

Cop martyred in Swat

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: A police constable was martyred and another injured when unknown men attacked Banr police post with hand grenades during the small hours on Thursday. DPO Swat informed the media that unknown armed people attacked the Banr police post in Mingora city of Swat and hurled grenades at the policemen on duty.



@thefrontierpost

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXI

No. 216

Regd. No. 241

SAFAR 24 1446 -- FRIDAY, AUGUST 30 2024

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

No one allowed to disrupt Balochistan's peace: PM

— reiterates unwavering resolve to root out terrorism from country

F.P. Report

QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif (COAS) General Syed Asim Muir on Thursday reaffirmed their resolve to prevent inimical forces from disrupting the hard-earned peace and development of Balochistan at any cost.

The prime minister was chairing a meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan here. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs M. Ishaq Dar, COAS General Syed Asim Muir, NI (M), Federal Ministers of Planning, Interior, Commerce, Information & EAD, Chief Minister of Balochistan, key provincial ministers, provincial secretaries, commander Balochistan corps and senior civil, police, intelligence & military officials.

While addressing the participants of the meeting, the prime minister commended the sacrifices and contributions of the people of Balochistan towards national progress and development, and resolved that enemies of Pakistan, bent on creating unrest in Balochistan, would be defeated with full force and national support.

The prime minister further said that the entire nation was grieved by the recent tragic incident occurred in Balochistan. Khwarij who shed the blood of innocent people would not be spared, he said. The prime minister



stated that Balochistan was an important and beautiful province of Pakistan, and all obstacles in its path to development and prosperity would be removed.

The prime minister said that the sacrifices of those who laid down their lives for the motherland and the innocent civilians would not go to waste. The prime minister made it clear that dialogues could only be possible with those who respect the constitution of Pakistan and salute the national flag. The participants offered Fateha for the Shuhada of recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan, expressing solidarity with the victims' families, and praising the bravery of security forces for their timely response in preventing further loss of innocent lives.

The committee unequivocally condemned the cowardly terrorist attacks targeting innocent Pakistanis

and resolved to intensify counter-terrorism efforts in the province, leveraging multi-domain resources to eradicate terrorism. A comprehensive review of the security situation in Balochistan and ongoing operations against terrorists was conducted, and the committee decided to further solidify intelligence sharing and coordination among Security Forces and law enforcement agencies.

The forum also agreed to enhance the capacity of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), Police, Levies, and associated departments. The Committee vowed to bring the planners, instigators, facilitators, and perpetrators of the cowardly attacks to justice, ensuring the protection of citizens' lives and properties at all costs. At the end of the meeting, the prime minister also distributed cheques among the families of those who were

martyred in the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif also reiterated the unwavering resolve of the government to root out the menace of terrorism from the country through collective efforts.

"The entire nation is grieved over the recent tragic incident occurred in Balochistan. The Khawarij (terrorists) who shed the blood of innocent people will be crushed through joint efforts of the nation and the valiant forces of Pakistan," he said while addressing a high-level Apex Committee meeting at the CM Secretariat.

Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Muir, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Corps Commander Balochistan, and senior officers attended the meeting.

Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed his profound grief over the loss of precious lives in a terrorist incident in Balochistan that took place on August 26, terming it an "extremely tragic and barbaric incident" that grieved the whole nation.

Tarar hails media's role in curbing Islamophobia

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Thursday said that Islamophobia has become a menace at global level and highlighted the role of media in curbing the menace.

He was addressing a gathering at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) on the launching ceremony of the book titled "Do Muslims Scare You? A guide for Journalists" authored by Osama Bin Javaid, a journalist and member of Aljazeera Media Institute, currently visiting NUML.

Rector NUML Major General Shahid Mahmood Kayani (Retd), on this occasion, emphasized the role of media in curbing Islamophobia as it is creating hatred against Muslims and destroying the social fabric of international community. The Minister said that it is need of the hour to control the rising tide of Islamophobia and the media can play key role in this regard.

He commended the role of Aljazeera TV for playing a pivotal role in creating awareness about Islamophobia at global level. Tarar opined that western media is biased and will never show the facts, in a time like this having the only Muslim channel is a blessing and government of Pakistan is willing to support Aljazeera news network and MoU could be signed in future to better serve the cause.

He thanked Rector NUML for organizing such an important event on an international issue and educating the youth that what is happening in the world of media at global level. Earlier, Rector NUML emphasized that media is an important tool and can play its role to counter Islamophobia at global level and media can contribute towards a more tolerant society. He thanked the honourable Federal Minister and the Aljazeera Media Institute for making this ceremony a great success.

Pakistan Navy ship Hunain visits Oman

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN, during maiden voyage from Romania to Pakistan visited Salalah, Oman and participated in bilateral exercise with Ship of Royal Omani Navy.

Upon arrival at Salalah port, Pakistan Navy ship was warmly welcomed by Officers of Royal Navy of Oman. During stay at port, various bilateral activities and exchange visits were conducted to share professional knowledge and experience. Upon completion of port call, PNS HUNAIN conducted a sea exercise with Royal Navy of Oman Ship RNOV SADH to enhance interoperability between the two Navies.

Pakistan and Oman are maritime neighbours and frequent visits of dignitaries, port calls by ships, joint exercises and coordinated patrols are regular feature. The visit of PNS HUNAIN will further strengthen bilateral relations between the two navies. PNS HUNAIN is the 3rd of the 4 PN YARMOOK class ships being constructed at DAMEN Naval Shipyard Romania.

Pakistan has no plans to engage in any talks with TTP: FO

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch on Thursday has made it clear that Pakistan has no plans to engage in any talks with the TTP. She said the presence of terror groups including the TTP in Afghanistan is confirmed by multiple international reports including the United Nations.

She said we expect the Afghan authorities to take robust action against these terror groups and prevent their activities that endanger Pakistan's security. Foreign Office has confirmed that invitations have been extended to all heads of government of SCO member countries including the Prime Minister of India for the forthcoming meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntaz

Zahra Baloch said that we have also received some confirmations. She said this meeting is scheduled to take place in Islamabad on the 15th to 16th of October. Responding to a question, Muntaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan does not have trade relations with India. She said Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory. She said the United Nations Security Council resolutions clearly state that the final disposition of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute shall be made in accordance with the will of the people through a UN supervised plebiscite.

In this backdrop, she said that any other process cannot serve as a substitute to the grant of the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people. Responding to a question, the Spokesperson said Pakistan has no plans to engage in any talks with the TTP. She said the presence of terror groups including the TTP in Afghanistan is confirmed by multiple

international reports including the United Nations.

She said we expect the Afghan authorities to take robust action against these terror groups and prevent their activities that endanger Pakistan's security. When asked about China Pakistan Economic Corridor, the Spokesperson said it is a transformational project that has contributed positively and transparently to Pakistan's national development. She said the corridor project enjoys support and popularity in all provinces and across the political divide in Pakistan.

She clarified that Pakistan's total public debt relating to CPEC projects is a small percentage of its total debt. Moreover, she said, the public debt obtained from China has longer maturity periods with low interest rates. The Spokesperson reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to provide full security to all Chinese nationals, projects and institutions.

President confers Hilal-i-Imtiaz upon Arshad

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday conferred the award of Hilal-i-Imtiaz upon the Olympic Gold Medalist Arshad Nadeem in recognition of his outstanding performance in Men's Javelin Throw in the Paris Olympics 2024.

The President also announced Rs100 million reward from his side for the athlete. The award was conferred during a special investiture ceremony, held here at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Later, the athlete also met with the President. Arshad Nadeem's Coach, Salman Iqbal Butt, Secretary Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination, Nadeem Irshad Kayani, Director General Pakistan Sports Board, Muhammad Yasir Pirzada, and senior government officials also attended the meeting.

While congratulating Arshad Nadeem, President Asif Ali Zardari stated that Arshad Nadeem had made the country proud by setting the Olympic record with a throw of 92.97 meters. He appreciated his remarkable achievement, sheer hard work, and dedication that not only elevated Pakistan but also inspired countless young athletes across the country.

The President said Pakistan needed to promote other sports, especially the Singles. He remarked that children of



sportsmen should be granted scholarships, saying that he would ask the Sindh Government to contribute Rs250 million to Pakistan Sports Board's Endowment Fund for the welfare of athletes. The President said Arshad Nadeem's exemplary triumph encouraged our youngsters to break barriers and make their mark in the field of sports at the international level.

He expressed the hope that the athlete would continue to win laurels for the country in future. Arshad Nadeem thanked the President for conferring Hilal-i-Imtiaz and resolved to break the world record for the Javelin throw event. He also thanked his family and the nation for their prayers and wishes. The President appreciated the contributions of the athlete's coach, Salman Iqbal Butt, for his guidance and contributions to Arshad's success.

Fighting rages in Gaza

CAIRO/GAZA (Reuters): Palestinians in Gaza were waiting on Thursday to see if there would be a pause in fighting to allow a polio vaccination campaign to begin, as the conflict raged across the besieged enclave, killing at least 20 people.

The United Nations is preparing to vaccinate an estimated 640,000 children in Gaza, where the World Health Organization confirmed on Aug. 23 that at least one baby has been paralyzed by the type 2 poliovirus, the first such case in the territory in 25 years. The UN, which called for a humanitarian truce earlier this month, hopes to begin the vaccination campaign on Sept. 1, said Juliette Touma, communications director of UNRWA, the UN Palestinian refugee agency.

The World Health Organization named the baby as Abdul-Rahman Abu Al-Jidyan. He will turn one year old on Sept. 1. His mother Nivn Abu Al-Jidyan said she feared for her son after she was told by health officials they could

do little to help him. "I was shocked that my son got this disease amid the war and the closure of border crossings, under these conditions and lack of medicine for him, it's a shock. Would he remain like this?" Abu Al-Jidyan said on Thursday. "He is my only baby boy. It's his right to travel and be treated; it's his right to walk, run and move like before...It is unfair that he stays thrown in the tent without care or attention," she said from a tent in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. At Nasser Hospital, in the southern city of Khan Younis, Umm Eliane Baker fears her 19-month-old daughter may be vulnerable to polio due to ill health brought on by malnutrition.

She hopes her baby will be vaccinated soon, but said she is worried about moving safely in an area where there have been repeated Israeli strikes. "I cannot walk in the street and get bombed, or have something happen to my daughter, or have a targeted (attack). I need a truce, a ceasefire so I

can give my daughter this injection (vaccine)," she said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week denied media reports Israel was preparing for a generalized humanitarian truce, saying that a more limited plan had been presented.

"These are not pauses in the fighting to administer polio vaccines but only the allocation of certain places in the Gaza Strip," he said in a statement. Senior Hamas official Izzat El-Reshiq reiterated the group's support for the UN and international organizations' initiative for an urgent humanitarian truce across the enclave to allow the polio vaccination campaign. He described Netanyahu's statement as an attempt to thwart the process by refusing the UN call. On Thursday, Israeli forces continued to bombard areas across the Gaza Strip in their battle against Hamas-led militants. Palestinian health officials said Israeli military strikes have so far killed at least 20 people.

PHC seeks report from KP police

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Khurshheed Iqbal sought report from police against Station House Officer (SHO) for embezzling tires worth millions of rupees seized in Lakki Marwat.

During the hearing, the petitioner's lawyer told the court that the police had seized tires from the petitioner but neither on 20% handed over to Pakistan Customs while remaining is kept by SHO concerned.

The police had seized the tires and handed only 20% to Pakistan Customs, while the rest were kept by the SHO. When investigated, it was found that the SHO had stored the remaining tires in a shop.

Justice Ijaz Anwar asked the petitioner's lawyer how many tires were there, to which he replied that there were 706 tires. The police had only handed over 200 tires to customs, while the rest were kept by the SHO concerned. The value of these tires is more than Rs10 million.

Justice Ijaz Anwar asked the police officer what he had to say about this, to which the Additional Advocate General replied that this was the first hearing and they would submit a report. Justice Ijaz Anwar said that the police had seized the tires and should be aware about it.

The police officer replied that he had come to court in a hurry and did not have time to submit a report. PHC's divisional bench adjourned further hearing and asked the police to submit a report in this regard.

KP cabinet approves steps to boost police force

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The 12th meeting of the Provincial Cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was held at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House Islamabad chaired by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur. The meeting was attended by Ministers, Advisors, Special Assistants, Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue, Additional Chief Secretaries and Administrative Secretaries.

The cabinet meeting deliberated on measures pertaining to strengthening of police force in the province, strengthening legislative framework in livestock sector, players' welfare, development and financial matters.

The cabinet has decided for holding Serat-Un-Nabi (S.A.W)/Rehmatul-Lil-Alameen Conferences on provincial, divisional and



district levels and in this respect grant in aid were approved as required. The Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur said that the special and graceful arrangements may be made for the conferences.

The cabinet also approved enhancement of Oil and Gas Royalty share from existing 10% to 15% for Karak, Hangu and Kohat districts. To strengthen police force in the province the cabinet has approved the creation of 791 posts of different ranks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police for Tank and Lakki Marwat districts. The cabi-

net has approved creation of 5 supernumerary posts of Subedar BPS-14 in Dir Upper Levey (Provincial). Provincial cabinet has approved the creation of posts of senior public prosecutor BS-19 for Police Stations of Counter Terrorism Department in Directorate of Prosecution of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. To train police in southern and merged districts the cabinet approved establishment of Police Training School at district D.I.Khan. Monetization of uniform of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police was also given approval in the meeting.

‘You won’t have airlift like Hasina’: JI to PM

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami, Hafiz Naeemur Rahman, has warned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, declaring, "Hasina Wajid may have secured an airlift, but you won't get that chance."

Speaking on the country's mounting economic and energy crisis, Hafiz Naeem criticized the government for creating conditions similar to Bangladesh,

yet stressed that Jamaat-e-Islami does not intend to incite chaos that would allow the government to evade pressing public issues.

Highlighting Jamaat-e-Islami's role, he pointed out, "It has been 21 days since our agreement with the government, and if this continues for 45 days, we will hold them accountable. Our pressure has already reduced electricity rates by PKR 14 per unit

in at least one province." He emphasized that Jamaat-e-Islami has played a crucial role in uniting trade organizations and raising public awareness about the political family dynasties that dominate Pakistan.

Hafiz Naeem called out the Sharif family, urging them to cut down profits from their Independent Power Producers (IPPs) rather than relying on foreign investors.

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has fulfilled yet another promise made under his election manifesto, the 'Awami Muashi Muahida' (People's Economic Agreement). On Thursday, he launched an ambitious project to distribute solar home systems to 1.6 million low-income households across Sindh in phases. This initiative is a key component of the 10-

point 'Awami Muashi Muahida', which pledged to provide free solar electricity to underprivileged families.

According to a press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, Chairman PPP inaugurated the first phase of the solar energy project, which aims to provide relief to the people severely affected by expensive electricity and load shedding. The project, initiated by the Government of Sindh, will see 200,000 families, eligible under

the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), receive free solar home systems in two districts of the province. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony held at the Chief Minister House here, Chairman PPP emphasized his party's commitment to sustainable solutions for public issues.

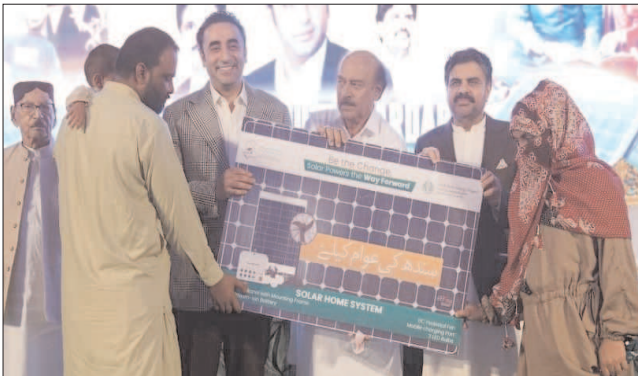
He stated that this project aligns with the PPP's manifesto vision, which, if given the federal mandate, would have been implemented nationwide to sup-

port the poor through solar energy. He further stated that PPP wants to ease the burden on the lower-income segments of society.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari highlighted that when he initially proposed the idea of providing solar energy to low-income families, it was met with criticism from various quarters, including the media and caretaker government. However, he noted with satisfaction that the entire nation has now recognized the need to facilitate the

poor with affordable electricity. He further explained that BISP beneficiaries are the top priority for this initiative, which will eventually be expanded to all districts of Sindh.

Chairman PPP reaffirmed his party's Sindh government's commitment to delivering affordable electricity to the public, in line with the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, through public-private partnerships such as the Thar Coal project.



Earthquake shakes KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: An earthquake measuring 5.4 magnitude on the International Richter Scale jolted several cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday. According to the Met Office, the magnitude of the earthquake was recorded at 5.4 and its epicenter was the Hindu Kush Mountain in Afghanistan. The depth of the earthquake was 215 km, as per the Meteorological Department.



KARACHI: Mrs. Irum Tanveer, DG PID being presenting with memento during Rabita Forum International session on 'Role of media in promoting social, economical and strategic stability.'

Transparency in MDCAT examination urged

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The President of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj has directed all universities to take complete measures to ensure that the upcoming Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) is conducted transparently.

The Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT) for the year 2024 is scheduled to take place on September 22nd, as per the PM&DC Act 2022. This highly anticipated examination is essential for students aiming to embark on a rewarding career in the medical and dental fields in Pakistan.

In a press release issued by the PMDC, the President emphasized the importance of maintaining the integrity of the MDCAT exam and ensuring that all students have a fair opportunity to showcase their abilities.

The responsibility of conducting the MDCAT has been entrusted to prestigious public universities across the country. The institutions which have been nominated by the relevant provincial and regional authorities to oversee the examination process are the University of Health Sciences, Lahore (Punjab), Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi (Sindh), Khyber Medical University, Peshawar (KPK), Bolan University of Medical & Health Sciences, Quetta (Balochistan), Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, Islamabad (ICT, AJK) and Karakoram International University, Gilgit (GB).

President PM&DC has also nominated council members to monitor and ensure smooth MDCAT exam conduct in their respective provinces, with Prof. Khaild Masood Gondal overseeing Punjab, Prof. Dr. Amjad Siraj for Sindh, Prof. DR. Muhammad Zubair Khan for KPK, Prof. Dr. Tahmina Asad for Baluchistan, and Barrister Sultan Mansoor for Islamabad.

For MDCAT total of 17474 applications have been received from which after scrutiny PM&DC has finalised 167077 applications. The President directed universities to implement strict security protocols, including the use of biometric identification and surveillance cameras and jammers to prevent any instances of cheating or malpractice during the exam.

The President PM&DC urged universities to provide adequate resources and training to exam proctors and staff to ensure that they are equipped to effectively monitor and enforce exam regulations.

Govt efforts appreciated

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Consul General of Japan Hattori Masaru, while referring to recent terrorists' attacks in Balochistan, stated that Pakistan has lots of tourism resources particularly in the northern areas but 'security issue is of concern' as the terrorists' attacks like the recent one in Balochistan have a very backward impact on the mind of Japanese society and its tourists.

Media literacy urged to counter misinformation

F.P. Report

KARACHI: A session titled "Role of Media in Promoting Social, Economic and Strategic Stability," held at the Rabita Forum International (RFI) office in collaboration with the Press Information Department (PID) here Thursday, highlighted the urgent need for widespread media literacy training to counter the dangers of misinformation and disinformation in the society. The speakers emphasized that the rise of social media had enabled individuals to voice their opinions freely, necessitating efforts to educate the public about responsible media consumption.

During the session, Erum Tanveer, Director General Public Relations at PID, said the PID organize training for journalists across the country. She highlighted the existence of a government department dedicated to identifying and countering fake news. Erum Tanveer expressed concern over the tendency of mainstream media to highlight negative news, stressing the importance of responsible journalism.

"Social media's reality and importance cannot be ignored," Erum Tanveer noted, comparing the platforms to traditional media. "While mainstream media has gatekeepers to verify content, social media lacks such mechanisms, allowing people to post whatever they like without considering the content's authenticity or societal impact." She advocated for comprehensive media literacy to prevent misinformation from spreading unchecked. She also commented on the freedom of the Pakistani press, suggesting it is comparatively more liberal than in other countries.

Mah-e-Darakhsan, Assistant Professor of Media Studies at a private university, likened social media to a force more powerful than nuclear power. She stressed the need to incorporate media literacy into school, college, and university curricula, noting that younger generations are more inclined toward social media than traditional news sources and are heavily influenced by online personalities. "Today's youth have easy access to global informa-

tion but lack knowledge of local information," she observed, recommending seminars and workshops to engage young people in productive discussions.

Discussing the impact of social media, Mah-e-Darakhsan stated that it played a pivotal role in countering Israel's propaganda, underscoring the platform's influence in shaping public opinion. She urged the government to adopt mechanisms to better engage with the youth and improve access to information.

Sidra Azhar Dar, a correspondent for a foreign media outlet, criticized the mainstream media for neglecting important issues that are often highlighted on social media. She called for government action to address areas where information is lacking. RFI Chairman Nusrat Mirza and PID Information Officer Qasim Farooq also contributed to the discussion, reaffirming the need for enhanced media literacy and responsible communication to ensure social, economic, and strategic stability.

Despite hurdles, Pakistan's IT industry shown resilience

F.P. Report

KARACHI: In South Asia, many nations have surged ahead in the field of IT despite grappling with economic challenges similar to ours. However, Pakistan's IT sector has made remarkable strides in recent years. This growth has been fueled by a rise in exports, a flourishing tech ecosystem, and an increasing number of global companies setting up shop in the country.

The government's commitment to digitization, coupled with the rise of tech startups, has ignited innovation and encouraged the adoption of new technologies. Despite economic hurdles, Pakistan's IT industry has shown resilience, thanks to its competitive pricing, a skilled workforce, and a burgeoning entrepreneurial spirit.

Pakistan's IT exports have consistently been on the rise, driven by the development of software, business process outsourcing (BPO), and IT-enabled services (ITES). Key markets for these exports include North America, the UK, and the Middle East.

The startup culture in Pakistan is thriving, especially in sectors like fintech, e-commerce, and Software



as a Service (SaaS). Investments from both local and international venture capitalists have enabled many startups to scale and grow.

Pakistan boasts a large pool of young, talented tech professionals, offering a cost-effective alternative to other countries in the region. Initiatives such as specialized training programs and tech incubators are further enhancing this talent pool.

Policies promoting digital literacy, the establishment of technology parks, and tax incentives for IT companies have all played a role in the sector's expansion. Initiatives like the Digital Pakistan Vision are geared towards integrating technology into every aspect of society and the economy.

The ITCN Asia 2024 Exhibition is set to be a cornerstone event for Pakistan's IT sector, fostering collaboration, innovation, and growth. Organized by Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd., this

annual event is one of the country's largest tech gatherings. Last year's event attracted 52,000 visitors and 450 exhibitors, marking a significant achievement.

In 2024, ITCN Asia will once again bring together the entire tech and startup ecosystem of Pakistan over three days. The event will serve as a comprehensive platform for showcasing solutions across various key sectors, including government, cloud computing, data centers, cybersecurity, ERP, education, banking and finance, health and pharma, e-commerce, and artificial intelligence.

Govt striving for socio-economic sustainable development: Murad

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that his government is striving for socio-economic sustainable development through green energy initiatives in line with international commitments.

"Apart from the development of Indigenous solar coal, the various projects have so far been completed," he said. This he said on Thursday while speaking at the inauguration ceremony for the distribution of Solar-Home-System (SHS) by Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. According to the Chief Minister, the completed projects include the development of a Wind corridor in Jhampir, District Thatta, where 1,845 MW of power is being produced. Additionally, 40 public sector buildings, mostly hospitals, have been equipped with rooftop solar panels with a capacity of 26 MW. Furthermore, 352 rural health centres have been solarized with a standard

3KW solar system.

In addition to this, 24 schemes for the solarization of public sector schools, colleges, primary healthcare facilities, jails, and government buildings are in the process of installing solar panels, the CM said. He added that the solar program has been further accelerated, and during the current year, 656 government schools would be equipped with solar power.

Mr Shah applauded Bilawal Bhutto's interest in providing the quick delivery of solar systems to the common man in line with the party election Manifesto of free electricity units of up to 300 units. He added that to combat the exorbitant electricity bills charged by the Distribution companies from the General public. The provincial Energy dept has collected the figures for the numbers of households having up to 300 units of electricity consumption and it was revealed that 2.6 million Households have no access to electricity. 2.4 mil-

lion households have a consumption of less than 100 units; 0.37 million households have a consumption of less than 200 units and 0.498 million households have a consumption of less than 300 units

We have developed a comprehensive plan to fulfil the party manifesto during the five-year tenure through multiple programs, including the provision of SHS to the poorest of the poor free of costs; and the provision of small SHS on a cost-sharing basis with Inverter & batteries. Provision of Solar Home Systems with Inverters and batteries through interest-free loans. "To achieve these targets, several green energy projects On - Grid & off-grid have been initiated," he said. Murad Shah disclosed that an expression of Interest has been floated for various options of Solar Home Systems through off-grid DC systems and on-grid AC systems with the provision of batteries and inverter.

All roads, underpasses clear: Mayor

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, said today that despite continuous rainfall in the city for the past two days, all roads and underpasses under the jurisdiction of KMC are clear.

All municipal staff is actively working. Water drainage work is being carried out on all major roads and streets using water corporation's suction machines and de-watering pumps. The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, Water Corporation, and all civic bodies are working around the clock to facilitate the public. Following the directives of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, we are prepared to face all kinds of challenges.

In the past, rainwater used to stagnate for days in certain areas, but now those areas are being cleared within a few hours. Water Corporation vehicles and drainage staff will remain on the roads until the drainage of rainwater is complete. He made these remarks on Thursday during his visit to Clifton Pumping Station, PIDC Pumping Station, and various other areas of the city. Accompanying him were the Mayor's political affairs spokesperson Karamullah Waqasi, Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation COO Asadullah Khan, and other officials.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab mentioned that despite continuous rain, the process of water drainage from most of the city's roads is ongoing. Some challenges remain in inner streets and low-lying areas, where de-watering pumps and machinery are being used. Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has instructed that all available resources be used for the service of Karachi's citizens. Unlike in the past, citizens have not faced the same level of discomfort during the current rains. Our target is to have every officer and worker present in the field to manage this challenge effectively.

NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF MINOR MINERALS OF DISTRICT KARAK

The District Auction Committee of District Karak invites applications from registered contractors of Minor Minerals for participation in auction and grant of Minor Mineral lease of each area independently for a period of one year on the basis of "As is where is" as per The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa & Mineral Act, 2017 in the office of the Deputy Commissioner Karak on **16/09/2024 at 11:00 AM**. In Case of non-auction due to any reason, the next date of auction will be **17/09/2024 at 11:00 AM**.

S. No.	Extent & Location of the area	Reserve Price (Rs)	Call Deposit (Rs)	Time Period
01	2070.5 ACRES NEAR VILL: KAMALI ZARA KHEL, MONRHAKA, WALAKAI MOHABBAT KHEL TEH: TAKHTI NASRATI DISTT: KARAK	15,092,000/-	3,773,000/-	One year
02	716.23 ACRES NEAR VILL: MIRZA KHEL LAKKI GHUNDAKI DISTT: KARAK	226,972/-	56,743/-	--do--
03	3195.06 ACRES NEAR VILL: AHMAD ABAD ZARKHAN KILLA TEH: TAKHTI NASRATI DISTT: KARAK	1,394,648/-	348,662/-	--do--
04	588.947 ACRES NEAR VILL: METHA KHEL TEH: & DISTT: KARAK	246,114/-	61,529/-	--do--
05	606.21 ACRES NEAR VILL: REHMAT ABAD TEH: & DISTT: KARAK	232,444/-	58,111/-	--do--
06	2517.88 ACRES NEAR VILL: AHMAD WALA, GHUNDI KILLA TEH: TAKHTI NASRATI DISTT: KARAK	422,496/-	105,624/-	--do--
07	2210.31 ACRES NEAR VILL: TOOR DHAND TEH: & DISTT: KARAK	232,441/-	58,111/-	--do--
08	416.69 ACRES NEAR VILL: BRAGA GALLA TEH: TAKHTI NASRATI DISTT: KARAK	10,820,813/-	2,705,204/-	--do--
09	205.41 ACRES NEAR VILL: MIR KALAM BANDA TEH: BANDA DAUD SHAH DISTT: KARAK	2,201,353/-	550,339/-	--do--
10	449.32 ACRES NEAR VILL: GURGURI EDEL KHEL TEH: & DISTT: KARAK	246,114/-	61,529/-	--do--
11	219.02 ACRES NEAR VILL: TERI TEH: BANDA DAUD SHAH DISTT: KARAK	225,605/-	56,402/-	--do--
12	378.6 ACRES NEAR VILL: KABEER KILLA TEH: & DISTT: KARAK	225,605/-	56,402/-	--do--
13	140.264 ACRES NEAR VILL: TANGORI, JAMA TEH: & DISTT: KARAK	348,040/-	87,010/-	--do--
14	1137.52 ACRES NEAR VILL: SHAHEEDAN BANDA TEH: & DISTT: KARAK	3,425,087/-	856,272/-	--do--
15	213.042 ACRES NEAR VILL: GHOL BANDA TEH: BANDA DAUD SHAH DISTT: KARAK	267,991/-	66,998/-	--do--
16	141.415 ACRES NEAR VILL: ALI KHAN KHEL DISTT: KARAK	1,153,455/-	288,364/-	--do--
17	1102.55 ACRES NEAR VILL: REHMAT ABAD TEH: & DISTT: KARAK	376,008/-	94,002/-	--do--
18	1102.55 ACRES NEAR VILL: KHOOL BANDA TEH: BANDA DAUD SHAH DISTT: KARAK	287,133/-	71,784/-	--do--
19	75.058 ACRES NEAR VILL: MALIK RIAZ KOROONA TEH: BANDA DAUD SHAH DISTT: KARAK	216,034/-	54,009/-	--do--
20	2055.36 ACRES NEAR VILL: CHOKARA TEH: TAKHTI NASRATI DISTT: KARAK	512,738/-	128,185/-	--do--
21	772.948 ACRES NEAR VILL: MIANKI TEH: TAKHTI NASRATI DISTT: KARAK	671,000/-	167,750/-	--do--
22	268.84 ACRES NEAR VILL: MANSOOR GARH TEH: BANDA DAUD SHAH DISTT: KARAK	550,000/-	137,500/-	--do--

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Only those persons or firms registered with Directorate General Mines & Minerals Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as Minor Minerals Contractors can participate in auction. Interested parties can register themselves in the Directorate General Mines & Minerals Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- The registered parties/individuals shall submit application form at the cost of **Rs.10,000/-** (Thousand Only.) non-refundable alongwith 2% Sales Tax under Second Schedule (S.No. 16) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Saks Tax on Service Act, 2022 on any working day at least three before the auction. Last date for submission of application form is 12/09/2024. (03) days
- Blacklisted/Defaulter persons or those persons who are not registered with Directorate General Mines and Minerals Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are not allowed to participate in the auction. The interested parties can visit and check the advertised areas before auction. The sketches of all the areas are available for the interested parties in the office of Assistant Director (Tech) Minerals Development Karak.
- Call deposit shall be deposited under account **No.0066-2008140092** and application fee under account **No.0066-2008209319** in any branch of Bank of Khyber.
- The registered applicants/parties shall also submit attested copies of CNIC, income tax registration certificate (NTN) and partnership deed/article & memorandum of association along with evidence of paid up capital (if applicant is partnership firm/company).
- The successful bidder shall deposit 1/4th of the total bid money as security within three days from the date of auction, otherwise, call deposit shall be forfeited in favour of the Government and the bid of second highest bidder shall be considered as highest bid, subject to condition that the difference between the first and the second highest bids is not more than 10 percent of the highest bid.
- The successful bidder shall demarcate his leased area within fifteen days from the issuance of Allotment Letter on his own expenses.
- The successful bidder shall be bound to pay Excise duty to Commissionerate of Mines or its approved excise duty collection contractor on government notified rates.
- The successful bidder before issuance of allotment letter shall he bound to deposit withholding tax under Rule-236-A of ITO2011 with Income Tax Department and Professional Tax as per rules to the Excise & Taxation Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- The successful bidder will be bound to pay surface rent to the land owner under The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mines and Minerals Act, 2017.
- The successful bidder shall be responsible to work in leased area strictly in accordance with the provisions of The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mines and Minerals Act, 2017.
- The successful bidder shall be bound to use only verified challans for transportation of minor minerals duly verified by the office of concerned Assistant Director Minerals Development. Transportation without a verified transit challan shall be considered as un-authorized transportation and action under Section-56 of the ibid Act shall be initiated against the lessee as well as other offenders.
- The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bid with cogent reason(s).
- In case if party is interested in more than one area, separate application be submitted for each area.
- The District Auction Committee of District Karak reserves the right to auction any area at any stage for various reason i.e. under litigation or appeal or any other reason etc.
- Other information in this regards can be obtained from the office of undersigned during office time i.e. **09:00 AM to 05:00 PM** on any working day.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (TECH)
Minerals Development Karak

INF(P) 2227/24

SPF PAKISTAN AIR FORCE AND AHQ, PESHAWAR TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited for the purchase of following items:

All Sports Items / Requirement (Kit & Gears) Qty - As Req
All diet & Refreshment Items Qty - As Req
Maintenance & Uplifting of Sports Fields Qty - As Req

Last date of submission of tender is **13 September, 2024** at 1000 hrs and tender will be opened on the same date at 1100 hrs. The Officer Commanding reserves the right to accept / reject the tender, on technical grounds.

Note:- Detailed specification and quantity may be obtained from Adjt School of Physical Fitness (SPF) AHQ Peshawar. (Tel Ext:- 091-9507659)

PAF BASE, PESHAWAR TENDER NOTICE : BWO FLT

PAF Base Peshawar requires different NCF items (Fertilizer, Plants, Seasonal Paneri, Flower Pots, Bhall Mud, Manure, Grass, DAP Bags, Fruit Trees etc) for Financial year 2024-2025.

Note: Quotations may be sent in favor of BWO, PAF Base, Peshawar. Detailed specifications may be obtained on Tel: 091-9505031-5037, Cell: 0323-9411312
Sealed tenders are invited for the above-mentioned items. Last date for submission of tender is **13 September, 2024** at **1000 hrs** which will be opened on the same date, at **1300 hrs**. The Officer Commanding reserves the rights to accept / reject any / all tenders, on technical grounds.

OFFICER COMMANDING
PAF BASE PESHAWAR

MCB Islamic Bank Ltd.
بایکٹ ایمسلاک بینک لمیٹڈ

RELOCATION OF TIMERGARA BRANCH

All customers are informed that MCB Islamic Bank Ltd., Timergara Branch (040) located at Zeb Plaza, Main Balambat Road, Timergara District Lower Dir and the accounts and lockers maintained therein will be shifted to a new location MCB Islamic Bank Ltd., Khan Tower, near ABC Bus Terminal, Bypass Road, Timergara District, Lower Dir with effect from 30th September, 2024.

We are determined to continue giving best services to our customers and we look forward to welcoming you at our new location.

Phone: 0945-825572

WWW.MCBISLAMICBANK.COM | 042-111-222-642

Social media blitz leading to closure of cinemas in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Ehsan Khan, a 55-year-old aficionado of Pakistani cinema, is deeply disheartened by the recent closure of iconic theaters such as Tasweer Mahal and Novelty in Peshawar due to onslaught of social media.

The decline in cinema attendance, driven by the rise of social media platforms like Facebook and TikTok, has severely impacted the local entertainment industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially in Peshawar, which was once known as the city of performing art and musicians.

Ehsan, who recently returned to Peshawar after 20 years abroad, was distressed to witness the shuttering of 16 cinema houses in Peshawar city once renowned for its vibrant arts scene.

“Before I went abroad for labour work in 2004, my friends and I frequented Tasweer Mahal, Shabistan, and Novelty cinemas to watch our favourite Pashto, English, and Urdu films in a relaxed setting. It was a source of immense joy and pleasure for us,” he recalled.

The closures of notable cinemas such as Shabistan (Firdus), Palwasha, Capital, Falak Sair, Novelty, Metro, Picture House, Sabrina, and Ihsrat due to internet invasion have been particularly disheartening for film enthusiasts. Many of these venues have been repurposed into commercial spaces and hotels, depriving thousands of moviegoers of their cherished entertainment options.

Besides these oldest cinemas, Arshad Cinema, Sabreena, Aaeena, Naz and Shama were mostly deserted these days due to lack of new films, high-production film-cost, pathetic seating facilities and lackluster approach of the authorities towards film and entertainment industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Peshawar carried a unique distinction of producing many national and international legendary film stars including Bollywood iconic hero Yousaf Khan alias Dalip Kumar, Raj Kapoor, lollywood famous actors Qavi Khan, Ismail Shahid, Najeibullah Anjum, Javed Babar and Firdus Jamal who ruled over cinema world. The presence of these cinema legends was almost a guarantee for the success of a movie at the box office.

However, the loss of seven cinemas including those of colonial era due to lack of production of new films of Urdu and Pashto, property taxes on cinemas, security concerns, rising trend of social media and commercialization adversely affected the entertainment industry in the city of artists besides discouragement of new talent.

Renowned psychiatrist and former principal of Khyber Medical College, Professor Dr Khalid Mufti said cinema was important for a healthy and tolerant society due to its positive impact on peoples’ mental and psychological mood.

He said cinema was an effective tool for nation building and expanding the country’s soft image globally, adding that quality films have the widest impact among all art forms including dramas, stage and theaters.

Dr Mufti said that one of the reasons for the rising trend of intolerance, incidents of terrorism and violence in the society was dying cinema culture in the wake of mushroom growth of social media and commercialism.

He admitted that social media has also adversely affected cinemas culture and demanded construction of new cinemas and exemption of taxes and customs duties on films equipment besides job security to film makers, producers and artists for sustainable promotion of performing arts in Pakistan.

The proliferation of internet use in Pakistan, which crossed 111 million early this year, has mainly contributed to the decline of the entertainment industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

About 71.90 million people use social media which is equating to 29.5 million of the total population of the country. Similarly, about 188.9 million cellular connections are active in Pakistan which is equal to 77.8 percent of 241 million population. Alike, the users of Facebook have jumped to record 44.50 million while 71.70 million population use YouTube, 17.30 million Instagram, 54.38 million TikTok and 30.21 million snapchat, affecting films and TV dramas.

“When I was a student at University, I used to watch a quality movie at Firdus cinema every Sunday. Now I am extremely disappointed to see the demolished Firdus cinema where a trade Plaza was constructed, resulting in the deprivation of thousands of fans of entertainment,” said Nasir Khan, a film lover at Arshad Cinema and a resident of Mardan.

The closure of two cinemas including ‘Tai’ cinema in Mardan have forced him to visit Peshawar to watch a Pashto film in a relaxed environment,” said Nasir.

“When I visited Peshawar for my favorite ‘Titanic’ English movie and Pashto film ‘Orbal’ in my student life at Capital Cinema on Arbab Road, it was jam-packed, leaving me with no chance but to purchase an advance ticket to watch my favourite movies. It was extremely heartening that today’s this oldest cinema of Peshawar is no more,” he said.

Nasir said that he along with friends was planning to move to Rawalpindi and Lahore to watch some new movies in a relatively better cinema environment there on upcoming weekend.

Besides Peshawar, four cinemas in Nowshera also became victims of commercialization and trade besides social media onslaught, he said.

Gohar Khan Yousafzai, manager Sabrina Cinema Peshawar told APP that he screened two shows daily of a Pashto movie by charging only Rs250 per ticket every day, adding there are hardly 50 people in the cinema hall these days which is highly discouraging and now most of films shows were shifted to weekend to avert financial losses.

Renowned film artist Javed Babar who is also Pride of Performance said that the reasons for dying cinemas was its poor story content and outdated cinematography, wrong presentation of Pashto culture and vulgarity besides internet blitz.

“A quality film normally requires around Rs 10 million investment while most film producers are being asked for production of a Pashto movie at Rs three million cost which was insufficient to produce a quality Pashto movie,” he said.

He said Pashto films have high profit potential due to vast viewership in Pakistan mostly in KP, Karachi and Afghanistan, recalling that when a Pashto film was finally released in the city in the past, thousands of film lovers with beat drums gathered outside the cinema houses and cheered in favour of their favorite hero that was now hardly seen today in Peshawar.

“Our cultural values and minimal wages discourage new talent from joining the film industry courtesy to social media blitz.”

Despite incidents of terrorism, he said local film producers and cinema owners of KP had remained resilient and kept cinema houses functional even in most difficult times and provided entertainment to people.

He urged the KP government to support those who believed in quality film work and provide financial incentives inevitable to revive the film industry in KP.

“We urged the provincial government to exempt cinemas from excessive taxation and provide better wages to the artist community enabling them to produce quality films like Orbal, Khana Badosh, Alzam and Deedan imperative for knowledge based tolerant society,” he said.

Foreign delegation calls on SACM discusses possibilities of investment

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A delegation of Xiamen Sino-Pak International Investment and Consulting Company called on the Special Assistant to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Khan Tordher here on Thursday and discussed possibilities in making investment in the solarization of industries and on behalf of the company expressed keen interest in investment in the sector.

Besides, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC) Javed Iqbal Khattak, Managing Director (MD) Small Industries Development Board (SIDB) Habib Ullah Arif and authorities of the KP Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BoIT) other officers were also present on the occasion.

The representatives of the investors’ group beside investment in solar energy also informed the Special Assistant regarding investment in other sectors of the province.

The members of the delegation informed the Special Assistant regarding their investment model for the provision of cheap energy to industries and for commercial purpose under the solar power solution.

They informed regarding their interest in establishment of electric bikes, electrical scooters and tri-cycle assembling factory, which could prove a better facility for short-range local public transportation.

Similarly, they also informed the

Special Assistant about the manufacturing of the 200 CC motor engine and electric mini-van sectors, which would prove a very cheap and useful mean of transportation for medium range distance.

The Special Assistant while welcoming the interest of the investors’ group, expressed the resolve of the provincial government welcomed foreign investment and extension of all kind of cooperation to domestic and foreign investors in the province.

He said that the provincial government is committed to promote investment and provision of conducive environment to enterprises, saying that is the reason behind making business easy for investment in all aspects. He said that for this purpose the provincial government is focusing on taking steps for provision of cheap energy to the industries.

Meanwhile, the Special Assistant also visited the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Risalpur and presided over a meeting regarding the energy related issues of the industrialists.

Those who attended the meeting were included Vice Chairman KP-BoIT Said Mahmood, Director Business Facilitation Iqbal Sarwar, Zone Manager KP-EZDMC (Nowshera) Shiraz Babar, PESCO authorities and others.

During the meeting, PESCO authorities assured that a new feeder line for the economic zone would be activated soon as construction work on it has already been completed.

The Special Assistant on his behalf assured all possible cooperation to the industrialists of the zone. He also visited Aziz Oil Industry and watched the manufacturing process of oil and ghee.

Pensioners flay govt for ignoring court’s verdicts

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: University of Agriculture Peshawar, Pensioners Association requested Chief Justice Peshawar High Court to act against Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while expressing severe disappointment and anger over the provincial government’s failure to include the pensioners’ item in the cabinet meeting agenda, despite two court orders, on Thursday.

The Pensioners Association General Secretary said that despite clear court orders, the pensioners’ item was not included in the cabinet meeting agenda, leaving pensioners deprived of their dues. He added that pensioners were paid half of their pension in April this year, while employees were paid their salaries by the university administration, but pensioners were completely denied their July pensions, which is highly regrettable.

Arrest of Dawood Raphael’s killers demanded

PESHAWAR (APP): The Christian community while expressing dissatisfaction with the police investigation has demanded of the Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, and Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Gandapur to apprehend and prosecute the real culprits behind the brutal killing of Dawood Raphael who was killed under mysterious circumstances on August 10, last.

During a press conference held at the Peshawar Press Club on Thursday, followed by a protest demonstration, community leaders—including Dawood’s uncle and Nursing Superintendent at SHPD Peshawar, Shamoon Farhan Bhatti; Pastor Yusuf TM Azam; Bishop Chaplain; Pastor Aamir William; Pastor George Ghulam; Elder Nadeem Masih; Pastor Emmanuel Suhail; Director Nursing at LRH, Esther Shaheen; Pakistan Nursing Council member from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Fazal Mola; and former Provincial President of the Nursing Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Farukh Jaleel strongly condemned the murder.

Dawood Raphael, an educated Christian youth, was murdered under mysterious circumstances. The victim was the sole support for his widowed mother and sisters. Despite having received over fifty awards and certificates for his achievements in education and sports, Dawood’s murders remain at large. His family and the community alleged that police investigation was not satisfactory in the case saying that the real perpetrators have not yet been arrested.



PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Higher Education Meena Khan Afridi chairing a meeting regarding sale and repair of houses in City area of Peshawar.

Poets, writers rekindle patriotism in public: Pak writer guild

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Writers Guild Khyber Pakhtunkhwa secretary Professor Aseer Mangal said that with the arrival of August, a sense of freedom and patriotism is rekindled in the hearts of people. He noted that poets and writers have always played a significant role in expressing their love for the country through their writings, on Thursday.

He was addressing a multi-lingual mushaira (poetry recitation session) organized by the Pakistan Writers Guild Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at Academy

Adibat (literature) Pakistan Peshawar hall. The session was presided over by Professor Dr. Yar Muhammad Maghmoom, while Faqir Hussain Misror was the special guest, and Abad Hasan Khattak was the guest of honor.

Professor Mangal congratulated the nation on 77th Independence celebration and paid tribute to Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, saying that his tireless efforts made Pakistan an atomic power.

He emphasized that poets and writers have always been at the forefront of expressing their love for the country, citing the example of national songs written during the 1965 war.

Moreover, Sher Wali Orakzai, Bushra Farrah, Samina Qadir, Dr. Tariq Mahmood Danish, Professor Malak Arshad Hussain, Amjad Ali Khadim, Professor Sabeeh Ahmad, Rani Bano, Tabinda Farrah, Akhtar Mahmood Seemab and Wahmi Orakzai participated in the event.

The mushaira featured recitations in Pashto, Urdu, and Hindko by various poets, including Professor Aseer Mangal, Professor Dr. Yar Muhammad

Maghmoom, Faqir Hussain Misror, Abad Hasan Khattak, and others. The poets expressed their love, feelings, and sentiments for the beloved country through their poetry.

The session began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a beautiful naat sharif (poem in praise of the Prophet Muhammad) by Tabinda Farooq. The event concluded with a fatha (prayer) for the deceased wife of former chairman Muhammad Tufail, and prayers were made for the elevation of her ranks and for the patience of the bereaved family.

KMU strengthens support for Afghan students



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Vice Chancellor of Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar Prof Dr. Zia Ul Haq, has stated that Afghanistan is our brotherly neighboring country, and its students are being provided equal opportunities for learning and research at KMU and its affiliated institutions as Pakistani students.

All necessary resources and support will be provided to Afghan students to help them succeed in their education and integrate smoothly into university life. Additionally, all their other issues will be addressed on a priority basis.

These remarks were made by Professor Dr. Zia Ul Haq during a recent meeting with representatives of Afghan students studying at various institutions within the university.

The meeting focused on discussing the key issues faced by Afghan students and emphasized KMU’s commitment to providing a comprehensive and supportive educational environment.

One of the major issues discussed was the delay in obtaining equivalency certificates from Afghan educational boards and Pakistani educational boards.

This delay often causes difficulties for Afghan students in meeting admission deadlines, especially for new stu-

dents who are unfamiliar with the process. To address this issue, it was proposed that the deadline for submitting these documents be extended until the first semester exams.

If a student fails to provide the required documents after this period, their admission will be canceled.

As an important step to assist Afghan students, the Vice Chancellor of KMU has already instructed that the tuition fee structure for Afghan students admitted on open merit will be equal to that of Pakistani students.

To further reduce the difficulties faced by Afghan students during the admission process, it

was suggested that a focal person be appointed in each affiliated institution of Khyber Medical University to guide Afghan students through the admission process and recommend them to the relevant forum for open merit admissions.

The meeting also highlighted the issue of delays in the research work of Afghan postgraduate students, often caused by visa-related problems, which prevent students from traveling to Pakistan for discussions with their supervisors.

To reduce these delays, it was proposed that supervisors allocate specific times twice a week for online consultations, so that Afghan students can receive timely guidance and complete their research work effectively.

Additionally, the language differences between Afghanistan and Pakistan were acknowledged as a challenge for Afghan students. It was suggested that special exams be conducted to help improve their grades.

Furthermore, it was agreed that Afghan students would be allowed to organize cultural activities at KMU to promote cultural exchange.

PHSA arranges seminar on stress management



PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Health Services Academy (PHSA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here Thursday arranged a first ever seminar on Health Management for nursing colleges and administration of paramedical institutes of public health.

Renowned psychiatrist, Dr. Anwar Mifti and psy-

chologist, Zarqa delivered lectures to cope with stress being witnessed in employees while performing duties.

Different sessions of panel discussions were also held during seminar to apprise participants about methods and procedures to manage stress.

Director General

PHSA, Dr. Abdul Waheed highlighted the significance of seminar and said that it would orient employees about ways to control and manage stress during duty.

He said that stress management would not only provide relief workers but affect their behavior and improve performance.



PESHAWAR: A vendor filling glass bottle with local perfume ‘itar’ for the customer at Hashtnagri area. — APP photo



In brief

Naat competition to be held on 31st

SARGODHA (INP): In line with the special directives of the President of Pakistan, the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation, Pakistan Television Corporation, and the Punjab Aqaf Department are jointly organizing the annual provincial Naat competition. According to an handout issued here, the event was scheduled to take place on August 31st at 9 a.m at the Gol Chowk mosque Sargodha. The competition is open to students aged 15 to 25 from schools and colleges. Participants are required to bring a certificate from their educational institution, a birth certificate, and two recent passport-sized photographs.

2 drug-peddlers arrested

MULTAN (APP): Police have arrested two drug-peddlers and recovered drugs from them during a crackdown launched across the district here on Thursday. In line with special directives of the City Police Officer (CPO) Sadiq Ali Dogar, the police launched a crackdown on drug-peddlers and arrested Ahsan alias Laalo and Sheraz alias Papa, by Jalilabad and Qadarpur Raan police, respectively. The police also recovered 600-litre liquor and 1.400-kg hashish from them. Separate cases have been registered against the drug-peddlers with the police stations concerned, sources added. Meanwhile, an alleged robber was injured in a police encounter, in the precincts of Qadarpur Raan police on Thursday morning. According to police, a team of Muhafiz Squad was on a routine patrolling near Mouza Karpal at Shah Hussain road when they signalled three suspects riding a motorcycle to stop but they sped away. The Muhafiz squad informed Qadarpur Raan police and also started chasing the alleged criminals. SHO Qadarpur Raan Muhammad Ramzan along with a team reached the spot when the suspects opened fire on the police party.

DC, DPO hold open court

B A H A W A L P U R (APP): Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Zaeher Anwar Jappa, along with District Police Officer Bahawalpur Asad Sarfraz, held an open court at the Jinnah Hall of the Municipal Committee Ahmadpur East. Assistant Commissioner Ahmadpur East Dr. Fayaz Ali Jatala, DSP Farrukh Javed, officials from relevant departments, and citizens were present. The deputy commissioner issued orders to resolve the complaints received during the open court. He directed that a technical estimate be obtained from the Public Health Department for resolving the sewage issues in Ahmadpur East city and for the repair and technical faults of the disposal station at Chungi Pairwa and that it be sent to higher authorities immediately. The citizens who attended the open court praised the administration's performance in draining rainwater from urban areas in record time during the monsoon rains. The DC instructed the Revenue Department officials to resolve people's revenue-related issues under an open-door policy. He also received applications from the citizens present at the open court and issued orders on the spot for their resolution. At the open court, DPO Asad Sarfraz gathered information about the issues faced by the public regarding the police department and issued orders for their resolution.

Action against private medical centers demanded

F.P. Report

BUNER: The residents urged for redressal of grievances at 'Kuli Katcheri' held Basic health unit Naway Kalay before the district administration, on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner Buner along with tehsil municipal officer, Additional DC, Assistant Commissioner and heads of all working department participated in the 'Kuli Katcher'. DC assured that on the instructions of the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 'Kuli Katcheris' are being held at various places to solve the problems and reduce the difficulties. He added that the Chief Minister is informed about the steps taken by the district administrative officers to solve these problems and difficulties.

In the open court, the political and social personalities of the area and the elected members of the village councils and masses openly presented the problems and difficulties faced by locals. The problems they uttered, include over-load shedding, over-billing, disconnection of electricity due to non-payment of bills, dilapidated condition of access pathways, encroachment or complete occupation of district council owned access roads, errors in revenue computerization record and lack of staff and absenteeism in schools and selling food items to children inside schools and paying attention to cleanliness and making dumping sites for garbage and taking it out weekly. They alleged private medical centers for disposing off medical wastes here there mostly

pouring into in running water of Barandu instead of having incineration facilities in private medical centers. They emphasized for immediate resolution.

The Deputy Commissioner gave instructions to the heads of the departments to take practical steps and submit the report for timely relief and assured the public representatives and the complainants that according to the Chief Minister's hundred point program, the public problems and difficulties brought up in the open forums will be resolved as redressal of grievances has been made the responsibility of administrative officers. He assured that as the District Administrative Head he himself will monitor these measures and take all possible steps to provide relief to the people.

Khuli Katchery held to address women issues

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram Chitrali on Thursday arranged a Khuli Katchery (open court) for women in the District Council Hall Kohat under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Program "Awami Agenda" which besides the members of the Provincial Assembly Shafi Jan and Daud Afridi and Heads of Line Departments, was largely participated by the women community.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Finance) Reena Suhrwardy, while highlighting the aims and objectives of the Katchery said that the Awami Agenda Program consists of 99

points, the main objective of which is to provide relief to the People.

Madam Farah, the advisor of JIZ informed that a total of 36 problems and demands were presented in which half of the problems have been solved while the rest are under process. She thanked the District Administration, especially Deputy Commissioner Kohat, for organizing a special Katchery for women to bring their problems to higher authorities. Most of the problems or complaints of women were related to electricity, gas, education and health, apart from various domestic disputes.

Members of the Provincial Assembly Shafi Jan and Daud Afridi while

talking about the issues and demands presented by women, assured that holding of the Khuli Katchery by the District Administration Kohat is a welcoming step for the women of Kohat. They said that efforts are being made to improve the condition of hospitals and schools in Kohat and equip them with modern facilities.

Later, Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram while addressing the participants said that it is the responsibility of all the heads of line departments to satisfy the public by answering their questions to make the Khuli Katchery a meaningful endeavor of the district administration.

Abducted child recovered from Kacha area

F.P. Report

SHIKARPUR: Police recovered an abducted child named Azan Ali Arain safely on intelligence-based operation from the Kacha area of Shikarpur district.

According to details, deputy inspector general Larkana ordered concerned police for safe recovery of abducted child. The young child Azan Ali Arain of Khanpur city was safely recovered in the presence of the police.

As Larkana range police formed a team of senior and experienced police officers under the leadership of SSP Shikarpur. On the successful action of Larkana range police. DIG Larkana has issued congratulatory messages for SSP Shikarpur and his team.

PWHEW hold protest:

Pakistan WAPDA (Water and Power Development Authority) Hydro Electric Workers (PWHEW) Union Larkana staged a sit-in protest at Jinnah Bagh Chowk against the proposed privatization of electricity companies and other industrial enterprises, on Thursday.

WAPDA employees had carrying banners and shouting slogans against privatization. Addressing the dharana, Regional Chairman of All Pakistan Wapda Hydroelectric Workers Union, Nisar Ahmad Sheikh, Mahmood Pathan, Hadi Bakhsh Jatoti and others said that the federal government of Pakistan's industrial enterprises. It wants to make the employees unemployed by starting the process of privatization, while on the one hand,

unemployment and inflation in the country have made the life of employees and ordinary people controversial, and on the other hand, the government has added privatization to national institution Utility stores, to make the employees related to employment unemployed.

The protestors said that 11,000 employees are being made unemployed just by privatizing utility stores, while there is already a shortage of employees in electricity companies and a ban has also been imposed on new recruitments. He said that the ban on new recruitments in the institutions should be removed, including ending the privatization policy, and the lack of employees in the institutions should be filled, otherwise the scope of the protest will be increased.

Police recovers abductee, arrested kidnappers

F.P. Report

WANA: Police has recovered an abductee named Saifullah Wazir who was been kidnapped, on 19th August near Wana Bazaar.

District Police Officer (DPO) South Waziristan Farman Ullah Khan Wardag presented both the rescued individual and the kidnappers to the media during a press talk. He disclosed that the police traced the kidnappers' location using signals from the vic-

tim's mobile phone.

During the operation, the police recovered the victim's passport, identity card, and ATM card from an Axiom car used in the crime. The raid also led to the seizure of a licensed Kalashnikov and the arrest of Makar Khan along with his sons, Abdul Rahman, Habib Rahman, Faredullah, Amjad Khan, and Noor Khan.

DPO commended the police officers participated in the raid, awarding them

cash prizes and certificates of appreciation. It was revealed that the kidnappers had sent the victim's photograph to a larger criminal network via WhatsApp, seeking a ransom of 30 million rupees from the victim's family. Further investigation will follow after obtaining remand from the Additional Sessions Court to identify the mastermind behind the crime and to explore the kidnappers' involvement in other incidents.

Plantation drive starts at child protection bureau, juvenile center

F.P. Report

KHAR: In compliance with the Peshawar High Court's order, the District & Sessions Court Bajaur inaugurated a tree plantation campaign at the Juvenile Observation Home and Child Protection Bureau, on Thursday.

The event was graced by the presence of honorable judges, court staff, and representatives from the

Forest Department. The District Forest Officer was also present. District & Sessions Judge Bajaur Dr. Muhammad Amir Nazir, initiated the campaign by planting a sapling.

Subsequently, Additional District & Sessions Judge Hussain Ali and Senior Civil Judge Muhib-ur-Rehman also planted saplings. Furthermore, the court staff actively participated in the tree plantation drive.

Addressing the gathering, District & Sessions Judge Dr. Muhammad Amir Nazir emphasized the religious significance of planting trees as a continuous charity. He highlighted the critical importance of afforestation in the face of increasing pollution, global warming, and environmental degradation. The event concluded with a collective prayer for the safety and prosperity of Pakistan.

Administration setup body to act against environmental pollution

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: District Administration have constituted special teams to take actions against burning remaining of crops, smoke emitting vehicles, factories and brick kilns working without Zigzag technology to make the district Hafizabad smog and pollution free especial along with both sides of Motorway M-2 and M-4.

This was stated by Deputy Commissioner while addressing the meeting of Anti-Smog Committee. Additional Director General Environmental Protection, Punjab, Muhammad Nawaz and officers of other relevant department attended the meeting. He said that smoke emitting factories, vehicles, burning of remaining of crops and bricks kilns working without zigzag technology causing to damage environment and create smog.

DC directed the agriculture offices to provide awareness about hazards of burning of residues of crops so that they refrain from burning of remaining of paddy crop as well as to pressured farmers to use latest machinery for discarding residues of crops. Deputy Director Agriculture Hafizabad Muhammad Yousaf informed the meeting that 39 special teams were monitoring both sides of Motorways while 381 teams were supervising different villages to contain burning of residues of crops in the district.

Two die as roof collapses

OKARA (INP): Two including a woman and a child died while five others were injured when roof of a house collapsed due to heavy rain here on Thursday.

According to details, dilapidated roof of a house located in suburban village Chak Bambi of Okara came down after heavy rain lashed the area. Two including 30-year-old Iqra w/o Munawar, four-year-old Ayan s/o Ramazan die in the incident while five others sustained injuries. The rescue teams getting the information of the incident, retrieved the bodies, injured from debris and shifted them to District Headquarter Hospital.

Woman killed, two injured

KHAIRPUR (INP): A woman was killed and two others injured when an over speeding trailer hit a motorcycle here on Thursday.

According to details, the accident took place on National Highway in Ranipur area of district Khairpur of Sindh where a reckless driven trailer knocked a motorcycle carrying three people. As a result of accident, a woman was killed on the spot while two people seriously injured. The trailer driver fled the scene of accident. The body and injured were shifted to hospital. The police impounded the trailer and after registering a case against driver at large started raids for his arrest.

Sessions judge, wife injured

SIALKOT (INP): District and Sessions Judge Sialkot and his wife were injured in a car accident on Lahore-Islamabad Motorway near service area Kallar Kahar on Thursday.

According to media reports, Sessions Judge along with his wife were travelling to Lahore from Islamabad when their car skidded away amid heavy rain. The injured couple was shifted to Trauma Center Kallar Kahar where their treatment was under way.

4 children injured

PATTOKI (INP): A fire erupted in a house in the Old Mandi area of Pattoki, Punjab, after an air conditioner compressor exploded. The incident resulted in injuries to four children.

The explosion caused a portion of the house's wall to collapse and ignited a fire. The injured children have been identified as Ahmed, Shaaban, Hamza Saleem, and Ahmed Talib.

80 % girls' schools closed due to highway blockage



F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: More than eighty percent girls' schools in tehsil Landi Kotal shut down for the last eight days due to unavailability of female teaching staff because of Koki Khel protest sit-in and road blockade at Bogiyari checkpoint.

It is to be stated here that more than eighty percent female teachers from Jamrud Peshawar and down towns who execute their official jobs in the girls' schools of Landi Kotal were barred from attending their duties by suspending the road.

District head of Tanzeem-e-Asatiza, Pakistan Sharif Ullah Afridi said that for the last one week, a greater part of female staff from Jamrud and Peshawar couldn't attend their teaching duties, which was unfair to female learners of Landi Kotal. He regretted that in addition with permanent deficiency of female teaching staff in the girls' educational institutions nonappearance of 70-to 80 female staff equivalent to suspend teaching activities in the schools.

Closing of a large number of government girls' schools deprived the girls' learners of their basic right and put the future of thousands of local female students at risk, he added. He went on that the closure of girls' schools also sparked concern among parents who feared that prolonged shutdown could have long term consequences for the education of thousands of female students.

He demanded of the authorities concerned and organizers of the sit-in to adopt all necessary initiatives to ensure presence of female teachers in girls' schools of Landi Kotal. It is worth mentioning here that approximately twelve thousand girls study in fifty three state-run schools in Landi Kotal tehsil.

Admn kicks off preparations for Defense Day celebrations

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Pakistan Defense Day will be celebrated on 6th September in a grand manner and homage will be paid to the martyrs who sacrificed for the security and safety of the country. These views were expressed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning while addressing a meeting regarding the preparations for Pakistan Defense Day.

Various events and rallies will be organized across the district on the occasion of Pakistan Defense Day. Prominent personalities, citizens and government officials will participate in these activities at large. There will be declamation competitions, tableaux, national songs, various sports competitions and other events in schools and colleges.

Additional Deputy Commissioner said that September 06 Pakistan Defense Day is very important for us, on this day our armed forces created a great story of bravery and courage. He directed the concerned officers to finalize all the arrangements regarding the Defense Day and all the departments should give their plans to the DC office in this regard.

Civil society joins hands for public rights awareness:

Community-based organizations (CBOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Mardan City have joined forces under the Right for Rights (R4R) project, led by the Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA), to address the critical need for increased funding for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services within their communities.

During the meeting, participants emphasized the urgent requirement for effective sanitation management and explored strategies to secure additional financial resources. They were organized into three working groups, focusing on key areas: WASH issues faced by neighborhood councils, locally identified solutions, and available local resources.

"The safe management of sanitation services is a pressing concern in our city, and it's essential that we work together to address this issue," stated Shah Nasir, Regional convener of FANSA. "Today's meeting marked a significant step in identifying our needs and developing solutions to ensure our

communities have access to safe and inclusive sanitation services."

As an outcome of the meeting, CBOs and CSOs in Mardan have drafted specific Safe Management of Sanitation Services (SMSS) needs for their respective communities. These identified needs will be presented to the relevant neighborhood councils for inclusion in the upcoming budget cycle's annual development plan.

The participants collectively identified the following key priorities: Strengthened policies and advocacy to secure increased funding and ensure inclusive access. Capacity building and community engagement to promote safe sanitation practices. Upgraded sanitation infrastructure and innovative technologies to improve overall sanitation management.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment from all participants to work collaboratively in addressing these priorities and advocating for enhanced funding for WASH services in Mardan City, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG-6), which emphasizes inclusive sanitation for all.

Scholar defends MPhil thesis in Malakand Varsity

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: An M. Phil scholar in Mathematics, Farhad Hussain, successfully defended his thesis in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Malakand (UoM) here the other day. The title of his thesis was 'Stability Analysis of the SVEIHR Model for Ebola Virus Disease'.

His thesis was supervised by Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Associate Professor of the Mathematics department, UoM while his external examiner was Dr. Saeed ul Islam, Professor and Dean of Sciences at Abdul Wali

Khan University Mardan, who appreciated the hard work of the scholar. The Chairman of the Mathematics department Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad, and all the teachers congratulated the scholar on achieving the milestone and encouraged him to further explore the same area.

Administration meeting: Under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 'Awami Agenda' and interaction with the civil society the Lower Dir deputy commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan held a meeting Noor Alam Bacha, President of the Dir Chamber of Commerce and

Industries. Other members of the chamber Khalid Iqbal, Sajjad Khan, Gul Wahid were also in attendance. Mr. Noor Alam briefed the DC about the issues faced by the chamber and said that they played a vital role between government functionaries and the business community.

The DC said that a comprehensive plan should be prepared for the establishment of local small industries and improvement of Technical Colleges, skill development institutions so that revenue may be generated in the district and job opportunities be provided to the youth.

Commissioner directs efforts to eliminate smuggling

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah chaired a high level meeting to review and improve performance of joint check posts of various departments established in Kohat Division for the effective prevention of smuggling.

The meeting besides Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram, DPO Kohat Umar Khan and

authorities concerned was also attended by the Deputy Commissioners and DPOs of Hangu, Karak, Orakzai and Kurram districts through Video Link.

The authorities concerned while highlighting the performance of their respective departments and Institutions also identified problems and forwarded suggestions to end smuggling. Commissioner Kohat said that authorities should develop a liaison and collec-

tively work to eliminate smuggling that is a threat to economy and interests of the country. He also directed efforts to achieve the target.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Kohat also held a meeting regarding safety of Chinese and other foreigners directing Deputy Commissioners and DPOs of all districts to ensure foolproof security arrangements for safety of foreigners in their respective districts.



Haiti's army wants recruits to fight gangs

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP): The announcement that Haiti's military wanted recruits crackled through a small radio perched on a street stall in downtown Port-au-Prince where Maurency Clerge repairs and sells smartphones.

It was early morning, and the 21-year-old paused, eager to hear the details. He envisioned earning enough to afford his own food and rent. Two weeks later, he completed the required paperwork and stood in line with hundreds of other Haitians under a brutal sun for the chance to join up. "It's the moment I have been waiting for," said Clerge, who stays with a friend who also provides him with food. "I want to serve as a citizen of this country and also to move up and upgrade my life."

Thousands of young Haitians are jumping at the chance to become soldiers as widespread gang violence creates a rare job opportunity in a deeply impoverished country where work is scarce. Brushing aside the possibility they could be kidnapped, tortured or killed, Haiti's youngest generation is answering the call of a government seeking to rebuild a once-reviled military, reinstated just years ago with the aim to crush gangs. "I thought about it a lot because I know that being a soldier requires a lot of sacrifice," said Samuel Delmas, who recently applied. "Everything that you're doing is risky." The 20-year-old is taking computer repair courses but doesn't have a job. He heard about the recruitment via a Facebook group.

"I have always wanted to be useful to my country," he said. Gangs forced Delmas and his family to flee their

home two years ago, with only enough time to grab a handful of clothes amid a barrage of gunfire. "I want to protect citizens who are on the run like me," he said. "Most young kids are not working." Haiti's government has not said how many soldiers it aims to hire nor how many have applied so far, but documents published online by the Defense Ministry show that at least 3,000 people were selected in mid-August and asked to submit documents as they await physical and mental tests. If all were hired, that would more than double the force strength of 2,000 of early last year. About 60% of Haiti's population of nearly 12 million people earn less than \$2 a day, with inflation soaring to double digits in recent years. "Most young kids are not working," said Emerson Celadon, a 25-year-old mechanic who applied and was selected for the next round. "I was making some money, but ... that is still not enough for a family of four."

It's not clear how much soldiers earn. Defense Minister Jean-Marc Bernier Antoine did not return messages for comment. However, Celadon said friends in the army told him they make about \$300 a month. On a recent afternoon, Celadon joined hundreds of mostly young men lined up outside a former UN base, a yellow envelope under his arm, waiting to take the first of several required tests to join the army. A dark past Haiti's armed forces were once widely feared and hated, with soldiers accused of horrific human rights abuses. The military organized several coups in the second half of the 20th century, even after so-called "dicta-

tor for life" François Duvalier diluted its strength.

After the last coup in 1991, to oust former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the government disbanded the armed forces in 1995. At the time, there were some 7,000 soldiers. "The decision to demobilize the army ... proved to be one of the most catastrophic decisions in the country's history," said Michael Deibert, the author of two books about Haiti. He noted that, as a result, the first generation of politically-aligned gangs took root in the late 1990s and early 2000s. "They stepped into a security void left by what would have been a security force, one whose role the Haitian police have never been fully able to assume," Deibert said. After the army was disbanded, the government created the Haitian National Police and the Coast Guard, which were bolstered by the arrival of UN troops. Once the UN ended its peacekeeping operations, the army was reinstated in 2017 by President Jovenel Moïse, who was assassinated in July 2021.

Since then, the military has played a small role in fighting gangs and protecting top government officials. But as gang violence surged in the years following Moïse's killing, former Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced in March 2023 that he would mobilize all security forces. At the time, the armed forces had some 2,000 soldiers who were trained by experts in Mexico, Colombia and Argentina. Despite the announcement, the military's role continued to take a back seat to police until recently.

Brazil top court warns to suspend X operations

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP): A Brazilian Supreme Court justice threatened to shut down the local operations of X, formerly Twitter, unless its billionaire owner Elon Musk names a legal representative in Brazil within 24 hours.

The order from Justice Alexandre de Moraes is the latest development in an ongoing feud with Musk's platform. The company clashed with de Moraes earlier this year over free speech, accounts associated with the far-right and misinformation on the platform, and it claims to be a victim of censorship. Earlier this month, X said it was removing all remaining Brazil staff in the country "effective immediately," saying de Moraes had threatened its legal representative in the country with arrest.

The Supreme Court notified X of de Moraes' order in a reply to a post from the company's global government affairs account on the social platform. "In case of non-compliance with the determination, the decision could bring about suspension of the social media network's activities in Brazil," the court said in a statement. In the United States, free speech is a constitutional right that's much more permissive than in many countries, including Brazil, where de Moraes in April ordered an investigation into Musk over the dissemination of defamatory fake news and another probe over possible obstruction, incitement and criminal organization. Brazil's political right has long characterized de Moraes as overstepping his bounds to clamp down on free speech and engage in political persecution. His defenders have said his actions are lawful, supported by at least the majority of the court's bench, and have served to protect democracy at a time in which it is imperiled.

Honduras promises to end treaty with US

T E G U C I G A L P A (Reuters): Honduras' foreign ministry said it would end a more than a century-old extradition treaty with the US after Washington's ambassador expressed concern about a meeting between Honduran and Venezuelan defense officials.

In a letter to the US embassy shared on social media by Foreign Minister Enrique Reina, Honduras' foreign ministry expressed "the decision of the Government of the Republic of Honduras to terminate the extradition treaty."

Honduran President Xiomara Castro ordered a denunciation - a unilateral withdrawal of a treaty in international law - and accused Washington of meddling in her country's affairs. "The interference and interventionism of the United States, as well as its intention to direct the politics of Honduras through its embassy and other representatives, is intolerable," the leftist leader said in a post on social media.

The US embassy in Honduras did not immediately reply to a request for comment. US Ambassador to Honduras Laura Dogu had earlier told local TV reporters the United States was concerned after a meeting last week between Honduran Defense Minister Jose Manuel Zelaya and his Venezuelan counterpart, Vladimir Padrino.

Zelaya was joined by the country's head of the military joint chiefs of staff. Dogu said she was "surprised" they met with "drug traffickers." The United States indicted Padrino on drug trafficking charges in 2020. "Insinuating or implicating us as drug traffickers and disqualifying our authorities is really a direct threat to our independence and sovereignty," Reina said on social media.

Honduras is a staunch ally of Venezuela's socialist government. The extradition treaty has allowed for the extradition of high-profile Hondurans, including former President Juan Orlando Hernandez and former Police Chief Juan Carlos Bonilla.

Why Russia has struggled to halt Ukraine's incursion in Kursk

MOSCOW (AP): After three weeks of fighting, Russia is still struggling to dislodge Ukrainian forces from the Kursk region, a surprisingly slow and low-key response to the first occupation of its territory since World War II. It all comes down to Russian manpower and Russian priorities.

With the bulk of its military pressing offensives inside Ukraine, the Kremlin appears to lack enough reserves for now to drive out Kyiv's forces. President Vladimir Putin doesn't seem to view the attack - or at least, give the impression that he views it - as a grave enough threat to warrant pulling troops from eastern Ukraine's Donbas region, his priority target. "Putin's focus is on the collapse of the Ukrainian state, which he believes will automatically render any territorial control irrelevant," wrote Tatiana Stanovaya, senior fellow at the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center.

Months after launching the full-scale invasion in 2022, Putin illegally annexed the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson as part of Russian territory, and their full capture has been a top priority. He declared in June that Kyiv must withdraw its forces from parts of those regions it controls as a condition for peace talks, a demand that Ukraine rejects. "In marshaling forces to meet Ukraine's incursion, Russia is doing all it can to avoid drawing units from its own offensive in the Donbas," said Nigel Gould-Davies of the International Institute of Strategic Studies. "Russia currently judges that it can contain the threat on its own soil without compromising its most important goal in Ukraine."

Even as Ukrainian forces pushed into Kursk on Aug. 6, Russian troops continued their slow advance around the strategic city of Pokrovsk and other parts of the Donetsk area. "Russia is very keen on continuing the attacks toward Pokrovsk and not taking resources away from Pokrovsk to Kursk," said Nico Lange, senior fellow at the Washington-based Center for European Policy Analysis.

Unlike Pokrovsk, where Ukrainian forces have built extensive fortifications, other parts of Donetsk still under Ukrainian control are less protected and could be significantly more vulnerable to the Russian onslaught if Pokrovsk falls. Speaking about Kursk in televised meetings with officials, Putin described the incursion as an attempt by Kyiv to slow the Russian campaign in Donetsk. He said the Russian advance there only has accelerated despite events in Kursk. In pressuring Ukraine to meet his demands, Russia also has launched a steady barrage of long-range strikes on the power grid. An attack on energy facilities was one of the largest and most devastating of the war, involving over 200 missiles and drones and causing widespread blackouts. It highlighted loopholes in Ukraine's air defenses that are stretched between protecting frontline troops as well as infrastructure.

PARIS (Reuters): Relations between Moscow and Paris have reached a nadir following the arrest of Russian-born Telegram boss Pavel Durov, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, after the tech billionaire's detention was extended.

Durov, who has French as well as Russian nationality, was arrested near Paris over the weekend as part of an investigation into crimes related to images of child sex abuse, drug trafficking and fraudulent transactions on the platform, French prosecutors said. It remains unclear if he knew about the threat of arrest in France. Durov's French lawyer did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Durov's arrest has plunged Moscow-Paris ties to their lowest level, Lavrov said, capping months of deteriorating relations between the two nations. French authorities accused Russia of trying to



Playing down the incursion. Focused on capturing Ukraine's four regions, Putin has sought to attach little importance to Kyiv's foray into Kursk. "Rather than rallying the population against a threat to the motherland, the Kremlin is anxious to downplay the incursion," said Gould-Davies of the London-based IISS.

Faced with the reality of the occupation of Russia's territory, the state propaganda machine has sought to distract attention from the obvious military failure by focusing on government efforts to help over 130,000 residents displaced from their homes. State-controlled media cast the attack on Kursk as evidence of Kyiv's aggressive intentions and more proof that Russia was justified in invading Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. Stanovaya noted that while many Kursk residents could be angry at the Kremlin, the overall nationwide sentiment could actually favor the authorities. "While it's certainly a blow to the Kremlin's reputation, it is unlikely to spark a significant rise in social or political discontent among the population," she said. "The Ukrainian attack might actually lead to a rallying around the flag and a rise in anti-Ukrainian and anti-Western sentiments."

A limited Kremlin response Ukraine's chief military officer, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, said his forces control nearly 1,300 square kilometers (about 500 square miles) and about 100 settlements in the Kursk region, a claim that couldn't be independently verified. With the combat situation in Kursk in flux, unlike the static front lines in Donetsk, Ukrainian units could roam the region without establishing a lasting presence in many of the settlements they claim.

Observers say Russia does not have enough well-coordinated resources to chase the Ukrainian forces in Kursk. "Moscow's efforts to counter the new Ukrainian offensive appear limited to sending units from all over Russia, including a proportion of militia and irregular forces," said Ben Barry, senior fellow for land warfare at the IISS, in a commentary. Until the Kursk incursion, Putin has refrained from using conscripts in the

war to avoid a public backlash. Young conscripts drafted for a compulsory one-year tour of duty have served away from the front, and those deployed to protect the border in the Kursk region became easy prey for Ukraine's battle-hardened mechanized infantry units. Hundreds were captured, and 115 were exchanged for Ukrainian troops over the weekend.

Commentators observed that Putin also is reluctant to call up more reservists, fearing domestic destabilization like what happened when he ordered a highly unpopular mobilization of 300,000 in response to a Ukrainian counteroffensive in 2022. Hundreds of thousands fled Russia to avoid being sent to combat. Since then, the Kremlin has bolstered its forces in Ukraine with volunteers attracted by relatively high wages, but that flow has ebbed in recent months.

It would take tens of thousands of troops to fully dislodge the Ukrainian force, estimated at 10,000, that used the region's dense forests as cover. Clearly lacking resources for such a massive operation, Russia for now has focused on stemming deeper Ukrainian advances by sealing roads and targeting Kyiv's reserves - tactics that have been partially successful.

Ukraine, meanwhile, has founded the Russian military by destroying bridges across the Seym River, disrupting logistics for some Russian units in the region and creating conditions for establishing a pocket of control. Lange predicted Ukrainian troops could use the river to carve out a buffer zone. "I would expect the Ukrainians to find some few more choke points for Russian logistics and infrastructure, not necessarily only bridges, and take them under control," he said.

By capturing a chunk of Russian territory, Ukraine has embarrassed the Kremlin and reshaped the battlefield. But diverting some of the country's most capable forces from the east is a gamble for Kyiv. "This all carries considerable risk, particularly if an effort to over-stretch Russian forces results in overstressing the smaller Ukrainian forces," according to Barry of the IISS.

Russia-France ties hit new low after Telegram boss' arrest

PARIS (Reuters): Relations between Moscow and Paris have reached a nadir following the arrest of Russian-born Telegram boss Pavel Durov, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, after the tech billionaire's detention was extended. Durov, who has French as well as Russian nationality, was arrested near Paris over the weekend as part of an investigation into crimes related to images of child sex abuse, drug trafficking and fraudulent transactions on the platform, French prosecutors said. It remains unclear if he knew about the threat of arrest in France. Durov's French lawyer did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Durov's arrest has plunged Moscow-Paris ties to their lowest level, Lavrov said, capping months of deteriorating relations between the two nations. French authorities accused Russia of trying to

destabilise it ahead of the Paris Olympics in response to its more hawkish stance on the Ukraine war - claims Russia has denied. Durov's detention was extended by 48 hours, a spokesperson for the Paris prosecutor's office said. After that, prosecutors will either need to charge or release him. Should he face charges, his flight risk status is a factor judges have to include in their assessment of possible pretrial detention, according to French law. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on a conference call that Russia was ready to provide Durov with all necessary assistance given his Russian citizenship, but that his French citizenship complicated the situation. Durov also holds a UAE passport.

"The charges are very serious indeed," said Peskov. "They require a no less serious basis of evidence. Otherwise they will be a direct attempt to limit freedom of communication."

The charges are very serious indeed," said Peskov. "They require a no less serious basis of evidence. Otherwise they will be a direct attempt to limit freedom of communication."

news and propaganda. Without providing evidence, Vyacheslav Volodin, the chairman of Russia's State Duma, the lower house of parliament, earlier said the United States, through France, was attempting to exert control over Telegram. "Telegram is one of the few and at the same time the largest Internet platforms over which the United States has no influence," Volodin said in a post. "On the eve of the US presidential election, it is important for (President Joe) Biden to take Telegram under control."

The White House has yet to comment on Durov's arrest. French President Emmanuel Macron, who is known to be an avid user of the app, has said that the arrest was "in no way a political decision". Russia has previously tried, and failed, to block Telegram and fined the company several times for failing to delete what it deemed illegal content.

China and US will plan a Biden-Xi call in coming weeks

BEIJING (AP): Beijing and Washington will plan for a phone call in the coming weeks between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden, the White House said after National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing.

Sullivan's first trip to China as national security adviser was aimed at keeping high-level communications open and stabilizing bilateral relations to avoid conflict. The White House statement said both sides would keep lines of communication open, including planning for a "leader-level

call" in the coming weeks. There was no indication the two leaders might meet in person before Biden leaves the Oval Office. The White House said the two sides also planned to hold a military theater commander telephone call in the near future.

China has rapidly expanded its military, and there are concerns that Taiwan and the South China Sea are becoming flashpoints. Wang told Sullivan that Taiwan's independence poses the greatest threat to stability in the immediate region. He demanded that the US "stop arming the island but support China's peaceful unification," according to a statement

released by the Chinese Foreign Ministry. Taiwan, a self-governing island democracy that split from authoritarian communist China in 1949, has rejected Beijing's demands that it accept unification with the mainland by peace or by force.

The US is obligated under a domestic law to provide the island with sufficient hardware and technology to deter invasion. The White House statement said Sullivan "underscored the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait." Sullivan planned to meet with China's Vice Chairman of the Central

Military Commission Zhang Youxia on Thursday morning, according to a senior Biden administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the yet to be publicly announced meeting. Zhang has spoken in the past of Beijing's determination to take control of Taiwan. At an international naval gathering earlier this year in northeast China, Zhang said China would strike back with force if its interests came under threat. He said China's territorial sovereignty "brooks no infringement and its core interests cannot be challenged."

Dozens injured, power cut as Typhoon hits Japan

TOKYO (AFP): Dozens of people have been injured and power was cut to a quarter of a million households after Typhoon Shanshan struck southwestern Japan. The typhoon, bringing gusts of up to 252 kilometres (157 miles) per hour and torrential rain, made landfall near Satsumasendai city on Kyushu island at about 8am on Thursday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

It warmed up to 60 centimetres (23.6 inches) of rain could fall in Kyushu over 24 hours. Public broadcaster NHK reported one person was missing and 39 injured in Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures. Aoi Nishimoto, who lives in Kyushu's main city of Fukuoka, said he had called his family back in Miyazaki. "Our home is fine, but there was a tornado in Miyazaki and power went out in some places. It's worrying," the 18-year-

old student told the AFP news agency. A Level 5 emergency warning was issued for the city of YuFu in Oita Prefecture after the Miyakawa River burst its banks, the Japan Times said. The same warning was in place in the city of Usa, also in Oita Prefecture, because of possible flooding from the Yakkkan River. Level 5 alerts are rarely issued and indicate a life-threatening situation.

Power supply was cut to more than 250,000 households across seven prefectures on the island, the Kyushu Electric Power Company said. The weather agency expects Shanshan to move through Japan's central and eastern regions, including the capital Tokyo, in the coming days. Officials have issued evacuation orders for millions of people.

"The risk of a disaster due to heavy rain can rapidly escalate in western Japan

as Friday approaches," it warned. Torrential rain brought by Shanshan has drenched large parts of Japan. Three members of a family were killed when a landslide buried their house in Gamagori, a city in central Aichi prefecture, according to local media. Carmaker Toyota has suspended production at its 14 factories across Japan as a result of the typhoon, while Nissan and Honda have stopped operations at their Kyushu plants.

Japan Airlines and ANA have together cancelled hundreds of domestic flights that were scheduled for Thursday and Friday. Some rail services have also been affected. Shanshan is the third major storm system to hit Japan this month. Typhoons in the region have been forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change, according to a study released last month.

‘Generation of winners’

UZHHOROD, Ukraine (AP): Ukraine's first lady wants her country's children to view themselves not as a generation enduring a grinding war but rather as "a generation of winners."

On the sidelines of a day spent at a rehabilitation camp for Ukrainian children in the relatively safe western city of Uzhhorod, Olena Zelenska said that working with the next generation was a moral obligation and a "strategic priority" for Ukraine's future. Many of the children will return to front-line cities after spending a few weeks at the camp created by Voices of the Children charity, barely enough time to overcome the trauma they face over and over.

"This issue needs to be addressed immediately, as soon as it arises, before it grows into something more," Zelenska told The Associated Press in a brief interview at the camp, which is sponsored by the foundation that bears her name. A study by the Olena Zelenska Foundation, funded entirely by foreign donations, and the Kyiv School of Economics this year found that 44% of Ukrainian children show

signs of post-traumatic stress disorder. Since the start of the war, she has emerged as a global unofficial ambassador for Ukraine. She was the first member of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's family to leave the country after the Russian invasion in February 2022 to promote Ukraine's cause. However, she is equally active within Ukraine, and frequently visits displaced families and wounded soldiers.

Dressed casually in black pants, a white T-shirt and sneakers, with pearls around her neck, Zelenska took part in the camp's activities with the children. At an art therapy session, she sat beside a boy whose home was struck by an aerial bomb and who was later forced to evacuate from his hometown ahead of the Russian advance this summer. Zelenska smiled and engaged with the children, examining each watercolor they presented. She even joined in, drawing a pink flower, a star and a heart. The conversation stayed away from the war. "To ensure our children do not become a lost generation, we as adults must take quick action," Zelenska said. "It's difficult with the

ongoing defense of the country. However, I am confident that political will combined with international cooperation can work wonders."

The first lady said she first heard about "war fatigue" in the summer of 2022, but refuses to believe in it. "When your neighbor has a fire, it seems pointless to say: 'I'm tired of your fire. Stop it. Let's forget about it,'" she said. "We still need help and we will continue to ask for it. Not because we are bold, but because it is vital for our survival." During one of the activities, a mystery guest connected via an online call and the children had to guess who he was. One child shouted it might be the Ukrainian president.

The first lady quickly responded, "No, Zelenskyy is currently busy," prompting laughter from dozens of children. The guest was revealed to be Ukrainian boxer Oleksandr Usyk. Zelenska studied architecture but wound up working as a comedy scriptwriter, including for Zelenskyy, who was a comedian with a popular television show before winning the presidency in 2019.

The Frontier Post

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Washington shooting itself in the foot

IN 2018, the Donald Trump administration launched its China Initiative in the name of rooting out so-called Chinese spies from US universities and research institutes. The program, reminiscent of McCarthyism in the mid-1950s, overwhelmingly targeted academic researchers of Chinese descent — who made up 90 percent of the defendants — for suspected links with the Chinese government, and created a climate of fear among Asian Americans in the United States.

The program was scrapped by the US Justice Department in 2022, partly due to increasing criticism from civil rights groups and academics who claimed the initiative had applied different standards based on race during the probes and was thus tantamount to racial profiling targeting Asian Americans. Moreover, most of the cases brought under the initiative fell apart before trial due to a lack of evidence. Matthew Olsen, assistant attorney-general for the National Security Division, had to admit "this initiative is not the right approach".

But the damage had been done. The US National Institutes of Health, which led most of the investigations, said earlier this month that as of June 9, a total of 112 scientists targeted by the initiative — mostly of Asian descent — had lost their jobs through dismissals or forced retirements for alleged undisclosed links to Beijing.

Monica Bertagnolli, director of the government's main agency for biomedical and public health research, acknowledged the "difficult climate" its inquiries created, but stopped short of making an apology for those who have been wronged. She only said that the government actions had made many Asian American and Asian research colleagues "feel targeted and alienated".

The failure of the US government to take effective measures to resolve the problem of systemic racial discrimination led to the legitimate rights and interests of scientists of Asian descent being trampled on, and the atmosphere created meant many of them lived in fear amid the increasing violence against those of Asian descent, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hate crime cases targeting the Asian community in the US increased by 76 percent in 2020.

A study conducted by researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University and Harvard University last year found that over one-third of the scientists of Chinese descent in the US felt unwelcome in the country, and 72 percent of them felt unsafe. The survey, titled "Caught in the cross fire: Fears of Chinese-American scientists", pointed to a trend of higher incentives to leave the US and lower incentives to apply for government grants because of fear among the scientists of potential federal investigations since the launch of the China Initiative. It also warned of "significant loss of talent" in the US.

For more than six decades, the US has been the prime destination of the world's top scientists who have greatly contributed to the US' leadership in science.

The perception that the US can put on hold China's progress in science and technology, either through export controls and sanctions or unwarranted persecution of scientists of Chinese origin in the US, is wrong, and none of the restrictive measures the US has adopted targeting China is likely to achieve its intended purpose. This has been proved by the achievements China has made in recent years in such sectors as power batteries and electric vehicles despite the lasting US crack-down and technology war on Chinese high-tech firms.

In his meeting with visiting US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on Thursday, President Xi Jinping said that he hoped the US will see China's development as an opportunity not a challenge and work to get along with China. In this fast-changing and turbulent world he said, countries need solidarity and coordination, not exclusion or regress.

To maintain its lead on the science and technology front, the US should strive to push itself ahead, rather than trying to keep China down.

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How Biden can secure his legacy in the Middle East

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

WITH less than five months left in office, US President Joe Biden has enough time to secure his legacy in the Middle East by taking more assertive steps to implement his proposals to end the war in Gaza and embark on a solid path toward resolving the underlying Palestine conflict. Freed of the electoral politics of seeking another term, other presidents have in the past been able to take decisive steps in the twilight months of their time in office.

It is understandable that domestic issues will dominate his agenda, but there is likely time to also pay attention to global issues. Biden is now in a position to focus solely on policy without the distractions of a reelection campaign and its pressures to avoid making decisions on the Middle East that could alienate some segments of the electorate and donors. In a paradoxical way, this freedom has empowered the president and enabled him to take principled positions that are consistent with US interests and his own policies.

According to media reports, Biden has charged his White House staff with four "main pillars" on which to focus in the coming months in order to secure his legacy. They include student debt relief, lowering prescription drugs costs, countering hate and extremism, and a strong foreign policy agenda. His intention is to "finish the job as strong as we started it," as White House Chief of Staff Jeff Zients said.

Past American presidents have used their last months in office to tackle big foreign policy issues. Given the partisan stalemate in Congress, with Republicans controlling

the House of Representatives, at least until Jan. 20, Biden may not have enough time to achieve much on the first three pillars. His best hope for a legacy-defining achievement is foreign policy, the fourth pillar, and the Middle East is one of most urgent issues.

On Gaza, Biden laid out his proposals on May 31, which were then adopted in UN Security Council Resolution 2735 in June. No UNSC members voted against it, with China supporting it and Russia abstaining. The three-stage peace plan has been the most realistic and likely to be agreed by all parties. It just requires some more nudging on the US part to get it done.

On the underlying Middle East conflict, President Biden laid out his position when he visited Israel and the Occupied Territories. In important remarks he gave in Bethlehem in July 2022, he said that he was among the "earliest supporters of a two-state solution" and that his "commitment to that goal of a two-state solution has not changed in all these years." He added: "Two states along the 1967 lines, with mutually agreed-to swaps, remain the best way to achieve equal measures of security, prosperity, freedom, and democracy for the Palestinians as well as Israelis."

Biden then said: "The Palestinian people deserve a state of their own that's independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous. Two states for two peoples ... living side by side in peace and security. Both states fully respecting the equal rights of the other citizens. Both peoples enjoying equal measures of freedom and dignity.

That's what this is fundamentally all about."

Commenting on the indignities Palestinians are subjected to in the West Bank, Biden said: "Every person has a right to be treated with dignity. It's simply basic. I know that the goal of the two states seems so far away while indignities like restrictions on movement and travel or the daily worry of your children's safety are real and they are immediate. The Palestinian people are hurting now. You feel — you can just feel it, your grief and frustration. In the United States, we can feel it."

His remarks were received well in the region, although they merely reiterated the formal US positions on the Palestine question and they are not much different from the views of the rest of the world.

This administration could use the coming months to guide the Middle East in the direction of peace. If it succeeds, even partly, that success would be a lasting legacy for Biden.

Former presidents have addressed the Middle East conflict during their waning days with mixed results, but always with praise for trying. In December 1992, a month before George H.W. Bush left the White House, Israel provoked a crisis by deporting 400 Palestinian leaders to Lebanon, in a clear breach of the Geneva Conventions. The US joined the international community in opposing Israel's action and Tel Aviv finally relented and allowed the deportees to return home.

In 2000, months before Bill Clinton ended his second term, he convened the Camp David Summit

between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The summit took place between July 11 and 25, but Clinton's efforts continued until his last days in office. Although the summit ultimately fell short of expectations, it received high praise and Clinton and others count it as part of their positive and lasting legacy. Barak still expresses his commitment to the two-state solution.

In 2016, the Obama administration allowed the passage of the path-making UNSC Resolution 2334, reaffirming that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, had no legal validity and constituted a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-state solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. The council reiterated its demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Territories and that it fully respect all its legal obligations in that regard.

Biden could potentially be more effective in the Middle East in the remaining months of his administration than he has been at any other time during his term.

Not only would he be able to leave an important personal legacy of advancing peace in the Middle East, but he would also be advancing US interests in this region, which have been weakened by the failure so far to stop the war and contain its repercussions. Equally important, Biden would be contributing significantly to regional security and world peace.

— Arab News

European leaders should be impartial on US elections

Khaled Abou Zahr

EUROPEAN leaders are effectively taking part in the upcoming US presidential election. Throughout their statements, they are implying direct support for Vice President Kamala Harris against former President Donald Trump. One main discussion point or criticism is doubting Trump's commitment to the transatlantic alliance and, more specifically, NATO. Not a week goes by without a European leader or pundit saying that catastrophe will ensue for the alliance in case of a Trump victory. They assume Trump will give up Ukraine to Russia and that war will spread across Europe. Hence, this implies to American voters that instability and chaos will reign in international relations with a Trump victory. This is both wrong and dangerous.

The first point is that Europeans should not get involved in giving opinions when it comes to US elections, or any elections for that matter. This bears a true risk for European relations with the US and goes against the interests of both.

This was evident after Trump's remarks at a South Carolina campaign event in February, when he implied that the US might not support specific NATO members if they failed to fulfill their defense budget obligations. Olaf Scholz, the chancellor of Germany, and other European officials responded angrily. It is very clear that Trump's message was conveyed to a local audience and was used to imply that the US would not waste its resources. European leaders could have chosen to let it slide, so to speak, understanding the domestic nature of the message. Yet, they described Trump's declarations as "irresponsible and dangerous," adding that this would advance Russia's objectives and jeopardize European security.

On the substance, why should Europeans dislike what Trump stated? His approach is clear and it has been already said. What Trump put forward was for European countries to pay their fair share for their own defense. It was not a disavowing of NATO. In fact, it was quite the opposite: it was a request to commit by means and not words.

I do not see this as going against the principles of the transatlantic alliance. It is the best deterrent, as it shows alignment with the US without interference in its electoral process.

I have a lot of admiration for Thierry Breton, the European commissioner for internal markets and services, as he is pushing for a strong Europe and with great determination on what is key for its future — technology.

Yet, the letter he sent to X ahead of Elon Musk's interview with Trump, in which he warned about the spreading of "harmful

content," was unfortunate. The confusion was later clarified, but it showed how much officials within European institutions and even national ones push an anti-Trump narrative.

The same is also channeled through European and American media outlets and this will create anti-US sentiment in the case that Trump wins. This is once again dangerous during these volatile times. And it creates more division above anything else.

I believe European leaders should stay neutral and focus on what is important. They have a historical opportunity, if not a necessity, to build a common defense. And here the biggest danger is not the divisions in the transatlantic alliance but within Europe itself. The dilemma of national sovereignty versus European sovereignty is hampering efforts, especially when it comes to defense and security. This is why criticism of Trump is merely a useful tool to divert attention from the tough questions and real priorities.

Moreover, European leaders keep implying that Trump will cozy up to Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping at the expense of Europe. Here too, these declarations are aimed at the domestic US public. This is also wrong and impacts the election process by insinuating that birds of a feather flock together, especially as Trump's political opponents have branded his election as a risk to democracy. This contributes to inflaming relations between Europe and the US in case of a Trump victory. Moreover, on the substance, Trump's approach to Putin and Xi is a pragmatic and smart one. It is about showing respect, while showing total determination in case of a conflict.

All these declarations are nevertheless a broader sign that ideological confrontation is back in play across the West. It pierces through nations and we are now seeing a broader positioning among the same political families or allies, from the US to Europe and beyond. We cannot help but notice that Emmanuel Macron and Scholz, for example, are closer to Harris, whereas Viktor Orban and Giorgia Meloni align more with Trump. Yet, on both sides, domestic interference should be avoided, especially when it comes to military and defense topics. It is this division and the constant doubts between partners that reflect weakness and encourage expansionist behaviors.

The reality for Europe is that, when it comes to deterrence and relations with the US, any leader who saw Trump rise after the attempt on his life last month and say "Fight, Fight, Fight" will know that messing with the US and the transatlantic alliance is a bad business. It is a bigger deterrent than a nuclear one. And this is something they should remember and preserve.

Innovation to drive high-quality development

Zhang Peng

THE communique issued by the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, which was held in July, highlighted the need to "deepen supply-side structural reform, improve incentive and constraint mechanisms for promoting high-quality development, and strive to create new growth drivers and strengths".

The Chinese economy is transitioning from fast-paced, quantitative growth to high-quality development, with the focus now being on improving total factor productivity and promoting innovation-driven growth to meet the socioeconomic needs and advance Chinese modernization.

Following the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012, China made innovation the primary driving force of economic development.

On the supply side, China has made some

remarkable achievements. Thanks to new technological and industrial breakthroughs, China's new industrialization policy has boosted traditional industries and given rise to new industries.

In the first half of this year, 39 out of the 41 major industrial sectors achieved growth, with the added value of high-tech manufacturing industries increasing by 8.7 percent year-on-year and investment in high-tech industries growing by 10.6 percent year-on-year.

New industries and new infrastructure have advanced the digitalization of industries, and are helping develop new quality productive forces such as 5G and artificial intelligence, facilitating the upgrading and transformation of traditional industries while nurturing new industries.

On the demand side, new consumption is becoming mainstream, with the consumption pattern showing distinct signs of customization and

diversity. Also, in the first half of this year, per capita disposable income increased to 20,733 yuan (\$2,910), up 5.4 percent year-on-year, which is higher than the GDP growth rate.

While traditional consumption of goods and services, including restaurants and takeouts, remain strong, consumption of new products and services, including tourism, digital, green and health-related products, has been boosting consumption growth.

The development of social productive forces and the improvement in labor productivity determine an economy's progress, and only continuous promotion of technological innovation, productive forces and labor productivity can lead to sustained and healthy socioeconomic development.

In fact, innovation has become the primary driving force of high-quality development in China.

Innovation can also help meet Chinese people's growing need for a better life, and address the unbalanced and inadequate economic development problem.

New quality productive forces are advanced productive forces, which help achieve technological breakthroughs and can innovatively configure production factors and promote industrial upgrading.

Despite the complex and volatile international situation, opportunities outweigh challenges for China.

The fundamental advantage of China's high-quality development, a huge market of over 1.4 billion consumers, has not changed. By adhering to people-centric principles, promoting innovation, upgrading industries and improving governance, the country can advance high-quality development and achieve Chinese modernization.

Although China's population is rapidly aging, the country can achieve sustainable development by exploiting the second demographic dividend, that is, new sources of economic growth, and more robustly promoting innovation. For that, China needs to increase investment in the education sector, especially in basic education and vocational education, and raise the overall level of human resources.

It should also make good use of the opportunities created by new technological and industrial revolutions to expedite economic structural adjustments, and promote cross-regional, cross-industrial and cross-occupational labor mobility.

Industrial transformation, too, can promote innovation.

Since enterprise-driven innovation plays a key role in high-quality development, China should improve the mechanisms for developing new quality productive forces and

leverage enterprises' advantages to achieve economic growth.

Besides, the integration of the digital economy with the real economy can help manufacturing enterprises to venture into the services sector. And the improvement of modern infrastructure networks, such as next-generation internet and other advanced technology networks, can help transform the production infrastructure across industries and create new industries and businesses.

China has an efficient governance system, which will facilitate the construction of a world-class business environment that is governed by rule of law and will create a level playing field for all enterprises, both domestic and foreign, and State-owned and private.

Yet high-quality development, on the whole, will depend on innovation and the seriousness with which the authorities promote innovation.

— China Daily

Harris’ interview is the latest highly anticipated twist in wild presidential race

VICE President Kamala Harris faces the next test in her presidential bid on Thursday with her first unscripted interview with a major media outlet since becoming the Democratic nominee.

Harris will be hoping to extend the momentum she’s conjured at the start of her campaign – and to avoid the types of unforced errors that plagued her first presidential bid in 2019, as well as her early days as vice president. It’s also a chance for the newly anointed candidate to heighten a contrast with Republican nominee Donald Trump, to connect with undecided voters and to highlight her credentials to lead in the Oval Office at a tense time for the United States at home and abroad.

Harris will appear alongside her vice presidential pick, Tim Walz, in a CNN primetime special airing at 9 p.m. ET from Georgia, where she is on a bus tour designed to put a swing state the GOP thought it was close to securing in November back on the board. The interview is the most important chapter of the campaign between last week’s Democratic convention in Chicago and the presidential debate set for Philadelphia on September 10.

The interview, with Dana Bash, has taken on elevated significance because of the compressed race Harris is running after she became her party’s candidate and because of the way it mushroomed into an issue between the feuding campaigns. It’s the latest highly anticipated moment in a wild race that has seen Trump become the first major party nominee to be convicted of a crime and the ex-president survive an assassination attempt. President Joe Biden’s disastrous performance in the CNN debate in Atlanta, meanwhile, set off a crisis that ended his reelection bid.

Major television interviews like Thursday’s have also played an out-sized role – the president agreed to several in an attempt to arrest his slide but only exacerbated concerns about his age and capacity to serve out a full second term.

By not scheduling a major interview before now, Harris opened herself to complaints by Trump and some non-partisan observers that she is trying to dodge scrutiny. This raised the stakes for any potential gaffes will be seized upon by the Trump campaign. However, a strong performance by the vice president would be another challenge for Trump, who has struggled since Harris transformed the race by closing his leads in battlegrounds and raising half a billion dollars.

Adding substance to a

joyful rollout

While Harris sparked intense enthusiasm at last week’s star-studded Democratic convention in Chicago, as well as in joyful rallies among Democrats who were previously demoralized over Biden’s chances of reelection, she is yet to enter a forum where her answers and policies can be cross-examined. Her speeches have been packed with what she wants to do as president — from easing the economic burden on Americans, to unleashing a housebuilding boom to winning the geopolitical contest of the 21st Century against China. But the vice president has not been specific about exactly how she would enact some of those aspirations and how she would finance them in deeply divided Washington.

The interview will be watched for whether Harris creates space on

Stephen Collinson

tered up the courage to sit for a *joint* interview — after 39 days of hiding out from reporters.” While she has not sat for a major interview, Harris has taken some questions from reporters traveling with her.

After years as a prosecutor, California’s attorney general and senator who excelled in high-profile hearings, Harris has often seemed more comfortable asking penetrating questions than answering them. She lacks the decades of policy experience that helped former Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, for example, turn interviews into policy seminars. And unlike Trump, she doesn’t swamp interviewers with torrents of falsehoods, outrageous statements and bombast, which means he often is able to distract attention from what he actually says.

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Adding substance to a joyful rollout While Harris sparked intense enthusiasm at last week’s star-studded Democratic convention in Chicago, as well as in joyful rallies among Democrats who were previously demoralized over Biden’s chances of reelection, she is yet to enter a forum where her answers and policies can be cross-examined. Her speeches have been packed with what she wants to do as president — from easing the economic burden on Americans, to unleashing a housebuilding boom to winning the geopolitical contest of the 21st Century against China. But the vice president has not been specific about exactly how she would enact some of those aspirations and how she would finance them in deeply divided Washington.

key issues with Biden as she bills herself as a change candidate despite serving as vice president in an unpopular administration.

Already, Harris has gone further than her boss in pledging to combat the high grocery prices plaguing millions of Americans. This populist twist might be politically smart but it was panned by many economists.

The interview has become a hurdle for the vice president because Trump aides have been goading her into it for weeks, apparently believing she’ll flunk difficult questions, will blank on policy details and that she lacks nimble political instincts. In a statement on Wednesday, Trump’s campaign mocked Harris, saying that she had “mus-

Republicans are convinced Harris will be exposed in high-pressure situations

Republican confidence that Harris could be exposed by a televised interview springs from a one-on-one she conducted with NBC’s Lester Holt early in her vice presidency that focused on her role as emissary to Latin American nations that represent the source of much of the undocumented migration to the US.

Asked why she had not by that point visited the southern border as vice president, Harris pointed out that she hadn’t visited Europe either since taking the job.

Her discomfort provided fuel for years of Republican attacks and the interview still hangs over her tenure as vice

president. In that interview, Harris seemed ill prepared — a scenario that seems unlikely to be repeated considering she is deep into debate prep. In more recent interviews, for instance, on CBS’ “60 Minutes” last October and with CNN’s Anderson Cooper in late June when she defended Biden, she seemed far more at ease.

Heading into Thursday’s interview, Republicans are also demanding answers on why Harris has dropped some positions she held in her short-lived 2020 presidential bid, including “Medicare for All.” Her campaign has also indicated that she no longer opposes fracking — an important issue in Pennsylvania where Trump is highlighting the commonwealth’s carbon energy industry.

The Trump campaign and conservative media Wednesday portrayed the presence in the interview

Democratic nominee Clinton and her running mate Tim Kaine did likewise in 2016.

Partisan bickering over the interview aside, there are many reasons why it makes sense for presidential candidates to submit to tough interviews. Someone hoping to run the country ought to feel an obligation to explain what they plan to do — even if it might please their campaign managers to restrict appearances to low-risk partisan outlets and empathetic social media influencers. The more interviews a politician conducts, the more practiced they become. A more robust media plan might have helped Harris hone her skills before debating Trump.

Successful presidencies are also built on political capital accrued on the campaign trail. The days might have passed when presidential campaigns were founded on weighty policy speeches and time is short in this compressed race for such events.

Yet past presidential candidates proved their credibility by taking voters into their confidence on policy plans. In 1960, for instance, Democratic nominee John F. Kennedy laid out an agenda on the campaign trail on issues like civil rights, housing and foreign policy that became the basis for policy achievements in his presidency and Lyndon Johnson’s subsequent administration.

Thursday’s interview comes as Democrats debate whether Harris should concentrate most on policy issues or drawing character contrasts with Trump, as she tells voters they have a “fleet-” chance to move on from his cacophony.

Kate Bedingfield, Biden’s former White House communications director, said Harris needed to use the occasion to make clear who she is fighting for, and her pledge to protect voters from what she sees as GOP attacks on their freedoms.

“I think she needs to not get too wrapped up in the idea that this needs to be a Ph.D policy test of every potential plank of a Harris administration and really use it as a messaging opportunity,” Bedingfield, now a CNN commentator, said.

But Leon Panetta, a former CIA director, defense secretary and White House chief of staff, told CNN’s Brianna Keilar that candidates should discuss issues they believe in to show they can put the country on a better path.

He added: “You better damn well know the answers to specific questions, because that will test whether or not you’re just talking in broad terms or whether you really have a specific policy that you want to put in place.”

— CNN

Facing the prospect of losing the election, Trump seems lost

Hussein Ibish

that largely ignored the topic and was bizarrely held at one of his membership hotels that costs \$500,000 to join.

Ms Harris even has the most coveted campaign advantage of all: enthusiasm. Republicans, like their dear leader, appear wrong-footed by the sudden rise of Ms Harris. Mr Trump and many Republicans seem dejected by the reversal of fortunes, whereas Democrats evince enthusiasm bordering on elation. Their biggest problem isn’t enthusiasm but overconfidence in a race that will inevitably be very close. Yet this belongs squarely in the “problems you want to have” category.

Mr Trump faces a daunting uphill struggle, but he doesn’t seem to know what to do next.

His latest gambit, staging a campaign event at

public comments, especially on social media, that would be treated as alarming and newsworthy outbursts if they were made by other career politicians, including Mr Biden or Ms Harris.

On Wednesday alone, on his bespoke social media platform, Mr Trump unleashed a series of reports that ought to raise serious concerns about his intentions and stability.

He repeatedly threatened to prosecute and “lock up” numerous perceived enemies, including many Democrats, several Republicans, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and top epidemiologist Anthony Fauci. He reiterated his groundless claim that then president Barack Obama wiretapped his phones during the 2016 election campaign.

There was more besides, but nary a peep from major American news organisa-

Atmospherics are more important than policies. Much of the electorate are “low information voters”, who may know which policies they prefer, but aren’t clear what the two parties advocate. They typically vote based on campaign imagery and vibes, and on that score, Ms Harris is strongly prevailing. Her atmospherics radiate joy, optimism and upbeat humour, plus a relatable, down-to-earth, common touch, bolstered by her running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. Moreover, the unity and intense patriotism seen at the Democratic convention, and surge into the political centre – Ms Harris’s crowd even cheered a very conservative immigration bill – should effectively counteract Mr Trump’s efforts to label her ultra-left and even a “communist”. Along with Mr Walz, she has created a slightly offbeat, goofy, jovial campaign that seems relatable and likable. Mr Trump’s efforts to “other” her, by falsely claiming that she spent her career presenting herself as Indian until she suddenly “turned black”, appear to have failed miserably.

Arlington National Cemetery, the premier burial ground for US veterans, appears to have only made matters worse. Mr Trump apparently intended to embarrass the Biden administration by focusing on a Taliban suicide bomb attack that killed 13 US troops on August 26, 2021. But such campaign events are strictly prohibited there.

A long-serving cemetery staffer sought to enforce these rules on Mr Trump’s photographers seeking a campaign photo op. She was reportedly berated and shoved aside by Trump staff, who ignored her warnings about the rules and then violated them.

Mr Trump’s spokesman accused her of having “a mental health episode”, and campaign co-chair Chris LaCivita defamed her as “a despicable individual”.

This blunder reopened longstanding concerns that Mr Trump, despite his jingoism, does not understand a military that he avoided serving in during the Vietnam War due to a dubious diagnosis of bone spurs. He has reportedly described fallen US soldiers as “suckers and losers”, and once marvelled, when visiting a US military cemetery, that: “I just don’t get it. What was in it for them?”

Yet the US news media persists in allowing Mr Trump impunity to make

tions. They have created a “new normal” that grants Mr Trump alone a virtual carte blanche to blast such outrageous plans and accusations into the cultural-political ether without raising the obvious and appropriate concerns about his mental or emotional condition.

Reporters and editors might claim such misbehaviour is “priced in” to Mr Trump’s political persona. But, if so, that’s largely because the media, and not the public, is bored with reporting his endless eccentricities and daily excesses. It amounts to journalistic malpractice.

The coming weeks include Mr Trump’s sentencing on the adult film actress hush money case, in which he could get some jail time, and a scheduled debate with Ms Harris on September 10, which might be his last chance of significantly shifting the race again before it’s too late. It could also finish his election chances off decisively.

With just eight weeks to go, Mr Trump needs to find some way of changing the current trajectory. If not, he faces not just another electoral defeat, this time to a mixed-race woman, but also the great likelihood of significant prison sentences at pending trials. No wonder he appears so dejected, low-energy and lost.

West’s migrant crisis is not the one populists promote

WHAT, exactly, is the difference between “illegal” migration and colonization?

Unsurprisingly, perhaps, this is a question that few have bothered to ponder in the heated migration “debates” that have dominated politics and elections across the Western world over recent months.

But the answer is simple: timing.

The era of European colonization and the migration “crises” gripping Europe and America today are so closely related that ignoring the links between the two is to guarantee that any policies designed to come to grips with the 21st century’s south-north migration phenomenon will inevitably lack empathy and compassion.

Which brings us to the EU’s new Migration and Asylum Pact. Adopted by the Council of the European Union in April after three years of turbulent negotiations with the 27 member states, it is designed to establish “an

effective, humanitarian and safe European migration policy,” to be applied evenly across Europe.

Such has been the influence on the negotiations of the many European leaders who have won power on the back of opportunistic pledges to quell migration that human rights groups fear the effect of the pact will be to further dehumanize Europe’s treatment of migrants.

In a joint open letter sent to the EU, 50 non-governmental organizations said the pact will merely “mirror the failed approaches of the past and worsen their consequences.”

It will, they add, lead to “an ill-functioning, costly and cruel system that ... will normalize the arbitrary use of immigration detention, including for children and families, increase racial profiling, use ‘crisis’ procedures to enable pushbacks and return individuals to so-called ‘safe third countries,’ where they are at risk of violence, torture

and arbitrary imprisonment.”

Everywhere in the West, migrants are being demonized in the interests of political gain.

Across Europe, populist parties exploiting the xenophobic and racist prejudices harbored by sections of the population that feel neglected by political elites have made significant gains in national and European elections.

This is largely thanks to the time-honored tactic of encouraging voters to blame foreigners for all their woes. In the US, as the country heads toward the November presidential showdown between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris, the traditionally liberal Democrats have found the need to portray their candidate, the daughter of immigrants from India and Jamaica, as “tough as nails” on illegal immigration.

The US Border Patrol had more than 2 million encounters with migrants illegally crossing

Jonathan Gornall

America’s southwest land border in 2023 and the Republicans are gleefully accusing the Biden administration of having dropped the ball.

In fact, the seemingly unwanted immigrants are coming because Americans need them. As libertarian think tank the Cato Institute recently concluded, “most of the increase in illegal immigration can be blamed on the strength of the labor market rather than the administration’s tinkering with border enforcement policies.”

American businesses, short of domestic labor for the jobs that few Americans want to do, are quietly exploiting the up-to-tenfold wage differential between the US and some Latin American countries, and statistics show that the number of illegal crossings rises and falls in harmony with the demand for labor.

In the UK, excluded from the EU’s migration policies since Brexit, the last government fell in

July in large part because it failed to keep its populist pledge to “stop the boats.”

This was a ludicrous overreaction to a trickle of migrants seeking sanctuary or a working future in a country to which many have been drawn precisely because of its buccaneering imperialist past.

The moral panic over migration currently engulfing Western politics is founded on rank hypocrisy. Almost every one of the European nations now determined to make life even more difficult for the tens of thousands who annually seek a new life in Europe spent several hundred years dispatching countless thousands of their own people to seek new lives and fortunes in other people’s lands.

Some were fleeing religious or political persecution. Others were hoping to break free of poverty and to build a new life. Remind you of

anyone?

In America, the ancestral origin of all but one of its 46 presidents over the past 234 years can be traced to a generationally recent act of migration from Europe. Trump, currently threatening mass deportation of illegal residents should he return to power, is the grandson of Friedrich Trump, who came to America in 1885 to avoid conscription in his native Bavaria.

Some Western historians still refer to the period of aggressive European expansion euphemistically as the “Age of Discovery.” To those on the receiving end of being “discovered,” the appearance on the beach of a ship’s longboat, packed to the gunwales with armed men, would have been as welcome as one of the overcrowded rubber boats full of desperate men, women and children that have landed regularly on Britain’s English Channel shore throughout this summer.

Doubtless the Native

Americans who watched the Pilgrim Fathers row ashore from the Mayflower in 1620 would have also liked to “stop the boats.”

All over the world, for hundreds of years, flags were planted and land was claimed for this European empire or another, without any thought for the wishes or welfare of the locals. The flag planters saw themselves as colonists. To the colonized, however, they were illegal migrants.

The story of humankind is a story of movement, of the ebb and flow of peoples since the first early humans first ventured out of Africa, seeking a better life over the horizon. Ancestrally speaking, very few of us are from “here.”

England — where, for self-serving reasons, many politicians are so keen to keep out the foreigners upon whom industries from farming to healthcare rely — is the very definition of a nation created by mass

immigration from Europe during the early Middle Ages.

The very name, England, derives from the Angles, the Germanic people who flooded in after the Romans left, along with their neighbors, the Saxons.

Politicians such as Nigel Farage, the anti-immigrant architect of Brexit and a proud defender of Britain’s Anglo-Saxon heritage, choose not to dwell on the fact that the ancestors of at least a third of today’s English were the original boat people.

Europe and the US do have an immigration problem. But it is not, as so many of their voters are so easily and falsely persuaded, that these continents face being overrun and having their cultures subsumed.

Rather, it is that they are in danger of forgetting their own stories, as the descendants of migrants and colonizers, and in the process are losing touch with their heritage — and their humanity.



SCCI, UPTIB sign MoU to improve economic ties

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and UK-Pak Trade and Investment Board have entered into collaboration to explore investment avenues and to improve bilateral trade between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

On Thursday, a ceremony in this respect was held at the chamber house.

SCCI president Fuad Ishaq and UK-Pak Trade and Investment Board (UPTIB) Chief Executive Officer in Pakistan Tajammel Hussain signed documents of the Memorandum of Understanding on the occasion.

SCCI senior vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi, Secretary General Murtasid Ahsan, UPTIB Managing Director Azhar Warriach, Head of Communication Numan Rasool and Head Operations Tahir Ghouri present during the signing event.

As per agreement, both parties agreed to collaborate to explore trade and investment opportunities to enhance mutual trade volume between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

SCCI will facilitate business delegations, arrange seminars, trainings, networking events to establish linkages between traders and investors of the both countries, according

to the MoU.

Similarly, according to the agreement, the UPTIB reciprocally extended cooperation to identify and highlight potential sectors for mutual investment.

Fuad Ishaq in his remarks on the occasion termed the MoU as a milestone to enhance mutual trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

The SCCI chief highlighted investment opportunities in diverse fields, including hydel power generation, marble, gemstone, tourism, agriculture and others in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He invited foreign com-

panies to make investments in the potential sector of KP.

Fuad also underlined the importance of exchange of business delegations, holding of joint exhibitions and taking mutual benefits from each other's experiences to cement the mutual Pak-UK bilateral trade and economic relations.

On the occasion, UPTIB CEO Tajammel Hussain also exchanged his views and highlighted the significance of today's agreement and called the move will enter UK and Pakistan to a new phase of collaboration and would help to improve the mutual trade relations between two countries.



PESHAWAR: President SCCI Fuad Ishaq and UK-Pak Trade and Investment Board CEO in Pakistan Tajammel Hussain signing documents of Memorandum of Understanding.

PSX turns around, gains 356 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to Bullish trend on Thursday and gained 356.88 points, showing a positive change of 0.46 percent, closing at 78,349.66 points against 77,992.79 points on the last working day.

A total of 599,820,775 shares were traded during the day as compared to 636,024,989 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 20,409 billion against Rs 16,267 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 449 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 227 of them recorded gains and 166 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 56 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Symmetry Group Limited with 64,297,326 shares at Rs 8.57 per share, National Bank XD with 42,591,637 shares at Rs.57.53 per share and Kohinoor Spinning with 41,140,347 shares at Rs 11.69 per share.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 241.02 per share price, closing at Rs 17,581.02, whereas the runner-up was Colgate Palmolive (Pakistan) Limited with a Rs 87.97 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,218.17.

Al-Abbas Sugar Mills Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 29.22 per share closing at Rs 565.79 followed by Mari Petroleum Company Limited with Rs 21.56 decline to close at Rs 3,368.32.

Rupee sheds 19 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 19 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.64 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.45.

However, according to the FAP, the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.5 and Rs 280 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by Rs1.13 paise to close at Rs 309.59 against the last day's closing of Rs 310.72, according to State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.92, whereas a decrease of 38 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs368.07 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs368.45.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 05 paise each to close at Rs75.86 and Rs74.25 respectively.

Gold rates dip by Rs2,200 per tola to Rs261,500. The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs2,200 and was sold at Rs261,500 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs263,700 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs1,886 to Rs. 224,194 from Rs. 226,080 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.205,511 from Rs.207,240, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,950 and Rs.2,529.14, respectively.

State Bank designates D-SIB

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan has announced the designation of D-SIBs for the year 2024 under the Framework for 'Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)' notified in April 2018.

The framework introduced by State Bank is consistent with international standards and takes into account global best practices and local dynamics. It specifies the methodology for the identification and designation of D-SIBs, enhanced regulatory and supervisory requirements and implementation guidelines for D-SIBs. The enhanced requirements aim

to further strengthen the resilience of the systemically important banks against shocks and further augment their risk management capacities.

The identification of D-SIBs involves two-step process. In the first step, sample D-SIBs are identified each year based on the quantitative and qualitative criteria. In the second step, D-SIBs are designated from amongst the sample D-SIBs based on institutions' composite systemic score in terms of their size, interconnectedness, substitutability and complexity.

In line with D-SIBs framework, State Bank has carried out the annual assessment based on banks'

financials as of December 31, 2023. As per the assessment, three banks namely National Bank of Pakistan, United Bank Limited, and Habib Bank Limited have been designated as D-SIBs for the year 2024. These banks will have to follow additional Common Equity Tier-1 (CET-1) capital requirements, in addition to implementing the enhanced supervisory requirements.

Besides, branches of Global-Systemically Important Banks (G-SIBs) operating in Pakistan will be required to hold additional CET-1 capital against their risk-weighted assets in Pakistan at the rate as applicable on the respective principal G-SIB.

Growth of 80% in Before Tax Profit: BOP announced financial results for 1st half of 2024

F.P. Report

LAHORE: A meeting of the Board of Directors of The Bank of Punjab was held to consider and approve the un-audited Financial Statements for the 1ST Half of year ended June 30, 2024.

During the meeting, the Board reviewed Bank's performance for 1st Half of the year 2024 against strategic business plan and appreciated the effort of BOP Management for showing a remarkable growth of 80% in profit before tax and showing marked improvement in all facets of operations.

During 1st Half 2024, Bank earned before tax profit of Rs. 7.05 billion as against 3.92 billion during 1st Half 2023 showing a remarkable growth of 80%. Non-Markup/ Interest Income increased to Rs. 9.93 Billion as against Rs.

5.73 Billion for 1st Half 2023 registering a significant growth of 73%. Bank's Net Interest Margin (NIM) remained at Rs. 15.92 billion while Non-Markup Expenses remained at 22.20 Billion. Earnings per Share (EPS) for the 1st Half 2024 improved to Rs. 1.33 per share as against Rs. 1.05 per share during 1st Half 2023.

As at June 30, 2024, Bank's Total Assets improved to Rs. 2,269 billion as against Rs. 2,054 billion as of June 30, 2023 depicting a growth of 10%. The Deposits of the Bank also improved to Rs. 1,582 billion as against Rs. 1,370 billion as of June 30, 2023 registering a growth of 15%. Investments & Lending to FIs improved to Rs. 1,293 billion registering a growth of 40% over June 30, 2023. Gross Advances were recorded at

Rs. 705 billion. Bank's Equity improved to Rs. 77 billion as against Rs. 67 billion as on June 30, 2023 and Capital Adequacy Ratio stood at 17.61% against regulatory requirement of 11.50%.

The Bank has been assigned long term entity rating of "AA+" by M/s PACRA with short term rating being at the highest rank of "A1+" . The Bank currently has a network of 822 online branches, including 163 Taqwa Islamic Banking Branches and 15 sub-branches. Further, the Bank has a network of 835 ATMs providing 24/7 banking services to the customers. Besides, Bank is also offering a wide range of products/services to its valued clients including Branchless Banking, Mobile Banking, Internet Banking, Credit Card and Cash Management services.

2nd meeting of FPCCI ICT committee held

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: 2nd meeting of FPCCI Federal (ICT) Committee on Corporate & Multinational Companies Affairs held on Thursday at FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad, convened by Muhammad Shafique Khan Swati, Convener of the Committee, which was graced by Tariq Jadoon, Vice President FPCCI, Karim Aziz Malik, Incharge Capital Office Islamabad & Former VP FPCCI, Malik Sohail Hussain, Chairman Coordination FPCCI Capital Office, Mohd Syafik Firdaus Bin Hasbulla, Counsellor/Deputy Head of Mission, High Commission of Malaysia in Pakistan attended the Meeting as Guest of Honor.

The Convener, Members of the Committee discussed on (1) Promotion and facilitation of Corporate and Multinational companies in Pakistan. (2) Challenges faced by the corporate sector. (3) Foster collaboration between businesses, government, and stakeholders. (4) Enhance competitiveness and innovation in the corporate sector. (5) Support economic growth and development in Pakistan.

Large number of members of the Committee attended the meeting. Special invitees were Air Cdr. (R) Pervaiz Sadiq VP Metallion Delta Corporation, Ms. T. Bokharee Director Business Development MDC, Khawaja Jamal Rafiq C.E.O Salesforce Marketing (PVT) Ltd., Ms. Sidra Ishaq Advocate, Ms. Saima Amjad Eminent TV Anchor, Dr. Murtaza Mughal, Ms. Zeenat Rajput.

Deputy Head of Mission expressed and Felt honoured to join the meeting at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

He also shared views on how to enhance collaboration between Malaysia & Pakistan in various fields for mutual benefit.



Shipping activity

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where five ships, Maersk Cape Town, X-Press Mekong, CP Shenzhen, IVS Trader and Akij Noble carrying Container, Steel Coil and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Port Gas Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Neptune-J, Afra Rossi and Chemroad Echo scheduled to load/offload Cement, LSFO and Chemicals are arrived at outer anchorage port on today morning.

A total of twelve ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, Maersk Cape Town, X-Press Mekong, Yateeka and Tivoli Park left the port on today morning while two more ships, Lydia and CP Shenzhen are expected to sail on Thursday afternoon.

Cargo volume of 145,603 tonnes, comprising 132,411 tonnes imports cargo and 13,192 tonnes export cargo carried in 1,779 Containers (1,003 TEUs Imports& 776 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Minister chairs review meeting with JV, Investment Companies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday chaired a review meeting with representatives from Joint Venture Investment Companies, including Pak-Brunei Investment Company Limited (PBICL) and Saudi-Pak Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company (SPI&AIC).

The meeting centred on evaluating the progress, challenges, and future directions of these companies, said a press release issued here on Monday.

The meeting was attended by senior leadership from both companies, including Ms. Dk Noor ul Hayati Binti Pg Julaihi, Chairman PBICL, Mr. Sultan M. Hassan Abdulrauf, Chairman SPI&AIC, and senior officers from the Finance Division.

CEO Pak-Brunei Investment Company Limited (PBICL) gave a brief overview of the portfolio of the company and its major initiatives in Pakistan.

He apprised the Minister about the role played by PBCIL in promoting economic cooperation between Pakistan and Brunei by facilitating investments in Industry and Agricultural sectors, through financial services, real estate, and SME's support, and how it has contributed to significant advancements in these areas, fostering bilateral trade and economic stability.

Similarly, the CEO of Saudi-Pak Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company (SPI&AIC), also gave a presentation about the major development initiatives of the company in the country for promoting Islamic finance, food secu-

urity, digital finance, trade, and agriculture and livestock.

The meeting also discussed various aspects of the operations of these companies, including investment strategies, performance metrics, and key impediments affecting their growth. Both companies presented their achievements and challenges, highlighting areas that require policy support to overcome obstacles in their operational landscape.

The discussion also focused on potential areas for future investments and collaborations through more Government-to-Government initiatives in order to support priority sectors.

The Finance Minister appreciated both companies and specifically applauded the implementa-

tion strategies of KSA's Vision 2030 for achieving their targets within a few years, and stressed that Pakistan is keen on learning those strategies.

Senator Aurangzeb also expressed the Government's unwavering commitment to creating an enabling environment for private sector investment, recognizing the critical role that joint venture companies like PBICL and SPI&AIC could play in driving economic growth.

He underscored the importance of these ventures in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

In the end, the Minister reaffirmed that the government is keen on introducing policy measures that will streamline investment processes, and provide incentives for foreign investors.

OGDCL hosts 'Awareness and Prevention from Corruption'

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Thursday hosted a seminar titled "Awareness and Prevention from Corruption" organized by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) at the OGDCL Head Office in Islamabad to combat corruption through increased awareness and the implementation of transparent practices.

While speaking at the event, Mr. Shahzad Safdar, Executive Director of HR/Admin at OGDCL, said that the seminar is part of OGDCL's ongoing efforts to raise awareness about the importance of curbing corruption and



ensuring transparency in its operations. He said that corruption stifles opportunities for the youth and that only sustainable practices can effectively combat this menace.

Dr. Shafqat Munir Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director (Policy) at SDPI, emphasized the importance of digitalization and documentation of the economy to curb corruption. He opined that through systemic reforms and good

governance, the country can overcome the menace of corruption. He pointed out that factors such as injustices, low levels of education, and ineffective management structures contribute to corruption, and only through transparency and accountability can these issues be addressed.

Izhar Ahmed Awan, Director General (Awareness) at NAB lauded OGDCL for hosting the seminar. He elaborated on

NAB's role in combating corruption and said that the organization is playing a crucial role in eliminating corruption. He stressed that self-accountability is the most effective way to ensure societal reform and secure a better future for the next generation.

The seminar was a significant step towards promoting transparency and accountability within OGDCL and the broader Pakistani business landscape.

IBA Karachi organizes seminar

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi hosted its first seminar on 'Building a Sport Ecosystem: The Critical Role of Academia', sponsored by Toyota, EBM, Jafferjees, and organized by School of Business Studies (SBS).

The seminar brought together executive members from leading companies to initiate a dialogue on building a sustainable sports Ecosystem through academics. The seminar was hosted by Dean SBS, Dr. Abdullah Zafar Sheikh; and Chairperson, Marketing Department, Dr. Nida Aslam Khan.

Dr. Sheikh initiated the seminar by emphasizing the significance of exploring new horizons of Sports through academia and the focus on the sports marketing knowledge cluster which is a growing opportunity. "In today's dynamic society, sports marketing is a growing emergence. We here at IBA are keen to explore new areas of sports marketing from different angles and take this discourse to a new level. This has resulted in IBA broadening its horizons and considering creating a minor within its program and in the future, a proper separate degree. This demands quality research and academic support" said Dr. Sheikh.

The Keynote speech was



delivered by Dr. Joseph Cooper (PhD in sports management), in which he devised strategies for building a sustainable sports ecosystem, different approaches and challenges to be considered. "To build a sports ecosystem, it is important to not only focus on the economic and marketing aspects, but also on religious, cultural, and spiritual aspects. There is great importance on how key stakeholders are taken into account which helps in achieving long-term success" said Dr. Cooper.

There was a panel discussion focused on building a sports ecosystem and how academia can play a vital role in it. Panel A was from the perspective of the corporate world while Panel B was from the perspective of the sports world.

Panel A comprised Ali Habib, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer of HBL; Ali Fahd, VP Marketing, Jazz; Dr Muhammad Imran, Group Head, Islamic Banking Bank Alfalah Limited; and Kiran Kohati, Head of

Marketing and Corporate Communications, Millac Foods Private Limited; moderated by Salman Sever Butt.

The panel discussion focused on the role of the corporate sector in building the sports ecosystem. Habib said, "Sports is a product and it should be delivered like a product. We have PSL as a sports product in Pakistan. The main challenge is that PSL is active for one month but for the rest of the 11 months, there is radio silence that needs to be worked on. The lack of investment is becoming a challenge and companies need to invest to grow this industry which has great potential."

Panel B discussion comprised Haroon Malik, Chairman Pakistan Football Federation; Hassan Sardar, Former Field Hockey Player and Team Captain; Mahrukh Isa, IBA Alum, Former National Badminton Player; Rashid Latif, Pakistani cricket coach and former cricketer; and Yasmin Hyder, Chairperson,

Softball Federation of Pakistan; moderated by Dr. Nida. The panel discussion focused on how academia and sports itself can help in building a sustainable ecosystem.

Lateef said "Due to no facilities, poor infrastructure, no place to play, and no proper professionalism, there has been a challenge in the growth of the sports industry or creation of building sports ecosystem in Pakistan."

The media needs to take account of every sport shown along with people, or the elite cannot control the people's talent which is the main problem in Pakistan. There are areas like Landhi and Baldia where there is a great amount of talent not explored. We must create a proper Research and Development department and produce effective and combined solutions."

The seminar emphasized that it's important to work as a community and involve all the stakeholders which can help in building a sports ecosystem.



In brief

Hockey players banned for slipping in Europe

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) decided to impose a lifetime ban on three national players along with a team physio for seeking asylum in Europe. During a press conference, PHF Secretary Olympian Mujahid Ali revealed that players Murtaza Yaqoob, Ehtisham Aslam, Abdul Rahman, and the team physio travelled to Poland with the national team but failed to return. Instead, they sought asylum abroad, reportedly submitting letters of apology to the Pakistan Hockey Federation. Rana Mujahid clarified that the players left the country without obtaining the necessary No Objection Certificate (NOC), which is mandatory for such international travel. As a result, the PHF has decided to ban these players and the physio for life, effectively ending their careers with the national team. The Secretary further stated that the PHF would be writing to the Ministry of Home Affairs for further action against the individuals involved. These players were part of the Karachi camp in preparation for the upcoming Azlan Shah Cup.

Pakistan, Thai MMA Federations join hands

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Mixed Martial Arts Federation (PMAAF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IFSA & Thai Association of Mixed Martial Arts (TAMMA) to develop the MMA sport in both countries, said a PMAAF statement on Thursday. The agreement was signed by Chairman Pakistan PMAAF Tariq Ali and IFSA Thai Association of Mixed Martial Arts (TAMMA) Secretary General Achilleus Ralli in Bangkok. The MoU is set to provide a platform for a strategic relationship between the two MMA national federations to cooperate and exchange knowledge on a range of matters related to the MMA sport. The MoU will be immensely beneficial for both federations and will lead to enhanced relations for the sport in Pakistan and Thailand. It will also focus on strengthening the mutual understanding and solidarity between the peoples of the two countries through cooperation, developing friendly ties, and achieving mutually beneficial results aimed at the development of MMA by establishing joint activities. The partnership will include collaboration in sports research, sports medicine and support for the organisation of MMA sport events, the statement added.

Shaheens, BD A training session cancelled

ISLAMABAD (APP): The training session of Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh A to take place on Thursday was canceled due to bad weather. The session of Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh A was to take place from 10am to 1pm here at the Islamabad Club. It may be mentioned that, the second One-Day match between Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh A was abandoned due to continuous rain and wet outfield. Pakistan Shaheens have 1-0 lead in the three-match series as they won the first match by eight wickets. The third and final ODI of the series will be played on August 30 at Islamabad Club.

Root's record-equalling century revives England against Sri Lanka

LONDON (AFP): Joe Root scored a record-equalling 33rd Test hundred as England established a strong position against Sri Lanka on the first day of the second Test at Lord's on Thursday.

England, 42-2 when Root came in to bat, reached stumps on 358-7, with the star batsman having made 143 -- his sixth Test century at the 'Home of Cricket'.

No other England top-order batsman made more than Ben Duckett's 40. But fast bowler Gus Atkinson was 74 not out at the close -- his maiden Test fifty in just five matches at this level -- after providing Root with excellent support in a seventh-wicket stand of 92 in 19 overs.

Earlier, Ollie Pope was out in single figures for his third successive innings as England's stand-in captain, with Sri Lanka taking three wickets before lunch after winning the toss.

Despite the sunny conditions, Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva decided to field first, with his side looking to level this three-match series at 1-1 following England's five-wicket win in the first Test at Old Trafford last week.

It looked a questionable move when left-handed opener Duckett scored three fours in an over off Asitha Fernando.

But makeshift opener Dan Lawrence fell for nine when caught behind off Lahiru Kumara, recalled in place of Vishwa Fernando.

Pope perishes Pope, twice out for six at Old Trafford in his debut



match as England skipper in place of the still-injured Ben Stokes, had made just one when he top-edged a pull off paceman Fernando and De Silva held a well-judged catch as he ran back from square leg.

Not for the first time in his long England career, the 33-year-old Root came in with the innings in the balance. He was on 11 when rapped on the pad by a full-length Kumara delivery to spark a raucous lbw appeal.

Paul Reiffell ruled not out, with Sri Lanka's review seeing the decision upheld on umpire's call.

But no reviews were needed when left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya struck with just his fourth ball, Duckett top-edging a reverse scoop to Kumara on the point boundary as his 47-ball 40 came to a disappointing end. Former captain Root took guard fresh from his match-clinching 62 not out at Old Trafford,

with England faltering at 97-3 come lunch at Lord's. Root shared stands of 48 and 62 with Harry Brook (33) and wicketkeeper Jamie Smith (21), who scored his maiden Test century at Old Trafford.

Chris Woakes, however, carelessly pulled Fernando straight to long leg on six to leave England 216-6.

Root, 81 not out at tea, spent 12 balls on 99 and the 33-year-old almost played onto Kumara when one run shy of a century.

But Root, opening the face, elegantly guided the paceman for four between slip and gully to complete a hundred, his sixth in Tests at Lord's, with his 13th four in 162 balls faced.

That meant Root drew level with fellow former England captain Cook's record of 33 Test centuries, but in his 145th match compared to the retired opener's career tally of 161 games at this level.

By reaching three figures, Root moved into joint-tenth place in an all-time list of Test century-makers headed by India's Sachin Tendulkar, who scored 51 hundreds in 200 Tests.

But Root, who made his Test debut in 2012, is the only active cricketer in this elite group, with all the others now retired from international duty.

Having batted in largely classical fashion, Root was out when he skyed an unorthodox ramp off fast bowler Milan Rathnayake to Pathum Nissanka at point, with England then 308-7.

But Atkinson, who drove Jayasuriya for two superb straight sixes, went to fifty in just 61 balls when he cover-drove Rathnayake for a textbook four.

And the 26-year-old took a toll of the new ball too, pulling Kumara for six over midwicket.

'We are up for the Battle'; Jason Gillespie

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan red-ball Head Coach Jason Gillespie expressed Green-shirts readiness for the upcoming second Test against Bangladesh beginning Friday, saying 'We are up for the Battle'.

"We will look at the conditions and make the assessment. Abrar Ahmed is included in the 12-member squad. We have yet to see the pitch and we'll evaluate the conditions Friday morning," Gillespie said in a press conference held here at a local hotel.

He emphasized the importance of authentic play, urging players to perform at full strength, and noted that success can be achieved through strategic singles and doubles, while effective bowling requires precise line and length to challenge the batter.

Jason said Shan Masood is a very positive captain and we want to win games. "We showed our intent in the first Test match, we made the declaration because we wanted to get our opposition

into bat. It didn't quite work out, but full credit to our opposition as they played really well," he said.

"Our focus is on the second Test and we are up for the battle and really looking forward to it. We are looking to play the best combination for the game," he said.

He said Shaheen Shah Afridi is working on a few aspects of his bowling to be as affective as he can. "Shaheen will sit out of this game. We had a good conversation and he fully understands the reasoning behind this decision. Shaheen's a new father and we're seeing an opportunity to allow him to spend time with his family as well. He is a quality player and will play a significant role. We're looking for the best combination for this game, and this is our direction. We will assess the conditions in the morning and decide on our bowling attack. We've learned our lessons and hopefully can apply those in this game. We know it's going to be tough, but

we're up for the battle and are really looking forward to it," he said.

Pakistan's twelve member squad for second Test includes Shan Masood (captain), Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Abdullah Shafique, Saim Ayub, Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan (WK), Salman Ali Agha, Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad Ali, Abrar Ahmed, Naseem Shah and Mir Hamza.

M e a n w h i l e , Bangladesh Head Coach Chandika Hathurusingha said the morale of the team was high after beating Pakistan in the first Test. "It was not an easy task, as Pakistan is a very strong team. We expect a very good fight in the second test," he said.

To a question, he said we should have a good partnership early on 12 overs, but the strategy depends on the conditions. "We know are strengths and limitations, as well as of our opposition," he said. Bangladesh has secured a historic victory in the series opener, winning by 10 wickets and taking a 1-0 lead.

FIFA Goal Project faces major setback in Pakistan

A B B O T T A B A D (Monitoring Desk): The FIFA Goal Project in Pakistan has encountered a significant setback as the District Administration of Abbottabad has prematurely cancelled the 30-year lease of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF).

The district administration has issued orders for the PFF to vacate the ground, a move that has raised concerns about the future of football activities in the region.

This decision comes at a critical time, as the

national U-17 team's training camp, which is being held in preparation for the SAFF U-17 Championship, is scheduled to take place on the same ground.

The abrupt cancellation is likely to disrupt the training camp, potentially affecting both the players and the sport as a whole.

Haroon Malik, the Chairman of the Normalization Committee (NC) overseeing the PFF, expressed his concerns over the decision, stating that it would have a negative impact on the development of football in

Abbottabad.

He urged the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to take immediate notice of the situation and intervene.

NC member Shahid Khokhar also highlighted the seriousness of the district administration's decision, warning that it could jeopardize the substantial investment made by FIFA in Pakistan's football infrastructure.

The fear of losing hundreds of millions in FIFA funding looms large, further complicating the situation for Pakistan's football community.

Salah out to 'enjoy' final year of Liverpool contract

LONDON (Agencies): Mohamed Salah said he is not focused on his future beyond this season, with less than a year to run on his contract at Liverpool.

The Egyptian has written himself into the record books of the English giants, scoring 213 goals since joining in 2017.

Salah is just one of three huge players for Liverpool out of contract at the end of the season, along with captain Virgil van Dijk and Trent Alexander-Arnold.

"Before the season, I was just like 'I've got one year left, let's just enjoy it and don't think about the contract'," Salah told Sky Sports.

"I don't want to think about next year or the future, I just want to enjoy the last year and let's see."

"The most important thing is to take one day at a time and just be grateful to be here."

Salah has been consistently linked with a lucrative move to the Saudi Pro

League.

A year ago Liverpool reportedly rejected a bid of £150 million (\$198 million) from Al-Ittihad.

Salah signed a three-year deal in 2022 that reportedly made him the highest paid player in the club's history, worth more than £18 million a year.

The 32-year-old has shown no signs of slowing down, scoring in both of Arne Slot's first two games in charge as Liverpool beat Ipswich and Brentford.

Romelu Lukaku signs for Napoli from Chelsea

MILAN (AFP): Napoli have signed Romelu Lukaku from Chelsea, the Serie A club announced on Thursday, ending the Belgium striker's extended period in limbo with the Blues.

Owner Aurelio De Laurentiis confirmed the deal, worth a reported 30 million euros (\$33.2 million), on social media by saying "Welcome Romelu" with a photo of him signing his three-year contract.

Lukaku's move to Napoli keeps him in Italy, at his third club in as many years after loan spells at Inter Milan and Roma.

The 31-year-old was the idol of Inter fans when he fired their team to the Serie A title in 2021 under new Napoli coach Antonio Conte before being sold for well over 100 million euros to Chelsea that summer.

But Lukaku flopped on his return to Stamford Bridge, and that massive fee left him in limbo as clubs refused to meet the Premier League club's valuations for a sale.

It led to an underwhelming year on loan back at Inter in the 2022/23 season during which he was



dogged by injury and largely kept out of the team by Edin Dzeko.

His mooted permanent move to Inter broke down last summer as the club found out he had been making noises towards fierce rivals AC Milan and Juventus, so Lukaku and Chelsea eventually accepted another loan deal with Roma.

However Roma were not interested in shelling out for Lukaku, allowing Conte to be reunited with a striker whose reputation has suffered in recent years but is still Belgium's all-time top scorer with 85 goals in 119 appearances.

Conte said in a press conference on Thursday that Lukaku will be selected in the Napoli squad for

Saturday's home match with Parma "as loss as he doesn't have any (physical) problems".

Napoli are trying to bounce back from a dreadful league title defence last term in which they went through three managers and finished 10th.

Lukaku has been brought in as part of that rebuilding process and as a replacement for want-away star forward Victor Osimhen who is reportedly considering a move to Saudi Arabia as no European club has offered enough for Napoli to sell.

Napoli currently sit 11th in Serie A after a crushing defeat at Verona and convincing win over Bologna in their first two matches of the new season.

Holdes Real Madrid face Dortmund and Liverpool in new-look Champions League

MONACO (AFP): Holders Real Madrid will face Liverpool away and host Borussia Dortmund in a repeat of last season's final in the league stage of the new-look Champions League, the draw for which took place on Thursday.

Every team will play eight games against eight different opponents in the new format of Europe's elite club competition, with all 36 clubs now pooled together into one league rather than split into groups.

Madrid, who have signed France superstar Kylian Mbappe since winning a record-extending 15th European Cup, will also notably play AC Milan at home and will go to Atalanta.

Real beat last season's Europa League winners Atalanta in the UEFA Super Cup in Warsaw earlier this month.

Liverpool, who are back in the Champions League after a one-season absence,



will also notably meet Milan and take on tournament debutants Girona.

However, supporters of the Anfield club will perhaps be most excited about the prospect of hosting German champions Bayer Leverkusen, coached by former Liverpool midfielder Xabi Alonso.

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City, winners of the competition in 2023, will play at home to Italian champions Inter Milan and go to both Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus.

However, they were

also handed more comfortable opponents including Club Brugge, Sparta Prague and Slovan Bratislava, who have never played in the modern Champions League proper.

Other standout head-to-heads will include Bayern Munich against both PSG and Barcelona, and Arsenal against Inter and Paris.

The number of clubs in the Champions League has increased from 32 in the past, with the 36 participants split into four seeded pots of nine for the draw.

Every team faces two

will significantly strengthen our domestic cricket structure. This, in turn, will cultivate more skilled and talented players, ready to take on the global stage."

On progression as a player, he said, "Of course, such progress won't happen overnight, but with patience and persistence, we can achieve our shared goals. I eagerly anticipate the support of our dedicated fans and the media throughout the Champions Cup. Together, we can develop new champions who will bring glory not just to the team, but to our region and our country."

Shoaib Malik is one of the greatest all-rounders the country has produced over the years. He has represented the country in the 2007 and 2019 50-over ICC Men's World Cups, featured in six ICC T20I World Cups, including captaining the side in the 2007 event, and, six Champions Trophy tournaments; is 33rd on the list of ODI players with 1,000 runs, 50 wickets and 50 catches; holds the record for one of the longest international careers, spanning nearly 20 years; to date has appeared in 35 Tests, 287 ODIs and 124 T20Is in which he has scored 11,867 runs and taken 218 wickets; is considered as one of the most sought after cricketers in franchise cricket. Shoaib Malik (13360) is the second highest run-getter in T20 cricket in the world after Chris Gayle of West Indies (14475).



In brief

IESCO notifies 2-day power shutdown programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Thursday notified 2-day power suspension programme for Friday and Saturday 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 on Friday From 06:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Rawalpindi City Circle, Katarian, Holy Family, Bani, F-Block, Muzamal Town, Hydari Chowk, Chakra Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Japan Road, Shahpur, Dhok Noor Feeders, Attock Circle, Garhi Afghana, Pind Pran, Valley, Gulshan Sehat, Sangiani, Shahullah Ditta, Paswal Feeders On Saturday From 06:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Islamabad Circle, I-10/1, I-10/2, New Exchange Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Commercial Centre, SM Deen, Nust Road Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Doctor Town, Morgah, Park View, Foji Foundation, Mahabob Shaheed, Mohara Nyal, Walayat Complex, X-L, AOWHS, Qureshiabad, Garja-I, Ranyal, Zeta-I, Humayun-I feeders, Jhelum Circle, Kanteela, Galiana, Colonel Muhammad Akram feeders, Chakwal Circle, Dhoda feeder and surrounding areas.

Defaulters to face legal actions

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) has decided to start taking legal actions against water charges defaulters including domestic and commercial consumers. The concerned department has completed its survey regarding data collection of consumers availing water supply facility from RCB but have not deposited the due amounts of water bills. According to details, the CEO RCB Syed Ali Irfan Rizvi on Thursday has directed the concerned authorities to take action against the water bills defaulters and also against those having illegal water connections from September 01, according to which illegal water connections from different areas of the cantt will be disconnected. Moreover, not only the water connection of the defaulters will be disconnected, but FIRs will also be registered against them. Under the direction of the CEO, Water Supply Department completed a survey to trace the illegal water connections. A grace period of 51 days was given for the deposit of water charges and to get the existing water supply connections legal. The deadline will expire on 31st August 2024.

IRSA releases 281,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 281,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 296,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the 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 were recorded as 192,200 cusecs and 191,700 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1217.90 feet, which was 169.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 22,100 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs respectively.

Pakistan, Iraq vow to strengthen trade relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan-Iraq Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) here on Thursday held its inaugural meeting with Hamid Abbas Lafta, the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Pakistan.

Chaired by Sehar Kamran, MNA and Convener of Pakistan-Iraq PFG, the meeting was also attended by group members, Mehtab Akber Rashdi, Shehla Raza and Muhammad Moein Aamer Pirzada MNAs.

While welcoming the Ambassador of Iraq, Sehar Kamran said that Pakistan and Iraq were intertwined in eternal bonds of religion, brotherhood and culture.

She said that the bonds of brotherhood could further be cemented through Parliamentary Friendship Group. The Ambassador underscored the necessity of regular high level engagements between Pakistan and Iraq, expressing optimism

that exchange of visits will contribute to the diversification and enhancement of bilateral cooperation in diverse fields.

The Ambassador of Iraq underscored that Pakistan and Iraq had great opportunity in terms of bilateral cooperation in fields of energy, petroleum, trade and business. He also said that Iraq valued high its ties with Pakistan and was looking forward for more cooperation in term of trade and business.

The Ambassador expressed the desire to facilitate a meeting between Civil Aviation Authorities of Pakistan and Iraq, with the aim of fostering greater cooperation and collaboration in the aviation sector. The Iraqi envoy was informed that Pakistan would soon create commercial section in Baghdad. Further, 9th session of Pakistan Iraq JMC is scheduled to be held in

September 2024; Joint working group on trade and investment is likely to be established in same session.

It was mutually agreed that in order to strengthen trade relations and identify new avenues of economic collaboration, more meetings would be arranged with the business community and chambers of commerce of Pakistan and Iraq, facilitating a dialogue between key stakeholders from both nations.

The Parliamentary Friendship Group reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fostering stronger relations with Iraq and emphasized the need for regular interactions between the two nations. Both sides agreed that Parliamentary Friendship Groups can play a pivotal role in promoting parliamentary diplomacy, people to people contact and promoting parliamentary relations between two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Mitsuhiro Wada, Ambassador of State of Japan at Parliament House. —APP Photo

Pakistan keen to expand cooperation with Japan in various areas: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Thursday said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relationship with Japan and was eager to expand cooperation in various areas of mutual benefits.

During a meeting with Wada Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan in Pakistan, the Chairman Senate recognized Japan as a key development partner. He said that both the countries enjoyed cordial and friendly relations based on mutual respect and shared objectives of regional development, said a news release.

During the meeting, crucial aspects of the Pakistan-Japan relationship were discussed with an aim to further explore opportunities for enhanced collaboration. The meeting underscored Pakistan's commitment to enhancing its partnership with Japan across various domains.

Gilani gave special acknowledgment to Japan's support following the devastating floods in Pakistan in 2022. He recalled former Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visit to Japan from July 1-4, 2023 and his meetings with

Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi and Prime Minister and highlighted the significance of high-level diplomatic ties and said their interactions provide further direction and momentum to deepen ties in diverse sectors.

He said that the current bilateral trade volume stands at \$1.27 billion, falling short of its potential. Both the countries are encouraged to work together to boost bilateral trade," he added.

The chairman further said, Pakistan also highly values Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) development initiatives and seeks to establish visible flagship projects. He said that Japan remained a key investment partner and Pakistan welcomed increased Japanese investment.

Gilani has called on Japan to take an active role in the international effort to address the repatriation of Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. He urged Japan, as a key international player to support and contribute to the initiatives aimed at facilitating safe repatriation of refugees.

The Chairman said that two nations have established various bilateral mechanisms for discussion and informed the Ambassador that the Senate of Pakistan had established a Pak-Japan Friendship Group which would provide a suitable forum and should be regularly utilized to review and advance the relationship, emphasizing that regular parliamentary exchanges are deemed crucial for strengthening bilateral relations. Such visits enhance mutual understanding and promote people-to-people connections, he added.

Gilani lauded that encouraging progress had been made in exporting Pakistani manpower to Japan through Memoranda of Cooperation on the Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) and Specified Skilled Workers (SSW) Programs signed in 2019. He said that the 25,000-strong Pakistani diaspora in Japan played a significant role, contributing to sectors such as used automobiles, carpet trade, and Halal food. This community remains a vital asset to the Japanese economy, he added.

Saudi ministry issues health advisory for Hajj 2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has issued a health advisory for Hajj 2025, outlining strict requirements for prospective pilgrims, with particular emphasis on the exclusion of individuals suffering from complex medical conditions.

According to spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt for the Ministry of Religious Affairs, individuals with severe illnesses will not be permitted to undertake the Hajj pilgrimage. He said this measure is in response to the anticipated extreme weather conditions during the Hajj season, and it is to ensure the safety and well-being of all pilgrims.

The spokesperson further clarified that those suffering from serious kidney, heart, lung, liver diseases and cancer would not be allowed to participate in Hajj. Additionally, he said individuals diagnosed with dementia or contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, whooping cough, and other similar illnesses will also be barred from the pilgrimage. He informed that the advisory also specifies that children under 12 years of age and pregnant women will not be permitted to perform Hajj.

ICT admin on alert: drainage teams mobilized amid torrential downpour

ISLAMABAD (APP): As heavy rain continues to lash various parts of the Federal Capital, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration are taking action to manage potential flooding and keep traffic flowing smoothly.

According to the spokesman of ICT administration, heavy rain is pounding different areas of the city, prompting a swift response from the ICT administration.

District administration, along with the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) and Capital Development Authority (CDA), have mobilized teams to tge fields, where Assistant

Commissioners (ACs) are monitoring drainage systems and low-lying regions prone to flooding.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon stated that pre-monsoon preparations were completed in advance to ensure that the drainage systems function properly during this season. He confirmed that the ongoing drainage process is being managed effectively despite the continuous rain.

Additionally, the DC assured that there was full coordination with traffic police to maintain a smooth flow of vehicles across the city. Authorities

remain vigilant, monitoring the situation closely to prevent any disruption caused by the heavy downpour, he added.

Meanwhile, the DC urged the residents to report any emergency situations by calling 16. He also appealed to residents in low-lying areas not to park their vehicles on the streets during heavy rains, as there is a risk of water flooding the roads when the nullah overflows.

He further advised residents to limit their movement during the monsoon rains to avoid accidents, especially involving children leaving their homes alone.

CPO urges students to work hard for development of country

RAWALPINDI (APP): City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi, Syed Khalid Hamdani has urged the students to work hard and play an active role for the development of the country.

During a visit to Punjab Art Council (PAC) Rawalpindi, the CPO inaugurated, Digital Art Exhibition titled 'Beautiful Pakistan' as chief guest. Member Punjab Assembly, Shazia Rizwan was also present on this occasion.

Syed Khalid Hamdani took special interest in digital artworks, displayed in the Arts Gallery. The exhibition showcased over 100 artworks created on the historical places of Pakistan by male and female students of Art Council, Digital Graphic Department. Member Provincial Assembly, Shazia Rizwan said that Rawalpindi district police were striving hard to eliminate criminals under the command of CPO, Syed Khalid Hamdani.

The CPO said that the young generation has the best abilities and urged them to enlighten the name of the country and the nation with their hard work, dedication and commitment. Appreciating the dig-

ital art work of the students, Syed Khalid Hamdani said that Rawalpindi Police are always ready to encourage and support the talented youngsters.

Focus and attention lead to success, he said adding, the set targets could only be achieved with hard work.

He invited male and female students to come and participate in Police Internship and Friends of Police programs. He further said that the efforts of the teachers of the Arts Council are also praiseworthy.

There are many challenges for the police and Rawalpindi district police are making all-out efforts to protect life and property of the citizens. He said, "We are working day and night to create a safe and secure environment for the citizens according to the vision of Chief Minister Punjab."

On the special instructions of Chief Minister Punjab, Rawalpindi Police are playing an active role for the protection and welfare of women and children. The CPO also distributed certificates among the students, participated in the exhibition and also planted a sapling in the Arts Council.

CPO holds 'Khuli Kutcheries' to address

grievances of citizens: City Police Officer (RPO), Rawalpindi, Syed Khalid Hamdani under Punjab government's open door policy held 'Khuli Kutchery' here on Thursday at Morgah and Saddar Baroni police stations to address grievances of the people.

According to a CPO Office spokesman, the CPO issued directives to the officers concerned to take action and submit detail report on the complaints submitted by the citizens in 'Khuli Kutchery'. The CPO on the occasion said 'Khuli Kutcheries' are being held to provide the citizens immediate relief and addressed their complaints besides it also helped improve standards of policing."

The CPO issued orders to the officers concerned to complete inquiries and send reports within given time frame. Syed Khalid Hamdani further said that all-out efforts were being made to ensure dispensation of speedy justice purely on merit to the people and improve service delivery standard in the region. The spokesman informed that the CPO was holding 'Khuli Kutcheries' here to provide relief to the citizens.



ISLAMABAD: A motorcyclist uses an umbrella to shield himself from torrential rain on the Islamabad Expressway in Federal Capital. —APP Photo

Quake shakes Badakhshan

BADAKHSHAN (Khaama Press): The US Geological Survey has confirmed a relatively strong earthquake in Afghanistan. The quake, with a magnitude of 5.4, occurred at a depth of 224.3 kilometers and struck 28 kilometers southwest of Eshkashim in Badakhshan. The Disaster Management Authority of Badakhshan has also confirmed the earthquake, noting its impact in the “northeast and other parts of the country.”

IEA bans Mixed Martial Arts

KABUL (Ariana News): The General Directorate of Physical Education and Sport of Afghanistan on Thursday announced that Mixed Martial Arts fights in Afghanistan have been banned. The directorate said in a statement that concerns had been raised in the past that the sport was not compliant with Sharia law. There have been rumors circulating on social media in recent weeks indicating that all combat sports, such as MMA, judo, karate, boxing, taekwondo and others will be banned.

Baradar hails Termez Trade Center as a ‘new chapter’ in Afghan-Uzbek partnership



KABUL (Ariana News): In a ceremony to inaugurate an international trade center in Uzbekistan's border city of Termez on Thursday, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, said that the center marks a new chapter of friendship, cooperation and partnership between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, laying the groundwork for long-term prosperity and development of both countries.

Baradar noted that the center will enhance investment opportunities, com-

mercial relationships, and job creation in both nations, and will introduce new markets for products and goods, and, overall, accelerate economic growth, according to a statement released by his office.

Highlighting the importance of this center, Mullah Baradar mentioned that the center's inauguration would facilitate the production, processing, and export of goods, making it easier to access regional and global markets.

This will positively impact the economic relations

between the two countries and establish the center as a key economic hub and commercial gateway for Central and South Asian nations, he said.

Furthermore, the trade center will strengthen joint cooperation between the two countries in the fields of technology and innovation.

According to Mullah Baradar, the center will create essential facilities and opportunities for Afghan and Uzbek traders, enabling them to find suitable markets for their products and actively contribute

to the region's economic development.

He called on the international community to establish appropriate reciprocal economic and trade relations with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, in line with its economy-focused policies, and assured that the Islamic Emirate is committed to providing all necessary support and facilitation in this regard.

The ceremony was also attended by senior officials of Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Climate change impacting grape yield

KANDAHAR (TOLONews): Unseasonal rains in Kandahar province of Afghanistan have led to major losses for grape farmers in the province, who say they have experienced up to a 15% decrease in grapes this year.

Farmers say unseasonal rain due to climate change has caused this problem.

One grape farmer, Syed Ahmad, says he has 14 acres of land with about 30,000 grape vines. Because of the unseasonal rain, his crops were damaged.

Other farmers in Kandahar province have also reported damaged crops and say the lack of export markets for their produce has also led to losses for them as their produce is being sold cheaply on local markets only.

However Kandahar's department of agriculture, irrigation and livestock has acknowledged the problem and said officials will cooperate with the farmers.

According to the officials, about 19,500 metric tons of grapes will be obtained from 20,500 hectares of vineyards this year, which shows a 10-15% decrease compared to last year.

According to official data, 60% of the people in Kandahar province are engaged in farming and raising livestock.

700 young recruits graduated

KABUL (BNA): Seven hundred young recruits from various units of the Ministry of National Defense have graduated from the 207th Al-Farooq Corps Training Center after completing three months of military, professional, and ideological training.

According to a statement from the Ministry's press office, the graduation ceremony was attended by Mawlawi Nasrullah “Mati,” the commander of the 207th Al-Farooq Corps, along with senior officials from the headquarters and units, esteemed scholars, veterans, and several citizens.

During the ceremony, speakers emphasized the importance of military, professional, and ideological training in building a national Islamic army under a Sharia-compliant and Islamic system.

They urged the graduates to proudly defend the country's borders, territorial integrity, and national values, and to diligently follow the orders of their superiors.

The event concluded with various professional and military demonstrations performed by the graduates and the presentation of graduation certificates.

Afghanistan boosts exports

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of Public Works announced that over 316,000 tons of goods were exported via railways during the month of August.

According to the ministry's report, from the beginning to the end of August, a total of 316,743 tons of goods were transported abroad using Afghanistan's railway lines.

Specifically, 255,307 tons of goods were exported from Hairatan port, 27,831 tons from Aqina port, 29,029 tons from Torgundi, and 4,576 tons via the Khaf-Herat railway line. These exports included both oil and non-oil products.

The ministry has encouraged national traders to consider using the railway system for a secure, cost-effective, and efficient method of transporting commercial goods.

For further coordination, they can contact the Railway Directorate officials at the Ministry of Public Works in Kabul and across the provinces of Afghanistan.

Nearly 30 children die of malnutrition

and out of these, 26 children have died.”

Several caretakers attribute poverty, destitution, and poor nutrition as the reasons behind their children's condition and call on the interim government and aid organizations to address their economic challenges.

Basira, the mother of a child suffering from malnutrition, said: “We can't afford to buy meat and nutritious food, and these shortages also exist in the village, while my husband is unemployed.”

Samiya, the mother of another child who is malnourished, said: “The economic situation at home is weak, and our child does not drink milk properly;

this is why he has become malnourished.”

Doctors cite the lack of healthy food, limited access to healthcare centers, and inadequate counseling as the primary causes of malnutrition among children.

Ghulam Rabani Mushtaq, a doctor, said: “There is insufficient counseling, distance from clinics is also a major reason, and most of our patients are from remote districts such as Argo, Ishkashim, Ragh, and Darwaz.”

The World Food Program recently reported that over three million children in Afghanistan suffer from malnutrition, and the organization has only managed to assist 1.3 million of them.

Shor Bazaar in Kabul: Two centuries of history

KABUL (TOLONews): Shor Bazaar is one of the historic markets of Kabul, known among its residents as the “Old City” due to its more than two hundred years of history.

Located between Sang Tarashi Street and Bala Hissar in Kabul, Shor Bazaar represents the ancient city of Kabul, bearing its name and identity.

However, according to some local residents, the market earned its name “Shor Bazaar” due to its lively and bustling nature.

Mohammad Sarwar, a resident of Shor Bazaar, speaking about the history of the area, said: “The houses of Shor Bazaar, the Ashuqan O Arefan, the

Reka Khana, all these were known as Shor Bazaar. It was the only market in Kabul; there was no other market like it.”

Shor Bazaar was once home to heroes and wise men, learned individuals who lived there.

Another local resident, Mohammad Homayoun, said: “At first, it was called Sher Bazaar. People who raised the flag of Islam during the Second Anglo-Afghan War lived here, among them, descendants and relatives known as Abdul Aziz Langar Zamin.”

Kocha Tangi Jummah, also known as the closed alley, is one of the older alleys with a two-hundred-

year history located in Shor Bazaar, Kabul.

Mohammad Zahir, another resident of Shor Bazaar, Kabul, said: “This alley used to be very wide; now it has become a bit elevated, but it was very spacious before. People used to have difficulty passing through it, with most of its places being covered beyond Shor Bazaar.”

Shor Bazaar in Kabul was once like a “Chaar Chata” covered from beginning to end, but now none of its covers remain. Despite not retaining its past appearance, the market still maintains the bustling activity of traders as before.

Ministry enhances army with 315 new recruits

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of National Defense has announced the recruitment of 315 new volunteers from Panjshir, Baghlan, and Kabul provinces into the ranks of the National Islamic Army.

According to a statement from the Ministry's press office, these eligible candidates were recruited from various districts of the three provinces through regional enlistment centers and were subsequently transferred to

the General Recruitment Command at Pul-e-Charkhi after completing the necessary documentation and processing.

This recruitment drive reflects the Ministry's ongoing commitment to enhancing the strength and capacity of the National Islamic Army with dedicated and capable individuals. The addition of these new recruits is expected to bolster the operational readiness and effectiveness of

the armed forces.

Earlier, 350 individuals from multiple districts of Panjshir province were also recruited through the General Recruitment Command. Following comprehensive military and ideological training, they were assigned to various units and divisions of the Ministry of National Defense, as part of the Ministry's continued efforts to develop a well-trained and disciplined military force.

1,000 civil servants granted work permits

BAGHLAN (BNA): The Baghlan Department of Labor and Social Affairs has issued 963 work permits to new civil service employees in the province during the first five months of the current year.

Qari Nusratullah Parsa, the head of the department, told Bakhtar News Agency that from the beginning of the year to date, 791 permits were issued to male employees and 172 permits to female employees working in government and foreign organizations. This has contributed approximately 150,000 Afghanis to the state treasury.

He noted that the distribution of work permits in



Baghlan has increased by 30 percent compared to the previous year, emphasizing that no employees of government or foreign organizations in the province are allowed to work without a valid permit.

The head of the department also highlighted that the increase in work permit issuance reflects enhanced transparency in the hiring process and contributes to the professionalization of government institutions.

Kunar residents want highway repaired

ASADABAD (Pajhwok): Residents of eastern Kunar province have urged the government and aid organizations to reconstruct the Asadabad-Paron highway after flash floods destroyed it.

They say many portions of Asadabad-Paron highway and Ghaziabad and Nari districts routes with the provincial capital had been damaged by recent flash floods.

However, officials say they have started efforts to repairs these routes.

Abdul Basir, an inhabitant of Manogi district,

said: “Many parts of Asadabad-Paron highway are damaged by flash floods which cause problems for travellers.”

Waliat Khan, a tribal elder of Nari district, said the district route leading to the centre had been blocked several times since last one month due to rising water level in Kunar river.

He asked the caretaker government and aid organizations to repair the damaged portions of this route.

Meanwhile, Public Works Department officials acknowledged that many portions of Asadabad-

Paron highway and districts routes with centre had been damaged by flash floods.

Qari Quatratullah, director of the department, told Pajhwok Afghan News efforts were underway to reconstruct these portions.

He added they had constructed a retaining wall on one side of the river at a cost of 16 million afghanis in order to prevent destruction of Nari district route with the centre.

Flash floods caused life and financial losses to people in a number of provinces in last three months.

15 Afghans detained

KABUL (Khaama Press): Kazakhstan media reported that police have detained 15 Afghans in the city of Aktobe. Some detained Afghans did not have passports, while others had expired visas.

Kazakhstan's Kazlenta news agency stated that all the individuals were taken to an immigration office for identity and background checks. It was noted that some of the detained individuals had previously been students in Kazakhstan's capital. Details regarding the fate of these individuals have not been provided so far.

Kazakhstan police have deemed their stay in the country illegal and have urged citizens to report any information about the illegal residency of foreigners.

Earlier this year, in June, Kazakhstan police also detained five Afghan asylum seekers attempting to travel to Russia through unofficial routes and subsequently deported them to Afghanistan. A large number of asylum seekers have been attempting to cross its borders to enter European countries via Russia.

In response, Kazakhstan has decided to establish a new border control post to manage this situation.

Kazakhstan has warned its citizens that assisting asylum seekers in crossing unofficial routes to Russia could result in up to seven years in prison.

The detention and deportation of Afghan nationals highlight ongoing challenges for Kazakhstan in managing illegal immigration and asylum issues. This situation reflects broader regional tensions and challenges regarding migration, with countries like Kazakhstan tightening their border controls amid increasing pressure from migrant flows.

Increased trade with Turkey: Exports up by 11%

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has reported an eleven percent increase in exports to Turkey in the first five months of the year 1403 (solar calendar) compared to last year.

According to officials from this ministry, in the first five months of this year, trade worth \$45 million was conducted with Turkey, of which \$8.3 million were exports.

Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad, spokesperson for the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, said: “Afghanistan's exports and imports with Turkey during the first five months of 1403 amounted to \$45 million, with \$8 million in exports and \$37 million in imports. Compared to the first five months of last year, exports increased by 11 percent, and imports by 29 percent.”

Rising illegal migration from Nimroz to Iran

KABUL (TOLONews): Every day, hundreds of citizens leave the country illegally through Nimroz to Iran due to economic challenges. They say they would not leave if job opportunities were available in the country.

Mustafa, a 19-year-old who has been engaged for three years, wants to go to Iran illegally to pay for his dowry. He says that because of unemployment and economic difficulties, he has not been able to pay his dowry and get married.

Mustafa, a resident of Laghman, told TOLONews:

“The dowries are very high for us, and there is no work here; if work were available, we would not take such risks. Our demand is for job opportunities to be created in our own country.”

Mohammad Alam, a resident of Balkh, said: “There is no work here. We have been unemployed at home since Eid al-Adha until today. We are going out of necessity, not out of pleasure.”

Meanwhile, Nimroz security officials say they have arrested nearly 400 human traffickers in the past three years.

Gul Mohammad Qudrat, the spokesman for the Nimroz Police Command, said: “Since coming to power, the Islamic Emirate has tried to prevent trafficking in Nimroz province. So far, nearly 400 traffickers have been arrested and handed over to the law.”

It is noteworthy that hundreds of citizens leave the country daily through Nimroz to Iran illegally due to unemployment and economic challenges. The Islamic Emirate has consistently urged citizens to travel legally to neighboring countries.

from us.”

Mohammad Ali Hassanzi, a representative of one of the aid organizations, said: “In this project, we are providing each family with a tent, five blankets, and all necessary kitchen utensils.”

According to officials, the floods have destroyed 14 residential houses, approximately 150 acres of agricultural land, 20 shops, 16 water canals, several kilometers of roads, and bridges, and hundreds of livestock have perished.

Flood victims in Panjshir call for assistance

JALALABAD CITY (TOLONews): Residents of Anaba and Rokha districts in Panjshir, who have suffered losses due to recent floods, are appealing for help and cooperation from the government and charitable organizations.

According to them, the floods have destroyed not only residential houses but also shops, agricultural lands, canals, and small power dams.

Javid, a resident of Anaba district, said: “The floods have destroyed peo-

ple's shops, agricultural canals, and farmland, causing substantial financial losses to the inhabitants of this province.”

Mohammad Khalid, another resident of Anaba district, stated: “Our entire house was submerged, and all the retaining walls were washed away.”

At a meeting held in Panjshir to gather and attract aid for the flood victims, local officials stated that efforts are being made to provide more assistance to those affected.

Officials from some aid organizations have also promised to deliver timely help to the flood victims in this province.

Mohammad Agha Hakim, the Governor of Panjshir, said: “The survey is still ongoing, and substantial aid has already been provided, with more on the way.”

Mohibullah Jahid, the Head of Natural Disaster Response in Panjshir, mentioned: “Twenty-three families from Anaba and Rokha districts whose homes were destroyed have received aid

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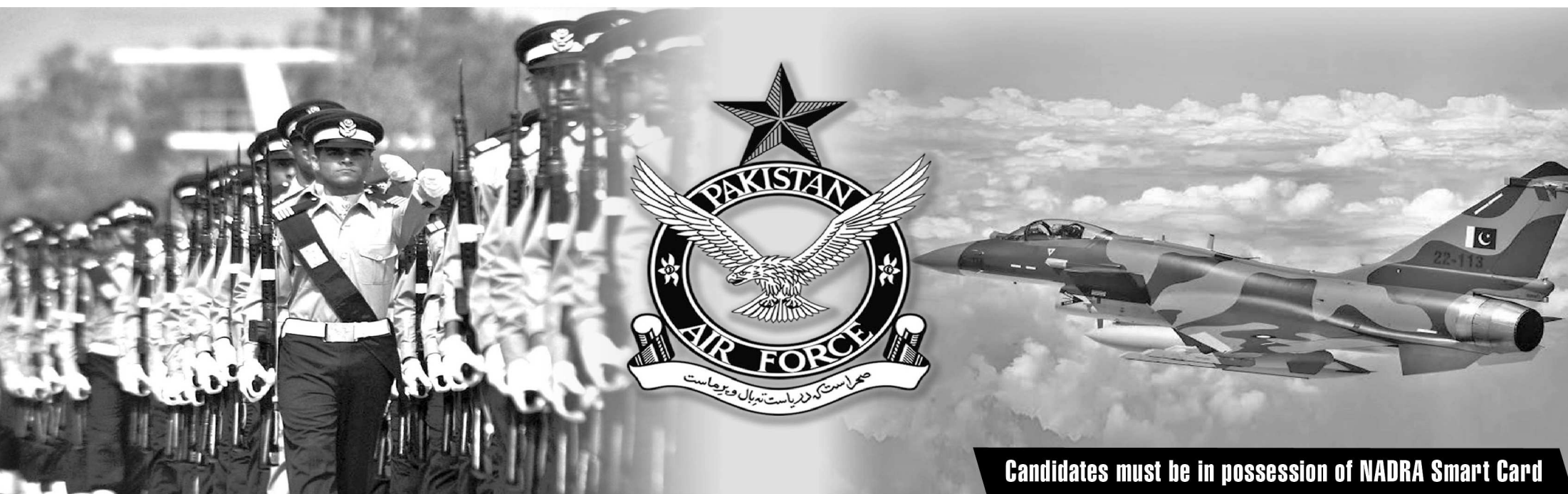
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JOIN PAKISTAN AIR FORCE AS COMMISSIONED OFFICER

SYMBOL OF PRIDE FOR THE NATION



Candidates must be in possession of NADRA Smart Card

ONLINE REGISTRATION FROM 31 AUGUST TO 08 SEPTEMBER, 2024 ON www.joinpaf.gov.pk**PERMANENT COMMISSION (PC)****158 GENERAL DUTY PILOT GD (P)**

Age : 16 to 22 years on 25 April 2025
Nationality : Male / Female citizen of Pakistan
Marital Status : Unmarried
Height : 5 feet 4 inches / 163 cm
Vision : 6 / 6 each eye (without Glasses)

Qualification:

A Candidate must have passed with minimum 65% marks in aggregate in any of the following:-

- ❖ F. Sc (Pre-Engineering / Pre-Medical / Computer Science)
- ❖ 'A' Level with Physics, Maths, Computer Science / Biology
- ❖ F. Sc with Physics and any two Subjects i.e; Maths, Statistics, Computer Science and Biology
- ❖ Award of BS Degree in Aviation Management / BE in Aerospace / Avionics (from CAE).

Training Period: 04 years**104 AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING COURSE**

Age : 16 to 22 years on 25 April 2025
Nationality : Male / Female citizen of Pakistan
Marital Status : Unmarried
Height (Male) : 5 feet 4 inches / 163 cm
Height (Female): 4 feet 10 inches / 147 cm

Qualification:

A Candidate must have passed with minimum 65% marks in aggregate in any of the following:-

- ❖ F. Sc (Pre-Engineering) or 'A' Level (Physics, Chemistry & Maths) with equivalence of Pre-Engineering
- ❖ F. Sc with Physics, Maths & Computer Studies or 'A' Level (Physics, Computer Science & Maths) with equivalence of F. Sc Certificate.
- ❖ Diploma of Associate Engineering (DAE) in Avionics / Electrical / Mechanical / Electronics / Instrumentation and Process control / Telecommunication / Automation / Computer Information / Software .
- ❖ Award of BE in Aerospace / Avionics.

Training Period: 04 years**114 AIR DEFENCE COURSE**

Age : 16 to 22 years on 25 April 2025
Nationality : Male citizen of Pakistan
Marital Status : Unmarried
Height : 5 feet 4 inches / 163 cm

Qualification:

A Candidate must have passed with minimum 65% marks in aggregate in any of the following:-

- ❖ F. Sc (Pre-Engineering / Pre-Medical / Computer Science)
- ❖ 'A' Level with Physics, Maths, Computer Science / Biology
- ❖ F. Sc with Physics and any two Subjects i.e; Maths, Statistics, Computer Science and Biology.
- ❖ Award of BS Degree in Aviation Management / BE in Aerospace / Avionics (from CAE).

Training Period: 04 years**33 ADMIN & SPECIAL DUTIES COURSE**

Age : 16 to 22 years on 25 April 2025
Nationality : Male citizen of Pakistan
Marital Status : Unmarried
Height : 5 feet 4 inches / 163 cm

Qualification:

A Candidate must have passed with minimum 65% marks in aggregate in any of the following:-

- ❖ F. Sc (Pre-Engineering / Pre-Medical / Computer Science)
- ❖ 'A' Level with Physics, Maths, Computer Science / Biology
- ❖ F. Sc with Physics and any two Subjects i.e; Maths, Statistics, Computer Science and Biology.
- ❖ Award of BS Degree in Aviation Management.

Training Period: 04 years**16 LOGISTICS COURSE**

Age : 16 to 22 years on 25 April 2025
Nationality : Male citizen of Pakistan
Marital Status : Unmarried
Height : 5 feet 4 inches / 163 cm

Qualification:

A Candidate must have passed with minimum 65% marks in aggregate in any of the following:-

- ❖ F. Sc (Pre-Engineering / Pre-Medical / Computer Science)
- ❖ 'A' Level with Physics, Maths, Computer Science / Biology
- ❖ F. Sc with Physics and any two Subjects i.e; Maths, Statistics, Computer Science and Biology.
- ❖ Award of BS Degree in Aviation Management.

Training Period: 04 years**SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (SSC / SPSSC)****EDUCATION BRANCH
(134 CSC SPSSC / SSC)**

Age : 21 to 30 years on 25 April 2025
Nationality : Male citizen of Pakistan
Marital Status : Married / Unmarried
Height : 5 feet 4 inches / 163 cm
Rank : Pilot Officer / Flying Officer

Qualification:

Management Science: MBA (18 years) / MS / M Phil in HRM, Project Management, Accounting & Finance

Maths : MS / M Phil in Maths

English : MS / M Phil in English

Statistics : MS / M Phil in Statistics

Note: Each qualification must be Minimum 2nd Div or 2.5/4 CGPA / GPA from a Pakistani / Foreign University recognized by HEC.

Training Period: 24 Weeks**ADMIN & SPECIAL DUTIES COURSE
(134 CSC SSC)**

Age : 18 to 30 years on 25 April 2025
Nationality : Male citizen of Pakistan
Marital Status : Married / Unmarried
Height : 5 feet 4 inches / 163 cm
Rank : Flying Officer

Qualification:

- ❖ BS (Science Subjects) (04years), BS (Civil Engg), BE (Civil) with minimum 2nd division or equivalent from a Pakistani / Foreign University recognized by HEC & PEC.
- ❖ Note: each qualification must have FSc background.

Training Period: 24 Weeks**LOGISTICS BRANCH (134 CSC SSC)**

Age : 18 to 30 years on 25 April 2025
Nationality : Male citizen of Pakistan
Marital Status : Married / Unmarried
Height : 5 feet 4 inches / 163 cm
Rank : Flying Officer

Qualification:

- ❖ Master in Logistics / Supply chain management
- ❖ BBA / MBA in logistics / Supply chain managements / Marketing / Finance or
- ❖ BSCS / BSIT / BCS / BSE / MCS / MSIT
- ❖ or BS / Master in Physics / Chemistry / Mathematics / Economics / Statistics / Computer Sciences
- ❖ or BE in all Engineering disciplines with 16 years qualification with minimum 2nd Division or Equivalent from a Pakistani / Foreign University recognized by HEC & PEC.

Training Period: 24 Weeks**IT BRANCH (134 CSC SSC)**

Age : 18 to 30 years on 25 April 2025
Nationality : Male citizen of Pakistan
Marital Status : Married / Unmarried
Height : 5 feet 4 inches / 163 cm
Rank : Flying Officer

Qualification:

- ❖ M. Sc (Computer Science) / MCS or BS / MS (Computer Science) BS / BE / MS (IT) or BS / BE / MS (Software Engineering, Computer Engineering, Information Security) or BS / MS (Cyber Security, Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Geographical Information System) or BS (Computer & Information Sciences) or BSc / BCS (Hons) in Computer Science or BE (Computer & Information Systems, Computer Software) or MS (Cloud Computing, Big Data, Data Analytics, High Performance Computing) with minimum of 2nd Division or 2.0 CGPA from a Pakistani / Foreign University recognized by HEC.

Training Period: 24 Weeks**MET BRANCH (134 CSC SSC)**

Age : 18 to 30 years on 25 April 2025
Nationality : Male citizen of Pakistan
Marital Status : Married / Unmarried
Height : 5 feet 4 inches / 163 cm
Rank : Flying Officer

Qualification:

- ❖ BSc / BS / BE / BCS / (04 years) in Science subjects (Physics / Maths Compulsory)
 - ❖ MSc / MS in Meteorology / Environmental Science / Physics / Maths / Geography (with Physics & Maths in FSc)
- Note: Each qualificaion must be minimum 2nd Division or 2.0 CGPA from a reputed Pakistani / Foreign University recognized by HEC.

Training Period: 24 Weeks**FUTURE PROSPECTUS**

- ➔ **Highly Competitive salary package.**
- ➔ **Free Medical treatment self and family.**
- ➔ **Training and posting in different cities of Pakistan and abroad.**
- ➔ **Free accommodation and 50% waiver in fare by train and air travel.**
- ➔ **Internationally recognized courses.**
- ➔ **Membership of Air Force Officer Housing Scheme (AFOHS).**

ACCOUNTS BRANCH (134 CSC SSC)

Age : 18 to 30 years on 25 April 2025
Nationality : Male citizen of Pakistan
Marital Status : Married / Unmarried
Height : 5 feet 4 inches / 163 cm
Rank : Flying Officer

Qualification:

- ❖ B Com (04 years) / BBA (Finance 04 years) / BS Commerce / BS Accounting / BS Finance or equivalent 16 years education in Accounting, Finance or Commerce with minimum of 2.5/4 CGPA or 3/5 CGPA or overall 60% from a Pakistani / Foreign University recognized by HEC.

Training Period: 24 Weeks**JAG (LEGAL) BRANCH (134 CSC SSC)**

Age : 21 to 30 years on 25 April, 2024
Nationality : Male Citizens of Pakistan
Marital Status : Married / Unmarried
Height : Minimum 5 feet 4 inches / 163 cm
Rank : Flying Officer

Qualification:

Education qualification: LLB minimum 2nd division (for annual system) or minimum 50% (for semester system) from a reputed Pakistani / Foreign University recognized by HEC. Preference will be given to candidates having LL.M qualification and experience of minimum 02 years practices as legal practitioner.

Training Period: 24 Weeks**SELECTION PROCEDURE**

- ❖ Online Registration at www.joinpaf.gov.pk.
- ❖ Intelligence Test followed by Academic Test in the following subjects through e-Testing:-

All candidates with Pre-Medical background for Permanent Commission	English & Physics
All candidates with Pre-Engg / ICS / DAE background for Permanent Commission	English, Physics & Maths
134 CSC	Academic Test in relevant subject

- ❖ Initial Medical Examination & Interview at I&S Centre.

Initial Physical Test:

Test Type	Qualification Criteria	
Running	1 Mile	08 Minutes
Push-Ups	15	02 Minutes
Sit-Ups	20	02 Minutes
Chin-Ups	03	02 Minutes

- ❖ Only Shortlisted candidates would be detailed for ISSB.
- ❖ Test / Interview by ISSB Kohat / Gujranwala / Malir / Quetta.
- ❖ Final Medical Examination at CMB Lahore.
- ❖ Flying Aptitude Test (FAT) of GD (P) candidates only.
- ❖ After the final meriting selected GD (P) / AD candidates would be inducted in CAE for BE degree program as per 'Service Requirements', while remaining candidates would undertake BS in Aviation Management. Upon successful completion of the BE / BS programs, cadets would get permanent commission in PAF and GD (P) Course would be detailed for 'Flying Training' at PAFAA.
- ❖ Interview by AHQ Special Selection Board for CSC Candidates only.
- ❖ Final Selection by Air Headquarters in order of merit.

Note:

- ❖ Appearing candidates are also eligible to apply provided they have obtained 70 % Marks in F. Sc / 'A' Level Part-I and bring a certificate from the Principal that they are likely to pass F.Sc / 'A' Level examination in the prescribed grades (F.Sc courses only). Candidates with 'O' / 'A' Level background are required to produce equivalence (Pre-Engg / Pre- Medical / Computer Science) certificate.
- ❖ Candidates who have completed their educational qualification (SSC / HSSC / O&A Level / Equivalency etc) from national / foreign academic institutions are required to get attestation of their educational documents from IBCC prior reporting to PAFAA.

INELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

A candidate is Ineligible if he / she is:-

- Rejected by ISSB / GHQ / NHQ / AHQ Selection boards..
 - Twice Rejected by ISSB for Post Graduate Entry.
 - Twice Rejected by ISSB for intermediate / graduate (PMA / Graduate / Equivalent) and once rejected by ISSB OR GHQ / NHQ / AHQ based selection boards.
 - Once Rejected by ISSB for intermediate / graduate (PMA / Graduate / Equivalent) and twice rejected by ISSB OR GHQ / NHQ / AHQ based selection boards.
- Twice Screened out by ISSB.
- Tested within four months (120 days) gap of previous appearance in ISSB except waiver granted by the competent authority. However, bar of 120 days will not be applicable to candidates appearing in GHQ/NHQ/AHQ selection boards.
- Dismissed / Removed / Debarred from Govt services including armed forces.
- Convicted in a court of law for any heinous offense (to be ascertained by the competent military authority).
- Permanently declared UNFIT by Appeal Medical Board (PUF by AMB).
- Declared medically unfit due to Hepatitis B & C (AMB cannot by requested)
- Withdraw from any bonded armed forces college / institution on disciplinary grounds.
- Withdrawn / Discharge / resigned or purchase release from any armed forces officers academy / training institution on any ground.
- Tempering of academic certificates / forgery / concealment to get undue advantage will make an applicant permanently ineligible for all types of commission in Armed Forces.
- Gives incomplete, false or wrongful information.
- Thrice screened out by Army / Navy/ Air Force during preliminary selection.

For further details, contact any of the following PAF Information & Selection Centres along with all original Educational Certificates and mark sheets, 04 passport size attested photographs and self NADRA Smart Card / Father/ Mother. Old NIC / Form B is not acceptable.

➔ ABBOTTABAD : 310-Mansehra Road, Near Ayub Medical Complex	Ph: 0992-385157, 385166
➔ FAISALABAD : Main Jhang Road, Near Airport Chowk	Ph: 041-9201199, 2577799
➔ HYDERABAD : 49-Salahuddin Road, Cantt	Ph: 022-920093
➔ KARACHI : Main Shahrah-e-Faisal (Near PAF Base) Faisal	Ph: 021-99240999
➔ D.I.KHAN : Fazle Elahi Shaheed Raod, Near Bus stand	Ph: 0966-9280311
➔ LAHORE : 14-Munir Road (Near PAF Cinema) Munir Chowk	Ph: 042-99220084, 36671043
➔ MULTAN : 217-Sher Shah Road	Ph: 061-9201183, 9201795
➔ KHARIAN : Baharwala Road, Near Punjab College, Kharian	Ph: 0323-0411668

➔ MUZAFFARABAD : Shaukat Lines Near Army Public School, Cantt	Ph: 05822-923272
➔ MIANWALI : Fazaia Road, Opp Custom Office	Ph: 0459-350226
➔ PESHAWAR : 9-The Mall, Peshawar Cantt	Ph:091-9210829, 5286329
➔ QUETTA : M.A Jinnah Road	Ph: 081-92017531
➔ RAWALPINDI : 3-The Mall, Opposite AFIC	Ph: 051-5701143, 5701257-58
➔ SUKKUR : Opposite Govt Islamia College, Minara Road	Ph: 071-9310409
➔ GILGIT : FC Road, Jutial Gilgit	Ph: 05811-930088

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