

Saudis urged to leave Lebanon

RIYADH (Arab News): Saudi foreign ministry urged its citizens on Sunday to leave Lebanon 'immediately' as regional tensions recently surged. In a statement, the ministry has reiterated its call for all Saudi nationals to avoid traveling to Lebanon. It said the Kingdom's embassy in Lebanon was closely monitoring the developments in the southern region of the country.

@thefrontierpost

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

Polio case reported

CHAKWAL (INP): A 6-year-old child from Chakwal has been confirmed to have polio, marking the first case of the disease in the district. The National Health Organization verified the presence of the polio virus in the child. This case represents the 12th polio incidence reported in Pakistan this year, highlighting ongoing challenges in the fight against the disease.

Vol. XXXIXI

No. 191

Regd. No. 241

MUHARRAM 29 1446 -- MONDAY, AUGUST 05 2024

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30



GAZA STRIP: Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip, on Sunday.

Fast progress on second phase of CPEC: PM

Directs to speed up FBR transformation

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said work was progressing fast on the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and there was positive momentum on further promotion of cooperation with China in different fields during visit of Chinese experts to Pakistan.

He was speaking during a meeting here with a seven member delegation of journalists who returned from an official visit to China undertaken on the invitation of government institution China Public Diplomacy Association.

He said China was sincere friend which helped Pakistan on every difficult occasion.

He urged that all stakeholders should rise above politics to work together on the national development projects like China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said whenever Allah Almighty gave him an opportunity to serve the country he pledged to himself to focus all his energies on progress of the country.

He said he was thankful to the Chinese leadership and people on the exemplary hospitality shown during his recent visit to China.

He told that he himself

was monitoring the progress on the memorandums of understanding and agreements after the visit to China.

He assured that Pakistan was ensuring all steps for the security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan.

There was no place for politics of any kind on relations with a close friend like China, he remarked.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar was present in the meeting.

The delegation of journalists included Salman Ghani of Dunya News, Amir Mir, Shiraz Hussain Hum News, Khizar Hayat Daily Jang, Khalid Hasnain Dawn News, Azam Malik Geo News and Matior Rehman of Pakistan Television.

The members of the delegation told the prime minister about their experiences during the visit and expressed views about Pakistan China relations.

The delegation informed the prime minister about the meetings that took place during the visit and said that China greatly valued its brotherly ties with Pakistan.

PM directs economic team to speed up transformation of FBR

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday set a target

for his economic team to speed up the process of transformation of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

He was chairing a review meeting on Track and Trace System of FBR.

The total digitization and restructuring of FBR according to modern standards was part of the transformation plan.

He delegated responsibility to Minister of State for Finance to oversee the transformation project of FBR.

The prime minister was presented a detailed report regarding the track and trace system and on progress of digitization of FBR.

He directed immediate action against the persons responsible for deficiency and irregularities regarding the track and trace system.

He directed immediate implementation of steps for taking action against the officials negligent in upgrading the system.

He said reforms in FBR were necessary to improve the tax system of Pakistan, adding, "We will work day and night to save every penny of the poor people of Pakistan."

Shehbaz Sharif said digitization of FBR was main priority of the government and no disruption was acceptable in this regard.

Armed Forces pay tribute to police martyrs

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: On the occasion of Youm-e-Shuhada Police, the Armed Forces of Pakistan pay solemn tribute to the valiant personnel of the Pakistan Police who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Their unwavering dedication, unrelenting courage, and selfless sacrifice will be perpetually remembered and honored.

The Armed Forces, comprising officers and men, salute the memory of our fallen heroes who have protected the nation with their sweat and blood.

Their noble and selfless service has ensured the safety and security of our communities, and their legacy continues to inspire and motivate us. We stand in solidarity with their families and reaffirm our commitment to supporting them in every possible manner.

To demonstrate our solidarity with the Shuhada of Police, army officers and troops participated in various events organized by the local police at numerous locations across the country.

Youm-e-Shuhada Police serves as a poignant reminder of the immense sacrifices made by our policemen in the pursuit of peace, justice, and security.

The Armed Forces of Pakistan reiterate their unwavering commitment to the noble cause of defending the motherland, alongside the Police and other law enforcement agencies, and pledge to continue this mission with unshakable resolve and determination.

Kaiser proposes 3-month national govt

PESHAWAR (INP): Asad Qaiser, a key leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has suggested that discussions for a three-month national government could take place if all political parties reach an agreement.

Speaking to local TV channel, Qaiser emphasized the need for a constitutional and lawful approach to address the country's major challenges.

Qaiser highlighted that Mahmood Achakzai, head of the Pakistan Constitution Protection Movement, is seeking political dialogue and may present reasonable solutions if found. While PTI supports Achakzai's efforts, Qaiser made it clear that PTI will not engage in dialogue as a party but rather as part of an alliance.

The PTI leader stressed the urgency of resolving the current political instability and economic difficulties, advocating for decisions to be made in accordance with the constitution. He also called for the release of Imran Khan and other prisoners and demanded transparent elections.

Israeli strikes hit Gaza schools, hospital after talks fail

CAIRO (Reuters): An Israeli airstrike hit two schools in Gaza City on Sunday, killing at least 25 people, the Palestinian official news agency said, while the Israeli military said it struck a Hamas military compound embedded in the schools.

An Israeli air strike hit a tent camp inside a hospital in central Gaza earlier in the day. Gaza health officials said at least 44 Palestinians were killed on Sunday, the day after a round of talks in Cairo ended without result.

Footage circulated on Palestinian media showed bodies scattered inside the yard of one of two blast-wrecked schools as residents rushed to carry casualties, including children, and loaded them into ambulance vehicles that took them to at least two nearby hospitals.

The Palestinian officials news agency Wafa and Hamas media said dozens were wounded in addition to the 25 fatalities in the schools of Hassan Salama and Al-Nasser, which housed Palestinian displaced families. They said the strike destroyed several structures inside the facilities.

The Israeli military said it struck militants inside a Hamas command embedded within the schools, accusing Hamas of operating from within civilian property. Hamas denies using civilian institutions for military purposes.

The Hamas-run government media office said Israel had struck 172 designated shelters, mostly schools, housing thousands of displaced families since Oct. 7.

Earlier in the day, an Israeli strike inside the Al-Aqsa Hospital compound started a fire, and wounded at least 18 people as well as killing five, medical authorities said.

The Israeli military said it struck a militant who "conducted terror activities" and that secondary explosions were identified, indicating weapons were present in the area.

The hospital compound is in Deir Al-Balah, an area crowded with thousands of people displaced by fighting in other parts of the enclave.

Elsewhere in Deir Al-Balah, three Palestinians were killed when an Israeli missile struck a house. Separate Israeli strikes killed eight others inside their home in Jabalia camp in northern Gaza City and three inside a car.

Residents in areas southeast of the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis and to the north of Rafah, where there was heavy fighting last month, reported receiving evacuation orders from the Israeli military.

The Israeli army spokesman posted orders on X, asking residents of those districts to head towards the humanitarian zone, saying forces would soon act forcefully against militants waging attacks

from those areas.

Separately, the Israeli military said it was working on dismantling a three-metre high tunnel in the Philadelphi corridor on the border with Egypt discovered last week by troops searching for underground Hamas infrastructure in the area.

Israeli forces have continued strikes and shelling in the Gaza Strip after diplomatic efforts in Cairo on Saturday ended without progress, and as Israel braces for a serious escalation in the north.

Sirens went off in the area of Ashdod, further north than seen in recent weeks, and the Israeli military said five rockets were launched from southern Gaza. No injuries were reported. Hamas armed wing claimed the rocket firing was in response to Israeli "massacres against the civilians."

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has insisted that Israel must retain control over areas on the border with Egypt and be able to control entry to northern Gaza, said Hamas had yet to agree to a proposed ceasefire and hostage release deal.

Israel seeks the return of 115 Israeli and foreign hostages still being held after they were abducted during the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel.

"I insist that the maximum number of living hostages must be freed in the first stage of the deal

and that the leverage for pressing for the release of all the hostages later be preserved," he said in a statement, denying that his government opposed a deal. "The complete opposite is true," he said.

Hamas has blamed Netanyahu for the lack of progress, saying he is not interested in agreement.

"Things about the agreement have gone beyond the details," Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said. "Netanyahu is dragging the region into an unprecedented clash."

Regional tension has soared following the assassination of Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on Wednesday, a day after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed Fuad Shukur, a top military commander from Lebanese armed group Hezbollah.

Haniyeh's death was one in a series of killings of senior Hamas figures as the Gaza war nears its 11th month.

Hamas and Iran have both accused Israel of carrying out the assassination of Haniyeh and have pledged to retaliate. Israel has neither claimed nor denied responsibility for the death.

Hezbollah, like Hamas, is backed by Iran and has also vowed revenge after the killing of Shukur.

At least 39,550 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli military campaign in Gaza, Gaza health officials say.

President, PM pay tribute to Shaheed police Shuhada

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Both Prime Minister Muhammad Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday paid tribute to the martyred police officers and personnel and saluted them on their sacrifices.

The prime minister said that it was the government's responsibility to look after the bereaved families of Shaheed police officers and personnel and reiterated that no leniency in this regard would be tolerated.

The prime minister assured that the federal government would take all possible steps for the provision of education and health facilities to the children of shuhada, adding that the bereaved families would be taken care of in every possible way.

The prime minister further recollected that during his tenure as chief minister of Punjab, he and announced a big and historic package for the martyred police personnel.

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari paid tribute to Shuhada of police force and said the martyred police personnel had offered valuable sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

On Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police, the president lauded the unmatched bravery and sacrifices of shuhada of police force.

"The entire nation is proud of its valiant police

force for their sacrifices. The police personnel had laid down their lives while fighting on the frontline with terrorists and criminal elements," President Secretariat Press Wing, in a press release in Urdu language, quoted the president as saying.

President Zardari highlighting the role of police force during the success in fight against terrorism said that Jawans of police force had been sacrificing their lives, fighting with terrorists and anti social elements in different parts of the country.

On behalf of the entire nation, the president said, he saluted shuhada of police force on their services and sacrifices.

Dissenting note raises important points regarding reserved seats: Tarar

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar said that two honourable judges of the Supreme Court had raised important points in their dissenting note regarding reserved seats.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that on the issue of reserved seat a party was provided relief which was not a petitioner. He said that two honourable judges of the Supreme Court, Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan, have issued detailed dissenting notes and it said that after the passage of 15 days a detailed verdict of the case had not come.

He said, "Usually a detailed verdict comes within 15 days after a decision is announced."

Attaulah Tarar said that some articles of the Constitution were related to reserved seats, adding that in the reserved seats case, a decision had been given not in line with these articles.

He further said that it was also mentioned in the dissenting note of two honourable judges of the Supreme Court that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had not been a party to this case and to provide it a relief the court had to travel beyond the jurisdiction conferred by Articles 175 and 185 of the Constitution and would also have to suspend Article 51, 63, 106 of the



in the parliament how it could be given reserved seats, he questioned.

Attaulah Tarar said that it was mentioned in the Constitution of Sunni Ittehad Council that no minority member could join it, so it could not get minority seats as well. The Information minister said that a due procedure was followed for electing members on reserved seats.

He further said that PML-N and PPP had filed a review petition on the Supreme Court's reserved seats verdict but it had not been fixed for hearing till now. He said that two honourable judges of the Supreme Court had raised constitutional and legal points in their dissenting note and added that these points were a big question mark on the legal framework and needed to be answered.

A party which has no existence

At least 73 killed as clashes rock Bangladesh

DHAKA (Reuters): At least 73 people were killed and hundreds injured in clashes in Bangladesh on Sunday, as police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse tens of thousands of protesters calling for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign.

The government declared an indefinite nationwide curfew starting at 6 p.m. (1200 GMT) on Sunday, the first time it has taken such a step during the current protests that began last month. It also announced a three-day general holiday starting from Monday.

The unrest, which has prompted the government to shut down internet services, is Hasina's biggest test since January when deadly protests erupted after she won a fourth straight term in elections that were boycotted by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Critics of Hasina, along with human rights groups, have accused her government of using excessive force against protesters, a charge she and her ministers deny.

Demonstrators blocked major highways on Sunday as student protesters launched a non-cooperation program to press for the government's resignation, and violence spread nationwide.

"Those who are protesting on the streets right now

are not students, but terrorists who are out to destabilise the nation," Hasina said after a national security panel meeting, attended by the chiefs of the army, navy, air force, police and other agencies.

"I appeal to our countrymen to suppress these terrorists with a strong hand."

Police stations and ruling party offices were targeted as violence rocked the country of 170 million people.

Twelve policemen were beaten to death in the north-western district of Sirajganj, police official Bijoy Bosak said.

At least five people were killed and dozens injured amid fierce clashes in several places in the capital, Dhaka, police and witnesses said.

Two construction workers were killed on their way to work and 30 injured in the central district of Munsiganj, during a three-way clash of protesters, police and ruling party activists, witnesses said.

"They were brought dead to the hospital with bullet wounds," said Abu Hena Mohammad Jamal, the superintendent of the district hospital.

Police said they had not fired any live bullets.

In the northeastern district of Pabna, at least three people were killed and 50 injured during a clash between protesters and activists of Hasina's ruling

Awami League party, witnesses said.

Three people were killed in violence in the northern district of Bogura, and 30 were killed in 12 other districts, hospital officials said.

"An attack on a hospital is unacceptable," said Health Minister Samanta Lal Sen after a group vandalised a medical college hospital and set fire to vehicles, including an ambulance, in Dhaka.

For the second time during the recent protests, the government shut down high-speed internet services, mobile operators said. Social media platforms Facebook and WhatsApp were not available, even via broadband connections.

Bangladesh authorities instructed the country's telecoms on Sunday to shut down 4G effectively disabling internet services, according to a confidential government memo seen by Reuters.

"You are requested to shut down all your 4G services until further notice, only 2G will be effective," said the document issued by the National Telecommunication Monitoring Center, a government intelligence agency.

Telecoms companies were previously told their licences would be cancelled if they did not comply with government orders, a person with direct knowledge told Reuters.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam along with All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leadership addressing a press conference at PID Media Center.

Punjab to inaugurate Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar scheme

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief minister Maryam Nawaz will inaugurate 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme on August 14. On Sunday, she approved in principle three models for 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme.

Presiding over a meeting here, the CM stopped the authorities from collecting service charges from the plot owners. Model houses have been developed as a pilot programme of the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' initiative. The chief minister ordered to include living room also in the map of model houses. She ordered to introduce toll-free numbers for the convenience of people.

On the directions of the chief minister, the Punjab Information

Technology Board (PITB) will develop a special portal for 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme through which the aspirants would be able to submit online their applications. Secretary Housing Captain (ret'd) Asadullah Khan gave a briefing on the programme.

The meeting was briefed that 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme forms could be obtained from the offices of deputy commissioners and assistant commissioners. Plot owners of up to 5 marlas would be able to get interest-free loan for building their houses. According to the chief minister's instructions, the house owners would get the facility to repay the loan in easy installments. Allottees of the Punjab Housing and

Town Planning Agency (PHATA) under the PHATA Ordinance 2002, would get 3- and 5-marla houses in private schemes.

Meanwhile, according to the programme, allottees of PHATA would pay house installments in five years after buying a house in private scheme. The Punjab government would also provide subsidy to reduce housing cost in private scheme.

In this connection about 70,000 plot owners in any city or village would be able to take loans. Likewise, owner of plot of up to 5-marla would be able to get interest-free loan for building house. Important decisions were approved in the meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

Amir Maqam calls Int'l community to play its role to address Kashmir issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engr Amir Muqam has appealed to the international community and Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) to play their vital role in addressing the longstanding Kashmir valley issue of the region.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, the minister said the Kashmir dispute should be resolved through the resolution of the United Nations as without a solution to this issue there is no peace and development in the region.

He said that the incumbent government was highlighting the Kashmir issue at all appropriate platforms of the globe effectively. The minister underlined that since August 5, 2019, to date in the last five years around 900 people have been killed, more than 2500 freedom fighters injured and many widows have been arrested by Indian forces.

India is claiming the largest democratic state of the world but violating the human rights and suppressing the self-determination rights of Kashmiris, he added.

Amir Muqam asked all parliamentary parties to participate in the walk from Radio Pakistan to D Chowk in Islamabad on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir on August 5. He said on August 5, 2019, the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was repealed by the Modi regime which

will complete five years on August 5.

He said that every year, Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir is also being observed this year. Protest walks and demonstrations have been announced against this illegal move of the Modi government in Pakistan as well as around the world, he said.

Amir Maqam appealed to all parliamentary parties to participate in the walk so that a clear message could be sent to India that the government and people of Pakistan are united on the Kashmir dispute.

He said that the Indian actions were aimed at a process of demographic change and political engineering. As a result, he said that the Kashmiri people are confronted with the danger of becoming a disempowered community in their land.

"India has increased its oppression in IIOJK since August 5, 2019. Efforts are being made to silence the media. The genuine leadership of the Kashmiri people remains behind bars. The Indian authorities have sought the death penalty for one of the most renowned Kashmiri leaders, Yaseen Malik", he said.

He said the harassment of innocent people, arbitrary detentions, 'cordon and search' operations, and extrajudicial killings have become a matter of routine. The Kashmiri people are unable to enjoy their freedom of expression and assembly. Most

importantly, they are unable to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, he said.

He said on this 'Youm-e-Istehsal', we salute the courage and valour of the people of IIOJK, who have rendered countless sacrifices in their struggle for realization of their basic rights.

The international community must demand an end to India's gross and widespread human rights violations in IIOJK, reversal of its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019, repeal of draconian laws; release of political prisoners and implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Amir Maqam said Pakistan will continue to play its role to ensure a free and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions. "Our strong moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people will continue till the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination", he said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed all provinces authorities including Gilgit Baltistan and AJK to befittingly observe Aug 5 Youm-e-Istehsal. The minister also briefed the media about the planned activities for Youm-e-Istehsal to be observed on August 5, including walks, seminars and awareness drives, particularly the ceremonies scheduled to be held at Pakistan's diplomatic missions across the world.

Aug 5 another black day for Kashmiris: Ramesh

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora said in a statement on Sunday that August 5 was another black day for Kashmiri people.

Issuing his statement on Kashmir Exploitation Day, he said that on this day, India had revoked the special status of Kashmir against their wishes and it infringed upon their rights. He said Pakistan had always stood by its Kashmiri brothers and it would continue to support their right to self-determination.

Arora appealed to the international community to take notice of human rights violations in Kashmir and put pressure on India to grant Kashmiri people their rights. He added that the struggle for Kashmir's freedom will continue, and we will keep advocating for Kashmir at every forum.

Singer Akhlaq Ahmad remembered

LAHORE (APP): The 25th death anniversary of renowned playback singer Akhlaq Ahmad was observed on Sunday. He was born on January 10, 1946 and started his career as a singer in 1973 with film 'Pazaib'. He remained a popular playback singer in 1970s and 80s. 'Sona Na Chandi Na Koi Mehal' in film Bandish and 'Savan Aaye Savan Jaaye' in 'Chahat' were his super-hit songs. Akhlaq Ahmad sang nearly 117 songs in 86 films from 1973 to 1998. He died on August 4, 1999 in London due to cancer.

Sindh govt to observe 'Youm-e-Istehsal'

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Government has decided to observe "Youm-e-Istehsal" on August 5 (Monday) by organizing protest rallies, holding seminars, playing documentaries, displaying Kashmiris/ national flags, banners, panaflex against Indian Government's decision of revocation of the special status of disputed

territory of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

"Youm-e-Istehsal" is being observed since last 5 years when Modi regime amended Indian constitution on August 05, 2019.

Sindh Chief Secretary, in a letter addressed to all Deputy Commissioners, asked them to ensure mass

mobilization in form of rallies and compliance dissemination of a thorough message of Youm-e-Istehsal at the respective district/ tehsil headquarters.

In pursuance of the directives, public gatherings, rallies/walk and protests will be organized at district and tehsil headquarters.

Police Martyrs' Day observed across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The Police Martyrs Day was observed across country on Sunday. Candles were lit in memory of police martyrs, across the province in which tribute was paid to those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the nation.

Miscellaneous events were held at the at different places including martyrs memorials, public service delivery centers and at police lines. According to a spokesperson for the Punjab Police, the Police Martyrs Day observations were started officially by lighting candles in the memory of the police martyrs. A large number of families, civil society and citizens participated. August 4 is marked as Police Martyrs Day across the country including Punjab.

Regarding Martyrs Police Day, IGP Punjab Dr Usman Anwar said in his message that the eternal sacrifices of police martyrs would always be remembered. He said martyred policemen were figures of courage and bravery and loyalty to the coun-

try and nation, the welfare and welfare of the families of martyred policemen were being taken care of.

Special documentary released on Police Martyrs' Day:

KARACHI: A special documentary and video was

released by the Security Division on the Police Martyrs' Day here Sunday, wherein tribute was paid to the police personnel and police martyrs. While the interviews of the families of the martyred officials have also been mirrored.

Martyrs are our valuable assets, says CCPO

LAHORE (APP): CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana said on Sunday "martyrs are our valuable asset, whose stories of courage and bravery are an example to follow for the entire force. We pay tribute to all our martyrs on the Police Martyrs' Day."

He expressed these views in his message issued here regarding the Police Martyrs Day observance. He said that 333 martyrs of Lahore Police laid down their lives for their motherland. The CCPO said martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty are the pride of the Pakistani nation.

Another victim of honey trap in Lahore

LAHORE (INP): A shocking honey trap case has emerged in Lahore, where a young man was lured to a woman's apartment, brutally assaulted, and robbed of a significant sum of money.

Hamza, the victim, had recently befriended a girl who invited him to her flat for breakfast. As he arrived, three armed men stormed the location, threatened

KMC depts to be aligned with modern requirements

KARACHI (PPI): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that all departments of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will be aligned with modern requirements and all information related to these departments will be available on the KMC website.

Tickets for recreational facilities such as the Karachi Zoo and Safari Park can be purchased online from home, and advance booking

can also be made through the website. He stated this while presiding over a meeting with officers from the Department of Parks, the Department of Recreation, and the Department of Culture and Sports.

Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi, Senior Director of Culture and Sports Raza Abbas Rizvi, Senior Director of Recreation Iqbal Nawaz, Senior Director of Media Management Ali

Hassan Sajid, Director of Parks Arshad Ali, Senior Director of Municipal Services Zulfiqar Abro, and other officers attended the meeting.

It was decided in the meeting that all KMC departments that deal directly with the public should upload all relevant information on the website. Similarly, various challans, tickets, forms, and other necessary information should also be available on the website.

SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited from KPK / Merged Districts domicile for the following post on contract basis in Public Sector. The application should reach the undersigned within 15 days of publication of this advertisement.

S.No	Position	No. of Post	BPS	Prescribed Qualification	Experience	Max Age Limit
01.	Assistant Psychologist	01	16	M.Sc Psychology having excellent interpersonal skills and well conversant with MS Office.	3-5 year experience in Govt. Semi Govt or autonomous body	25-40 yrs

**Officer Commanding DRC Sabaoon-II
Police Training Centre Shakas
Frontier Road District Khyber
Landline: 091-5863030**

Police checkpoints established

KARACHI (APP): The City Administration will fully support the Water and Sewerage Corporation in its efforts to prevent water theft.

Deputy Commissioners will take effective measures with the help of police to ensure security at hydrants, a police checkpoint will be established at Jangal Hydrant, Janjal Goth, Maymar. Effective security measures will also be taken for other hydrants.

This was decided in a review meeting chaired by Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi at his office, said a press release issued by the Commissioner's Office

here Sunday. The meeting was attended among others by CEO Water and Sewerage Corporation Syed Salahuddin Ahmed, Additional Commissioner I Ghulam Mehdi, Additional Commissioner II Ghazanfar Ali Shah, all Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Commissioner office Rabia Syed, and senior police officers.

The meeting decided that the Water Corporation will continue to supply water through tankers to Mosques, Imambargahs, and national and religious programs in accordance with government policy.

**5TH AUGUST
YOU-M-E-ISTEHSAL**

**ILLEGAL ACTIONS OF
5TH AUGUST 2019**

**AN ATTACK ON
KASHMIRIS' RIGHT
TO SELF-DETERMINATION**

**5TH AUGUST IS THE DARK DAY WHEN INDIA REVOKED THE
SPECIAL STATUS OF INDIAN OCCUPIED JAMMU AND KASHMIR.**

The illegal acts hold no legitimacy under International Law.
The People of Pakistan and Kashmir have rejected these acts.
The Government of Pakistan and its People will continue their moral, diplomatic, and legal support for the fundamental rights of Kashmiris.

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
Government of Pakistan**

f /GovtofPakistan www.moib.gov.pk



PESHAWAR: People buying flags and other stuff, from a cart at Qissa Khwani Bazaar, related to Independence Day celebrations. — INP photo

MDCAT-2024 exam to be held nationwide on September 22



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC) has announced that the MDCAT - 2024 Examination will be conducted across Pakistan, including Islamabad and Gilgit-Baltistan, on Sunday, September 22, 2024. This examination is necessary for admission into public and private medical and dental colleges. Students should register themselves on the official website of PM&DC from 5th August.

In line with the directives of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government and PM&DC, the paper-based exam will be simultaneously held in six regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Peshawar, Mardan, Kohat, Abbottabad, Swat, and Dir Lower.

To discuss these direc-

tives and ensure meticulous planning and execution, a special meeting was held on Sunday, chaired by Vice Chancellor KMU Meritorious Prof Dr. Zia Ul Haq. The meeting focused on the directives from PM&DC and the Provincial Government, which emphasize the importance of thorough planning and efficient execution to uphold high standards of transparency in the MDCAT examination process.

During the meeting, the Vice Chancellor briefed the participants on the necessary arrangements, logistics, and timelines. He also sought their input and suggestions to ensure the successful and fair conduct of the MDCAT-2024 examination.

KPRA launches registration, monitoring, enforcement drive

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) on Sunday launched a special registration, monitoring, and enforcement drive in the Galiyat, Naran, and Kaghan regions to facilitate businesses associated with the services sector and ensure tax compliance. Teams of KPRA officers will visit the business premises of service providers to provide on-the-spot registration.

The teams will examine the sales records of service providers already registered with KPRA to ensure tax compliance and discourage tax evasion.

Director General Fauzia Iqbal stated that the purpose of initiating this special campaign is to facilitate the registration process for businesspersons in these areas, improve tax compliance, and ensure that the tax paid by taxpayers is reaching the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government treasury.

Fauzia Iqbal urged tourists visiting these spots to pay their taxes as a national responsibility. Tax evasion will not be tolerated under any circumstances, and strict legal action will be taken against those involved in tax evasion, she said.

Paying taxes is our legal obligation. Your taxes will not only make your province financially stable, but

the funds will be spent on the development and beautification of these areas, providing you with the best possible facilities and enhancing the beauty of these scenic areas.

This will help the businesses operating in these areas to thrive, and our province will proceed on the path to prosperity. Addressing the businesspersons, she said that the tax paid by the public is entrusted to them by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, and it is their legal responsibility to submit the tax money to the government's treasury with full honesty. Strict legal action will be taken against those involved in tax evasion, she added.

KP's boxing association election held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The KP's Boxing Association Election are successfully held.

The aim of the KP's Boxing Association is to upskill our youth and create a healthy atmosphere for the promotion of boxing in the province and the country. These views were expressed by newly elected Chairman of the KP's Boxing Association, and Director General NIM/PARD/PPSA Captain (R) Usman Gul while appreciating the untiring efforts of the entire association including its management, organizers, office holders, workers and guests who participated from different divisions of the province.

Captain Usman Gul is a BS-21 officer of Pakistan Administrative Service who have a vast experience of both civil and military service to his credit.

He has also served as commissioner Malakand, Quetta and Sibi Divisions. Currently, he is serving as Director General of the three esteemed training institutions in Peshawar i.e. NIM/PARD/PPSA.

While expressing his views on the occasion, Mr. Gul also thanked and appreciated the efforts and services of Secretary Pakistan Boxing Federation Colonel Nasir Tung, Younus Pathan, Raja Atif, Assistant Director of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sports Board Ashfaq Ahmed, President of the KP's Boxing Association Azhar Ali and Secretary Khizr Ullah.

He also acknowledged the efforts of Qadir Zaman, Arshad Hussain, and Hamad Shah in this regard. While expressing his views, Mr. Gul highlighted that sports is a positive and healthy activity which, apart from its positive effects on the minds of our youth, will add to a tolerant and competitive society.

He said that boxing is a key sport and different associations and federation together can achieve the desired results of promoting this sport in the province and the country.

He further said that elections are a democratic way bringing of the right kind of people for right positions. He reposed full confidence in the newly elected office bearers and hoped that the newly elected office bearers will do better and better for the promotion of boxing in the province.

He said that no stone will be left unturned for the promotion of boxing and that all the available resources will be utilized to facilitate and encourage the players.

At the end, the representatives of the KP's Sports Board also assured full support for the promotion of boxing in the province.

Gandapur flays Indian atrocities in Kashmir

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, strongly condemned the atrocities inflicted upon the people of occupied Kashmir by India, especially the unilateral revocation of Kashmir's special status by the Indian government over the past five years.

He said that the people of occupied Kashmir have been victims of Indian state terrorism for the last seven decades. During this period, India has gone to great lengths to deprive the Kashmiri people of their basic right to self-determination.

He said that when fascist India saw that despite all its oppressive tactics, the Kashmiri people stood firm for their rights, the fascist Indian government started a new chapter of oppression and tyranny against the helpless Kashmiri people by abolishing Article 370, which granted special status to Kashmir, on August 5, 2019, which is a matter of concern for international human rights institutions.

In a special message issued on Kashmir Exploitation Day, the Chief Minister said that we condemn the worst state terrorism being perpetrated by India in occupied Kashmir for the past five years and reaffirm our commitment to continue supporting the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination on moral, political, and diplomatic levels.

The Chief Minister said that our unarmed Kashmiri brothers and sisters are standing firm in the face of Indian oppression, and it is concerning that despite the presence of human rights organizations and UN resolutions, the Kashmiri Muslims are being subject-

ed to oppression.

Ali Amin Gandapur urged international powers, the United Nations, and other human rights organizations to take note of India's oppression of the Kashmiri people and play their role in ensuring they are allowed to live according to their wishes.

The Chief Minister demanded that the Kashmir issue be resolved in light of UN resolutions and the wishes and plebiscite of the Kashmiri people because the peace of this entire region is linked to the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Police Chief commends fallen officers

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Hayat Khan, lauded the sacrifices of the brave police force during the 10th annual Police Martyrs' Day ceremony held in Peshawar.

He emphasized that the freedom enjoyed today is due to the sacrifices of the officers and soldiers who have watered this land with their blood. He reaffirmed the commitment of every officer and soldier to continue serving the nation and its people until their last drop of blood.

Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur was the chief guest at the event. In his speech, the police chief highlighted the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police's pivotal role as a frontline force in the fight against terrorism. Despite challenges like a lack of modern weaponry, equipment, manpower, and training, the officers and soldiers have remained steadfast, acting as a solid wall of courage against the enemies.

Traders pay tributes to martyred policemen

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Under the leadership of Trade Union Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President Mujeebur Rahman, a peace rally was held in connection with Police Martyrs' Day and paid tributes to their swerifices.

DSP Cantt Amjad Khan, Nowthia Choki-in-charge Faheem Han President Aziz Khan President Naseeruddin Hashemi President Shah Fahad President Kamran Malik Asad, Malik Khalid and other leaders and business community in large numbers were present.

President Mujibur Rehman addressed the authority and said that tributes were paid to the sacrifices of the police martyrs, peace in the whole country, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, thanks to the sacrifices of the police of our province.

He further said that he thanked all the honorable guests and participants because today we have gathered here on a very important occasion, the purpose of which is to pay tribute to our brave martyrs who are doing their duty.

They have sacrificed their lives during duties and provided a safe and peaceful society, their sacrifices are a symbol of the essence of our force, courage and determination.

He further said that today we express solidarity with the families of these martyrs. are partners and their welfare is our first priority, the police have been on the target of terrorists for a long time, due to which the police of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been martyred since the last 40 years, which is proof of this. It is said that the police force is second to none in sacrificing their lives for the establishment of peace in this land. Due to working as a frontline force, the police is fighting terrorism despite the limited resources, in which many Police officers and other personnel have sacrificed their lives. It is a matter of honor to die as a martyr for any force officer and this is the reason why today we are proud of our police force and their families for our martyrs.

On behalf of these martyrs, there are eternal sacrifices, and with us, the merchant community and the people have made a complete sacrifice, and they have fully supported and cooperated in every position and difficult time. They agreed with each other against drugs and always remember all the sacrifices.

Businessmen meet Chief Collector Customs

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A delegation of businessmen apprised newly appointed chief customs collector Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regarding hurdles and problems in the cross border trade and gave a number of proposals for smooth and amicable resolution of problems.

According to a statement issued last day, a delegation of the Frontier Custom Agents Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa led by its president Ziaul Haq Sarhadi held a meeting with newly appointed custom collector Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nasir Jamil in Model Custom House Peshawar.

The FCAA KP delegation consisted of the association's senior vice president, Khalid Shehzad, Vice President Intiaz Ahmad Ali, Secretary General Mian Wahid Bacha and executive committee member Shakeel Ahmad. Sarhadi formally congratulated Nasir Jamil for assuming charge as Chief Collector Custom KP and said that the business community appreciated and expressed complete satisfaction on this decision.

FCAA KP chief informed the senior custom official about hurdles in Pak-Afghan bilateral trade, especially problems that were being faced by importers and exporters and custom clearing agents and gave various proposals for redressal.

He said chief collector customs served on various important positions in the past who had played a pivotal role in resolution of business community issues.

Kashmir Exploitation Day today

PESHAWAR (APP): The people of Kashmir living on both sides of Line of Control (LoC) were all set to observe Kashmir Exploitation Day on Monday (today) to condemn the illegal revoking of the special status of IIOJ&K by India five years ago on August 5, 2019.

From Chitral to D. I. Khan and Waziristan to Kohistan, the Kashmiris living in all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have planned protest rallies, demonstrations and walks to condemn the illegal abolishment of the special status of IIOJ&K by the fascist Modi Government on August 5, 2019.

The transports, wagons and rickshaws unions of KP would also take out protest rallies in support of their Kashmiris brothers and sisters.

The civil society including lawyers, politicians and students would also take out rallies in front of Peshawar Press Club to deplore the Indian Govt illegal acts of August 5, 2019.

The people would raise placards and banners inscribed with different slogans like Kashmir Banay Ga Pakistan and India Go out of Kashmir.

The TV channels would air special programs and newspapers to issue special supplements in connection with the black day.

Kashmiri's – Decades old saga of world's neglect

PESHAWAR (APP): As world conscience drowns deep in oblivioness, innocent Kashmiris continue to daring unending Indian hegemony and tyranny rendering valuable sacrifices over the past seven and half decades with no immediate solution visible around.

August 05, 2019 was another example of Indian thralldom in Illegally Indian Occupied Kashmir (IIOJK) when Narendra Modi led fascist regime abrogated Article 370 and 35A in utter neglect to inalienable rights of Kashmiris to self-determination as assured in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

Not only this but it is also height of Indian arrogance that its occupational forces killed over 900 Kashmiris, injured more than 2430, arrested and tortured around 24,688 citizens, destroyed 1119 structures, widowed 68 and gang raping or molesting 133 women since 2019 to quell the freedom struggle and uprising against the unlawful act of Modi's regime.

According to 'Freedom in the World' report 2023, tens of thousands of additional Indian troops have been deployed to the region since August 2019, to quash public expressions or opposition to the Reorganization Act. There is lack of political participation as repressive policies have been imposed to promote censorship and human rights violation.

Under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), several journalists, freedom fighters and human rights activists were detained after raiding their houses. Additionally, they were declared terrorists and compelled to spend their lives in incarcation without being found guilty.

Secondly, the introduction of Sedition Law (Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code) has clamped freedom of speech while other acts like Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA) were also used as tools for continued subjugation.

"After abrogation of article 370 and 35A, demographic changes are also in pipeline involving new domicile rules, with millions of so-called domicile certificates issued to non-Kashmiri outsiders, who became eligible after abrogation of these articles," stated Chairman Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) Altaf Hussain Wani.

"Voting rights were also given to non-residents," he informed saying that properties were confiscated and Newland laws introduced to enable land to be seized from locals and transferred to outsiders as the BJP authorities seized the J&K Waqf Board in 2022. "This marked a drive to take control of all prominent places of religious significance for Muslims in the occupied territory, including shrines. Religious leaders and Islamic scholars were also arrested and prayers were barred in many mosques across Kashmir."

As the world nations remain oblivious to Kashmiris calls for right to self-determination, India carried forward its agenda of out numbering local people by issuing domiciles and allotting land to outsiders in negation of the UNSC resolutions.

"Delimitation plan announced by the Indian government handed over six more seats to Jammu in the J&K Assembly holding the capacity of 90 seats," remarked Qirat Mirza, a student of International Islamic University. "Consequently, the representation of Jammu increased to 43 percent while representation of Kashmir remained at 47 percent.

However, according to the 2011 census, Kashmir Valley's population was seven million and Jammu's 5.3m."

She said even after such blatant violations of international laws, the BJP regime had attempted to hold G20 summit in 2023 to legitimize its brutal control over the disputed territory that met disproportionate opposition from the local people.

She said even the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Fernand de Varennes, raising concerns on human rights violation in IIOJK had asserted, "the government of India is seeking to normalize what some have described as a military occupation by instrumentalizing a G20 meeting and portraying an international seal of approval."

Even the Indian apex court, being under pressure of Modi's regime faded away the aspirations of Kashmiri people who thought would get justice from the court of law.

"On Dec 11, 2023, Indian Supreme court upheld the abrogation of Article 370 granting a status of autonomous territory to Kashmir. It was a painful decision for Kashmiri people," said former Caretaker Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Mushaal Hussain Mulick."

She said the petition was signed by sundry parties particularly challenging the constitutionality of the Presidential order and the segregation of J&K into two union territories and Kashmiris were waiting that Supreme Court would set aside the Presidential order of 2019.

"But, the situation took an unexpected turn. The Supreme Court not only declared the processes for abrogation as constitutional but also stated, there are no constraints on powers of the President in abrogating special status of Kashmir," she said.

Therefore, Mushaal said, "India's claim of normalcy in Kashmir is baseless in the face of political, religious and human rights violations and the people of Kashmir are disenchanted with the Indian government for turning the valley into hotbed for militancy."

The feelings of doom and gloom are pervasive as people grapple with marginalization and alienation as the Indian government responds to every gesture by deploying more security personnel in the valley. It depicts abrogation of Article 370 as an attempt to bring integration while it is nothing more than a step towards subjugation and cultural erosion.



In brief

Two factories sealed

FAISALABAD (APP): Punjab Food Authority (PFA) sealed two factories on the charge of preparing spurious food items in Faisalabad. A PFA spokesman said here on Sunday that a team, on a tip-off, raided Gulshan-e-Rehman Town, Canal Road, and unearthed a factory where spurious Desi ghee was being prepared through chemicals. The PFA team seized 750 kilogram packed spurious Desi ghee and 350 kg banaspati ghee in addition to sealing the factory premises and confiscating various items including freezer, drums, cylinder, stove, pump, ghee tins, etc. Meanwhile, a PFA team also detected another factory in Kaleem Shaheed Colony where unhygienic toffees were being prepared through chemical and harmful materials. The team sealed the premises of the factory after confiscating materials including chemicals, spurious products. Further action is under progress, the spokesman added.

Police martyrs remembered

F.P. Report

BUNER: A grand ceremony in memory of Buner police martyrs was held at Police Line Daggar on Sunday. The relatives of the Buner police martyrs also participated in the ceremony. The participants placed buckets of flowers on the "Yadgar e Shuhada". They prayed for eternal rest and best reward in best Jannah by Almighty Allah. Colonel Mohammad Adnan of Pak Army Buner Unit, Deputy Commissioner Buner Kashif Qayyum, District Police Officer Buner Shah Hasan, President of Buner Loya Jirga Mian Syed Laiq Bacha, SP Investigation Buner, President Buner Bar Mian Naeemuddin Bacha, All DSPs including circle DSP Sher Wali Khan, SHO Daggar Javed Khan, SHO Pir Baba Afsan Khan, RI police Line Inam Khan attended. Colonel Mohammad Adnan Deputy Commissioner Kashif Qayyum DPO Shah Hassan and parents of the martyrs in their short speech paid tribute to the martyrs of Buner Police and said that the sacrifices of the martyrs are great. They added the martyrs sacrificed their lives for the sake of the nation and the country in line their duties to restore peace the cost of own precious lives. They pledged the police army and civilians martyrs will always be remembered. District Police Officer Shah Hassan assured the relatives of the martyrs that the doors of the office will always be open for you and anyone can come to the office if they have any problem.

FESCO issues shutdown plan

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued shutdown programme for Monday for necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the programme, power supply from Kamal Limited, Five Star Food Gourmet, Itehad, Kamran Mill, Rasheed Fabrics and Five Star feeders linked with 132-KV FIEDMC grid station will remain suspended from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. while FIEDMC, ATH, Coca Cola, Orient Material, Karas Paint, Hayat Chemia, Daily JW and Ghani Ceramics feeders attached with 132-KV FIEDMC grid station, Hyundai Nishat, Afridi Textile, Tapal Textile, Nishat Swits, Hayat Chemia No.2, Time Ceramics No.2, Sargodha Cloth, Maheen Textile and National Foods feeders connected with 132-KV FIEDMC-II grid station.

Yum-e-Shuhada observed in Khyber

Ahmad Nabi

LANDI KOTAL: Police Martyrs' Day was observed in the Khyber on Sunday to pay tribute to the sacrifices of policemen who laid down their lives for the protection of the citizens.

In this connection a gathering was organized at police line, Shahkas, Jamrud that was attended by District Police Officer (DPO) Khyber Saleem Abbas Kulachvi, Brigadier Ali Adil Yameen, Members Provincial Assembly Abdul Ghani Afridi, and Suhail

Afridi besides number of tribal elders, relatives of the martyred soldiers and police officials.

Addressing on the occasion DPO, Khyber Saleem Abbas Kulachvi and others paid homage to the unmatched sacrifices of the police cops and said the martyrs had written a history of bravery and courage with their blood.

Those who sacrificed their lives were not only heroes of the forces but also of the whole nation, they added and said observing the Police Martyrs Day

aimed to honor brave fighters of the nation and express solidarity with their families.

Police Martyrs' Day reminded us about the unforgettable sacrifices of the policemen, they remarked.

Earlier, a blood donation camp was organized where the police officials donated their blood for the ailing segments of the society.

Besides, floral wreaths were also laid at the martyrs' memorial and offered fatcha for the departed souls.

Three people washed away by recent rains in Karak

Shafiuddin Shafqi

KARAK: In Lughar Algada, rains washed away 3 people including Siraj Khel and Yusuf Khel and 3 people in the valleys of death.

The recent rains have destroyed Takht Nusrati Tehsil Takht Nusrati due to the rapid flow of Algada

River causing financial and human losses in Takht Nusrati. Due to the torrential flood and rapid flow of Lughar Algada, 26-year-old Shahzad of Winky Siraj Khel was engulfed and pushed into the valley of death.

On the other hand, Yusuf Khel's grandfather, Aurangzeb, 60, and Arian,

12, got stuck in the middle of Algada and were swept away by the heavy rains. Whose dead bodies were found in the area of Bannu. Whose funeral prayer was offered at 6 o'clock in Yusuf Khel.

The late Hasrat Ustad was the brother and nephew of the official of the People's Teachers Forum.



QUETTA: Motorcyclists travelling towards their destination during rain in provincial capital.

Police Martyrs Day observed in Hafizabad



Hafiz M. Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFIZABAD: National Police Martyrs' Day observed here, on Sunday to pay homage to services of police department.

In this connection, Deputy Commissioner Sundas Irshad and District Police Officers Faisal Gulzar lit candles at momentum of martyred to honour brave policemen of the nation and expressed solidarity with their families. Prominent citizens were also present on this occasion.

Another function was also arranged at a private hall. Families of police martyred, police officers, ADCG Hamadullah and other people attended the ceremony.

DPO Faisal Gulzar calls

on families of police martyred and appreciated sacrifices of police 'Jawans' for establishing peace.

He said that martyrdom of police 'Jawans' were integrity of our new generation and brave people were remained alive in the history. He also said that sacrifices of police 'Jawans' would be remembered forever.

Meanwhile, Former Federal Minister Health and Chairperson Chief Minister's Special Initiatives Committee Hafizabad Saira Afzal Tarar has said that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif is taking keen interest to provide healthcare and other facilities to people at their doorsteps across the province including Hafizabad.

While talking to media-men after visiting DHQ Hospital Hafizabad, she said that the Punjab government was provided medicines on the directions of the Chief Minister Punjab and medicines and other treatment facilities were being given to patients in the hospital.

She said that health facilities were improved in the DHQ in the great extant while free of cost delivery and operations were being conducted in the hospital.

Replaying to a question, she said that arrival of patients from other districts was reflected that performance of DHQ Hospital was improved significantly.

Responding to a question regarding attitude of doctors and security staff, she said that people were not tolerated delay or human error at all and come to blows but in case of same situation in private hospitals, people remain quite and did not lose their stamina all while people should also be showed endurance instead to quarrel with doctors and hospital staff.

Secretary Information Hafizabad Muhammad Zaman Bhone and other workers of PMLN were also present at this occasion.



HYDERABAD: A vendor displaying umbrellas to attract the customers at Gymkhana Chowk during rain in the city. — APP photo

Shahryar expresses dissatisfaction over safety measures

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Former Federal Interior Minister and Member of National Assembly Shehryar Afridi along with Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Mutasim Billah Shah and Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram, on Public complaints, paid a surprise visit to Kohat Development Authority (KDA) where they inspected the ongoing Sanitation and Drinking

Water Project costing billions of rupees.

Sheryar Afridi during the inspection raised various questions on safety measures and said that as a professional organization, it is very sad not to take safety measures because safety measures are starting any project.

He also severely criticized the policy of the executing agency and said that the previous work should be made safe

for the people before going ahead in the populated areas.

He pointed out that a child fell in an open Main Hole in the past days and a car also fell, but it is the grace of Allah that there was no loss of life.

Shahryar Afridi asked the Commissioner Kohat to sit with the relevant institutions and the construction company to find out a solution and immediately stop the policy of leaving behind and go

ahead and ensure the safety of people lives and property. Apart from this, review the safety measures in the ongoing work and form a special team for monitoring, he further asked.

Residents of KDA thanked Shehryar Afridi MNA, Commissioner Kohat and Deputy Commissioner Kohat for taking keen interest in this important matter on behalf of the residents of KDA.

Law Minister condoles

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate, Chairman DDAC Kohat Shafi Jan MPA and Daud Afridi MPA visited Ghangul Sharif Kohat where they condoled the sad demise of the father of the Sajjada Nashin Astana-e-Ghangul Sharif Kohat Late Pir Munawar Badshah who was died the other day.

They remained there for some time and expressed their heartfelt sympathies with the Sajjad Nashin and other members of the bereaved family.

Aftab Alam, Shafi Jan and Daud Afridi prayed the Allah Almighty to shower His special Blessings on the departed soul and grant him a place in Jannat ul Firdos. They also prayed that may Allah Almighty grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with patience and fortitude.

Welfare of martyrs' families

priority: Bugti

QUETTA (APP): Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Sunday pledged that welfare of the martyrs' families is a top priority of the government and ensured full support to the families of the police martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

On Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police, the Chief Minister (CM) expressed complete solidarity with the families of the martyrs, laid a floral wreath at Martyrs Monument and offered Fatiha for the fallen national heroes.

In commemoration of the Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police (Police Martyrs Day), Balochistan CM Bugti paid homage to all those martyrs who embraced Shahadat to ensure the safety and security of our nation. He ordered that such a tradition should be set up that the special guests of this event would be the families of the martyrs.

"The police martyrs are the pride of the nation and we salute to the martyrs who made eternal sacrifices to maintain peace in the province and make the public safe", he maintained.

Sarfraz Bugti said that martyrdom is a great rank and the families of the martyrs are close to our hearts as living nations never forget their martyrs and heroes.

Traditional Games – A dying legacy of our rich culture

FAISALABAD (APP): As the urban galore continues to overshadowing rural lifestyle and our rich cultural heritage, indigen games involving men, animals and birds are marginalizing from our culture with younger generation least known to once top sports of our ancestors.

Once an integral part of our culture, traditional games like 'bulls race', 'native wrestling', 'kabaddi', 'hide and seek', 'dog and bear fight', 'equilibrists juggling', and much more, gradually faded away and replaced by modern and online computer games.

The mesmerizing melodious voices of Roosters 'Cock-a-doodle-do' to partridges 'Kut, Kut, kut', Quails 'Wet My Lips', Cuckoos 'Cuck-oo', or sparrows' chirping are also no more heard even at village fairs and festivals, if any organized somewhere in the country these days.

The legacy of skill, strength, agility, speed, strategy and endurance manifested in 'kabaddi', 'desi kushti', 'malakhra', 'dog racing', and 'cocks fighting', once mandatory part of our rural life, is gradually dying with the passage of time.

"Such melodies are hard to find these days though they were once remarkable features of rural life," said Ahmad Ali Ghabro from Shujabad. "Onslaught of modern gadgets out rightly changed the situation. Now, our younger generation only reads in books about these sports."

Gone are the days when people used to nurture cocks, quails, roosters, cuckoos for their melodious voice competitions and the winners were awarded prizes. And if any exists somewhere it keeps away from the eyes of media.

"Media is enormously overwhelmed by coverage of cricket, football, hockey and other games for being driven by potent advertising mechanisms and financing by the governments, sports bodies and commercial entities," said Manzoor Pehelwan, a wrestling veteran retired

from PIA.

"Before partition 'Desi Kushti' was as popular as cricket is today. There were 100 to 150 'Akhadas' in Multan alone where wrestlers were trained," said Manzoor, once an active organizer of 'Desi Kushti' (traditional wrestling) competitions.

He said his elders told that a 'Dangal' (Kushti Competition) was organized in Multan in 1950 to raise money for promotion of cricket and football. "But, what an irony that these modern sports ate up our traditional legacy. Although traditional wrestling remained popular till 1980s yet it declined thereon due to lack of financing and unity among wrestlers."

Neighing and galloping horses in tent pegging and dancing competitions and racing bulls in open grounds are also diminishing gradually. Even if anywhere someone is associated to these sports or such events are organized, they scarcely find a camera lens or pen work to tell a story to our youth.

Kazim Peerzada, a landlord from Vehari, is the one among few, still engaged in pastime of their ancestors like bull race and horse dance. "We are doing it for last 70-80 years. We nurture and train bulls for race and horses for dance."

He said, it takes 12 months to train a horse for dancing and much more time for a bull to become a race winning. "But when a horse or bull wins a competition, its victory brings us praise and pride." Amidst multiple challenges for survival, some fanciers of these sports in Central and South Punjab are still associated to these games and bear expenses incurred on rearing these animals.

Sajjad Dogar and Tahir Abbas a youngster from Layyah are among those, carrying out this legacy even today by organizing bull race. "It is held every month in our village but with much pomp and show during Baisakhi Mela and people enjoy these sports in large number," Tahir

Abbas.

He however regretted, "these sports are declining due to waning traditional village festivals (Mela) and increasing cost of nurturing and training a horse, bull or even a cock."

Amidst the saga of this dying splendor, Nawab Furqan, the President of Traditional Sports and Games Community (TS&GC), was upbeat about revival of traditional games in Pakistan after he recently organized a three-day traditional sports event in Orakzai Agency with the support of the government.

"The event attracted large number of people who enjoyed 'Desi Kushti', sling shot contests, marbles, tent pegging, Kabaddi, traditional archery, paragliding and horse and camel dance," he informed.

He mentioned that TS&GC also provide training to individuals and teams and a 3-day national course on traditional games will begin at Khanas Pur from Aug 27 to 29. "TS&GC would also send a national team to participate in World Nomads Games being held in Kazakhstan next month."

World Nomads Games are held every two years and include traditional games of Pakistan and rest of the world, he said. "People were thinking that traditional games had no future but when TS&GC bore the torch to revive them, the government also recognized our efforts making it a part of policy."

Meanwhile, District Sports Officer Farooq Latif said, sports department hold regular competitions of Desi Kushti, Volley Ball, Kabaddi. "To promote other games like 'Kokla Chapaki', 'Bandar-Killa', Gilli-Danda, etc we are planning to hold these games at Women University (WU) Multan."

"All we want is to teach our youth of our culture and heritage to infuse positivity and save them from negativity of bad company and objectionable content on social media," Farooq Latif said.





Ukraine intensifies its long-range strikes, sinking a Russian submarine and striking an airfield



KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine has sunk a Russian submarine and hit a Russian airfield in

the past 24 hours, in line with a surge of long-range attacks against Russian targets, officials said.

Russia said Ukrainian drones also hit an apartment building, killing one person.

The uptick in attacks since July comes as Ukraine mounts pressure on allies to allow it to use

long-range missiles to strike targets in Russia. Western allies, in particular the U.S., have so far resisted, fearing escalation from Moscow.

Ukraine struck a Russian Kilo-class submarine and an S-400 anti-aircraft missile complex in the Moscow-occupied Crimean peninsula, according to a statement from the General Staff on Saturday. The air defense system was established to protect the Kerch Strait Bridge, an important logistics and transport hub supplying Russian forces.

Units of the missile forces, as well as the Navy, damaged four launchers of the Triumph air defense system, while in the port of Sevastopol, the “Rostov-on-Don” — a submarine of Russia’s Black Sea fleet — was attacked and sank, the statement said.

The General Staff also confirmed that Ukrainian forces struck the Morozovsk airfield in the Rostov region after launching a massive drone barrage on Russia. Hits were recorded in warehouses with ammunition, where guided aerial bombs were stored. The operation was carried out by the Security Service of Ukraine, the Main Directorate of Intelligence and the Defense Ministry, the statement said.

Meanwhile, Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said that a woman was killed in a Ukrainian drone strike on an apartment building in the town of Shebekino early Sunday. Ukrainian drones also damaged several other buildings in the town, he said.

Gladkov said eight civilians have been wounded in the region by

Ukrainian shelling and dozens of drone strikes since the previous day.

In the span of a month, Russia has experienced a surge in the tempo of Ukrainian drone barrages and long-range attacks, targeting Russian military infrastructure, including airfields and oil depots. Analysts say such an intensification is needed if Ukraine is to degrade Russian capabilities.

In other developments: — Ukraine’s human rights ombudsman, Dmytro Lubinets, said he has appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations to investigate a photo that allegedly shows the body of a Ukrainian prisoner of war tortured and executed by Russian forces.

He has also asked Ukrainian authorities to verify the identity of the deceased.

The photo, circulating on social media, shows the body of a person without a head or limbs. The Associated Press was unable to verify it.

“This is not just a violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, this is the behavior of monsters,” Lubinets said in a statement on Telegram.

“We are aware of recent reports online and in the media. We take these reports extremely seriously. The way we work is to respond via relevant authorities directly and confidentially,” Pat Griffiths, ICRC Spokesperson in Ukraine, told the Associated Press on Sunday when asked about Lubinets’s request.

“Speaking generally, the law of armed conflict is clear. Prisoners of war must be treated humanely at all times,” he added.

Anti-immigration unrest hits parts of Britain

LONDON (Reuters): Anti-immigration protesters broke hotel windows and set bins on fire in northern England on Sunday in the latest wave of unrest that has presented a major test to new Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s government.

Violent protests involving hundreds of anti-immigration protesters have erupted in towns and cities across Britain after three girls were killed in a knife attack at a children’s dance class in Southport in northwest England last week.

The murders were seized on by anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim groups as misinformation spread that the suspected attacker was an immigrant and a radical Islamist. Police have said the sus-

pect was born in Britain. Media reports have said his family is Christian.

Violent disorder broke out in cities around the country on Saturday, including Liverpool, Bristol and Manchester, resulting in dozens of arrests as shops and businesses were vandalised and looted and several police were injured, police statements said. The government has promised tough action against people taking part in the violence.

On Sunday, hundreds of anti-immigration protesters gathered by a hotel that has been used to house asylum seekers near Rotherham, northern England.

The protesters threw bricks at police and broke several hotel windows, a

Reuters witness said, before setting bins on fire. Dozens of other protesters gathered by another such hotel in Aldershot, southern England.

In both Rotherham and the north-west town of Lancaster, there were anti-racist counterprotesters, with police keeping the two groups apart.

As protests began in Bolton, near Manchester, police said that a dispersal notice had been authorised to give officers extra powers to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Chief Inspector Natasha Evans of Greater Manchester Police said police there would continue to mount an increased police presence to deal with any incidents.

The weekend’s protests followed several days of

disorder.

Starmer, a former chief prosecutor who took office a month ago after his Labour Party won a decision election victory over the long-ruling Conservatives, has said the unrest is the result of deliberate actions by the far-right, co-ordinated by a “group of individuals who are absolutely bent on violence,” rather than legitimate protest.

Interior minister Yvette Cooper said on Saturday said that “those who engage in criminal disorder face the strongest possible penalties”.

The last time violent protests erupted across Britain was in 2011 when thousands of people took to the streets after police shot dead a Black man in London.



LONDON: Anti-immigration protesters gather outside a hotel in Rotherham, Britain, Sunday.

Nigerian leader calls for end to hardship protests

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP): Nigeria’s leader on Sunday called for an end to mass protests over economic hardship, saying the rallies have turned violent and blaming “a few with a political agenda” for driving them.

The protests, which began Thursday, have been accompanied by reports of looting and vandalism, as well as accusations that security forces have used excessive force. Amnesty International has reported the deaths of nine protesters in clashes with police, while another four were killed by a bomb. The Nigerian police denied the Amnesty report.

“I have heard you loud and clear,” President Bola Tinubu said in his first public remarks on the demonstrations. “I understand the pain and frustration that drive these protests, and I want to assure you that our government is committed to listening and addressing the concerns of our citizens.”

But, he said, “a few with a clear political agenda to tear this nation

apart” would be resisted by security forces.

The protests reflect frustration with the worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation and accusations of misgovernment and corruption in Africa’s most populous country, a top oil producer where public officials’ huge earnings contrast with high poverty and hunger levels.

Tinubu’s aides have said the protests are politically motivated. His election last year was disputed by the opposition, after he won with 37% of the vote, the smallest margin of any Nigerian president ever. The election also recorded the lowest turnout since 1999, when the country returned to democracy.

The protesters have also been inspired by other young people in Kenya who held rallies last month to oppose a planned tax hike.

The Nigerian leader said that his government “will not stand idly” and allow the looting reported in the past days to continue.

“Under the circumstances, I hereby enjoin

protesters and the organizers to suspend any further protest and create room for dialogue,” he said.

The military has also threatened to intervene to quell violence.

Tinubu defended the audacious reforms that were supposed to save the government money and shore up dwindling foreign investment, but whose immediate impact has added to hardships.

The reforms, including the suspension of decades-old gas subsidies and currency devaluation, have had a knock-on effect on the price of just about everything else because they’ve been poorly implemented, analysts say.

“The economy is recovering; please, don’t shut out its oxygen,” Tinubu said.

In a region that has witnessed rampant military coups off the back of popular discontent with democratically elected governments, the Nigerian leader warned the protests could also threaten the country’s democracy.

“Forward ever, backward never!” he said.

Two Russian ex-prisoners from East-West swap want to return home

BONN, Germany (Reuters): Two of the Russian dissidents who were freed from prison and arrived in Germany as part of last week’s major East-West prisoner swap say they are already thinking about returning to Russia, but vow to continue political activism even from abroad.

The swap saw eight Russians, including a convicted murderer, returned home from Western countries in exchange for 16 prisoners freed from Russian and Belarusian jails, many of them Russian dissidents alongside Americans like Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich.

“As people who were actually deported, who were kicked out of the country, we all have a great desire to return,” dissident Andrei Pivovarov told Reuters in an interview in Bonn on Saturday.

“I definitely want to be in Russia. I am a Russian politician and that is very important to me,” Pivovarov said. “It is clear that they (the Russian authorities) will not allow us to return, although we want to.”

Ilya Yashin, an opposition activist imprisoned in 2022 for criticising President Vladimir Putin’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, also expressed his desire to return home.

“I am truly pained by my expulsion from Russia, despite all the gratitude I feel towards those who wished me well and saved me,” Yashin told Reuters. “But I sincerely say that my place is in Russia ... I have dedicated my life to my country.” Yashin said he was happy to see his family and friends for the first time in a long while. But on the other hand, he said it was “a hard pill to swallow.”

“It’s very difficult for me emotionally because I understand that I was set free at the price of setting free an assassin, a person who actually committed a bloody crime,” Yashin said.

Russians pay homage to Wagner fighters killed in Mali

MOSCOW (Reuters): In the shadow of the Kremlin, more than 70 Russians paid homage on Sunday to Wagner fighters killed in a major battle with Mali rebels and Islamist fighters, one of the mercenary group’s most deadly defeats in Africa.

The Wagner mercenary group said last month its fighters and Malian soldiers had taken losses in heavy fighting against Tuareg rebels and Islamist fighters from an al Qaeda affiliate near Mali’s border with Algeria.

Mali’s northern Tuareg rebels said they had killed at least 84 Russian Wagner mercenaries and 47 Malian soldiers during days of fierce fighting in late July.

In Moscow, just a few hundred metres from the Kremlin, dozens of Russians came to mourn



the fallen Wagner fighters, a Reuters journalist said. One man, dressed in military clothing and wearing Wagner badges, kneeled before pictures of the group’s fighters killed in Mali.

Beneath flags with the Wagner motto of “Blood, Honor, Motherland,

Courage”, some lit candles. One woman on knees wept before a picture of a Wagner fighter. Others laid red carnations below pictures of the dead.

None of those asked for comment at the makeshift memorial would speak to Reuters.

Mali, where military authorities seized power in coups in 2020 and 2021, is battling a years-long Islamist insurgency. It has said Russian forces there are not Wagner mercenaries but trainers helping local troops with equipment bought from Russia.

Bahrainis top list of 8.6m GCC visitors to Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (Arab News): Saudi Arabia welcomed 8.6 million visitors from Gulf Cooperation Council countries in 2023, with Bahraini travelers accounting for 3.4 million of the total.

The Ministry of Tourism revealed that 2.3 million travelers visited the Kingdom from Kuwait last year, followed by 1.3 million from the UAE and 1.09 million from Qatar.

The report also noted that 455,000 travelers from Oman visited the Kingdom last year.

Saudi Arabia is focused on strengthening its tourism sector as part of its economic diversification away from crude oil dependence. The National Tourism Strategy aims to attract 150 million visitors by 2030 and increase the sector’s contribution to gross domestic product from 6 percent to 10 percent.

Saudi Minister of Tourism Ahmed Al-Khateeb said: “The 2023

data reveal that our tourism sector is experiencing remarkable growth and resilience.”

He added: “The statistics shown in the report not only reflect the success of tourism policies but also demonstrate the vibrant economic activity driven by this sector.”

The ministry noted that tourism spending among GCC travelers reached SR15 billion (\$4 billion) in 2023.

The Kingdom welcomed a total of 109 million tourists last year, with inbound tourists rising by 64.8 percent to 27.4 million and outbound tourists increasing by 5.2 percent to 81.9 million.

Tourism spending totaled SR141.2 billion for inbound and SR114.4 billion for outbound tourists.

“The influx of tourists has bolstered local businesses, from hospitality to retail, and has notably invigorated the national

economy,” added Al-Khateeb. From Asia and the Pacific, Saudi Arabia saw 7.9 million visitors, with Pakistan leading at 2.47 million.

In the Middle East, the Kingdom welcomed 5.6 million travelers, including 2.58 million from Egypt and 1.12 million from Jordan.

From the Americas, the US was the top source with 331,000 visitors. Algeria led African nations with 523,000 travelers, while Europe contributed 680,000 tourists, with Uzbekistan and the UK adding 540,000 and 370,000 visitors, respectively.

This reflects Saudi Arabia’s thriving tourism sector, as the Kingdom enhances its infrastructure and attractions, solidifying its position as a leading global destination and boosting economic growth and regional influence.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has been ranked first in male and female workforce growth rate among all G20 countries between 2016 and 2021, new data has revealed.

Released by the Kingdom’s National Labor Observatory, the statistics indicated a 1.7 percent male growth rate in Saudi Arabia, compared to 1.5 percent for Australia and less for the rest of the G20 countries.

The Kingdom’s labor market also recorded a 5.5 percent female growth rate as opposed to 2.1 percent for Australia and less for the rest of the G20 countries, according to a statement. The rise in figures is mainly attributed to the attractiveness of the labor market in the Kingdom as a result of economic growth, high proportion of youth among the population, and initiatives supporting female participation in the workforce.



The Frontier Post

Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

Founder

Bilal Shah Afridi

Chief Executive

Jalil Afridi

Managing Editor

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar.

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001

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

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

Middle East turmoil calls for concerted efforts

THE Israeli government of Benjamin Netanyahu does want the return of hostages taken by Hamas in its Oct 7 attacks. That is why it has sent delegations to internationally mediated negotiations. He has to engage Hamas for a cease-fire and the return of those hostages.

Hamas too has shown its desire for a cease-fire, and has also appeared more receptive to ideas of a broader peace. Just weeks back, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh sent representatives to Beijing to join 13 other political Palestinian factions for discussions on national reconciliation.

But as Netanyahu told the US Congress during his latest trip to Washington, his eyes are on a "total victory", which to him means the elimination of Hamas. The assassination of Haniyeh in the Iranian capital as part of that endeavor has ruined the recent progress made in international peace-brokering, and dashed hopes for a cease-fire agreement. Haniyeh played a crucial role as a key interlocutor with Egyptian and Qatari mediators during the negotiations between Israel and Hamas. His death has also provoked fears that the conflict in Gaza may evolve into an all-out Middle East war.

While the Israeli government has neither claimed responsibility for the killing, nor denied it, there is little doubt Haniyeh's assassination has become a rallying call against Israel and the ongoing peace process, as all its enemies in the region consider it to be the perpetrator of his killing. Hamas' armed wing said the incident would "take the battle to new dimensions and have major repercussions". Iranian supreme leader Ali Khamenei said Israel had provided grounds for "harsh punishments for itself", and it was Teheran's duty to avenge the Hamas leader's death as it occurred on Iranian soil. The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, who lost a senior commander in an Israeli attack on Beirut one day ago, has also vowed revenge.

It takes unrelenting endeavors and strenuous behind-the-scenes diplomacy to bring hostile parties to the negotiating table. But one single missile has sufficed to blow up everything achieved so far. The incident frustrated not only all international peace-making efforts, but more importantly derailed United States-orchestrated efforts to manage and control the situation. Leading Joe Biden administration officials have all reiterated their country's commitment to Israel's security in their latest exchanges with Netanyahu. In private, they have reportedly conveyed serious concerns about the situation getting out of control.

As Washington seeks to choreograph a pivot to Asia by the US-led Western alliance, it does not want to be tied down by another full-blown war in the Middles East. Not to mention domestic animosity against Israeli violence in Gaza is a growing negative asset for the ruling Democratic Party ahead of the presidential election in November.

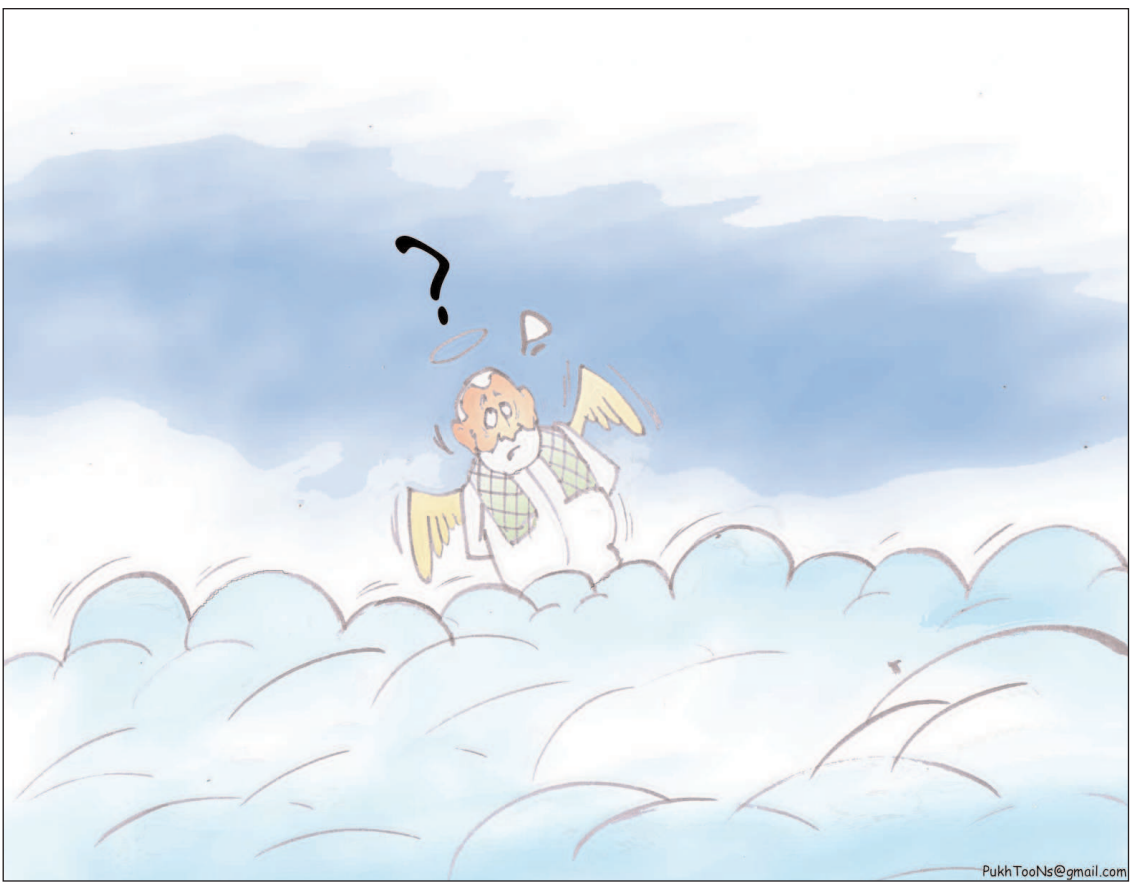
President Biden said he was "very direct" in his meeting with Netanyahu regarding the significance of a cease-fire and consequences of escalation. Except deploying additional military resources in the region, however, there may not be a lot his administration can do to rein in Israel. The Israeli leader is ever more openly at odds with the White House's preference for diplomacy in the region.

With the assassination of Haniyeh, the Netanyahu government is no doubt confident it can fulfill its pledge to eliminate Hamas. It is therefore likely to seek to consolidate its gains by stepping up its military operations and show even less inclination to negotiate in good faith. Calming the situation in the Middle East is therefore becoming an increasingly formidable task and dispiriting challenge.

Yet it is critical that the international community do all it can to try to prevent any escalation of the conflict and confrontation. China has proposed a three-step approach to solve the Palestinian issue, starting with a comprehensive, sustainable cease-fire in Gaza, followed by the creation of an interim national reconciliation government focused on the post-war reconstruction of Gaza, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in line with United Nations resolutions. It is ready to work with all willing parties to achieve these goals.

Important Notice

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



The rise of the Global South and what it means for the North

Hafed Al-Ghwell

The Global South Summit, which will convene on Aug. 17, comes at a moment in which nations historically marginalized in global governance are beginning to assert renewed demands for a reshaping of the international order.

This ambition to recalibrate the global hierarchy is deeply rooted in decades of activism aimed at disentangling themselves from Western dominance.

From the Non-Aligned Movement of the mid-20th century to the economic alliances of today, the growing drive for a redistribution of power is both a reflection of past struggles and a strategic vision for future equity.

The timing of the summit, amid growing debates about economic dependency and geopolitical realignments, is testament to the rising influence of the South on the world stage.

In recent years, the Global South has experienced average annual gross domestic product growth of 4.7 percent, far outpacing the 2.1 percent in the Global North. This reflects not only the aspirational rhetoric but tangible shifts in economic clout.

Continuing to ignore the core issues and concerns raised by these Global South countries — including inequitable trade practices, the effects of climate change, and geopolitical marginalization — risks perpetuating a fractured global order. Acknowledging and engaging with the outcomes of this month's summit will be crucial if the North is to foster cooperative international relations and address shared global challenges effectively.

Historically, the Global North's interest in non-Western perspectives has broadened gradually since the end of the Cold War, as developing nations have adopted varying degrees of Western political and economic frameworks.

Despite this, many in the Global South perceive the continuing dominance of Western powers and their institutions as remnants of colonial hierarchies. Countries such as India and Brazil have sought to reconfigure the global economic order to reflect a more equitable distribution of power.

The motivations for this recalibration are multifaceted: a desire for enhanced economic dividends, more fair representation in international institutions, and greater autonomy in setting regional and global agendas.

More broadly, the push by the Global South for increased influence is also rooted in collective historical experiences and geopolitical strategies. Many countries below the notional Brandt Line that separates North from South have histories marked by colonialism, resource extraction, and political subjugation.

These experiences cultivated shared grievances and a determination to address and transform perceived imbalances in the global system.

Leaders such as Narendra Modi in India and Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Brazil epitomize this new

assertiveness.

While India held the presidency of the G20 in 2023, Modi advocated for the inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the organization. Brazil holds the G20 presidency this year and Lula has used international platforms to champion a "fair and multipolar order."

Recent multilateral initiatives, such as the G77 and the Non-Aligned Movement, demonstrate a persistent, albeit complex, effort among developing nations to negotiate as cohesive units, seeking to elevate their collective bargaining power on the world stage. This underlying unity, despite divergent national interests, exemplifies a strategic intent to

Global South but tangible action is still lacking.

Unfortunately, North-South dynamics remain compromised by a fundamental issue: Despite its broad utility, the term Global South remains conceptually ambiguous. It encompasses a diverse array of countries, from G20 powers such as Brazil and Indonesia to less-developed nations such as Sierra Leone. These countries all share common historical experiences and objectives but they possess divergent interests, values, and perspectives.

However, Western policymakers continue to oversimplify the diversity that exists within the Global South and fixate on one-size-fits-all prescriptions.

Brazil and Indonesia boast diversified economies with significant industrial and service sectors, while countries such as Sierra Leone remain heavily reliant on agriculture and primary commodities. Brazil's per capita GDP is approximately \$9,000, whereas Sierra Leone's lags far behind at about \$500. This disparity affects the capacity for international trade, the prospects for closer regional integration, and internal stability. Policymaking that fails to account for these disparities runs the risk not only of being ineffective but counterproductive. Differing political climates and governance challenges further complicate the picture. Indonesia, a democracy with a relatively steady track record of political reforms, faces a different set of challenges compared with, say, Myanmar, which must contend with a civil war and political instability following a military coup. Such internal dynamics influence how these countries interact on the global stage and what they can contribute to, or require from, external engagements. Therefore, policies that lump the Global South into a monolithic structure complicate the establishment of mutually beneficial partnerships that are tailored to the unique needs of each country.

redefine the role of the Global South and its influence on global governance.

However, while there has been acknowledgment of a distinct Global South, and its collective needs have permeated Western policy discussions, developing countries remain disappointed with the persistent vestiges of the North's dominance in global affairs. Examples of this include tepid responses to escalations across the Middle East and the effects of the war in Ukraine on grain-importing economies, slow progress on climate financing, and resistance to reforms of major international institutions. Some of these concerns are pushing US and European officials to make rare overtures toward countries in the

Policies focused narrowly on countries such as Brazil and India neglect the unique challenges faced by smaller and mid-sized states, such as unsustainable debt, domestic instability, the effects of climate change, and persistent conflict. An example of this oversimplification can be seen in the varied economic landscapes within the Global South.

Brazil and Indonesia boast diversified economies with significant industrial and service sectors, while countries such as Sierra Leone remain heavily reliant on agriculture and primary commodities.

Brazil's per capita GDP is approximately \$9,000, whereas Sierra Leone's lags far behind at about \$500.

This disparity affects the capacity for international trade, the prospects for closer regional integration, and internal stability. Policymaking that fails to account for these disparities runs the risk not only of being ineffective but counterproductive.

Differing political climates and governance challenges further complicate the picture. Indonesia, a democracy with a relatively steady track record of political reforms, faces a different set of challenges compared with, say, Myanmar, which must contend with a civil war and political instability following a military coup.

Such internal dynamics influence how these countries interact on the global stage and what they can contribute to, or require from, external engagements. Therefore, policies that lump the Global South into a monolithic structure complicate the establishment of mutually beneficial partnerships that are tailored to the unique needs of each country.

It will not be easy to produce a set of targeted policy strategies amid the growing solidarity within this heterogeneous grouping that is unified by a shared history of colonial oppression and collective aspirations for a rebalanced global order.

However, the "unity" of the Global South is not without its fractures, as varying economic policies, ideologies, geopolitical maneuvering, and regional dynamics clash with the development of a more cohesive identity. For instance, while Latin American countries might embrace socialist economic models, nations in Southeast Asia often lean toward market-oriented reforms. Indonesia has focused on creating a stable investment climate, whereas countries such as Venezuela have pushed for state control of industries.

Such divisions extend to leading countries in the Global South, including China, Brazil and India, that are vying for eminence within the group but often prioritize national interests over collective solidarity. Each of them leverages international platforms in an attempt to advance their own influence. China has expanded the BRICS group, for example, while India used its G20 presidency to support a broader representation for African nations. Brazil plans to use its upcoming roles to promote its version of a more inclusive, multipolar global order.

Despite their divergent strategies, many countries in the Global South do see a lot of convergence on key priorities, including staunch advocacy for debt relief and more equitable trade. Overall, the multitude of perspectives within this grouping are challenging the dominance of the Global North in the shaping of international policy and the creation of a new global order.

Policymakers in countries north of the Brandt Line must remain proactive in this new reality, because failing to do so risks perpetuating a North-South divide that carries with it significant implications for international cooperation.

UK's Labour Party defines battleground for reelection

Andrew Hammond

There are major political differences between the Labour government that was elected on July 4 and its Conservative predecessor which gained power in May 2010. However, one common challenge that each faced on day one was that of a troubled economic inheritance.

The new chancellor of the exchequer, Rachel Reeves, claimed she inherited from the Conservatives the worst economic situation in British post-war history. On July 29 she released a Treasury dossier that revealed a "£22 billion (\$28 billion) black hole" in this year's budget.

In this sense, there are some parallels with the situation in 2010 when the Conservatives regained power from Labour. The chancellor at the time, George Osborne, said: "This government faces the worst economic inheritance in modern history."

As Prime Minister

Cleverly, the former home secretary whose politics are more centrist, and who is now shadow home secretary; Tom Tugendhat, the former security minister, who is the most moderate candidate and is now shadow security minister; Priti Patel, the former home secretary and a close ally of former Prime Minister Boris Johnson; Robert Jenrick, the former immigration minister who seeks to attract the same right-wing vote that Patel and Badenoch are targeting; and Mel Stride, the shadow work and pensions secretary, who is one of former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's closest allies.

Given that four of these six hold senior shadow-Cabinet roles, the focus of the Conservatives in opposition is inevitably somewhat distracted right now. However, Sunak and Jeremy Hunt remain in the two most senior party posts and will continue to serve as leader of the opposition

Fast forward to 2024, and a troubled economy inherited by a new government is once again likely to frame the current Parliament, and potentially prove to be a key issue at the next election, which is likely to take place in 2028 or 2029. The Labour Cabinet will be hoping it can convince the public of the merit of its policies, in the same way the Conservatives managed to do in the years immediately after May 2010.

David Cameron's government pursued a controversial strategy of national austerity, this economic issue framed the next half-decade of UK public life.

At the next election, in 2015, the Conservatives emerged victorious with a narrow majority.

Fast forward to 2024, and a troubled economy inherited by a new government is once again likely to frame the current Parliament, and potentially prove to be a key issue at the next election, which is likely to take place in 2028 or 2029. The Labour Cabinet will be hoping it can convince the public of the merit of its policies, in the same way the Conservatives managed to do in the years immediately after May 2010.

One big factor that helped the Conservatives frame the political debate at that time was the fact that not only did Labour lose its majority in the House of Commons, but several key frontbenchers immediately moved to the backbenches, including defeated Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Moreover, some of the key Labour figures who remained at the forefront of the party, including Ed Miliband, his brother David, and Ed Balls, became embroiled in a lengthy, intra-party leadership contest (with Ed Miliband ultimately declared the winner). This distraction allowed the Conservatives to frame the public debate over whether its austerity strategy was necessary, despite the controversies that surrounded it. Now it is the Labour Party that hopes to frame the debates over whether its governing agenda for rejuvenating the economy, after years of sub-par growth, is the correct next step for the nation.

Average annual growth rates in the UK have more than halved since the international financial crisis of 2007-08. Labour often highlights the fact that had per capita gross domestic product grown as rapidly in the 15 years after 2007 as it did in the 27 years after 1980, every person in the country would be more than £10,000 better off in real terms, according to International Monetary Fund data.

In making its case, Labour has slammed the economic record of the Conservatives between 2010 and 2024. Meanwhile, the Conservatives are locked in a leadership contest that will not conclude until Nov. 2, just a few days before the US presidential election.

The six contenders to lead the party are: Kemi Badenoch, the former business and trade secretary who now serves as shadow communities minister, is a right winger and the current favorite to win; James

and shadow chancellor, respectively, until the new leader is chosen.

In the months until this happens, Labour will therefore seek to dominate the political space vacated by the Conservatives as a result of their leadership contest.

One key element of Labour's agenda, following the twin shocks of the pandemic and war in Ukraine, is its plan to try to position the UK as a clean-energy superpower, in part by setting up Great British Energy. This new organization, funded by a windfall tax on fossil fuel firms, will be publicly owned and its headquarters will be in Scotland. Its goal is to enhance UK energy security, and it will manage and operate clean power projects such as wind farms.

One of the other big economic announcements by Labour so far is a new National Wealth Fund that will be used to invest in the industries of the future. It will include contributions from overseas investors from the Middle East and beyond. Efforts have already begun to align the work of the UK Infrastructure Bank with that of the British Business Bank, and the government has assembled a task force that includes Mark Carney, a former governor of the Bank of England.

Under the government's plan, the wealth fund will bring together key institutions to offer a compelling proposition for investors, which it believes will mobilize billions of pounds in additional private investment and generate a healthy return for taxpayers.

About £7.3 billion of funding will be allocated to the plan through the UK Infrastructure Bank, in addition to existing funding it provides, so that investments can begin straight away, with a focus on priority sectors and efforts to catalyze private investment on an even greater scale.

Moreover, there will be reforms to the British Business Bank in an attempt to ensure it can mobilize the deep pools of institutional capital in the UK by harnessing the potential of its investment pipeline and its track record as the country's largest investor in venture capital. The government hopes this will unlock billions of pounds of investment in the UK's world-leading green and wider growth industries.

Taking all of this together, Labour's goal is therefore to shape and steer the public debate about the economy. If economic growth recovers to levels above the trend following the 2007-08 financial crisis, this would significantly bolster the party's reelection prospects.

A call for collective global action in support of Palestinian prisoners

On August 3, prisoner rights institutions and Palestinians all around the world are standing in solidarity with Gaza and Palestinian prisoners. This day is dedicated to highlighting Israeli crimes and violations of Palestinian prisoners’ rights and the continuing genocide in Gaza. The machinery of brutality that punishes and tortures in secrecy in Israeli prisons must be brought to light.

Since October 7, Palestinian detainees have faced horrific crimes. Shortly after Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant announced that Israel was cutting off food, water, electricity and fuel to Gaza, effectively announcing the start of the genocide, Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir launched his own war against Palestinian political prisoners and detainees held in Israeli jails and camps, by declaring a policy of “overcrowding”.

Since then, the Israeli army and security services have launched mass arrest campaigns, which have swelled the number of Palestinian citizens from the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem to 9,800. At least 335 women and 680 children have been arrested. More than 3,400 have been put under administrative detention – that is, they are held indefinitely without charge. Among them, there are 22 women and 40 children. There has never been such a high number of administrative detainees since 1967.

Israel has also arrested an unknown number of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, possibly exceeding

thousands, according to our humble estimates. They are held under the 2002 “Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law”, which allows the Israeli army to detain people without issuing a detention order.

Under Ben-Gvir’s orders, the already grave conditions in Israeli prisons have been made even worse. The prison authorities sharply reduced food rations and water, closing down the small shops where Palestinian detainees could purchase food and other necessities. They also cut off water and power and even reduced the time allocated to using the restrooms. Prisoners are also prohibited from showering, which has resulted in the spread of diseases, especially skin-related ones like scabies. There have been reports of Palestinian prisoners being deprived of medical care.

The systematic malnutrition and dehydration Palestinian prisoners are facing has taken a toll. The few that are released leave detention centres in horrific physical condition. Even the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that such weaponisation of food is “unacceptable”.

The use of torture, including rape and beatings, has become widespread. There have been shocking reports about prison guards urinating on detainees, torturing them with electric shock and using dogs to sexually assault them. There have been even testimonies of Israeli forces using detainees as human shields during combat in Gaza.

The systemic use of torture and other ill-treatment has predictably gone as far

as extrajudicial killings. According to a recent report by Hebrew daily Haaretz, 48 Palestinians have died in detention centres. Among them is Thaer Abu Asab, who was brutally beaten by Israeli prison guards in Ketziot Prison, and died of his injuries at the age of 38.

According to Haaretz, 36 Gaza detainees have also died in the Sde Teiman camp. Testimonies from Israeli medical staff working at the detention centre have revealed horrific conditions for Palestinians held there. Detainees are reportedly often operated on without anaesthesia and some have had to have their limbs amputated because they were shackled even when sleeping or receiving treatment.

Palestinians who have been released have said what they were subject to was more horrific than what they had heard took place at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo detention centres, where American forces tortured and forcibly disappeared Arabs and other Muslim men. They have also testified that some detainees were killed through torture and severe beatings. One prisoner from Bethlehem, Moazaz Obaiat, who was released in July, has alleged that Ben-Gvir personally took part in torturing him.

Israeli authorities have denied prisoners visits by lawyers, family, and even medics, including the International Committee of the Red Cross. They have carried out acts of collective punishment, destroying the homes of their families, arresting their relatives and holding

them hostage, and illegally transferring some to secret detention camps and military bases without disclosing their fate, which constitutes the crime of enforced disappearance.

Despite condemnations from various human rights organisations, Ben-Gvir and the rest of the Israeli governing coalition have doubled down on these policies. “[Prisoners] should be killed with a shot to the head and the bill to execute Palestinian prisoners must be passed in the third reading in the Knesset [...] Until then, we will give them minimal food to survive, I don’t care,” Ben-Gvir said on July 1.

By using mass detention, Israel, the occupying power, has systematically destroyed Palestinian social, economic and psychological fabric since 1967. Over one million Palestinians have been arrested since then, thousands have been held hostage for extended periods under administrative detention and 255 detainees have died in Israeli prisons.

Israeli crimes against the Palestinians did not begin in October 2023, but are a continuation of a systematic process of ethnic cleansing, forced displacement and apartheid that began even before 1948.

But Israel’s colonial regime overlooks the Palestinian people’s resilience. Inspired by the experiences of the free nations of Ireland, South Africa and Vietnam, we draw strength from our determination to achieve our right to self-determination, freedom and independence.

This is why on this day, August 3, we urge the world to collectively

protest against Israeli occupation crimes and racist laws and we call on governments to uphold their legal duties to prevent such crimes from happening. We also call on unions, universities, parliaments and political parties to effectively participate in large-scale events, demonstrations and digital campaigns in solidarity with Palestinian political prisoners.

The international community should hold the occupying power to account by imposing a complete arms embargo on it, applying economic sanctions, and suspending its UN membership.

They should also nullify bilateral agreements, and halt Israel’s participation in international forums and events until it abides by international law and human rights. The international community must compel Israel to protect civilians according to its obligations as an occupying power.

Israel must also reveal the identities and conditions of people it has forcibly disappeared. We demand an end to arbitrary and administrative detention policies. The bodies of those who have died inside and outside prisons must also be released, and all prisoners must receive legal protection.

Israel, the occupying power, is under the obligation to allow special rapporteurs, United Nations experts, and the International Criminal Court prosecutor to visit Palestine, inspect prisons and deliver justice for the victims, including material and moral compensation.

Israel must not be allowed to get away with these horrific crimes.

The ‘ungoverning’ of Kenya

One of the most interesting grammatical elements of Kiswahili, the most widely spoken African language in the world, is that you can always create the negative form of an infinitive verb. In English, to be grammatically correct, the opposite of a verb has to have some kind of meaning in the real world. For example, the opposite of “to live” is “to die”. But in Kiswahili, you can always have a logical opposite and a grammatical opposite thanks to a specific way in which verbs can be changed in the infinitive form. Thus, the opposite of to live – kuisishi – is to die – kufa – but to “unlive” or “not live” – kutoishi – is also grammatically correct, poetic and potent because it doesn’t mean death but the act of inverting actions necessary to living. And you can do this with any verb in the infinitive sense in Kiswahili, giving the impression that in Kiswahili cosmology, or sense of the world, what can be done can always be undone.

This element of Kiswahili grammar offers a powerful framework for thinking through the events in Kenya in June and July, a sequence of events that I call “ungoverning”. If governing is developing rules and using institutions in order to create a functional society, then Kenya is living through a period of ungoverning, in which institutions and rules are being undermined by the state itself, by extension undermining the society as a whole.

After the president and the legislature attempted to force through a finance bill in Parliament, Kenya entered an unprecedented wave of protest and an unprecedented violent wave of policing. While protesters insist that they are peaceful, particularly in the capital city of Nairobi, the police behave as if the very act of gathering is an affront to the executive that must be met with maximum force. Thus, protesters have been teargassed and shot at with live bullets. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights has recorded at least 50 protest deaths – the highest number of protest-related deaths in the country’s independent history. Protesters have promised to continue to gather, no longer just rejecting the finance bill, but now demanding reparations for all the lives lost and for the president to step down for his failure to manage the situation peacefully.

I call this sequence of events “ungoverning” because these are not passive outcomes of an unavoidable situation but active decisions being taken by those who wield power in the country to misuse or undermine the political institutions of the country in order to strengthen the person of the executive – the president – against enemies of his own making. For context, after 40 years of one-party rule, Kenya went into an intense period of institution-building to avoid recreating an all-powerful presidency. A new constitution was delivered after 20 years of deliberation, protest and a hotly contested referendum in 2010 to get rid of the vestiges of coloniality in the supreme law of the land. It redistributed power between the three arms of government in order to compel them to keep each other accountable. The new constitution also introduced measures of accountability for other institutions like the police. Significantly, the Constitution of Kenya protects the right to protest, seeing it as part of a chain of democratic actions that people are allowed to undertake in order to keep the government honest.

The ungoverning in Kenya begins with the too-cosy relationship between the National Assembly and

Nanjala Nyabola

the executive, in which elected members of Parliament have said on camera that when passing the finance bill, their loyalty was to the president and not to the electorate. This obviously goes against the very concept of the legislature which, by definition, is supposed to scrutinise legislation independently before submitting it to the president for assent. William Ruto’s ruling coalition, the Kenya Kwanza coalition, since coming into power two and a half years ago has abdicated this responsibility completely and instead focused on rubber-stamping whatever agenda the executive presents.

It is important to note that many of the mechanisms that exist in Kenya’s constitution presume a legislature that wants to be independent of the president and not one that seeks to be their lapdog.

Kenya is severely hobbled by a toothless, sycophantic National Assembly. Under the authoritarian state, Parliament was systematically defanged and one of the most common tactics for killing legislation was the presidential veto, in which the president would simply refuse to assent to any bills that reduced his power. Thus Article 115 of the 2010 constitution has a provision that allows for the National Assembly to work around the president if they refuse to assent to or amend a bill that basically means that after a back-and-forth process, the bill can pass if two-thirds of both the Parliament and the Senate vote for it. Until it finally happened in late July, it was unclear whether or not Parliament would actually reject the finance bill or await further instructions from the executive.

In a similar vein, while the president did follow through on the protesters’ demand that he sack all his cabinet secretaries, he has submitted many of the same names to the Senate for confirmation.

Last Wednesday, he nominated four prominent opposition figures – allies of political veteran Raila Odinga, whom Ruto defeated in elections in 2022 – to his new cabinet, but named members of the disbanded cabinet for the majority of the remaining 16 positions.

Given that these individuals were fired, they should prima facie be ineligible for public office because the president himself found them ineligible for public office. The much celebrated cabinet firing is so far simply moving unfit individuals around. Moreover, Musalia Mudavadi also continues to occupy the position of the Prime Cabinet Secretary – an unconstitutional office that has been challenged in court. Mudavadi lost elections in 2013, 2017 and 2022 – voters have been clear about how they feel about him – but the office was created for political expediency because he brought to the coalition a chunk of voters that made enough of a difference to cost the opposition the presidential election.

This proposed new cabinet is an act of ungoverning because it is the use of executive power to serve the political interests of the coalition rather than the national interest and it should be undone by creating a constitution – and indeed a National Assembly – that conforms to what was drafted.

But perhaps the clearest element of Kenya’s ungoverning is the refusal to allow people to protest, and the violent policing of unarmed protesters. Kenyans are being shot and killed merely for the act of gathering to express dissent. The 2010 constitution envisions protest as a democratic act that must be undertaken

if the government fails to listen to people through elections or mechanisms of public participation. But the presidency is reading any act of dissent as a threat and responding with the aforementioned disproportionate use of force. The mere act of gathering is being criminalised, with people being abducted and disappeared for holding placards or for creating protest materials. Kenyans are not only being squeezed by austerity measures; they are also being punished for expressing their unhappiness about it.

As I argued elsewhere, this violent policing is in part a product of the president’s own insecurity based in part on the fragility of his coalition, and of his own inability to trust citizens in general. To be sure, there is already a significant part of his ruling coalition that is organising to run independently in 2027 – an ethnonationalist faction that if he allowed himself to think logically he would see cannot win an election because they simply do not have the numbers. But rationality has taken a backseat to fear and lately, the president’s speeches drip with concerns about external actors mobilising against him rather than listening to what the protesters are saying and taking accountability for the things he has done to himself and to the country. A secure government would have allowed protests to proceed peacefully, reading it as a signal that the process through which the finance bill came to his desk was flawed. A secure government would see protest as an expression of democratic health. Instead, the presidency chose to swat at a fly on their head with a hammer, creating a much bigger problem than he initially had.

Ungoverning is not a uniquely Kenyan experience. It is the United States Supreme Court’s campaign of undoing several hard-won protections in law and in the Conservative Party’s steady dismantling of the United Kingdom’s welfare state. It is the attempt to decriminalise female genital mutilation (FGM) in The Gambia and the draconian drug wars in Central America. Ungoverning is what populist administrations do because they have sharpened their ability to gain power but have no idea what to do with government once they control it.

Ungoverning is watching a cartoon in rewind – it looks like governing because it has so many of the trappings of power but it’s all happening in reverse. And protest is the language of people who are frustrated with being deliberately unheard by political institutions that are solely focused on gaining power.

It is difficult to say what will happen next in Kenya because we are so deep in uncharted territory. The protesters’ demands are clearer than ever, shifting from “reject the finance bill” to “Ruto Must Go” in response to the devastating violence. Meanwhile, the president has increasingly suggested he would rather fight the apparitions that he thinks are doing this to him rather than what he has done to himself and to the country and needs to repair. Ideally, the short-term tasks include full and transparent accountability for police violence, the reinforcement of constitutional principles through the transparent use of existing mechanisms, and finally over the future of the finance bill through a much more democratic process of public participation. But this would only be the path taken by someone who was interested in governing and not ungoverning: the first short steps of moving from crisis towards resolution that drawing from what Kiswahili grammar teaches us – that anything that is done can always be undone.

UK’s new Labour govt and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

A month after sweeping to power in the general election on July 4, the UK’s new Labour government has its hands full dealing with the mess it inherited from the previous Conservative government. This includes the UK’s stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the deadliest manifestation of which has been raging for the past 10 months.

While he was opposition leader, Prime Minister Keir Starmer adopted a very cautious approach to the issue, which was an extremely sensitive one as Labour emerged from the damaging era of his predecessor, Jeremy Corbyn.

At the heart of Starmer’s approach at that time was a reluctance to stray too far from the Conservative government’s policies on the issue, for fear of being accused of perpetuating the antisemitism his party had been tainted by under Corbyn’s leadership. Labour fell into the trap, typically set by right-wing governments in Israel, of viewing any criticism of Israel as amounting to antisemitism.

While still in opposition, it took Starmer’s Labour party many – too many – months and many Palestinian lives before it finally called for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Since assuming power a month ago, there has been a change both in Labour’s tone and its actual policies on a number of critical issues related to Israel and the war in Gaza. These changes represent a departure from its previous stance in the political,

legal, and humanitarian spheres.

Certainly, though in the first few months after the brutal Oct. 7 attacks on Israel by Hamas the Labour Party opposed any calls for a ceasefire, and maintained this position for months even as the bodies of innocent Gazans were piling up. It did gradually begin to alter its position when it became obvious that the conflict was evolving into an open-ended war with no political way to peace.

In the legal sphere, one of the first signals of change after Labour took power was the appointment of Richard Hermer as the new government’s attorney general. Hermer, a friend and former colleague of Starmer, is a leading expert on international law and a human rights jurist.

Moreover, he was one of a group of leading Jewish lawyers who wrote an open letter in the Financial Times in October last year calling for Israeli authorities to be guided by the rule of law in their response to the Hamas attacks.

Soon after he was appointed to his new role last month he flew to Israel, ahead of the government’s decision on July 26 to withdraw the UK’s challenge to the right of the International Criminal Court to issue arrest warrants for Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

The UK’s decision upset and worried the Israeli government and also sent a signal to the US that the new British gov-

ernment is prepared, on this issue at least, to stand at odds with the Biden administration and closer to some of its European allies in adhering to international legal obligations.

In the humanitarian sphere, one of the most immediate, practical and welcome changes implemented by Labour was the announcement by the new foreign secretary, David Lammy, that the UK will resume its funding of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, which will help ensure aid reaches those in Gaza who need it as quickly as possible.

This is a “moral necessity in the face of such a catastrophe,” Lammy said. As he released £21 million (\$27 million) to support the lifesaving work of the agency in Gaza and the provision of basic services in the region, he stressed that “UNRWA is absolutely central to these efforts. No other agency can get aid into Gaza at the scale needed.”

It was a sober assessment of the key role the agency plays in providing essential and urgent humanitarian aid in Gaza, while also recognizing its essential work elsewhere in the region in support of Palestinian refugees.

This was not a case of turning a blind eye to the fact that a number of UNRWA employees were accused of involvement in the horrific attacks on Oct. 7. Instead there must be recognition of the fact that an entire organization cannot be blamed for the crimes of a small number

among its ranks, some of whom were killed during the attacks while the rest were sacked, and that millions of refugees in their most desperate time of need should not suffer as a result.

A trickier issue for the government to address is the calls for it to suspend arms sales to Israel, which is something it is reportedly considering. Lammy said he has requested an assessment of the legal situation regarding the use of weapons in Gaza, and he hopes to be able to communicate any subsequent decision with “full accountability and transparency.”

While at the beginning of the war the shock caused by the Hamas attack resulted in natural, instinctive support for Israel, it was a short-sighted reaction.

It revealed a lack of understanding of the fact that handing carte blanche to an Israeli government – especially the current one, which has no brakes nor any strategic vision, and whose leader willingly and regularly caves in to the whims of ultranationalists in an attempt to guarantee his own political survival – was a grave misjudgment that led to a disproportionate use of force.

To be fair, it was not only most of the UK Parliament that misread the situation and failed to look a few steps ahead but those in other countries, too, though this is hardly a convincing excuse.

This apparent change of course in British policy on Israel and the war in Gaza is significant but hardly

surprising, as it will allow the UK to meet its obligations under international law, restore its moral credibility by signaling a refusal to tolerate the suffering of so many innocent civilians as punishment for the crimes committed by others, and to position itself as a political player that could help mediate and resolve the conflict rather than fuel it.

There was little sense behind Labour’s previous approach other than the belief that it might help the party win the general election. But there is little evidence that this was the case – in fact the opposite might be true, because several opponents of that more cautious policy on Gaza were elected to Parliament based on that very issue.

Starmer’s position at the time, considering his legal background and especially his previous work on human rights issues, was therefore discouraging.

Now that Labour is in power, Prime Minister Starmer and Foreign Secretary Lammy have been at pains to clarify that while their friendship with Israel and their commitment to its security are unwavering – and there is no reason to doubt this is true – they are also setting some red lines for Israel.

The onus is now on Israel to change course and prove that it is prepared to end the war, resolve the conflict with the Palestinians, and protect its own democracy. Then it will find in the UK, as ever, a close and trusted friend.

Ranvir S. Nayar

This week, national carrier Air New Zealand became the latest airline to step back from its target for reductions in carbon emissions by 2030. The airline blamed its decision on the poor availability of sustainable aviation fuel, delays in the delivery of new, more fuel-efficient aircraft, and a challenging regulatory framework.

It was a dramatic turnaround from as recently as 2022, when the company heralded the fact that it was the second carrier in the world to have its plans validated by the UN’s Science Based Targets initiative aviation framework. At the time, Air New Zealand pledged to reduce missions

by 28.9 percent by 2030.

The airline is not the first carrier to abandon its plans to curb emissions. It joins a list that includes some of the biggest airlines in the world, most notably United Airlines, Lufthansa, Japan Airlines, LATAM Airlines Chile, and Easyjet.

As 2030 approaches, the number of airlines reversing commitments or failing to meet targets is only going to increase dramatically as they come up against the same hurdles that Air New Zealand listed. In fact, it is likely that many of them have already privately accepted the near impossibility of their missions but are reluctant to say so publicly for the fear of the negative publicity

and backlash such a move is likely to draw from travelers and ecologists worldwide.

To be fair to the aviation industry, the challenges are indeed immense and certainly not all of them are within its control. In fact, at the moment it looks like the airlines have little control over any of the steps they need to take to start cutting carbon emissions. They are fully dependent on third parties and so are more victims than villains of the piece.

Take sustainable aviation fuel for starters. Leaving aside the fact that it is not really sustainable – it only reduces emissions and is far from being emissions-free – the production of sustainable aviation fuel is managed by oil companies, big and small, and none of the producers currently has the capacity to meet demand.

This year, the total capacity for production of sustainable aviation fuel worldwide will increase to 1.6 billion liters. This represents threefold growth compared with the capacity in 2023, but it is still only a measly 0.53 percent of all fuel burned by airlines. Producers will therefore continue to struggle to meet the demand for sustainable aviation fuel for the foreseeable future.

The other major hurdle airlines face in efforts to cut

emissions is the state of the aircraft-manufacturing industry, in which companies are struggling to deliver new, more fuel efficient models on schedule.

Over the past six years, for example, Boeing has been going through the worst period in the company’s history, with repeated crashes and other safety-related incidents forcing it to go back to the drawing board, thereby delaying the production and delivery of new aircraft.

As if Boeing’s woes were not enough, European rival Airbus has also faced challenges in meeting its delivery schedules, resulting in a severe shortage of

new aircraft that is forcing carriers to continue using older planes, many of which are immense fuel guzzlers.

The seriousness of the situation has so far largely remained under the radar, as governments, aviation regulators, and even climate change negotiators have failed to treat the issue with the seriousness it deserves.

Aviation accounts for 2.5 percent of all carbon emissions and is by far the most polluting mode of transport. The industry is growing rapidly and could be four times bigger by 2050, which would further increase the share of emissions it contributes to the global total.

Such a disastrous scenario calls for concerted and serious action by several stakeholders. Firstly, governments around the world need to wake up to the impending crisis and provide incentives, or simply oblige, fuel producers not only to significantly ramp up production of sustainable aviation fuel but also to make it available at a price that is more affordable for airlines; currently it is almost three times as expensive as traditional jet fuel.

Resolving the issues related to the manufacture and delivery of new aircraft is more tricky but governments and aviation regulators can help by encouraging greater competition, for

example by creating better conditions that might give newcomers, such as Chinese aircraft manufacturer COMAC, the opportunity to break the duopoly that Airbus and Boeing have enjoyed for decades.

But all such efforts will require concerted actions at a global level, and for individual countries, most notably the US and China, to set aside bilateral tensions.

The UN Climate Change Conference in Azerbaijan in November presents the perfect opportunity to open serious discussions on the issue. The alternative to taking proactive and concerted global action is not something that the world should be keen to discover.

Promoting investment vital for Pak’s prosperous future

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Convener Chairman of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry’s Standing Committee on Corporate and Multinational Companies Affairs, Muhammad Shafique Swati, said that promoting investment is crucial for Pakistan’s prosperous future. He emphasized that internal stability, development, and infrastructure improvement can attract investors to Pakistan. Through business dialogue with corporate and multinational companies on the FPCCI platform, issues faced by them will be highlighted at all levels, and maximum facilities and ease will be provided to encourage significant investments in Pakistan.

He said this while addressing the business forum on the occasion of the committee’s meeting, which was attended by other committee members. Deputy Convener Dr. Hayaam Qayyum said that

contact is being made with the corporate sector, and the committee will prepare comprehensive overseas trade reform recommendations in collaboration with relevant trade bodies and their representatives and present them to the government.

Sayed Sadat Hussain Shah, a renowned personality in the marketing investment and tourism development sector and a member of the committee, said that the business community should play an active role in creating a conducive environment in Pakistan. He emphasized that Pakistan has immense natural resources that can be developed to attract overseas corporate sector investment.

Asim Abbasi presented an overview of the country’s economic situation, stating that the business community has always played a significant role in national development. He stressed the need to prioritize investment in the country instead of capital flight

and encourage foreign companies to invest in Pakistan.

Ayesha Khan, a representative of business entrepreneurs and a prominent figure in women’s empowerment, expressed her thoughts at the business forum, saying that women make up almost half of the country’s population, and projects are needed to bring them into the mainstream of the national economy. The committee will play a vital role in this regard.

Committee members Syed Abdul Hasan Bukhari and Raja Ashfaq Abbasi said that the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry is focusing on research and development, particularly regarding corporate and multinational companies. The committee will act as a think tank, consulting with all relevant experts to present actionable recommendations to the government, leading to significant improvements in the country’s economy and economic sectors.

Committee members Aga Amjad Ali Chaudhry, Manzoor Qasuri, and Azmi Nasser said that the government has appreciated the establishment of this committee, and interactive sessions between elected public representatives and corporate sector personalities will help achieve the national development agenda.

Abu Al Hassan Bukhari, Ali Hassan Engineer Usman Nawaz Basra, and prominent corporate industry figure Chaudhry Nawaz Basra expressed their thoughts, saying that as Pakistanis, it is our responsibility to think about our country’s development and stability. We should formulate a plan based on our experiences to address Pakistan’s economic issues and support industrial development initiatives being taken at the government level. This is possible when investment increases, leading to significant business and employment opportunities, and the country progresses.



LAHORE: Women busy in selecting and purchasing old books from roadside stall at Mall Road.

Skilled workforce key to economic growth: CEO

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mian Kashif Ashfaq has said that trained skilled manpower on modern scientific lines is crucial for success and sustainable economic growth.

Speaking at a seminar on “Role of Skilled Manpower in Economic Growth” here on Sunday, he said as world moves rapidly towards a economic based economy, the importance of a workforce equipped with advanced skills and scientific knowledge cannot be overstated. In Pakistan, fostering such talent is vital for economic development as it enhances the competitive edge, allowing it to innovate and improve efficiency in various industries.

He said it supports the development of new technologies and industries, thereby diversifying the economy and reducing dependency on traditional sectors. He said we are confronting huge scarcity of skilled manpower in all sectors and technical colleges and institutes are lacking capacity to enroll required number of students meeting ever increasing demand of industrial sectors.

He said, a skilled workforce contributes to higher productivity and quality in manufacturing and services, leading to increased exports and foreign investment. This, in turn, generates job opportunities, reduces unemployment, and improves living standards. He said skilled professionals in manufacturing, engineering, and information technology and other sectors are essential for addressing the country’s socio-economic challenges, such as healthcare access and digital transformation.

He added that investing in education and training programs that emphasize modern scientific and technical skills is essential for Pakistan’s long-term prosperity. Such efforts ensure that the country remains competitive in the global market and can sustainably develop its economy, thereby improving the overall quality of life for its people.

Other speakers included Sana Ch, Hafsa, Sadia, Amina, Nida, Aiman, Kashmala and Fizza also urged the government to set up more number of quality technical institutes across the country which will not only create ample job opportunities but also contribute significantly towards sustainable economic development.

Exports surge amid SIFC efforts

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has witnessed a remarkable increase in domestic exports during the financial year 2023-24 due to the proactive measures taken by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

According to the latest data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the country’s merchandise exports soared by 10.54% to \$30.64 billion, compared to \$55.19 billion in the previous fiscal year. Simultaneously, imports saw a slight decline of 0.84%, totaling \$54.73 billion—a positive sign for economic growth.

The meat sector emerged

as a standout, achieving record exports of \$512 million, a 20% rise from the previous year.

This success was bolstered by opening new markets in Jordan, Uzbekistan, Lebanon, and Egypt, showcasing the effective collaboration between SIFC and the Ministry of Commerce. Additionally, agro exports saw a substantial 37% increase, climbing from \$5.8 billion to \$8 billion.

Key agricultural and food exports included rice at \$3.8 billion, sesame seeds at \$410 million, corn at \$421 million, and onions at \$224 million. The government aims to further bolster these numbers, set-

ting a target of \$10 billion for agricultural exports.

The Information Technology (IT) sector also made significant strides, earning \$2.925 billion in foreign exchange within just 11 months.

Notable growth was observed in computer services exports, which increased by 26.72%, software consultancy services by 13.57%, and hardware consultancy services by 17.12%.

The substantial increase in exports underscores the growing global demand for Pakistani products and highlights the transformative initiatives spearheaded by the SIFC.

New taxation measures in budget: Inflation hits eight-month high

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has observed that the monthly inflation rate has reached an eight-month high in previous month of July due to direct and indirect taxes of Rs1.8 trillion in the Budget of current fiscal year of 2024-25.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the pace of inflation rose 2.3% compared to the preceding month, in the wake of higher prices of food and energy despite recent cut in the prices of petroleum products, as essential commodities have still not seen a decline in prices, leaving trade and industry frustrated.

The reading shows higher inflationary pressures as the monthly index normally stands around 1%. The impact was more pronounced in cities where the new tax measures hit the

consumers hard. The monthly food inflation in July came in at 4.5% in urban localities.

The APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi said that the government has imposed a record Rs1.8 trillion in new taxes in the new budget for winning a \$7 billion bailout package from the International Monetary Fund. Taxes have been slapped on the salaried persons and the consumable goods used mostly by all segments of society, irrespective of their income levels.

Ibrahim Qureshi said that Pakistan has been facing a high inflation for the past couple of years partly due to massive depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar and partly due to a surge in global commodity prices like energy cost. The country largely meets its energy demand through expensive imports.

There was a significant increase in prices of those items which had either been affected by the imposition of sales tax or 2.5% withholding tax on their supplies. The average wheat flour price of a 20kg bag increased by Rs170, or 10%, to Rs1,943 in July over the preceding month.

Likewise, owing to 10% sales tax on poultry feed, chicken prices rose by 12% to Rs382 per kg compared to the pre-budget month. Powdered milk got expensive by 17%, or Rs140, to Rs992 per pack following the imposition of sales tax and withholding tax. PBS data revealed that sugar prices increased to an average of Rs146 per kg. The price was higher by Rs6 per kg compared to the ceiling set by the government at the time of allowing export of 150,000 metric tons in June.

As expected, the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association

has refused to accept the blame for the price hike, saying it could not control market forces. But the association had told the government that it would make sure that sugar prices did not go up after exports.

Maaz Mahmood stressing the need for putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory by providing incentives to the industry, lamented that the economy is facing multiple challenges of falling exports, high inflation, low growth and declining foreign reserves, with fiscal accounts under immense pressure on account of heavy interest payments.

He asked the government to address the underlying structural vulnerabilities through smooth energy supply at competitive rates, as country’s overall export proceeds continued to shrink for the fifth consecutive month in a row.

PBS: Inflation hits 8-month high, July sees 2.1% increase

LAHORE (INP): Inflation rates have surged to their highest level in eight months, with a 2.1 percent increase recorded in July 2024. This marks the steepest monthly rise since November 2023. Despite the sharp monthly increase, the annual inflation rate has dropped to 11.1 percent, down from 28.3 percent in July 2023.

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported

that while the overall inflation rate rose by 2.1 percent last month, the annual rate has significantly decreased from 28 percent to 11.1 percent. The monthly inflation rate in June 2024 was 12.6 percent, highlighting a notable monthly fluctuation.

Inflation varied between urban and rural areas, with urban inflation at 13.2 percent compared to 8.1 percent in rural regions. Significant price hikes were

observed in food items: tomatoes surged by 75.82 percent, vegetables by 29.71 percent, dry milk by 17.34 percent, and chicken by 10 percent. Additionally, the cost of wheat flour increased by 8.23 percent, and prices for potatoes, white gram, milk, wheat, fruits, and honey also rose.

The report also noted increases in hospital charges, fuel, hosiery, and motor fuel, while bakery

items, fish, and transport fares saw price reductions.

Clothing and shoes became 18.18 percent more expensive over the past year, and housing, electricity, water, and gas charges rose by 25.30 percent.

Health facilities have seen a 19 percent price increase compared to last year, transport fares have risen by 12 percent, and entertainment and dining costs have also gone up.

Machinery imports surge 46.27%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall machinery group experienced a substantial increase of 46.27% during the last fiscal year compared to the 2022-23 period, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The surge in machinery imports is poised to enhance productivity and technological advancement across key sectors, driving economic growth and infrastructure development.

The total imports of the machinery group during the last year stood at \$8,500.628 million against the imports of \$5,811.517 million recorded in 2022-23.

The import of agriculture sector machinery and equipment surged by 122.85% from \$40.972 million to \$91.307 million; office machinery including data processing equipment 35.31% from \$339.428 mil-

lion to \$459.288 million; construction and mining machinery 11.16% from \$84.730 million to \$94.187; electrical machinery and apparatus 95.67% from \$1,673.820 million to \$3,275.127 million; telecom related equipment 147.36% from \$956.696 million to \$2,366.500 million; mobile phone 233.10% from \$ 570.071 million to \$ 1,898.933 million and other apparatus

20.94% from \$386.625 million to \$ 467.567 million.

However, during the period under review, the import of power-generating machinery declined by 16.46% from \$ 500.450 million to \$ 418.085 million; textile machinery by 54.52% from \$ 328.427 million to \$ 149.364 million; other equipment by 12.73 per cent from \$ 1,886.996 million to \$ 1,646.768 million.

BMP blasts DISCOs for issuing highly inflated power bills to industry

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry’s (FPCCI) Businessmen Panel (BMP) has blasted the power distribution companies (DISCOs) for issuing highly inflated power bills to the trade and industry in the second quarter (2Q) of Apr-Jun of current fiscal year of 2024-25, who are already harmed by the high cost of doing business, discouraging investment in capacity and capability.

BMP Chairman and FPCCI former president Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the high cost would prove to be detrimental to the industries due to high cost of doing business and has also opened

the floodgates of inflation. In addition to making the electricity bills costlier and unaffordable for the consumers, the hike in base tariff would escalate prices of all household goods being widely used in every household, he added.

Quoting a report based on information and data provided by Power Information Technology Company, he said that the scope of pro rata billing had been expanded beyond its original intent instead of solely revising bills for periods exceeding 30 days.

All power companies, including Karachi Electric, have started applying pro rata adjustments to bills for periods fewer than 30 days. This has resulted in a “significant number of consumers being reclassified

from “protected” to unprotected categories, from lifeline to non-lifeline, and from lower to higher tariff slabs, which resulted in inflated bills.

According to the report, pro rata adjustments were made for readings taken for periods under 30 days and subsequently scaled up to 30-31 days, with projected units for fewer days, using pro rata calculations. As a result, many consumers were impacted by pro rata billing for periods shorter than 30 days. Many lifeline consumers pushed out of monthly ceiling, paying almost double rates for electricity

Many users were rated for three months running — April, May and June — contrary to the meter reading schedule.

This is a violation of the Consumer Service Manual, the report found.

It held that ex-Wapda distribution companies (DISCOs) and KE had not replaced defective meters within two months, as required by Consumer Service Manual, which resulted in average billing. This in turn led to inflated bills.

Moreover, the power companies “in significant cases, recorded readings much earlier than the scheduled date and used a pro-rata calculation to adjust the readings during April to June”.

This resulted in readings that were higher than what was actually recorded on the meter. Over and above that, bills issued by power companies over three

months — April-June — had a serious discrepancy that the snap date did not match with the schedule date.

In the process, the investigation report noted, “lifeline” consumers (using up to 50 units per month) were pushed out of their monthly ceiling and had to pay almost double the rates, Rs7.74 per unit instead of Rs3.95. In these cases, meter reading was done (recorded) for 27 days, which should have been 45-46 units, but this was prorated to 30 days, resulting in consumers slipping to the above 50-unit category, thus out of lifeline status and attracting twice the per unit rate.

Likewise, lifeline consumers of 51-100 unit per month were billed at the rate

of Rs10.06 per unit instead of Rs7.74 per as they were billed on estimated basis for 30 days on the basis of 27 or 26 days reading.

Similarly, consumers in “protected category” of 200 monthly units for subsidised rate were also disadvantaged and their pro-rata billing for 30 days instead of actual reading attracted per unit rate of Rs27.14 instead of their approved rate of Rs10.06 per unit — almost three times higher rate.

In the same pattern, consumers in 201-300 units per month in unprotected category were charged at Rs32.03 per unit instead of their entitled rate of Rs27.14 per unit.

Therefore, to protect the interest of consumers, the power companies have

been directed that the “consumers charged on pro rata basis during April 2024 to June 2024 for readings less than defined billing months be adjusted with actual units so recorded”.

However, the units of remaining days which have been charged on pro-rata basis be adjusted on rates as determined by actual meter reading units, but the consumer category will remain the same, the regulator ordered.

Mian Anjum termed the increase in tariff unlawful and a violation of NEPRA’s own rules and regulations, as any increase in tariff has to be determined and implemented only after holding public hearings but unfortunately they have solely decided to raise the tariff without holding pub-

lic hearings, he argued.

He condemned the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority’s decision to increase electricity tariffs, stating that the burden of power theft, mismanagement, and inefficiencies cannot be shifted to consumers on the pretext of fuel adjustment.

Anjum Nisar stated that the constant increase in power tariffs on the pretext of fuel adjustment had increased electricity prices and added to the already high cost of trade and industry. Seeking comparable energy tariffs for domestic industries in order to capture the global market, he stated that due to high electricity rates, power theft became rampant as the tariff was unaffordable to consumers.



In brief

Hazara, Quetta win

ISLAMABAD (APP): Hazara Quetta and TWK won matches in the National Women's Football Club Championship 2024 on the third day of its final stage, played at Jinnah Stadium of the Pakistan Sports Complex here Sunday. On the day first match, Hazara Quetta WFC displayed their dominance on the field with a remarkable 7-0 victory over Jafa WFC. Farishata was the star of the match, scoring five goals and leading her team to a resounding win. Sadiqa and Farzana also contributed to the scoreboard, each netting a goal to secure the victory. The second match saw TWK face off against Diya FC, resulting in another impressive performance. TWK triumphed with a staggering 13-0 scoreline. Anushay Usman led the charge with four goals, while Aqsa followed closely with three. Anmol Khan and Anmol Hira each scored two goals and Ayda added one more to complete the emphatic win for TWK.

Haris qualifies for final stage

LEICESTER (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan snooker player Haris Tahir has qualified for the final stages of the British Open 2024 on Sunday here at Mattioli Arena. Haris Tahir faced Scotland's Dean Young in the qualifying round and defeated him by the score of 4-3 after an intense and captivating snooker match. In a thrilling snooker match, Tahir and Young battled it out in a series of closely contested frames. Tahir took the lead by winning the first frame with a score of 58-43, setting the stage for an intense showdown. Young retaliated in the second frame, narrowly defeating Tahir with a score of 68-65. Undeterred, Tahir staged a comeback in the third frame, securing a convincing 78-31 win before continuing his impressive form to clinch the fourth frame with a score of 74-13. However, the momentum shifted as the Scottish cueist fought back vigorously, displaying dominance in the fifth frame with a score of 73-48. He followed this up with a nail-biting victory in the sixth frame, edging out Tahir 69-62 in a closely fought contest. In the final and decisive seventh frame, Haris Tahir secured his triumph with a score of 63-36. His overall performance throughout the match was commendable, and this last frame solidified his well-deserved victory in the qualifying round of the British Open. Prior to that, Tahir defeated Welsh snooker player Jamie Jones in the Wuhan Open with a score of 5-3.

Lin secures medal

PARIS (Agencies): Taiwanese Lin Yu-ting became the second boxer at the centre of a gender eligibility row to secure a medal at the Paris Olympics as she reached the semi-finals of the women's featherweight division. The 28-year-old beat Svetlana Staneva, 34, by unanimous decision - but after the bout the Bulgarian's coach suggested Lin should not have been allowed to compete. A visibly frustrated Staneva, 34, left the arena making a cross with her fingers, shouting "no, no". Like Algerian welterweight Imane Khelif who progressed on Saturday, Lin is competing in Paris despite being banned from last year's World Championships by the International Boxing Association (IBA). The fighters were reported to have failed gender eligibility tests at the Worlds, a situation which has sparked huge controversy.

Djokovic beats Alcaraz



PARIS: Winner Novak Djokovic of Serbia presents his gold medal and celebrates while victory ceremony after men's single final on day nine of the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

Ghulam Mustafa knocked out of Paris Olympics

PARIS (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan shooter Ghulam Mustafa Bashir bowed out of the ongoing Paris Olympics 2024 as he failed to qualify for the final round of the Men's 25m rapid pistol event here on Sunday.

Ghulam Mustafa Bashir, a bronze medalist in the World Championships, showcased his talent in the two stages of the shooting qualification event at the Paris Olympics. However, he failed to a spot in the top six of the 25-meter

rapid pistol event, scoring a total of 581 points.

During the first stage of the competition, Bashir scored a total of 292 points. He earned 98 points in the first series, which lasted 8 seconds, 99 points in the

second series, which lasted 6 seconds, and 95 points in the 4-second series. However, in the second stage, Bashir's performance fell short of his potential. He scored 97, 97, and 95 points in the three series, which was not enough to secure a place in the top 6.

Out of the seven Pakistani athletes participating in the Paris Olympics 2024, Bashir was the sixth athlete to be eliminated from the competition.

Prior to Bashir, Kishmala Talat was also knocked out of the Paris Games after failing to advance into the next round of the Women's 25m pistol event on Friday. She finished 22nd with a final score of 579-18x, miles away from sealing a berth in the final round.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's only sprinter competing in the Olympics 2024, Faiqa Riaz, was knocked out of the Games on the same day after failing to progress into the next round of the Athletics event.

Crawley out of Sri Lanka Tests with broken finger

LONDON (Agencies): England opener Zak Crawley has been ruled out of the Test series against Sri Lanka starting this month because of a fractured finger. The 26-year-old damaged the little finger on his right hand attempting to take a catch at second slip in the victory over West Indies at Edgbaston last week which sealed a 3-0 series clean sweep. Surrey's Dan Lawrence will open alongside Ben Duckett in Crawley's absence. Essex's Jordan Cox has been called up to the Test squad for the first time.

PARIS (AFP): Novak Djokovic defeated Carlos Alcaraz on Sunday to claim a maiden Olympic title and become just the fifth player to complete a career Golden Slam.

The 37-year-old Serb, competing in his fifth Games, came through 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/2) in an enthralling final at Roland Garros to add Olympic gold to his 24 Grand Slam triumphs. Victory allowed him to join Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, Steffi Graf and the watching Serena Williams as the only players to win all four Grand Slam tournaments and Olympic singles gold.

He also became the oldest singles champion since tennis returned to the Olympics in 1988 and shattered Alcaraz's bid to add gold to the French Open and Wimbledon titles he has already pocketed this summer.

An emotional Djokovic celebrated by holding aloft the Serbian flag on court before clambering into the players' box to embrace his wife and children.

"We almost played three hours, the final shot was the only moment when I was sure I could win the

match," said Djokovic, who had lost heavily to Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final last month.

"Finally I did it" "I put my body, my family on the line to win gold and finally I did it." Alcaraz was distraught and wept as he attempted to conduct a TV interview. "Three hours, a big battle with tough moments," said the 21-year-old after a final in which neither player dropped serve. "It's very painful to lose."

Djokovic carved out a break point in the second game of the opener and three more in the fourth, all saved by the Spaniard. Then it was the Serb's turn to demonstrate his famed powers of resilience, fighting off three break points in the fifth game and another five in a marathon ninth game.

In a rollercoaster duel, Alcaraz saved a set point in the 12th game but his veteran opponent dominated the tiebreak to claim the opener after a breathless 93 minutes on Court Philippe Chatrier. There was no let-up in the second set, scintillating shot-making alongside rousing defence with Alcaraz fighting off the final's 14th break point

in the third game.

Again the set was decided by a tie-break and it was Djokovic with history on the line again sweeping through to take victory after two hours and 50 minutes.

Lorenzo Musetti defeated Felix Auger-Aliassime in three sets on Saturday to claim the bronze medal, giving Italy its first men's tennis medal in 100 years.

Later Sunday, Russian athletes can claim their first gold of the Games when Mirra Andreeva and Diana Shnaider face the Italian team of Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini in the women's doubles. Russian competitors are taking part in the Olympics as neutrals following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February, 2022.

If Andreeva and Shnaider win gold, their achievement will not be recognised in the medals table while both the Russian flag and national anthem will be banned from the podium ceremony.

Cristina Bucsa and Sara Sorribes Tormo, the Spanish eighth seeds, defeated the Czech pair of Karolina Muchova and Linda Noskova 6-2, 6-2 in the bronze medal match.



CHATEAUROUX: Ghulam Mustafa Bashir competes in the Shooting 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men's Qualification on day nine of the Olympic Games Paris.

Mohib leaves for Japan to take part in int'l tourney



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Famous Squash player of Pakistan Army Ibrahim Mohib left for Japan to participate in International Junior Squash Competition. Ibrahim Mohib also has the honour of becoming Pakistan National Champion and

Pakistan No. 1 position.

He has achieved many success while in many competitions, he has obtained the best positions, including competitions like Japan, Scottish and Australian Junior. Players from 40 countries Boys and girls matches will be held in five categories, including under-11, 13, 15, 17 and under-19. Ibrahim Mohib is representing Pakistan in the under-19 category.

He received training in two sessions, he trained for two and a half hours in the morning and then two and a half hours from noon to evening. Ibrahim Mohib, speaking to the

media before his departure, said that he was satisfied with his preparation. And he hopes that he will get more big honors for the country and the nation and will try hard to win the international competitions held in Japan, he said that he was provided the best facilities by the Pakistan Army. He is participating in the competitions in Japan with the support of Pakistan Army. He appreciated the efforts of Pakistan Army.

He said Currently I am Pakistan National No. 2 in Under-19 Category and will Regain the No.1 position for this i have been working so hard.

Mubasir powers Shaheens to victory

DARWIN (Monitoring Desk): Mubasir Khan and Jahandad Khan put together bright performances to help Pakistan Shaheens begin the white-ball leg of the Darwin tour on a winning note as Shaheens beat hosts Northern Territory Strike by four wickets in the 50-over match on Sunday at the Gardens Oval in Darwin.

Mubasir and Jahandad shared seven wickets among them before putting on a vital 18-run seventh wicket partnership to take Shaheens over the line. Shaheens had stuttered in their pursuit of the 143-run target after being reduced to 94-5 but Mubasir (32 not out, 72b, 3x4s), who walked into bat at 56-3, stood steadfast on one end to take his team home.

After Haseebullah departed for two off five balls, Sahibzada Farhan (30, 32b, 4x4s) and Usman Khan put on a 52-run partnership for the second wicket. Matt Hammond dismissed Usman, for 22-ball 20 with the help of three fours, and skipper Mohammad Harris, for a three-ball duck, in 10th over to put Shaheens under pressure.

Muhammad Irfan Khan (21, 28b, 2x4s), batting at six, and Arafat Minhas (18, 27b, 2x4s), batting at seven, contributed vital runs before departing in the nervy chase. It was in 36th over when Shaheens got over the line with Jahandad chipping in with 10 unbeaten runs with the help of one boundary. Apart from Hammond, who took two wickets, Caelan Maladay, Lachlan Bangs, Charlie Smith and Connor Carroll picked up one wicket each.

Earlier, after winning the coin toss and opting to bat first, NT Strike lost their opening batters, Carroll and Jacob Dickman inside three overs as Mohammad Imran Jnr and Jahandad

Khan struck with the new ball. Jahandad soon dismissed Harshik Bimral for seven off 26 balls leaving NT Strike 19-3 after eight overs.

Spinners, Mubasir Khan and Faisal Akram, took little time in opening their accounts in the wicket column after Mubasir dismissed Bangs (10, 21b, 1x4) in 16th over and Faisal got rid of Cadell McMahon (9, 25b, 2x4s) to leave NT Strike reeling at 69-5 in 23.4 overs.

Jagadeswara Koduru (59, 80b, 4x4s, 2x6s), the top-scorer for his side, and Matt Hammond (22, 51b) came together to stitch a 40-run sixth-wicket partnership before Mubasir struck to remove the latter in 36th over. Tom Menzies and Jagadeswara too returned to dug out within the next 17 balls with the scorecard reading 117-8.

Maladay (15, 28b) and Nicholas Fleming (11, 20b, 1x4) took their team to 142-run total before being bundled out in 46.1 overs. For Shaheens, Jahandad returned figures of 4-26 in 8.1 overs while Mubasir picked up three wickets for 18 runs in his nine overs. Imran Jnr, who only gave away 16 runs in his 10 overs, and Faisal dismissed one batter each.

Shaheens will take on Bangladesh 'A' in their next 50-over match on Tuesday.

Scores in brief:

Pakistan Shaheens won by four wickets

Northern Territory Strike 142 all out, 46.1 overs Jagadeswara Koduru 59, Matt Hammond 22; Jahandad Khan 4-26, Mubasir Khan 3-18)

Pakistan Shaheens 143-6, 35.1 overs (Mubasir Khan 32 not out, Sahibzada Farhan 30, Muhammad Irfan Khan 21, Usman Khan 20; Matt Hammond 2-29).



ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan team secured a bronze medal in the 15th Asian Men's U18 Volleyball Championship, at Bahrain. In a dominant display of skill and teamwork, Pakistan triumphed over Japan with a decisive 3-0 victory in the third-place match. The set scores were 25-13, 25-21, and 25-17, showcasing Pakistan's superior play. This impressive per-

formance places Pakistan in the third position among 16 participating countries, including notable teams from Bahrain, Thailand, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Iran, China, Lebanon, the Philippines, India, Korea, and Kuwait. The victory not only brings a Bronze Medal but also marks a signifi-

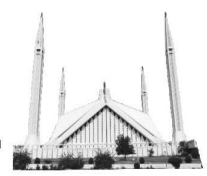
cant milestone for Pakistan volleyball, reflecting the growth and potential of the sport in the country.

The success of the Pakistan U18 team is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the players, coaching staff, and the Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF). Under the expert guidance of Head Coach Saeed Ahmed Khan, the

team has developed into a formidable force in the Asian volleyball scene. The coaching staff's strategic planning and rigorous training regimen played a crucial role in honing the skills of the young athletes, enabling them to perform at their best on the international stage. The support and leadership of Ch Muhammad Yaqoob, Chairman of the PVF, have been instrumental in promoting volleyball in Pakistan.

His vision and efforts have significantly increased the sport's popularity and participation across the region. This achievement is a reflection of the federation's commitment to developing volleyball talent and providing opportunities for young athletes to compete at the highest levels.

In addition to securing the Bronze Medal, the Pakistan U18 Men's Volleyball Team has also qualified for the upcoming World Championship.



In brief

Margalla College renovated

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a remarkable feat of collaborative governance, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has renovated and refurbished the abandoned hostel at Margalla College Islamabad in just three months. According to the Education Ministry, GIK University will now manage the facility from Monday, offering high-impact IT courses, training programs for students, and fostering a culture of innovation and excellence. This initiative showcases the power of public-private partnerships and innovative governance, providing a world-class learning environment for students and empowering them with cutting-edge skills. The Ministry of Education also appreciated to the teams involved for their dedication and hard work.

Man held for displaying weapon

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested a man for displaying arms on social media in the jurisdiction of R.A Bazaar police station here on Sunday. Police have also confiscated weapons used in the crime. According to the police spokesman, the arrest of the suspect identified as Tabasum, came after concerns were raised about the dissemination of weapon-related content, causing fear and panic among the public. SP Potohar Nasir Nawaz said the accused will face strict action adding that this is a clear message that those who use social media platforms to spread fear and terror will be held accountable. He made it clear that it is a prime duty of the police to protect the lives and properties of people.

7 held in raid on Sheesha Center

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have raided a 'Sheesha Centre' and arrested seven accused in the jurisdiction of the Airport Police Station and confiscated sound system and other material from their possession, informed police spokesman on Sunday. He said that on a tip-off, Airport Police carried out an operation and arrested seven accused identified as Ahsan, Moez, Farman, Qaiser, Syed Moez and Mohsin. The police team recovered 'Huqqas' and other smoking items from their possession. Police have registered a case against them and started an investigation. The spokesman said that an anti-smoking drive had been launched in the city to ensure the implementation of the anti-smoking law, in 2002.

AIOU to celebrate I-Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is gearing up to celebrate Independence Day with great enthusiasm. On the instructions of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the university's main campus and regional offices across the country have been adorned with national flags. A series of events, including competitions for national songs and speeches, seminars, tableaux, and cultural programs, will be held to instill patriotism in the younger generation and help them understand the true meaning of independence. Dr. Nasir Mahmood emphasized the importance of education in contributing to Pakistan's development and stability, urging young people to focus on their studies and serve the country with dedication and hard work. The events aim to pay tribute to the armed forces who have sacrificed their lives for the protection of the country, and to awaken the spirit of love for the country among young people.

Naqvi pays homage to great sacrifices of police martyrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has paid rich tributes to the great sacrifices of police martyrs on Police Martyrs' Day being observed on Sunday.

In a message on Police Martyrs' Day, he said that this day is a reminder of the unforgettable sacrifices of brave police personnels who are the pride of the entire nation.

Interior Minister said that police officers and personnel have always been at the forefront in curbing crimes. He praised the

exemplary services of police forces in all provinces for maintaining peace and order. He also acknowledged the sacrifices of police officers and personnel in the war against terrorism, saying that they have written history with their precious blood.

Furthermore, he said that SSP Ashraf Marth, Captain Mubeen, and all police martyrs are always alive in our hearts and will remain so. The sacrifices of police martyrs are invaluable which can never be forgotten. Interior

Minister stated that on Police Martyrs' Day, we express solidarity with the families of martyrs.

He emphasized that we stand with the families of police martyrs and will also be there for them. He said that welfare of the families of police martyrs is responsibility of the government.

Interior Minister reiterated that a true nation always honors its martyrs. He underscored that there will be no compromise regarding the honor and respect of martyrs.

Pindi Police pays tribute to martyrs

RAWALPINDI (APP): A solemn ceremony was held to pay tribute to police officers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty at Police Lines headquarters in connection with "Police Martyr Day" being observed here on Sunday.

Among others, senior police officials, including Regional Police Officer (RPO) Babar Sarfraz Alpa, City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Investigations Zunaira Azfar, SP CIA Benish Fatima, and Divisional SPs,

attended the ceremony.

The families of the martyrs also participated in the ceremony. The police contingent presented a guard of honour and Quran Khawani was held in the Jamia Masjid, and prayers were also held for the elevation of the ranks of the police martyrs. RPO Babar Sarfraz Alpa and CPO Syed Khalid Hamdani laid flowers on the martyrs' memorial.

RPO Babar Sarfraz Alpa emphasized the importance of remembering the 1,638 brave officers of the Punjab Police who sacrificed their lives, including 118 officers

and jawans from the Rawalpindi Police.

RPO Babar Sarfraz Alpa stated that the police have the trust of the martyrs, emphasizing that those who sacrificed their lives for the country's survival will always be remembered. He described the martyrs as a source of pride and honour for the nation. RPO Babar Sarfraz Alpa, CPO Syed Khalid Hamdani, and other officers shared a meal with the families of the martyrs at the Altaf Hussain Shaheed Mess. Prayers were also held for the prosperity and progress of the nation.

Governor hails overseas Pakistanis' role

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan on Sunday underscored the role of overseas Pakistanis in the development of the country.

He said that the hearts of Pakistanis abroad are full of love for their countrymen. "Overseas philanthropists also contribute to charitable works by sending valuable foreign exchange which is appreciable", he added.

The governor stated this while talking to a delegation comprising overseas Pakistanis who met him at Punjab House Islamabad under the leadership of Zumd Khan (Hilal Imtiaz) Chairman of

Pakistan Sweet Home.

According to DPR Rawalpindi, the chairman briefed the governor about a new project of Pakistan Sweet Homes named Fatimat Al-Zahra Hospital (Chakri Rajar). Governor Punjab highlighted that overseas Pakistanis have helped Pakistan in every difficult hour.

"With the support of philanthropists, the new project of Overseas Pakistanis Sweet Home is an exemplary contribution of social responsibility in the society", he said adding that the charitable contributions by overseas Pakistanis should be encouraged.

Governor Punjab under-

lined the need to establish more such hospitals for poor and needy people in Attock and other remote areas. The newly elected chairman of the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, Syed Qamar Raza and overseas Pakistanis from Norway, Holland and Italy were also among the visiting delegation.

In a separate statement, the governor paid tribute to the police martyrs on the occasion of Police Martyrs Day and said that the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of peace in the country are our pride.

He also expressed his solidarity with the families of the martyrs.

PHA Rwp to plant one million saplings

RAWALPINDI (APP): Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi would plant one million saplings in the current Monsoon plantation drive 2024, said Director General (DG) PHA, Rawalpindi, Ahmed Hassan Ranjha.

He informed that the tree plantation campaign 'Plant for Pakistan' was kicked off by planting over 200,000 saplings at 'Takhtpari' to restore the historic forest.

The DG said that the plantation campaign was started by PHA Rawalpindi in collaboration with Punjab forest department.

PHA was striving to make Rawalpindi city clean and green. Despite financial constraints, PHA was working hard to make the

city green, he added.

He said that the authority had set up a grand nursery to provide different plants to the citizens at affordable rates and generate more revenue for the department. The grand nursery was set up on an area of 1000 kanals in Gorakhpur Town with objectives to promote plantation and to contain the consequences of global climate change.

Punjab government had provided the land for the purpose of nursery to promote plantation in the country, he said. The DG said that Gorakhpur Nursery would prove to be very important in the ongoing initiatives of the Punjab government regarding Green Pakistan from where large scale planting of trees

would be done.

The plants and saplings would be supplied in the coming months from the Gorakhpur Nursery as a variety of plants and grasses were produced there.

He said that less than five percent of Pakistan's total land area consists of forests, which is a matter of concern and the growth of forests in Pakistan could be ensured only by measures like continuous plantation.

He informed that over 200,000 saplings were planted at 'Takhtpari' to restore historic forest.

The employees of PHA Rawalpindi, the Forest Department Rawalpindi Division, a large number of citizens and students participated in the campaign.



ISLAMABAD: To observe "Youm-e-Istehsal", banners and panaflexes displayed in front of Parliament House against Indian Government's decision of revocation of the special status of disputed territory of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). —APP Photo

IRSA releases 462,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 4627600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 53,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1533.00 feet and was 135.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 331,000 cusecs and 275,500 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1204.40 feet, which was 156.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 29,800 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 351,600, 234,900, 179,000 and 97,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 84,200 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera and 66,400 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

IESCO notifies power shutdown programme

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

According to IESCO Spokesperson, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Islamabad Circle, T&T, Angoori, Treat, Sohdran Road, Ghor Garden, Sharifabad, Burma, Khanna Dak, Lohi Bhir, Peer Suhawah, Bari Imam, Khayaban Iqbal, Industrial.I, II & III, Warid, Old PTN, Ittihad Foundry, SH Steel, Sadiq Steel, SES, Fazal Ghee, U-Phone Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Katarian, Holy Family, F-Block, Bani, 4th Road, I-14/3 Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Zaraj.I & II, IST, Dhok Awan, Mohra Nagyal, NPF-II Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Sarkal, Chakral, Al Qaim Mill, Dhoda Feeders and surrounding areas.

Kiyani urges opposition to shun differences

ISLAMABAD (APP): Convener of the National Parliamentary Task Force Bilal Azhar Kiyani Sunday urged the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership to abandon its polarizing tactics and believed that Pakistan's political leadership can pool their expertise to devise a comprehensive solution to this pressing public problem.

Talking to a private news channel, Kiyani argues that PTI can play a constructive role in building national consensus and fostering a more inclusive political environment in the country, adding, the government was fully

aware of the gravity of the situation and was working tirelessly to provide relief to the masses.

Kiyani reiterated that the government was taking a multi-pronged approach to address the issue, including negotiations with traders, measures to enhance productivity, and initiatives to promote economic growth.

He also appealed to the opposition parties to put aside their political differences and join hands with the government to tackle the challenge of inflation, which, he said, was a national issue that required a collective response.

By working together, Kiyani emphasized, Pakistan could overcome the current economic difficulties and emerge stronger and more resilient.

Replying a query, he pointed out that Khan's policies had no continuity, and his decisions were often driven by personal whims rather than a coherent vision for the country.

"Pakistan needs leaders who can provide stability and consistency, not those who change their stance with the wind," Kiyani asserted, dismissing Khan's overtures for talks as nothing more than a publicity stunt.

Roadside vendors adding in festive atmosphere as August 14 nears

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the occasion of Independence day, preparations are on peak as the roadside vendors are adding to the festive atmosphere by selling colourful flags and decoration that are enhancing the nation's passion for patriotism.

According to a report aired by a private news channel, as August 14 nears, the vendors' stalls are becoming a hub of activity, with citizens flocking to buy their favorite items. "It is a time of great patriotism and pride, and we are happy to be a part of it," says Muhammad Ali.

"I have been selling flags and decorations for 10 years, but this year's demand is higher than ever," says Muhammad Ali, a vendor in Islamabad.

"People are eager to show their love for Pakistan, and I am happy to provide them with the means to do so," said a motorist.

Citizens are also enthusiastic about the vendors' offerings. "I buy flags and decorations every year, but this year I am looking for something special," says Maria Khan, a resident of Lahore.

"I want to decorate my home and car with something that shows my pride for Pakistan," she added. Vendors are also offering customized items, such as personalized flags and banners, to cater to the growing

demand, said a citizen of Rawalpindi.

"We are getting a lot of requests for customized items, especially from families and friends who want to show their unity and patriotism," says Ahmed Hassan, a vendor in Karachi.

The vendors' stalls are not only adding to the festive atmosphere but also providing a livelihood for many, said a motorist in G7 Islamabad. "Selling flags and decorations is my only source of income, and I am grateful for the opportunity to earn a living during this time," says Abdul Rehman, a vendor in Peshawar.

"I love this time of year, the vendors' stalls are so colorful and festive, it really gets me in the mood for Independence Day," - Sarah Ahmed from Islamabad.

"The vendors' stalls are a great addition to the festive atmosphere. It is a wonderful way to celebrate our independence," said a vendor.

Selling flags and decorations is not just a business for us, it is a way to show our love for Pakistan. We are proud to be a part of this celebration," another vendor at G7. I love seeing the smiles on people's faces when they buy our products. It is a small contribution to the festive atmosphere, but it means a lot to us," another seller in Rawalpindi.

CDA Chairman takes notice of fish mortality in Rawal Dam

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Commissioner and Chairman of Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, took notice after media reports of increased fish mortality in Rawal Dam. A team led by Member Environment and Administration, Talat Gondal, was dispatched to the dam to investigate the matter.

The team, accompanied by officials from the Environment Protection Department, collected water samples from the dam, which have been sent to the Environment Protection Department, Punjab Fisheries Research Institute of NARC, Islamabad, for analysis.

The departments are expected to submit their reports within two days.

Preliminary observations suggest that the fish mortality occurred in the last week of July, and the dead fish have since been removed. The situation has improved, and the CDA has initiated the process to address the issue permanently.

An expression of interest has been invited for the installation of a sewerage treatment plant upstream to prevent water contamination. The CDA has ensured close monitoring of the situation, with Watch and Ward Staff deputed at the dam to report on any further occurrences of fish mortality.

Barrister Sundas Malik urges global leaders to break their silence on Kashmir's HR Crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): A prominent advocate for human rights in Kashmir Barrister Sundas Malik Sunday vehemently condemned India's widespread and systemic abuses of fundamental human rights (HR) in the region and urged the international community to take immediate and decisive action to halt these injustices.

In an exclusive interview with Radio Pakistan in connection with Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir, she condemned India's unilateral actions, particularly the revocation of Article 370 of its Constitution, which she said was unjustified and illegitimate.

She said that the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) want a free and fair plebiscite to

decide their future, highlighting that the abrogation of Article 35-A was a deliberate move to alter the region's demographic composition. She suggested that global powers could impose sanctions on the Indian government or its military to pressure India into reversing its August 5, 2019, actions.

She stressed that the international community must adopt a more robust and assertive stance to combat the egregious human rights violations in Kashmir, rather than turning a blind eye to these atrocities due to economic interests. The appalling scale of abuses, including genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity, demands an immediate and collective response, she added.

The global community must recognize the inherent value of human rights and take decisive action, including diplomatic pressure, economic sanctions, and support for independent investigations, to hold perpetrators accountable and ensure justice for the Kashmiri people, she mentioned.

Replying to a question, she said that the human rights report has laid bare India's glaring failures in addressing systemic discrimination and draconian laws targeting minority communities, particularly in Kashmir. The report exposes a distressing pattern of state-sponsored violence, arbitrary detentions, and blatant disregard for due process, perpetuating a culture of impunity and fear, he said.

She said there has been no progress for the people in IIOJK, where businessmen, farmers, and individuals face ongoing suppression and intimidation.

The report's findings serve as a stark reminder of India's obligations under international human rights law and the urgent need for reform to protect the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, or political beliefs, she mentioned.

"The BJP government's failure to provide adequate legal assistance to imprisoned top Kashmiri leaders is a glaring travesty of justice and a stark reminder of the systemic bias that pervades India's judicial system," she added. Despite repeated appeals, the BJP Supreme Court has failed

to provide timely and effective relief to these leaders, who have been languishing in jail for years without fair trial or due process, she highlighted.

Responding to a query, she further criticized that the Kashmir valley has been a contentious region for many decades, and there have been concerns about press freedom and the ability of journalists to report on the situation there. In recent years, there have been allegations that the Indian government has restricted access to the region for journalists and has pressured media outlets to present a particular narrative about the situation in Kashmir, she added.

"The international community must recognize the stark realities

of the Kashmir crisis and acknowledge the sufferings of the Kashmiri people", she added.

For decades, they have endured human rights abuses, military crackdowns, and restrictions on their freedom of expression and movement, she said, adding, the world cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the plight of Kashmiris, who are subjected to collective punishment, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances.

The international community must demand transparency, accountability, and a peaceful resolution to this longstanding conflict, ensuring that the rights and dignity of the Kashmiri people are respected and protected, she added.

Non-tax revenue analyzed

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of Finance has conducted an analysis and evaluation meeting focused on non-tax revenues with representatives from 14 ministries and agencies. The Ministry's press office announced that the meeting, chaired by Hafiz Mawlawi Shah Hussain Hussaini, DG Revenue, thoroughly assessed the non-tax revenue collection processes of these ministries and agencies. The review also covered the progress towards the set revenue targets for non-tax incomes.

Efforts being made: UNDP

KABUL (TOLOnews): The deputy resident representative of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Afghanistan said that although their budget is limited, they strive to help in the areas of economic development, education, and energy for Afghanistan. The organization has implemented several projects in the areas of greenhouse construction, health aid at a medical center, support for women entrepreneurs, and bridge construction.

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

20 Afghans executed in Iran so far this year

KABUL (Ariana News): An independent Iranian rights watchdog reported that 20 Afghan nationals were among 300 recorded executions in Iran between January and July this year.

In its latest report, Iran Human Rights reported at least 49 executions took place last month, 36 of whom were executed in the last 11 days of the month.

The watchdog reports that of the total 300 executions, "15 were women, 42 Baluch and 20 Kurdish minorities, and 20 Afghan nationals were amongst those executed."

The organization's director, Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, said: "We are particularly worried about the new wave of executions of Kurdish civil activists and drug death row prisoners in the coming weeks and months."

IHR said of the 300 executions recorded by the organization, only 9 percent (28 executions) were announced by official sources.

The remaining 91 percent were confirmed by Iran Human Rights through

Minister highlights key achievements

KABUL (BNA): Acting Minister of Energy and Water, Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor, presented a comprehensive report on the ministry's accomplishments over the past year during a press conference on Sunday.

Minister Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor emphasized the ministry's progress in water management, resource identification, development, and regulation.

He highlighted the significant strides made in energy programs, including service regulation and the establishment of the electricity market in Afghanistan.

Acting Minister of Energy and Water, Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor noted the key achievements over the past year include the implementation of major irrigation and hydroelectric dam projects, the construction of 117 reservoir across various provinces, and several fortification projects.

Notable among these is a 10-megawatt solar power project in Naghlu. Many of these projects have been completed and are now operational, with others nearing completion.

Additionally, he also mentioned ongoing work on critical infrastructure projects such as the Pashtun Dam, the tunnels of Bakshabad Dam, and the Kajaki Dam.

In the energy sector, Minister Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor highlighted numerous initiatives, including agreements for significant projects such as the 500 kV Arghandi substation, the 500 kV power transmission line from Dasht-e-Khwaja Alwan to Arghandi, and five related substation and transmission line projects. Work on these projects has already commenced.

Furthermore, according to him, agreements for several solar power projects in various provinces have been signed with investors, marking a substantial investment in the country's renewable energy infrastructure.

PM condemns killing of Hamas leader in Iran

KABUL (Ariana News): The Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Mullah Muhammad Hasan Akhund has extended his condolences to Hamas and the people of Palestine on the assassination last week of the group's political leader.

In a statement issued Sunday, Akhund said: "The assassination of Hamas's political leader is a desperate and transparent attempt to divert attention from its (Israel) military shortcomings and failures."

He said the targeted assassination of Haniyeh in Tehran by the Zionist regime is not only a heartbreaking loss but also a blatant violation of international laws and norms.

"This egregious act by the Zionist regime occurred while he was a guest of the government, highlighting the enemies' utter contempt for diplomatic sanctity and the principles of international conduct," he said.

Akhund also stated that the persistent silence of Western institutions and human rights organizations over the past ten months starkly reveals the true nature and biases of these entities.

"I unequivocally condemn this cowardly and unjustifiable attack on Martyr Ismail Haniyeh.



May Allah grant him and all the martyrs of Gaza the highest ranks alongside the martyrs of Badr and Uhud."

He went on to state that despite its relentless campaign of genocide against the Palestinian people, Israel's strategic objectives remain unmet and that the Palestinian resistance will undoubtedly continue their righteous struggle for rights and freedom.

He said: "In light of these events, I urgently call upon the international community, particularly the influential nations of the region and the world, to take immediate and decisive action to halt the Zionist regime's atrocities in Gaza.

"It is imperative to prevent the further escalation of this conflict, which threatens to engulf the entire region in flames. The responsibility for any expansion of this war rests solely with the Zionist regime and its supporters."

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Saturday in a statement that Haniyeh was slain in Tehran by a short-range projectile with a warhead of about 7 kg.

Wednesday's assassination has aroused fears of direct conflict between Tehran and its arch-enemy Israel in a region shaken by Israel's war in Gaza and a worsening conflict in Lebanon.

Revenge for the killing of the Hamas leader will be

"severe and at an appropriate time, place, and manner", the Guards' statement added, blaming the "terrorist Zionist regime" of Israel for his death.

Iran and Hamas have accused Israel of carrying out the strike that killed Haniyeh hours after he attended the inauguration of Iran's new president.

Israeli officials have not claimed responsibility.

The statement by the elite Guards force also accused the "criminal US government" of supporting the attack which Iranian media said took place in a northern suburb of Tehran.

Haniyeh was buried on Friday in Qatar, where he was based.

Nomads demand govt help, veterinary services

HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): For nomads ranching is the most basic economic activity in western Herat province, but they complain about not being supported by the government and they lack access to veterinary services.

Talking to Pajhwok Afghan News, some nomads (Kochis) said they lacked support and struggled with shortages of veterinary medical services, which they called he most common reason for the rapid loss of their cattle.

"They said they could not support both their families and cattle so they had to sell some animals to support the rest from starving to death.

Khak Zarin Khan, an elder of the nomads from Kushk-i-Kuhna district of Herat, said he owned 200 sheep previously, but now their number had reduced by a half because of the lack of medical services.

"If not supported by the government, most of the Kochis would stop living in the deserts along with their cattle and their nomadic life will end", he said.

He added, they had no land to cultivate crops, but they depended on rain-fed

lands. "If it does not rain next year, we will be the first batch of the people to suffer the most and may need to sell animals to support families."

Ali, another nomad from Rubat Sangi district, also described his nomadic life as hard, saying his cattle fell ill amid limited veterinary services provided by the government. "These services do not respond to our needs."

"My sheep are ill and I am not economically capable to spend on their treatment". During the past one month about a dozen of his sheep died. Most Kochis in Gulran and Rubat Sangi districts are thinking about reducing their cattle because of the existing problems. "If the situation continues, the sheep of the nomads will die," he said.

These problems had forced some Kochi families to get rid of their cattle and sell them because of the problems and lack of veterinary services.

Veterinarians also talked about poor supply of animals' medical services in remote areas, something a major factor in the reduction of their livestock.

Veterinarian Sabir Abedi told Pajhwok that most common in animals included bacterial and viral illnesses.

Most of the available veterinary medicines are sub-standard, or the Kochis get them very late to treat their herds.

The Directorate of the Nomads (Kochis) has been merged with the Borders and Tribal Affairs department.

The officials of this directorate say only 10 percent of the problems of Kochis have been addressed that is why they face many problems.

Provincial Borders and Tribal Affairs director Maulvi Jamaluddin Omari said that the challenges and problems being faced by Kochis had been surveyed and shared with relevant authorities for solution.

Omari said they currently had no resources to support Kochis while the cooperation of other non-governmental organization to support Kochis was also very limited.

The Directorate of Borders and Tribal Affairs is trying to find a general solution to their problems, Omari added.

Extraction at 3 salt mines begins in Faryab

FARYAB (TOLOnews): The extraction work of three salt mines in Faryab province, contracted to a private company for \$24 million, has commenced.

The contracted company is expected to create job opportunities, build roads, provide welfare facilities, and establish a salt processing factory.

The total area of these projects is 14 square kilometers, and they are contracted for 15 years. The extraction from these mines is expected to reach 2,500 tons per day.

Officials from the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum have stated that Afghanistan needs 300,000 tons of salt annually, and the salt from Takhar alone is sufficient for Afghanistan for the next thousand years.

Hamayoun Afghan, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, said at the commencement ceremony that illegal mining in the country has been curbed, and the environment is now conducive for investments in mining.

The spokesperson for the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum stated, "We need about 300,000 tons of salt annually in the country. Most of this salt is for culinary, industrial, and animal use. Afghanistan has such vast salt resources that the salt from Takhar alone is sufficient for a thousand years."

Sohrab Osmani, the representative of the contracting company, said: "We have acquired the large and significant salt mine through an open and transparent bidding process for fifteen years."

Several local officials and religious scholars in Faryab have said the salt mining work in this province is crucial for the country's economic growth and have called for more investment and implementation of development and infrastructure projects in this province.

Abdul Ahad Fazli, the governor of Faryab, said: "We say to all traders, especially those from Faryab, that the conditions are now favorable, and you should come and invest in Afghanistan."

Some workers in Faryab have also stated that with the commencement of the salt mine extraction work, more job opportunities will be created for the youth.

Ghulam Sakhi, one of the workers, said: "My request from the Emirate is that Afghanistan has many mines; they should maintain these mines and start working on them so that people can find jobs."

With the opening of three mines, including the Maymana, Darzab, and Andkhoy salt mines, there is hope that the country's salt imports will drop to zero.

Customs initiates registration of undocumented cars

BADAKHSHAN (TOLOnews): Officials at the Badakhshan province customs office reported the initiation of the registration process for undocumented vehicles in this province. The aim of registering these vehicles is said to be to prevent security incidents and increase government revenue.

Shafaqatullah Moahiq, the director of Badakhshan customs, said: "The registration process in Badakhshan province for undocumented vehicles has been decided to prevent misuse, theft, ensure security, and increase the country's revenue."

Residents of Badakhshan also considered the implementation of this program effective in preventing criminal and security incidents.

"It helps 100% because having documents makes it clear in any kind of incident," said Ahmad Fawad, a resident of Badakhshan.

"It is a very good process for ensuring security and greatly helps prevent armed robbery," said Shafiuallah, a resident of Badakhshan.

This process will continue until the end of the current solar year, and compared to previous years, a discount of 50 to 70 percent has also been considered for undocumented vehicles by the leadership of the caretaker government.

FEROZKOH (Pajhwok): Women entrepreneurs in western Ghor province are concerned about their stagnated businesses and are calling for increased government and donor support.

They specifically requested the establishment of a women-only business center to help them thrive.

Gul Afroz, 42, who runs a tailoring workshop in Ferozkoh City, said she started her business with an initial investment of 30,000 Afghanis. She shared her challenges with Pajhwok Afghan News.

Afroz's workshop not only provides her a livelihood, but she is also training ten other women in sewing skills. "I opened this workshop two years ago to address my own economic challenges and to create job opportunities for other women," she said. However, she noted a decline

in business activity compared to its initial success.

Afroz urged both the government and donor agencies to extend their support to women entrepreneurs in Ghor to save them from becoming bankrupt.

She suggested that, alongside capacity-building and training programs, a special business center should be established to foster a more supportive environment for women's businesses.

Feroza Naderi, another entrepreneur, echoed similar sentiments, highlighting a downturn in her handicraft business and of other women in the sector.

"We need support of the government and relevant institutions for our work and to facilitate markets for our handicrafts both domestically and internationally," she said.

Naderi also called for a

women-dedicated business center to streamline their operations and boost the effectiveness of women entrepreneurs.

Gul Chehra, who is engaged in sewing and embroidery works daily, also emphasized the need for greater support for women entrepreneurs.

She highlighted that their skills in manual crafts could significantly contribute to the country's economic growth, asserting that it was the responsibility of the government to support their efforts.

"We work hard in sewing and embroidery, and we hope for increased support from the government and institutions to enhance our contributions to the economy," she added.

Officials at the Ghor Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry

acknowledged the concerns raised by women entrepreneurs.

They have been working to create market opportunities for women's handicrafts and to provide them continued government's support. "The chamber is actively supporting women entrepreneurs and addressing their needs," said a spokesperson.

They also noted the chamber was conducting training programs to help women grow their businesses.

Currently, about 200 women in Ghor are engaged in various sectors including sewing, cooking, handicrafts, carpet weaving, poultry, and agriculture.

The Ghor Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry is striving toward fostering a supportive environment for these entrepreneurs.

60% of border issues resolved through understanding

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Deputy Minister of Borders, Ethnicities, and Tribes told TOLOnews that 60% of the border challenges with neighboring countries have been resolved through mutual understanding, and efforts are ongoing to resolve the remaining border challenges with these countries.

Mohammad Ali Jan Ahmad, Deputy of Assemblies and Coordination of Tribal Affairs at the Ministry of Borders, Ethnicities, and Tribes, did not specify the

exact nature of the border challenges but added that rocket attacks on Kunar have also been prevented.

Jan Ahmad told TOLOnews: "Based on percentages, 60% of the border challenges with countries have been resolved compared to the past, and we have resolved and continue to resolve these problems with neighboring countries through mutual understanding."

He added that the interim government has the capability to prevent incursions into Afghanistan.

Referring to the previous government's rocket attacks on Kunar province, the ministry official said: "In the republic, hundreds of rockets were fired daily, but now they are not, and we are currently resolving challenges with countries through dialogue. We have the capability to prevent incursions into Afghanistan."

Meanwhile, some political analysts said that resolving Afghanistan's border challenges with its neighbors is beneficial for

all countries.

Hanif Khan Karokhail, a political analyst, said: "Resolving border challenges is of vital importance for Afghanistan, and all countries must keep their borders secure. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Defense to deploy professional border police along the borders."

The Ministry of Interior previously stated that in the past two years, there have been nearly fifty border clashes with Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Seven people killed and one injured in Afghanistan last week

KABUL (Pajhwok): Last week, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) dismissed consular services of 14 diplomatic missions and termed them unacceptable, websites of four diplomatic missions shut down, some Afghan officials stressed both religious and scientific education and the IEA called the UNAMA's criticism of women rights unfounded.

Casualties:

Last week, one person was killed and seven others injured in different incidents in Afghanistan.

A tribal elder was killed by unknown gunmen in the Qadis district of Badghis province, local officials said, one person was killed and another injured in the Qournach district, in the

Tagab Alam district a couple were killed due to family violence.

In Faryab, one security personnel was killed in the Almar district and another person was stabbed to death in Maimana, the provincial capital.

A body was recovered in the Waez district of Ghazni province.

Twelve people were killed and 11 others injured in different incidents of violence in the previous week.

Before the regime change in August 2021, hundreds of people, including civilians, security forces and insurgents, would get killed and injured every week.

Consular services:

Last week, the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said consular services provided by Afghan embassies in Canada, Australia and nearly a dozen European countries are not acceptable.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) consistently strived to defend the legitimate rights of Afghan nationals residing abroad, particularly in European countries, and provide them with easy consular services, the MoFA said in a statement.

The MoFA has repeatedly urged Afghan political and consular missions in European countries to engage with Kabul to at least address consular services-related issues of Afghans and provide them with better services.

"Unfortunately, the actions of most of the missions are carried out without coordination, arbitrarily and in explicit violation of the existing accepted principles," the statement added.

But Afghan diplomatic missions in Australia and Switzerland in a statement said that refusal of consular services in 11 European missions, Australia and Canada would create problems for Afghans.

The source added that they will provide consular services to all Afghans through their missions in the host countries in accordance with the position of the international community and the host countries.

The source wrote that these services were and are

being conducted in compliance with national laws and international regulations, complete transparency and trustworthiness, and based on the legitimacy and credibility of the previous government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

In yet another development, Afghanistan's embassies websites in Canada, Italy, Switzerland and Bonn have been shut down, while the websites of embassies in London, Belgium, Berlin, France, Creek, Poland, Sweden, Norway and Australia remained functional.

Afghan refugees in Iran:

For the past some times there have been reports regarding the harassment of Afghan refugees in Iran.

The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) said 128,000 Afghans have returned from Iran in the past month. According to reports 52,000 Afghans had been deported while the remaining voluntarily returned.

Deputy Prime Minister Mawlawi Abdul Kabir during his visit to Iran met Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Wahidi and discussed bilateral issues and the problems faced by Afghans in Iran.

Women rights, UNAMA concerns:

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in its report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan covering the period from April to June 2024 expressed concern

whout women rights in the country.

The report claimed women rights violations continued in Afghanistan; from April till June 179 people — 147 men, 28 women and four boys — have been publicly tortured.

But Hamdullah Fitrat, spokesperson for the IEA termed the report far from reality and prejudiced.

Fitrat said: "Sharia Law is imposed here everyone is entitled to his rights in the framework of Sharia Law, we considered it our religious duty to provide all residents with their due rights for this reason we reject this report."

Stressed on religious and modern education:

Last week, a reformation gathering was held for hun-

dreds officials of the army in Kandahar province.

The IEA supreme leader Shaik Habatullah Akhundzada told the gathering that officials should not feel arrogant about the power they have and should learn the knowledge required for their responsibilities.

Acting Education Minister Mawlawi Habibullah Agha said that modern and religious education was necessary to fight the enemies of Afghanistan, he was addressing a gathering in which Kankor toppers were appreciated.

Acting Interior Minister Serajudding Haqqani in a nother gathering said the purpose getting religious and modern education should be defending Islamic and national values.



DHAKA: Men run past a shopping center which was set on fire by protesters during a rally against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government.

Murad orders preparedness against upcoming rain spells

E.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has stated that although the current spell of rain has ceased, the next spell beginning on August 11 requires preparedness from all relevant departments, including the local government in urban areas and the Irrigation department in rural areas to ensure the protection of lives, property, and crops through timely and precautionary measures.

This he said while presiding over a meeting here at CM House on Sunday. The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, Sharjeel Memon, Saeed Ghani, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Secretary Local Govt Khalid Hyder Shah, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, DG PDMA Salman Shah, Chief Metrologist Dr Sarfraz. Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, Minister Relief & Rehabilitation Makhdoom Mahboob, Secretary Irrigation Zareef Khoro, and the divisional Commissioner attended the meeting through Zoom.

Weather: At the outset of the meeting Chief Metrologist Dr Sarfraz apprised the CM about the weather.

According to the Met chief, there was a prediction of above-average rains for August 2024 especially over Sindh and Balochistan with over 50 per cent probability.

In July 2024 rain was nine per cent below average across Pakistan while Sindh received 44 per cent less rain in July. 1 Ju to 4 Aug, over 11pc across Pakistan, over 48pc in Balochistan, over 17pc in Punjab, while, AJK, KP & GB received deficient rains so far.

July 1 to August 4, plus 16 per cent in Sindh with Jacobabad 71.7 per cent, Shaheed Benazirabad 49.2pc, Rohri 39.2pc and Sukkur 53.6pc.

Chief Metrologist Dr Sarfraz told the CM that the heavy spell of the rain would subside by Aug 6, 2024. The next spells are expected from August 11 to 13. The last days of August such as 18, 20 and /21 would be moderate/heavy falls again. Overall August is expected to wetter. September rains may also be above average as per the model outlook. Monsoon to persist till September 15 to 20, 2024.

Weather Warning: The weather warning shared in the meeting said that widespread

Thunderstorm/rain with heavy/very heavy falls likely to continue in Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Kambar, Shahdaddot, Kashmore, Larkano, Dadu, Naushahro Feroze, Shaheed Benazirabad, Ghotki, Sukkur, Sanghar, Matari, Jamshoro, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot & Khairpur districts till 06th August morning/afternoon.

Thunderstorm/rain with few moderate to isolated heavy falls likely in Hyderabad, Tando Mohammad Khan, Tando

Allahyar, Badin, Thatta, Sujawal, Tharparker districts and Karachi division today and tomorrow.

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab told the CM that there were 207 vulnerable points in the city. They include 56 in District South, 17 West, 22 Central, 32 Malir, 16 Korangi, 26 Keamari and 38 East.

He said that in case of heavy rain, KMC would install dewatering pumps at different locations such as the Tower, Governor House, Nursery, Star gate, Jinnah Terminal, KDA Chowrang, and standby at KMC Hqs and Liaquabad underpass.

Minister Relief & Rehabilitation Makhdoom Mahboob said the PDMA has provided de-watering pumps for critical points such as Falaknaz, Allahwala Town, Qayyumabad, Bilal Chowrang, Ghareebabad, Nazimabad underpass, Liaquatabad underpass, Sakhi Hassan Chowrang, Nagan Chowrang, Sohrab Goth, Jauhar Chowrang, Nursery, National Stadium and University Road, KPT Underpass, Shaheen Complex, SIUT, Sindh Assembly, Submarine underpass, Tower, Yousuf Goth and 4k Chowrang, Native Jetty and Gulbai.

Situation in upper Sindh: The Irrigation Minister, Jam Khan Shoro, provided an update on the River Indus, stating that the water level at Guddu was low.

He mentioned that there was a possibility of hill torrents flowing into Hamal

Lake and then into Manchar Lake, but at present, both lakes are at normal levels.

Additionally, the Secretary of Irrigation, Zarif Khoro, reported that Manchar Lake has only received 0.4 ft of water, which is not expected to have a significant impact. In response, the Chief Minister instructed the Irrigation Department to closely monitor the water levels in Hamal and Manchar Lakes due to heavy rainfall in Balochistan.

Furthermore, the CM directed the Irrigation Secretary to assign relevant officers to Manchar to ensure proper discharge into the River Indus if the water level there exceeds a certain threshold.

Murad Shah has directed the Irrigation department to be on alert in the areas of LBOD so that the water can be discharged through the recently restored natural waterways. The chief minister has also asked for reports on the current spell of rains from the commissioners who attended the meeting via video link.

He instructed the commissioners to timely dispose of stagnant rainwater from the low-lying areas through the pumping machines because another spell of rain is imminent. Mr. Shah has also directed the commissioner and mayors to keep him posted with a day-to-day report of the issues and their resolutions. He mentioned that he may visit any area in case the situation worsens.

Police Martyr's Day

100% rise in recruitment of martyr's children: CM



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, lauded the sacrifices of police martyrs and the patience and resilience of their families in glowing terms. He stated that the safe lives we and our children enjoy today are due to the sacrifices of these martyrs who gave their lives for us. No amount of tribute can fully honor their sacrifices. As Chief Minister, I salute the police and military martyrs and all those who sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism.

Speaking as the chief guest at the Police Martyrs' Day ceremony in Peshawar on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that police martyrs are our pride, and it is our duty to take care of

their children because these martyrs sacrificed their lives for the safe future of our children.

He said he is proud to be the Chief Minister of a province that is on the frontline of the country's war, and the police of this province have set an unparalleled example of sacrifice in this war. Words may end, but the stories of police sacrifices will not.

He emphasized that we will only become a great nation when we genuinely feel the pain of the sacrifices made by these martyrs and their families. We must give our martyrs and heroes the highest status.

When we give our martyrs their rightful place, those willing to sacrifice for the country will continue to emerge. We must boost the morale of our forces' young men and

heroes and should not subject them to ridicule due to any personal or individual actions because they are facing internal and external threats and need our support. They stand tall against the enemy for us, and I am proud of our forces' personnel who protect us from the borders to the intersections.

Declaring the establishment of law and order in the province as his government's top priority, the Chief Minister said that whether there is money in the treasury or not, all the police's needs will be met as a priority because without stabilizing the police, establishing peace is impossible, and without peace, prosperity will not come.

Therefore, the provincial government has allocated substantial funds for the purchase of vehicles,

weapons, and other equipment for the police and will continue to provide more funds.

Highlighting the welfare of police martyrs' children as one of his government's key priorities, the Chief Minister stated that there will be no compromise on the welfare of martyrs' children because these are our children, and they should not face any difficulty in acquiring education or in any other aspect.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced a 100% increase in the quota for the recruitment of police martyrs' children as ASI, including from the merged districts, and 20% of the traffic challan proceeds will be spent on the welfare of martyrs' families.

He also announced that martyrs' families will be given priority and their issues will be resolved first whenever they visit the Chief Minister's House or any government office. Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur stated that the provincial government has decided to provide free plots in government housing schemes to the families of personnel martyred during duty in the police, military, and all law enforcement agencies, a process that is ongoing.

JI's protest enters 10th day amidst negotiation stalemate

RAWALPINDI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami's sit-in at Liaquat Bagh Chowk on Murree Road has entered its 10th day, with protesters voicing their grievances over rising electricity costs, exorbitant taxes, and inflation. The weather in Rawalpindi has been pleasant, with participants enjoying naan and hot halwa for breakfast.

Despite two rounds of negotiations between Jamaat-e-Islami and government representatives, no agreement has been reached. Deputy Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami, Liaquat Baloch, is set to announce the group's future strategy in an upcoming press conference. The party has indicated that the sit-in will continue until their demands are met and could potentially escalate to a national level.

While one side of Murree Road remains open to general traffic and businesses continue as usual, Jamaat-e-Islami's protest also extends to Karachi, where a similar demonstration is being held outside the governor's house for the second consecutive day.

Flashflood feared in hill torrents, nullahs

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Emergencies Operation Center of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in the wake of latest hydrometeorological conditions has issued alert of high to very high-level flash flooding in Balochistan.

In Zhob, Kalat, Nasirabad and Sibbi divisions, the hill torrents and local nullahs are likely to experience high to very high levels of flash flooding which may result in damage to infrastructure. Similarly, the hill torrents and local nullahs of D.G. Khan are likely to experience high to very high levels of flash flooding which may result in dam-

age to infrastructure, a news release said.

The NDMA further stated that all villages and towns or settlements near nullahs, especially along the floodplain, can be affected by increased flows. On the Northern side, the catchment areas of Kabul River and its tributaries have received significant rainfall, which will likely result in medium to high floods in Nowshera as well as in the tributaries of River Kabul.

It said, "Medium to high flows in Nowshera may inundate low-lying areas and may cause damage to the infrastructure. The GLOF event in Chitral will also increase

flows in the Panjkora River and ultimately in the Kabul River."

The NDMA has issued instructions to all relevant departments to take necessary precautions to mitigate the possible effects of flooding and extreme weather.

The population at risk was advised to avoid flood waters, find a safe location away from flood-prone areas and use alternative routes to avoid areas prone to flooding.

The NDMA has launched the Pak NDMA Disaster Alert application, available on Google Play Store and iOS App Store, to provide timely alerts, advisories, and guidelines to the public.

US says moves in Middle East are defensive, goal is deterrence

WASHINGTON (Reuters): The United States is deploying additional military might in the Middle East as a defensive measure with a goal of de-escalating tensions in the region, a White House official said on Sunday.

Regional tensions have increased following the assassination on Wednesday of Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in the Iranian capital Tehran a day after an Israeli strike in the Lebanese capital Beirut killed Fuad Shukur, a senior military commander from the Lebanese group Hezbollah. Both groups are backed by Iran.

There are mounting fears that Israel's war against Palestinian militants in Gaza, which began last October, could escalate into a wider Middle East conflict. Iran and Hamas have blamed Israel for Haniyeh's killing, and they, together with Hezbollah, have vowed revenge. Israel has not claimed or denied responsibility.

India's ethnic cleansing in Kashmir

Arshad Malik

THE Third consecutive tenure for Prime Minister Narendra Modi has one implication for regional security and another for Kashmiri Muslims. For the region India will aggressively try to assert itself militarily in the region. Many International security experts believe that India's Hindu extremist ruling party, BJP, would function as a natural house for military jingoism and aggressiveness.

This aggressive behavior is likely to be displayed against Pakistan. For Kashmiri Muslims, the situation could not be more clearly directed towards ethnic cleansing, where Indian military and Hindu extremist thugs of India's ruling party would engage in all sorts of acts of brutalization of Kashmir Muslims. India's ruling party clearly has a plan for Kashmiri Muslims-first it wants to reduce the size of the ratio of Kashmiri Muslims in the population of State of Jammu and Kashmir, second it wants to humiliate Kashmiri Muslim by employing rape of Kashmiri women as a weapon of war and third it wants to settle Hindu extremists groups in Kashmir by facilitating them financially to purchase properties in the state of Kashmir. Ethnic cleansing has

been going on in Kashmir for decade. Hindu terrorist organizations, such as RSS, its affiliates, and the armed Village Defense Committees, are committing ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri Muslims in the Jammu region. Since 2014, when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government took over, Hindu terrorists had been empowered with full support from the state machinery, more so in IOK, causing displacement of scores of Kashmiri Muslim families, by design. Genocide, state terrorism, settlement of non-Kashmiris and other tools are being employed to bring about demographic change.

In December 2022 Indian military and police started confiscating properties of Kashmiri freedom fighters in Kashmir valley. Several of the latest property seizures were conducted by a newly constituted local police force called the State Investigative Agency. Indian authorities claimed that Kashmiri freedom leaders' properties worth 1 billion rupees [\$12.1 million] were seized in several districts of the valley. The agency also said it has identified 188 properties belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami whose owners either have been "notified or are under the process of being notified for further legal action." This result-

ed in helpless Kashmiri families becoming refugees in their own land.

India government is conducting a well thought out strategy to kill, harass, torture, and humiliate Kashmir Muslims. Kashmiri leaders as well as the Pakistan government has been attracting the attention of world public opinion towards the new situation where Indian military and Hindu extremist thugs were engaged in massacre of Kashmiri Muslim in the Indian held Kashmir. This has been happening in various parts of Kashmir as Kashmiri Muslim leaders are reporting killings of Kashmiris throughout the valley and in the region of Jammu.

Following the unilateral Indian act to revoke the special status of India-occupied Kashmir (IOK), there have been developing signs of the Indian government facilitating RSS and Shiv Sena thugs to dominate the public, social and political life in Jammu and Kashmir. There is no possibility that Shiv Sena and RSS would succeed in their evil designs given the resilience shown by the Kashmiri nation over the decades. But nevertheless, the crude methods adopted by Hindu extremist thugs and the Indian military could result in thousands of deaths in Kashmir. In fact, thousands have already

lost their lives in Kashmir.

The most inhuman aspect of Indian strategy is to use rape as a weapon of state policy in Kashmir to terrorize and humiliate Kashmiri people. This is a strategy devised to control the population of Kashmir by instilling fear in their hearts. A report in the international media titled "The Indian Troll Army's Obsession with Rape" by C J Werleman stated that "The Indian military has already demonstrated its willingness to use rape, sodomy, and torture as an 'instrument of control' in Kashmir, as documented in a 560-page report submitted to the United Nations. Reports emanating from Kashmir suggest that after the revocation of Article 370 the Hindu thugs have joined hands with Indian military in using rape as a tool of terrorizing Kashmiri Muslims. Both the Indian military and Hindu Extremist thugs get encouragement from the Indian government and ultra-Hindu nationalists. On August 10, 2019 the then Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar, an old diehard Hindu nationalist, openly suggested men from his state to acquire wives from Kashmir. He stated in his speech, "Now some people say, Kashmir is open, they [brides] will be brought from there. But jokes

about, if [gender] ratio is improved, then there will be a right balance in society." This type of thinking that dreams of changing the demographic complexion of Indian Held Kashmir is generally prevalent among Hindu extremist groups which are affiliated with BJP. They are clearly following a policy of displacing Kashmiri Muslims from their abodes and pushing them into Azad Kashmir.

The worst part of the whole situation is the fact that the world public opinion has not come out of its slumber as far as the plight of Kashmiri Muslims is concerned. Kashmir doesn't seem to prick the conscience of the world leaders who never miss an opportunity to praise Narendra Modi as a world class statesman. Narendra Modi became persona non grata for the American liberals who wanted to pursue human rights as a foreign policy objective when news about the Gujarat massacre started to break in 2002. There were reports that the US State Department, a natural habitat for American liberals, wanted to decline Modi's American visa, who was serving as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, a state in Western India where Muslims were slaughtered like sheep by Hindu extremists.

The turnaround in American attitudes towards Modi became

palpable when Modi became Prime Minister for the first time after the BJP swept the parliamentary elections in May 2014 for two reasons. The US estimated that Modi's India could act as a market for American military and consumer products, and Modi's India could act as a bulwark against the rising power of China. Now, Modi shares a place at the high table with Western political leaders in several multilateral forums. The economic prospects of India-US relations and India's military and strategic potential against America's superpower rival, China, has led to a turnaround in Modi's fortunes from persona non grata to an Asian political leader most favored by Washington.

Two explanations could be put forward for this facet of World public opinion: Firstly, world public opinion is not familiar with what is happening with Kashmiri Muslims. The leaders of western democracies only speak on an issue of international dimension when their public opinion takes it into consideration or if it is reflected in the media. I was shocked by the result of a search I conducted on google when two words genocide and Kashmir always gave stories about Kashmiri Pandits exodus from Kashmir. Google gave out only one story about

Kashmiri Muslims and their ordeal at the hands of Indian military and Hindu extremist thugs. So, there is a possibility that world public opinion is not completely familiar with Kashmir Muslim plight. Second explanation could be that world leaders are ignoring the plight of Kashmiri Muslims because they don't want to annoy Indian which for them is a large market for their consumer goods as well as their military hardware. In this way the American military hardware will consolidate the position of Hindu nationalism in Indian society through the ruling BJP. The BJP is considered by many military experts as a natural habitat for military jingoism from the Indian state. There are experts who believe that Americans now want to enlist the Indian military as part of a collective deterrence strategy in case conflict erupts in the Taiwan Strait. Americans are providing weapons worth billions of dollars to India.

Kashmiris, however, have demonstrated that the will of the nation is always stronger than state of the art military pieces. Stories of Vietnam, Afghanistan, Algeria and many others will always remind the human race that weapons cannot defeat a nation that has taken the decision to be free.