facilitates real-time transaction processing across multiple channels, including ATMs, POS, and online banking, enhancing the customer experience with faster and more reliable services. These features not only optimize

Bank Makramah's operations but also empower them to meet the growing demands of their customer base

with enhanced security and efficiency.

Commenting on this momentous development, BML Deputy CEO Farhan Baig said, "At BML, our commitment to innovation and excellence drives us to continuously enhance the way we serve our customers. Upgraded integration of Avanza's Novus Suite is a significant milestone in our digital transformation journey, we are not only optimizing our operations but also setting new standards for secure, efficient, and personalized banking services. This partnership empowers us to meet the evolving needs of our customers with agility and foresight, ensuring that Bank Makramah remains at the forefront of the banking industry."

Avanza Solutions CEO Omer Ahmed Khan said, "The signing of Bank Makramah for our Novus Suite is a testament to Avanza's commitment to delivering top-tier banking solutions. We are excited to see the transformative

impact this upgrade will have on Bank Makramah's operations and their ability to offer cutting-edge services to their customers."

Avanza Solutions is a global technology company at the forefront of digital transformation, offering innovative solutions that drive growth and efficiency in the banking and financial services sector. With a strong presence across the Middle East, Asia Pacific, Africa, and North America, Avanza Solutions is dedicated to empowering organizations with the tools they need to thrive in a digital world.

Bank Makramah is a leading financial institution in Pakistan, known for its commitment to providing exceptional banking services to its customers. With a focus on innovation and customer-centric solutions, Bank Makramah continues to set new benchmarks in the industry, ensuring that their customers enjoy secure, reliable, and personalized banking experiences.



KARACHI: From left to right: Ahmed Kapadia, Chairman and CEO, Synergy Group presenting a souvenir to Dr Abdul Bari, Founder Indus Hospital and Mashood Rizwi ED Communication and Resource Development, Indus Hospital on the successful launch off Indus Shakireen Program which is a platform of Indus Hospital aimed at recurring donations towards providing accessible and high-quality healthcare.

\$3.2b IT export at stake as country remains in grip of slow net

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: As the whole country is in the grip of slow internet speed and continuous disruptions for the last one month, losing at least \$300 million, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has asked the authorities to address the issue and restore the full internet services in the country.

FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the disruption is a direct and aggressive assault on the industry, estimating the financial loss of \$300 million, which may escalate further if the situation per-

sists. He said that the internet slowdown is causing substantial financial losses in the IT and e-commerce sectors, as over \$3.2 billion in annual IT and freelancing exports, and a \$5 billion domestic e-commerce ecosystem is now at stake. He said that when the internet slows down, businesses experience major disruptions in daily operations, as key functions such as communication, order processing, inventory management, and customer service are all hindered.

Small businesses, in particular, are vulnerable as they often depend entirely on mobile internet and Whatsapp to attract and serve customers. These

challenges have made it difficult for the trade and industry, including freelancers to meet project deadlines and secure future business, leading to significant revenue losses.

According to industry experts, Pakistan is the fourth-largest freelancing industry having more than 2.5 million freelancers and if the issue continues the online freelancing platforms may not stand further.

Quoting the Economic Survey of Pakistan, they said that the freelancers have generated \$350 million in 2023-24, reporting 40% annual increase in revenue, underscoring the rapid growth and importance of

the freelancing industry to national economy.

The FPCCI former president said the internet freedom is declining in the country, with increased censorship across social media, e-commerce platforms, and search engines. Interestingly, many countries with strict internet regulations are also popular tourist destinations, highlighting the global challenge of balancing security with connectivity.

After months of speculation, Pakistan's IT minister recently confirmed that the government is indeed upgrading its web management system to address cyber security threats. The government has stressed

the importance of protecting the country's interests in the face of these challenges.

Anjum Nisar said that the growing anxiety within the business community reflects the broader implications of these internet disruptions. As the country navigates these challenging times, the future of Pakistan's digital landscape hangs in the balance.

Both businesses and consumers are feeling the effects of the slowdown, raising questions about how to balance the government's security measures with the need for a robust and reliable digital economy.

Mian Anjum said that

firewalls on devices like laptops serve to protect against harmful network traffic. However, a national firewall operates on a much larger scale, performing crucial functions such as content filtering, surveillance of internet traffic for illegal activities, bandwidth control to prevent congestion, and the enforcement of internet usage regulations.

Warning that the disruption may pose a significant threat to the country's digital economy he said that IT companies, small traders, and everyday citizens are suffering substantial daily losses due to this.

He said that the image and credibility of the local businesses serving foreign

clients are being impacted, which could result in further financial damage if not permanently addressed. If any disruptions are imminent or occurring, the government and regulators must provide proactive information, and clear timelines for resolution so that individuals and businesses can plan accordingly.

The businessmen leader highlighted that the reliance on mobile internet extends to various professions, including small contractors who use WhatsApp for work-related communication. Those employed in the gig economy, such as drivers for inDrive and Careem, delivery personnel for Bykea and Foodpanda, and

shopkeepers selling goods through e-commerce platforms, are entirely dependent on a stable internet connection. He called for an immediate resolution to these internet disruptions in the broader interest of the nation.

He appealed to the authorities to prioritize this issue and take immediate action to restore full internet services, as the stable and secure internet connection is crucial for the trade and industry to continue their work.

The current situation not only tarnishes the reputation of Pakistani businesses but also poses significant risks to the broader digital economy.



PCB contradicts news item regarding ICC Champions Trophy

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday contradicted a news item carried by a section of media suggesting that the dates for next year's ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan might be rescheduled.

"It is disappointing that certain media outlets have misrepresented PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi's comments from yesterday's media interaction,

misleadingly quoting him on the potential change of dates for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 due to security concerns, thus creating unnecessary sensationalism," the PCB clarified in a press release. "During the media talk, which is available on the PCB's official YouTube channel, the PCB Chairman clearly stated that the redevelopment and redesign of the three designated stadia would be

completed on schedule, ensuring readiness to host the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. The PCB Chairman also mentioned that while some domestic matches may need to be shifted to facilitate uninterrupted construction work, this in no way pertains to the ICC Champions Trophy, which remains a priority for the PCB as a premier eight-team international event. "The PCB is fully com-

mitted to hosting a world-class ICC Champions Trophy 2025 at three of Pakistan's iconic venues, ensuring an unforgettable experience for our passionate cricket fans.

In line with this commitment, the PCB has already submitted a draft schedule to the International Cricket Council (ICC), with the proposed dates spanning from 19 February to 9 March 2025."

Sinner cleared after testing positive twice

LONDON (BBC): World number one Jannik Sinner has been cleared of any wrongdoing after twice testing positive for a banned substance in March.

The Italian tested positive for low levels of a metabolite of clostebol - a steroid that can be used to build muscle mass - during Indian Wells.

A further sample taken eight days later also tested positive for low levels of the same metabolite.

A provisional suspension was applied automatically but, as Sinner challenged it successfully, he was able to keep playing.

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) found Sinner was inadvertently contaminated with the substance by Giacomo Naldi, his physiotherapist.

Naldi had been applying an over-the-counter spray available in Italy to a cut on his own hand and had then carried out treatments on Sinner.

The ITIA accepted the explanation and that the violation was not intentional.

Sinner was cleared of fault or negligence by an independent tribunal last week, but he will lose the ranking points and prize money from his semi-final run at Indian Wells.

"I will now put this challenging and deeply unfortunate period behind me," Sinner said in a statement.

"I will continue to do everything I can to ensure I continue to comply with the ITIA's anti-doping programme. "I have a team around me that are meticulous in their own compliance."

Clostebol, often found in products to treat swelling and irritation, is on the World Anti-Doping Agency's list of prohibited substances.

Australian Open champion Sinner will be the top seed at the US Open, which begins on Monday.

Sinner was ruled to bear no fault or negligence for the positive tests.

The ITIA described the levels found in Sinner's sample as "low". His lawyers said it amounted to "less than a billionth of a gram".

The full decision, published by the ITIA, external states that Naldi cut the finger of his left hand on a scalpel in his treatment bag on 3 March.

Naldi bandaged the cut and unwrapped it two days later. Umberto Ferrara, Sinner's fitness coach, recommended the physio use a medical spray Ferrara had bought in an Italian pharmacy in February on the cut.

The physio said he did not check the contents of the spray, which he used every morning from 5-13 March, with Indian Wells taking place from 6-17 March.

Between those dates, Naldi gave Sinner full-body massages and applied bandages to his feet. He did not wear gloves while carrying out the treatments.

Sinner stated that he suffers from a skin condition on his feet and back that leads to scratching and can cause small cuts and lesions in the affected areas.

On the morning of 10 March, Naldi treated Sinner's feet and ankle. He said he would have applied the spray twice that morning, and that he "cannot remember" washing his hands between spraying his finger and treating Sinner's feet. Sinner and his team co-operated fully with the investigation.

The ITIA accepted Sinner had no knowledge of either the spray or that it contained a prohibited substance, and did not know Naldi had used it on his cut finger. Three independent experts also concluded Sinner's explanation was plausible, with one stating the amount administered "would not have had... any relevant doping, or performance enhancing, effect on the player".

The ITIA stated that the violation was not intention-

al before referring the case to an independent tribunal to determine "what, if any, fault the player bore and therefore the appropriate outcome".

The independent tribunal subsequently determined a finding of no fault or negligence, meaning the 23-year-old would not be suspended.

However, he will lose his 400 ranking points and \$325,000 prize money from Indian Wells.

The ruling is also subject to any appeal by Wada.

Under the World Anti-Doping Code, a provisional suspension is automatically applied when a player tests positive for a non-specified substance.

Players have the right to apply to an independent tribunal chair to have that suspension lifted.

On both occasions, Sinner appealed successfully against the suspension and was able to provide an explanation of how the substance had entered his system.

The ITIA subsequently consulted with scientific experts, who said Sinner's explanation was credible, and as a result, they did not oppose his appeal against his provisional suspension.

Karen Moorhouse, the chief executive of ITIA, said the body took any positive test "extremely seriously and will always apply the rigorous processes set out by Wada".

"The ITIA carried out a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to the positive tests with which Mr Sinner and his representatives fully co-operated," she said.

"Following that investigation, the ITIA accepted the player's explanation as to the source of the clostebol and that the presence of the substance was not intentional. This was also accepted by the tribunal.

"We thank the independent tribunal for the speed and clarity of its decision in relation to the player's degree of fault."

'Leicester's greatest' - how 'special' Vardy outshone Solanke

LONDON (BBC): All eyes had been on Tottenham's new £65m striker as Spurs looked to show they had the firepower to battle for the top four, but instead it was a 37-year-old veteran who stole the limelight.

Dominic Solanke is the man Spurs hope will provide the goals that have been missing since Harry Kane's departure to Bayern Munich last year, and while he was unable to provide the sort of impact he would have liked in Monday's 1-1 draw with Leicester, there is plenty of time on his side.

The night belonged to a player who many would have considered had his Premier League days behind him - Jamie Vardy.

After Pedro Porro gave Tottenham the lead in a first half they dominated, Vardy equalised with Leicester's first attempt on target just before the hour mark, heading in a cross from close range.

Despite his advancing years, Vardy provided a reminder of his incredible talent in front of goal, something that seems to have improved with age. This was his 104th Premier League goal after the age of 30 - all of them for Leicester.

"I would imagine Vardy is Leicester's greatest-ever player," former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher said on Sky Sports. "He is a special footballer."

The story of this game would have been different if Tottenham had shown more sharpness in front of goal.

After a strong start last season, injuries hampered their bid to finish in the top four, but their lack of cutting edge at times also played a part.

That was the case in the opening 45 minutes at King Power Stadium, with Tottenham utterly dominant and creating opportunities, but simply failing to take them.

Solanke missed two, putting headers from decent positions straight at the goalkeeper.

But the former Bournemouth striker was taking up good positions and his team-mates were sometimes guilty of failing to make the most of that with some poor passing in the final third.

"They were so much in control, but you always feel like they can let you down and concede a goal," added Carragher.

"It was like a pre-season friendly for them for the first half."

Solanke was lethal for Bournemouth last season, netting 19 goals in the Premier League, and it is far too early to be concerned by his failure to score in his first competitive appearance for Tottenham.

But with the hefty price tag comes pressure to deliver, and he will want a goal sooner rather than later to show the investment can prove to be money well spent.

"This is a test for him," former Manchester United defender Gary Neville said on Sky Sports.

"There will be moments. There were moments and big chances and he will be judged on moments like that. He needs to make sure he doesn't beat himself up in the next few days.

"He probably should have had one or two, but he will get goals if he carries on doing that."



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Test cricket team captain Shan Masood and Bangladesh's cricket team captain Najmul Hossain Shanto pose with the Test series trophy at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Shan Masood optimistic for upcoming Test series

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Skipper Shan Masood has expressed his team's desire to deliver a strong performance in the upcoming Test series against Bangladesh beginning Wednesday.

"As a team, we aim to showcase our best cricket and secure 20 wickets in the match. With the World Test Championship in mind, we need to win our home matches. Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah and Mohammad Ali can deliver impressive performances," Masood said in the Pre-Series press conference at Pindi Stadium Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

Masood praised Saim Ayub's recent form, saying, "He showed glimpses of his talent in the last

innings, and we hope he continues to do so."

The captain emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong position in the World Test Championship, adding, "By playing good cricket, our team and fans can enjoy the experience."

Regarding the opposition, Masood acknowledged that Bangladesh has players who can make the match interesting.

He stressed the significance of a positive dressing room environment, saying, "If the atmosphere in the dressing room is excellent, it will reflect in our performance on the field. We strive to make the dressing room environment exceptional."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh

captain Najmul Hossain has expressed optimism about his team's chances in the upcoming Test series against Pakistan, despite their poor record against the hosts. "We had a good series against New Zealand, but unfortunately, it didn't go well against Sri Lanka. However, we have a great opportunity to play against Pakistan and showcase our balanced side," Hossain said.

Hossain emphasized the importance of the toss but stressed that his team is prepared for any situation. "There's no pressure on us, even with Pakistan's strong record against us. Records can be broken, and we believe we can achieve something special this time."

When asked about Shakib Al Hasan's political career, Hossain dismissed any concerns, saying, "Shakib is a professional cricketer who knows his role and how to prepare for the game."

Hossain highlighted Bangladesh's improved pace bowling unit over the last couple of years, adding, "We also have three to four quality spinners, covering all aspects of our game."

Pakistan and Bangladesh test series trophy was also unveiled at the Stadium where both captains posed for photographs with the trophy. The second Test of the series will be played from August 30 to September 3 at the Pindi Stadium.

PCB announces women's trials for Talent Hunt Program

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced women's cricket trials for its Talent Hunt Program targeting Under-19 and emerging players. These insights were shared by PCB's Assistant Manager Operations Women's Cricket Haseena Khushbu during a media briefing. According to the schedule women's cricket trials will be held at Peshawar's Qayyum Stadium on

August 27 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Mardan's trials will take place on August 28 at Mardan Sports Complex while Abbottabad's trials will be held on August 29 at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium. Players born on or after September 1 2005 are eligible to participate. Aspiring players are advised to bring all necessary documents and complete the online registration form.

The trials aimed at

uncovering new talent will be conducted under the supervision of Asad Shafiq and Fatima Batool. Assistant Manager Operations Haseena Khushbu stated that the PCB is organizing trials at the grassroots level across the country to discover talented women cricketers.

She added that these trials will provide female cricketers with an opportunity to showcase their abilities and advance in the sport. The trials will assist the selection committee in

identifying talent and aiding the selection of Pakistan's Under-19 Women's and Emerging squads.

Haseena Khushbu emphasized that through these trials PCB is committed to promoting talent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa just as it is doing across the country. The trials will also help in identifying top talent for upcoming women's cricket events allowing selectors to consider them for national squads.

Women's T20 World Cup moved from Bangladesh to UAE

DHAKA (BBC): The 2024 Women's T20 World Cup will be moved from Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates following civil unrest in the original host country.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) said in a statement, external that the tournament will now be staged at two venues in the UAE - Dubai and Sharjah - between 3-20 October.

Bangladesh's former prime minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled to India this month after weeks of deadly anti-government protests.

ICC chief executive

Geoff Allardice said: "It is a shame not to be hosting the Women's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh as we know the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) would have staged a memorable event."

"I would like to thank the team at the BCB for exploring all avenues to try and enable the event to be hosted in Bangladesh, but travel advisories from the governments of a number of the participating teams meant that wasn't feasible."

"I'd also like to thank the Emirates Cricket Board for stepping in to host on behalf of the

BCB."

India previously refused to step in as hosts although Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe had both offered to stage the tournament. England and Scotland have qualified for the 10-team tournament and have been drawn together in Group B.

They had been due to play their opening fixtures, against South Africa and Bangladesh respectively, at Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium on 3 October, before facing one another in their final group match on 14 October.

Allardice added that the

BCB will "retain hosting rights" and they "look forward to taking an ICC global event to Bangladesh" in the future.

The last edition of the tournament was held in South Africa in February 2023, when Australia won their sixth title with a 19-run victory over the hosts.

More than 400 people were killed in Bangladesh during weeks of student-led demonstrations, which started as a protest against quotas in civil service jobs. A provisional administration, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, was put in place after Hasina fled.

England still Stokes' team, says Pope

LONDON (BBC): Ollie Pope says England are still Ben Stokes' team, despite the batter taking charge for the three-Test series against Sri Lanka.

Regular captain Stokes misses out after injuring his hamstring playing for Northern Superchargers in The Hundred.

Pope, 26, will become England men's 82nd Test captain in the first Test at Emirates Old Trafford on Wednesday, but Stokes is remaining with the squad throughout the series.

"He leads us and he's still in the changing room," Pope told BBC Sport. "It's great to have him around."

"None of the messages are going to be different, we're not going to play any differently. I'll just be getting similar messages across, in my own way."

The England Test captaincy seldom changes hands. Pope will become only the fifth man to take the job since 2009.

England rarely need stand-ins, either. Only once in England's past 177 Tests has the regular captain missed out, when Joe Root was at the birth of his second child in 2020.

On that occasion Stokes stepped in, with Root leaving a note telling him to "do it your way".

Surrey's Pope continued: "That's probably the difference - I've had no message in my locker, but I'm sat next to him in the changing room. "He's going to let me go do my thing over the course of this series, which is good for me. At the same time he's obviously going to be watching, so I can have those conversations in the intervals if I think anything needs to change. It's only a positive having him around."

Pope has played 46 Tests and been Stokes' deputy for almost two years. He steps up to lead England despite only previously skipping Surrey in one first-class and eight T20 matches.

"Having the vice-captaincy role has given me the opportunity to get my head around it if this opportunity came about," he said.

"I've thought about it on the pitch, watched Stokes closely as to how he manages the bowlers and the way he goes about it in the changing rooms. There are a few little bits I'll take from him. It's not a massive issue that I haven't captained a lot in first-class cricket."

Along with all-rounder Stokes, England are also missing opener Zak Crawley, who broke a finger on the final day of the 3-

0 series win against West Indies last month.

In their absence, Dan Lawrence will open the batting and Matthew Potts has been named as an extra seamer. Harry Brook steps up as Pope's vice-captain.

England's last Test at Old Trafford, against Australia last summer, was ruined by rain, ending the home side's chances of regaining the Ashes. The forecast this week is mixed for Sri Lanka's first Test in this country in eight years.

"I've not looked too closely at the weather because if it rains, it rains, but it's not going to change the way we necessarily go about it," said Pope.

"A 3-0 win is always the target. If we can keep playing our best cricket, like we have, then hopefully we can look back in three or four weeks and that's the end result."

"They would have watched us, and how we've played in the West Indies, and they will be ready to throw some punches themselves."

If we can play our best cricket, hopefully we can get that 3-0." Sri Lanka, who have former England batter Ian Bell in their coaching staff, are handing a Test debut to seamer Milan Rathnayake.



In brief

ANF seizes 10 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting an operation in Sialkot managed to recover over 10 kg drugs, weapons and arrested a drug dealer, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that in a joint operation conducted in Tehsil Daska, Sialkot by ANF and Punjab Police, 10.2 kg drugs, two motorcycles and weapons were recovered. The accused who tried to escape during the operation opened fire on the ANF team with AK-47 and 30 bore pistol. However, the ANF team managed to arrest the drug dealer. This is a major achievement of the ANF team in the fight against drug trafficking, ANF spokesman said.

Two arm smugglers held

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested two arms smugglers and a significant cache of illegal weapons was seized during operation here on Tuesday. According to police spokesman, Gujjar Khan police during course of action held arm smugglers who were identified as Azhar and Shamrez. Police have confiscated 02, 44 bore rifles, a Kalashnikov, a pistol, and several magazines from their possession. Police have registered separate cases against both of them and further investigation has been started. SP Saddam Muhammad Nabil Khokhar praised the Gujjar Khan police for their effective action and emphasized the importance of continuing efforts to combat illegal weapon possession and trafficking. He made it clear that it is prime duty of police to protect the lives and properties of people.

398,800 cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 398,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 406,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550.00 feet (maximum conservation level) and was 152.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 257,100 cusecs and 256,600 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1214.00 feet, which was 166.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 17,000 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 313,700, 384,900, 394,000 and 371,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 62,800 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 44,400 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Nayyara's death anniversary held

ISLAMABAD (INP): The second death anniversary of legendary singer Nayyara Noor, also known as 'Bulbul-e-Pakistan' was observed on Tuesday. Born in Assam, India in 1950 she migrated to Pakistan in 1957. Nayyara sang numerous film songs, Ghazals and patriotic songs. Her famous songs include 'Watan Ki Mitti Gawah Rehna', 'Aye Jazba-e-Dil Gar Mein Chahun', 'Roothay Ho Tum, Tum Ko Kaisay Manaoun Piya', and 'Kabhi Hum Bhi Khoobsurat Thay'. She was awarded the Presidential Pride of Performance Award in 2006. Nayyara Noor passed away in Karachi after a protracted illness on August 20, 2022.

Youth valuable assets, govt to empowering them for bright future: Shaza

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima highlighted the government's efforts to partner with tech giants like Google and Meta to provide certifications for children and mentioned the launch of the Bridge Start Programme, with a budget of Rs. 1 billion to support innovative projects.

She also announced plans to build IT parks in Islamabad and Karachi. The Islamabad IT Park, being developed with assistance from Korea, is expected to be completed by March 2025 and create 10,000 jobs.

The minister further said that the government has announced the establishment of over 250 E-Rozgar centers across the country, in collaboration with provincial governments and private institutions. These centers are aimed at providing essential facilities to hardworking and

wealth to provide AI training to the country's youth.

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The minister further said that the government has announced the establishment of over 250 E-Rozgar centers across the country, in collaboration with provincial governments and private institutions. These centers are aimed at providing essential facilities to hardworking and

skilled youth in smaller cities, helping them access digital opportunities, according to an official from the Ministry of IT.

The E-Rozgar centers will be established in every district of the country, with distribution based on the population of each province, as well as data from 1.2 million freelancers registered with Ignite.

Punjab leads the initiative with 149 centers, followed by Sindh with 51, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 28, Islamabad with 11, Balochistan with 6, Azad Kashmir with 3, and Gilgit-Baltistan with 2.

Originally launched by Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Punjab, the E-Rozgar centers have proven highly valuable, benefiting millions of young people. These centers are particularly designed for those who cannot afford expensive office spaces, offering

them a chance to leverage IT skills and enter the digital workforce. The initiative is expected to enable even more young people to benefit from the growing IT sector.

Rivers Indus, Kabul still flow in medium, low flood: FFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that River Indus is flowing in "Medium Flood" in Taunsa-Sukkur reach. It is in "Low Flood" in Tarbela-Chashma reach.

Similarly, River Kabul (a tributary of River Indus) is flowing in "Low Flood" at Nowshera while rest of the major Rivers (Jhelum, Chenab Ravi & Sutlej) is flowing normal, said a daily FFC report issued on Tuesday.

Tarbela Darn has maintained its Maximum Conservation Level (MCL) of 1550 feet since yesterday, while Mangla Reservoir still has 29.88% capacity available to absorb potential flood peaks.

The combined live storage of Tarbela, Chashma & Mangla reservoirs is 11,061 MAF (82.83 % of Total Live Storage Capacity of 13,354 MAF).

As per present meteorological situation, yesterday's Well Marked Low Pressure Area over North Bay of Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh has weakened into Low and remained stationary there. Trough of Westerly Wave continues to prevail over Northeastern Afghanistan and adjoining Pakistan whereas Seasonal Low lies over Northwestern Balochistan. Light to moderate moist currents from the Arabian Sea were penetrating into upper parts of Pakistan up to 5000 feet at the reporting time.

For the ensuing 24 hours, Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), Lahore has predicted scattered thunderstorm rain of Moderate Intensity with isolated heavy falls over Islamabad, Punjab (Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Lahore & D.G Khan Divisions), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan (Zhob & Kalat Divisions) including upper catchments of all major rivers of IRS.

Power shutdown plan notified

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Tuesday issued a power suspension programme for Wednesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.

According to IESCO Spokesperson, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 06:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Islamabad Circle, Comsat, Chhata Bakhtawar, Park Enclave, Lahtar, Tramiri, ISI, Rahara, PHA, PHA-II, Kuri Road, CM Pak Zong, Isolation Hospital, Officers Colony, Tench Bhatta, H-8/2, I-8/2, Peer Sohawah, Bri Imam, Khayaban Iqbal, F-6/2 Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Jinnah Camp, Al Noor Colony, Nora Road, Mazimal Town, FOECHS, Feeders, Rawalpindi Cant Circle, Japan Road, Janah-I & II, Jail Park-I, New Kalliam, Old Kalliam, Jhatta Hathial, Bisali, Industrial, Bhal, Gumti, Jarrar Camp, Mehboob Shaheed, Park View, Pindi Board, Jail Park, Car Chowk, Morgah, Park View, Fuji Foundation, Mohra Nagyal, Wilayat Complex, X-Liar, AOWHS, Shahpur, Dhok Noor Feeders, Attock Circle, Shakardara, Qazian, GBHP Colony, Nawaz Shaheed, Kohsar Colony, Kala Khan Feeders, Jhelum Circle, Islampura, Kangar, Qazian, Abbaspora, Ajmal Shaheed Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Basharat, Dhoda Feeders and surrounding areas.



ISLAMABAD: Representatives of PIFD and NBF signing a Letter of Understanding (LOU) to establish a new PIFD campus in Karachi.

ICT admin arrest 20 agents in crackdown

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a decisive move against commission agents exploiting citizens outside government offices, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration raided near the Regional Passport Office in G-10 area and arrested nine agents.

According to the spokesman of ICT administration, the district administration teams have intensified their efforts to tackle the growing issue of commission agents operating outside government offices.

On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, nine agents were arrested outside the Regional

Passport Office in the G-10 area. The arrested individuals have been transferred to Ramna police station for further legal action.

DC Memon emphasized the importance of eliminating these agents, who have been taking money from citizens under the guise of commissions.

He stated that operations against such elements should be conducted outside all government offices, including NADRA, Passport, and Excise departments.

Following the crackdown at the passport office, similar actions are being taken at other locations.

Assistant Commissioner, Industrial Area also led a

raid outside the Excise office, resulting in the arrest of 10 agents who were reportedly extorting money from people across various cities. These agents have also been transferred to the police station.

On the occasion the DCT urged the public to support the district administration teams in their efforts to combat the widespread problem of commission agents outside government offices.

The district administration's crackdown reflects a broader commitment to protect citizens from those who exploit them in the name of facilitating government services.

CDA to offer internship to QAU students: Randhawa

ISLAMABAD (INP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) will start internship programme to Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) students to enhance their capacity in various fields.

The CDA chairman, Mohammad Ali Randhawa, in a meeting, proposed a MoU to offer internships to the varsity students in the federal apex agency, particularly in the Environment, IT, and HR departments.

The IT students from QAU will assist the authority in conducting a cyber security and audit.

The meeting was held between QAU's Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Niaz

Ahmed Akhtar, and Chairman CDA, marked the beginning of a promising collaboration between the two institutions.

The discussion focused on various initiatives, including a plantation drive in the Quaid-e-Azam Enclave in Margalla Hills, where students from the university will participate.

Chairman Randhawa appreciated the students' enthusiasm and suggested assigning special numbers to motivate them in maintaining the planted trees.

The meeting also explored potential collaborations on upcoming CDA projects, including Silicon

Valley and the Four-Tier Data Center.

Vice-Chancellor Akhtar was briefed on these initiatives, which aim to create employment opportunities for thousands of youth.

Quaid-e-Azam University's graduate students are expected to contribute significantly to these projects.

Furthermore, Chairman Randhawa assured the completion of the Second Avenue near Quaid-e-Azam University soon, which will be linked with Margalla Road.

He also pledged to provide all necessary resources for the convenience of the university's students.

PFID signs LoU with NBF to launch new campus

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant step towards advancing education and skill development in the fields of design, the Pakistan Institute of Fashion & Design (PIFD) and the National Book Foundation (NBF) have signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU) to establish a new PIFD campus in Karachi. The agreement was formalized in a ceremony held in the committee room of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

The signing ceremony was attended by key officials including Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Javed Hanif Khan, MNA (Member of National Assembly) Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Federal Secretary (Education) Mirza Nasir-ud-Din Mashood Ahmad, Director General NCHD Hassan Saqlain, Additional Secretary Syed Junaid Akhlaq, Sr. Joint Secretary Profe-

ssor Ms. Hina Tayyaba Khalil, Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Fashion & Design, Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Registrar, PIFD Murad Ali Mohmand, Secretary, National Book Foundation Adnan Khan, Director to Minister Engr Faisal Shoiab, PSO to Secretary Education.

Under the new agreement, PIFD will operate its new campus on the 2nd floor of the National Book Foundation's Braille Complex Building near the PTV Station in Karachi.

The campus will initially offer a range of short training courses such as diplomas and certificate courses in Fashion Design, Textile Design, Jewellery Design, and Visual Arts.

The new campus aims to provide state-of-the-art training facilities to equip students with the skills necessary for careers in design and visual arts.

The initiative is designed to enhance employability by bridging the skills gap

and aligning educational programs with contemporary industry needs.

The PIFD campus will also reserve a 2% quota for partially blind students, in collaboration with the Pakistan Association for the Blind (PAB).

The Federal Government and industry partners will collaborate to support the campus with necessary resources, equipment, and financial sponsorships.

Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, expressed his appreciation for PIFD's efforts and assured the Ministry's support in realizing the objectives of the new campus.

Professor Ms. Hina Tayyaba Khalil, Vice Chancellor of PIFD, highlighted the importance of this expansion in Karachi and outlined plans for the campus's growth and development. The new campus is expected to start operations in September 2024.

Photo exhibition held on independence movement

RAWALPINDI (INP): A photo exhibition, book stall and documentary show on independence movement was organized by Punjab Arts Council in collaboration with Nazariya Pakistan Trust Lahore at Divisional Public School Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Rawalpindi, Ms. Zonaira Aftab along with Deputy Director Muhammad Shakoor was the Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony.

Addressing the participants of exhibition, Ms. Zonaira Aftab said that it was extremely important for the younger generation

to thoroughly study the history of Pakistan so that they can understand how this country was established and who played a key role in its creation. The exhibition featured rare and unique photographs of the Pakistan Movement. The bookstall displayed rare and informative books related to the Pakistan Movement.

Deputy Director PAC Rawalpindi, Muhammad Shakur stated that the purpose of the exhibition was to remind people that freedom was not handed to us on a silver platter; rather, our ancestors made unparalleled sacrifices of life and wealth for it. In accordance

with the vision of the Government of Punjab, besides programs that cater to people of all walks of life, organizing such informative programs for the youth is our priority.

The exhibition was attended by faculty members of Divisional Public School and College Rawalpindi, including Madam Arjuman Asif, Madam Farhat, Madam Aram Ansar, Madam Nazia Parveen, along with Professor Zahid Javed from Nazariya Pakistan Trust, and a large number of female students, who viewed and highly appreciated the exhibition, documentary film and bookstall.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers along with their tools waiting to be hired for work while sitting at Khanna Pul.



FRONTIER CORPS INSTITUTE OF NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES (FCINAHS)

Frontier Corps Teaching Hospital (FCTH) has a grand, state of the art, purpose-built building adjacent to FC complex Hayatabad Phase-6 at convenient location, just on Bara Jamrud Road Khyber.

Frontier Corps Teaching Hospital is a tertiary care 500 beds Hospital having all major specialties and various sub specialties. It has well equipped dental department. The Hospital also provides advanced Diagnostics (Lab/ Radiology) modalities.

FCTH has been operationalized in January 2024. It caters for FC clientele, their families and general public of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. More than 15,000 patients have been provided medical facilities.

The FCTH is the constituent/ integral training hospital for the students that imparting clinical practical training to the FCINAHS students through their staff which acts as teaching faculty in their respective disciplines of medical technologies.

FCINAHS, guided by the principles of excellence, innovation and integrity offers a holistic curriculum crafted to empower students with essential knowledge, practical skills and ethical values essential for success in the ever-evolving healthcare domain. With an esteemed faculty, advanced facilities and a dedication to pioneering research, we ensure that our students should master their chosen fields to drive innovation in their professional journeys.

Frontier Corps is dedicated to provide safe, affordable and high quality healthcare services to its dependent clientele. To this end, a state of the art tertiary care hospital with 500 Beds has been established, equipped with modern facilities for comprehensive healthcare delivery. Additionally, Frontier Corps is committed to support education and training in various disciplines of Allied Health Sciences, aiming to enhance the skills and expertise of healthcare professionals within its ranks. This comprehensive approach reflects Frontier Corps steadfast dedication to improving healthcare standards and services for its clientele



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- Prospectus along with admission form can be obtained from the Institute in working hours (From 8 AM to 2 PM) from Monday to Friday.
- The Selected Candidates list will be displayed on the official website www.fcinahs.edu.pk and also on notice board of institute
- Candidates are advised to submit dully filled admission form, fee-paid vouchers and verified copies of all required documents to the Student Affairs Office before last date.

FOR ADMISSION QUERIES

Student Affair's Office, Frontier Corps Institute of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences (FCINAHS)
Bara Road Adjacent to FC Complex Ph-6 Hayatabad Peshawar

Email: admission@fcth.com.pk Website: www.fcinahs.edu.pk Contact No: 091-111-113-284, 091-5864321-2