

Bilawal visits Dhoki's house
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited the residence of his Chief Media Coordinator, Nazir Hussain Dhoki to condole with the family over his passing. He also offered Fatiha for his Chief Media Coordinator and prayed for strength and fortitude for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with equanimity.



@thefrontierpost

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXI

No. 195

Regd. No. 241

SAFAR 03 1446 -- FRIDAY, AUGUST 09 2024

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

Upcoming IMF program to be last one

PM says unprecedented cooperation between govt, institutions to rid country of challenges

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the coalition government and the national institutions were in an unprecedented harmony and cooperation to serve the better national interests and steer the country out of prevailing challenges.

The prime minister, addressing the Ulema-Mashaikh Conference here, said that the country never needed unity and national harmony more, and he had never seen such a level of cooperation between a political government and the institutions throughout his political career.

Appreciating the support extended by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, also attending the moot, he said that such exemplary collaboration was a role model for the future.

He said that the challenges pervading the country necessitated learning lessons from past weaknesses and mistakes and making sincere efforts to develop Pakistan as a country as was dreamt by the forefathers and sacrificed hundreds of thousands of lives during the Pakistan Movement.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the nation, which was about to celebrate its 77th Independence Day on August 14, was yet to find its destination, but the goal was achievable provided the dedicated efforts were made and the teachings of Quran and Sunnah were followed.

He called for the efforts to wipe out Fitna al Khawarij - a term referring to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan - which he said was involved in anti-Pakistan activities despite claiming to be a Pakistani. He also criticized the use of social media to spread lies and propaganda - particularly after 2018- instead of appreciating the government's efforts for public services.

He said even the army soldiers, who sacrificed their lives to protect millions of other children from being orphaned, were being humiliated on social media. Calling the May 9 attacks "the most heart-wrenching" incident in the country's history, the prime minister highlighted that the charac-

ters behind the tragedy of 1971 met their fate in Bangladesh amidst the recent developments in the country.

He urged the Ulema to play their role to do away with the division in the society and highlight the Islamic economic system, and said that no force could obstruct the country's development if the nation was determined to achieve its goal.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the gathering that the government was making all-out efforts to address the economic challenges and expected the upcoming IMF program to be the last one. At the same time, it had scraped Rs50 billion to support the power consumers of the protected category consuming up to 200 units. But the consumers using 200-500 units of electricity were still under the burden, he added.

However, he assured the gathering that the coalition government and the COAS were in consultation to work out a comprehensive plan to ease the inflation-stricken people and the provinces would soon announce their respective plans in this regard. He said the IMF Program was a compulsion to bring economic about stability, productive employment and reforms in the FBR and power sector.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tributes to Major Tufail Muhammad Nishan-e-Haider on his 66th day of martyrdom.

Major Tufail Muhammad Shaheed Nishan-e-Haider set a great example of courage and bravery and sacrificed his life for the security of the country, the prime minister said in a statement issued by the PM Office. He said Major Tufail Shaheed accomplished his mission without caring about his wounds and destroyed the evil intentions of the enemy.

Major Tufail Shaheed's sense of duty, courage and bravery and adherence to the pledge to protect the country is an example for the young generation, the prime minister said. He emphasized that the whole nation including himself was proud of the martyrs and their families. The nation can never forget the sacrifices of the soldiers and officers of the Pakistan Army for the security of the country, he added.



RAWALPINDI: Houses submerged in rainwater after heavy downpour in the City.

Govt hikes power tariff by Rs2.56 per unit

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Adding to the financial troubles of inflation-hit masses, the federal government on Thursday jacked up the power tariff by Rs2.56 per unit in terms of fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for June, which would be reflected in the August billing.

The National Electric Regulatory Authority (Nepra) issued a notification regarding the fresh hike in electricity tariff, however, it would not apply to the lifeline and K-Electric consumers. Thursday's hike will put an additional financial burden on consumers worth Rs33.45 billion which would soar to Rs39 billion after the imposition of 18% GST.

The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) had requested the power regulator to hike the power tariff by Rs2.63 per unit under the FCA. Inflated electricity bills and back-breaking taxes became a major challenge for the government which prompted a huge public outcry in the shape of protests and sit-ins from masses already reeling under the rising cost

Govt to scrap 1990s IPP contracts

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to terminate the power purchase agreements (PPAs) with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) made in the 1990s, aiming to provide significant relief to consumers suffering from high electricity costs.

According to media reports, the federal government, under the leadership of Energy Minister Owais Leghari, has finalized a framework for this major policy shift. An official announcement is expected soon. In addition to terminating old IPP contracts, the government is reviewing agreements with other IPP companies. A new framework is being developed for consumers using more than 201 units, with changes to the policy that currently maintains them in the same slab for six months. Special slabs are being considered for these high-usage consumers, with a potential rate of Rs. 26 per unit for those exceeding 201 units.

of living. The mounting pressure pushed the Centre to mull options to reduce electricity rates to provide some financial relief to the public.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's administration had massively increased the electricity base tariff for domestic consumers last month. The base tariff was hiked up to Rs48.48 per unit which also included power consumers in Karachi. However, relief was given to consumers

using up to 200 units per month who have been exempted from the increase for three months.

Not only domestic, the power regulator okayed the federal government's application proposing hikes in electricity tariffs for commercial, general services, bulk, and agricultural consumers. The increase in tariff was aimed at improving Pakistan's chances of securing a fresh programme from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir attending National Ulema & Mashaikh conference.

President calls for unity among Ummah

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has emphasized the importance of unity and cooperation among Muslim countries to address the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah.

He made these remarks during a meeting with Dr. Salah bin Mohammad M. Albdeer, Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday. Welcoming the esteemed guest, President Asif Ali Zardari highlighted the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), built on shared faith, history, and brotherhood.

He expressed satisfaction with the strengthening bilateral relations and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further enhance ties with Saudi Arabia. The President also stressed the importance of fostering cultural and people-to-people exchanges to bring the two nations closer. Dr. Salah bin Mohammad M. Albdeer highly appreciated the strong partnership between Pakistan and KSA and urged both countries to work together to overcome the challenges facing the Islamic world.

He acknowledged the valuable contributions of the Pakistani community to Saudi Arabia's development and praised Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's reform initiatives for driving prosperity in the Kingdom.

President Zardari commended the vision and courage of Prince Mohammed bin Salman in leading reforms for the betterment of KSA's people and expressed hope that the Imam's visit would further strengthen bilateral relations. The meeting concluded with the Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi offering prayers for peace and prosperity in Pakistan.

PTI founder, wife's remand extended

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court in Islamabad Thursday approved 11-day physical remand of PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in new Toshakhana reference case. Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana extended the remand and adjourned the proceedings until August 12. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were earlier sent on 10-day physical remand in NAB Toshakhana reference.

On July 13, Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were arrested in a fresh National Accountability Bureau (NAB) reference related to Toshakhana, hours after their acquittal in the Iddat case. The NAB team headed by Deputy Director Mohsin Haroon arrested Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi from the Adiala Jail, the sources privy to the development added.

KP made great sacrifices for peace

COAS resolves to block attempts of creating chaos in Pakistan

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir reiterates his resolve to curb the attempts of creating chaos in the country, saying no power can harm Pakistan.

The army chief expressed the sentiment while addressing the 'Ulema and Mashaikh Conference' in Islamabad on Thursday. "If anyone attempts to create chaos in Pakistan, we will stand against them," he said. The COAS said the greatest sin in the eyes of Allah is "fasad-fil-arz" (spreading mischief on earth), adding that Pakistan is striving to end this menace.

"Those who do not follow Shariat and the constitution, we do not consider them Pakistanis," he said. Gen Munir also highlighted that Pakistan had hosted millions of Afghans for over 40 years. "We advise them not to oppose their neighbour, a brotherly

Islamic country, and a long-standing friend for the sake of the Khawarij (outlaws)."

He also acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying: "In the war against terrorism, our Pashtun brothers and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa made great sacrifices, and we stand with them while appreciating their efforts". COAS Munir said people should lead peaceful protests but refrain from fomenting chaos.

As for extremism, the army chief said: "Allah's command is that there is no compulsion in religion". As for the honour of the Prophet (Peace be upon him), the army chief said: "No one can dare disrespect the dignity of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)." Criminals and smuggling mafias were supporting terrorism, he said, adding that chaos was being spread through social media.

He said Pakistan was

more important than our lives. "If you want to understand the importance of the state, look at (the plight of) Iraq, Syria, and Libya". He requested scholars and religious leaders to promote patience, steadfastness and unity, instead of extremism or division.

The army chief stated that the scholars should bring moderation back to society and negate "fasad fil-arz." "Western civilisation and lifestyle are not our ideals and we should take pride in our own civilisation," he stressed. Those who had claimed that they had sunk the two-nation theory in the Bay of Bengal, where are they now? he asked. "Kashmir is an unfinished agenda of the partition of the subcontinent," he said. While talking about the situation in Palestine and Gaza, he lamented over the atrocities in the region. He said, "We should learn from Palestine and protect ourselves to strengthen Pakistan".

Yunus takes charge of Bangladesh caretaker govt

DHAKA (AFP, Reuters): Bangladesh's Nobel Peace Prize-winning economist Muhammad Yunus was sworn in as the head of the country's caretaker government on Thursday, three days after former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to quit and flee the country following violent protests.

"I will uphold, support and protect the constitution," Yunus said during the swearing-in ceremony, adding that he would perform his duties "sincerely". More than a dozen members of his cabinet, who are titled advisers, not ministers, also took the oath. They included top leaders of the Students Against Discrimination group that led the weeks-long protests, Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud.

Others included a former foreign secretary and a former attorney general, an environmental lawyer, and prominent rights activist Adilur Rahman Khan who was sentenced to two years in jail during Hasina's rule. Yunus, 84, was recommended for the role by student protesters and returned to Dhaka earlier today from Paris, where he was undergoing medical treatment. "The country has the possibility of becoming a very beautiful nation," an emotional Yunus told reporters at the Dhaka airport, where he was greeted by top military officers and student leaders.

"Today is a glorious day for us," Yunus said. "Bangladesh has created a new victory day. Bangladesh has got a second independence," the economist said. The student protesters had saved the country and that freedom had to be protected, he said,



adding: "Whatever path our students show us, we will move ahead with that." Yunus called for the restoration of order after weeks of violence that left at least 455 people dead, calling on citizens to guard each other, including minorities who came under attack. "Law and order is our first task ... We cannot take a step forward unless we fix the law and order situation," he said.

"My call to the people is if you have trust in me, then make sure there will be no attacks against anyone, anywhere in the country." "Every person is our brother ... our task is to protect them," he said, adding that "the whole of Bangladesh is one big family". Yunus choked with emotion as he recalled the killing of student activist Abu Sayeed, shot dead in July by police from close range.

He paid tribute to the youth who sparked the protest movement and those who risked all for their desire for change. "They protected the nation and gave it a new life", he said. Yunus will be the chief adviser in the interim government tasked with holding fresh elections in the South Asian country of 170 million people. The student-led movement that ousted Hasina grew out of protests against quotas in

government jobs that spiralled in July, provoking a violent crackdown that drew global criticism, although the government denied using excessive force.

The protests were fuelled also by harsh economic conditions and political repression in the country. Yunus will head a caretaker government that is being established by the military, which turned on Hasina over the weekend after hundreds of people were killed in the unrest. The prospect of Yunus standing alongside military leaders was almost unimaginable a week ago when security forces fired deadly rounds at protesters who took to the streets demanding that Hasina resign.

But the military turned on Hasina at the weekend and she was forced to flee to neighbouring India — as millions of Bangladeshis celebrated her demise. The military then agreed to student demands that Yunus — who won the Nobel in 2006 for his pioneering microfinancing work — lead an interim government. Hasina's Awami League party does not figure in the interim government after she resigned on Monday, following weeks of violence that killed more than 400 people and injured thousands.

ME crisis overshadows Ukraine offensive

Jalil Afridi

WASHINGTON DC: In a State Department press briefing today, spokesperson Matthew Miller addressed the growing tensions in the Middle East, calling it a "delicate time." He emphasized that the US is deeply involved in intense diplomatic efforts to prevent further escalation and urged all nations to contribute to de-escalation efforts.

When senior journalist Alex Raufoglu inquired about Ukraine's military operations against Russia, Miller redirected the question to Ukrainian authorities. He reiterated that Ukraine is free to target Russian military sites using US-supplied weapons but cannot use these weapons to attack civilian targets. Miller refuted Russian claims of Ukrainian aggression, stating that Russia has been occupying Ukrainian sovereign territory for years.

Addressing a question from Epoch Times correspondent Jackson Richman, Miller mentioned he had not seen the official resignation of exiled Bangladeshi Prime Minister Hasina Wajid but learned about it through Bangladeshi military sources.

The briefing was notably interrupted several times once again by the Managing Editor of The Frontier Post, Jalil Afridi who protested against Miller's alleged unfair treatment of journalists and the allocation of question opportunities.

JI workers to hit Murree Road

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman reiterated on Thursday that the protest and sit-in would be expanded to whole country if people's due rights were not granted.

Addressing the participants in the sit-in in Rawalpindi, Naeem demanded that the government take their demands seriously and reduce electricity bills and close down independent power producers (IPPs). He shared the ordeal faced by the salaried class, saying the salaried class was already paying taxes and inflated electricity bills.

He invited everyone to become a part of the peaceful political movement. He reminded the government that were only demanding their due rights. He reiterated that the burden of heavy taxes on the salaried class wasn't acceptable. He urged the government to take austerity measures and abolish corruption that would reduce the crisis of inflation and overbilling.

He also called on the government to bring feudal class in the tax net and argued why some quarters escaped taxes. Taxes should be imposed on feudal class instead of salaried class, the JI Emir insisted. Electricity crisis was compelling industries to wind up. He highlighted the consequences of exorbitant electricity prices making the cost of businesses unaffordable. Rifts were emerging among government, institutions and public, Naeem stressed.

He also revealed that the movement "Haq do Awaam ko" would expand nationwide. The JI has also announced that it will hold a march on Murree Road today (Thursday) for their demands. The JI sit-in entered the 14th day amid stalemate. Talks were held between Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar and the JI leadership.

"The round of negotiations has been adjourned until Thursday," he said, adding "even today there has been a lot of progress in the negotiations". The minister informed that many issues had been agreed during the negotiations, and more issues were to be agreed upon.



Pakistan, Saudi Arabia share a long history of bilateral ties

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia share a long history of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in divers sectors and there is still huge potential for exploring new avenues and boost cooperation in defence, trade and economic sectors.

The Chairman Senate expressed these views while talking to a delegation led by Imam of Masjid Nabawi Sheikh Dr. Salah Muhammad Al-Bdeer at the Parliament House on Thursday.

Chairman Senate said that relationship between the two countries is based on common religion, culture and values and such a cordial relationship between the two is testament to the fact that



both attach great importance to enhanced collaboration. He said that Masjid Al-Nabawi holds a profound place in the hearts of Pakistani Muslim and it is not merely a mosque but symbol of unity, peace and devotion.

The Chairman Senate termed the visit of the Imam Masjid Al-Nabawi as a significant and said that the visit underscores the enduring brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The Chairman Senate observed that under the leadership of His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and Crown Prince

Mohammed bin Salman, the bond of friendship between the two nations has flourished.

The Chairman Senate also highlighted the issue of Islamophobia and said that the Muslim world needs to adopt a collective strategy to counter the Islamophobia and convince the global community that Islam is religion of peace. He called upon the Muslims show unity in its ranks and act in unison to counter those challenges. Chairman Senate also highlighted the importance of high level contacts and said that people to people linkages can be further strengthened when leadership interacts more frequently and there is more corporation between nations.

Students from various institutions spent day with Pakistan Navy



F.P. Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Navy organized an event "A day with Pakistan Navy" for the students from various universities and colleges to enlighten them on the functioning, organisation and defence capabilities of Pakistan Navy.

A total of 250 students alongwith the faculty members from Lahore Garrison University and various cadet colleges under supervision of TABA Foundation attended the event. During his interaction with students and faculty, Commander Central Punjab Rear Admiral Azhar

Mehmood apprised them about Pakistan Navy's commitment to protect maritime frontiers of the country. He also highlighted the importance of maritime sector for developing countries and how a strong Navy can facilitate economic development of their nation.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
PAKISTAN BAIT-UL-MAL
 (An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Public Sector Organization)
 (MINISTRY OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION & SOCIAL SAFETY)

TENDER NOTICE

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) invites E-bids (technical & financial- single stage two envelope procedure) from active tax payer firms, registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments, for provision of dress/clothes items, as per detail/ quantity available in the tender document, for PBM Sweet Homes (Orphanages) at Districts (Mardan, Swat, Kohat, Mansehra, Shangla, Khyber, Bannu and Bajaur). Two-times supply shall be made (winter / summer).

- Standard Bidding Documents containing detail of items, specifications and other terms and conditions are available on website of PBM (www.pbm.gov.pk) and PPRA (www.ppra.gov.pk).
- E-Bids (Technical & Financial) prepared in accordance with PPRA rules and instructions given in the Standard Bidding Documents, shall be submitted at E-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (www.eprocure.gov.pk), on or before **03-09-2024** till 11:00 AM accompanied by a call deposit receipt / pay order/ Bank draft of **Rs.200,000/-** as earnest money (refundable/ interest free) in favour of Director, PBM Provincial Office, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar for each application.
- Technical bids will be opened on the same day at **11:30 AM** in Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Provincial Office Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in presence of bidders or their representatives. **The firm/ supplier must bring samples of the dress/clothes items at the time of opening of Technical Bids.** Financial Bids of technically qualified firms/suppliers will be opened on **17-09-2024** at 11:30 AM.
- Successful firm (s)/bidder (s) will be bound to supply goods on approved rates for FY. 2024-25.PBM reserves the right to reject any/all bids at any time in accordance with PPRA's Rules.

(DIRECTOR)
 Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Provincial Office,
 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, University Road,
 Near KFC, behind Shell Petroleum, Peshawar
 (Ph #091-9218021)

PID/0206/24

ٹینڈرنوٹس برائے مرمتی گاڑیاں
 ضلع پولیس محکمہ پولیس کوڈیل گاڑیوں، موٹرسائیکلی ڈیل مرمتی کروانا مطلوب ہے۔

کمل انجن اور بالنگ، فرٹ دوریر حصہ، تھریل ناؤز ٹیوب و بیئری، تروپال سیٹوں کی پوشنگ، گیزٹکس، ٹاش سیٹ، بریک لیڈ فرٹ ریر، ٹائی رازڈ اینڈ سیٹ، کچل چیلٹ، پریشر پلیٹ فرٹ سکرین، بکین سکرین، ڈرائیور کراس شافٹ، ہینڈل پگ، واسٹر باؤزی، ریدی ایئر وائل، پمپ، رنگ، ڈیسٹ، ہیڈ، لائٹس، ایر چینی لائٹس، بوٹرکامپا، جگہ چھت، ویل بیرگ، ایکسل، جئز سلف، سٹیرنگ کس، ٹوئل سیٹ، حصہ کیلے اوپن ٹینڈر سال 2024-2025 مطلوب ہیں۔

گاڑیوں کی تفصیل ذیل ہیں

نمبر شمار	قسم گاڑی	تعداد
1	رایڈ 4x4 ڈیل کبکین	01
2	ویگو 4x4 ڈیل کبکین	01
3	پکاپ 4x4 سٹیکل کبکین	02
4	پکاپ 4x4 سٹیکل کبکین	15
5	ایمبولینس	01
6	ٹرک	02
7	موٹرسائیکل CG125, 150, 250	14

ٹینڈر مودرن 15-08-2024 KPRA سے رجسٹرڈ ٹیڈر اور درخواست گزار کے نوٹیشن سر بہر بند لٹاف زبردستی کو دفتری اوقات تک پہنچ جانا چاہیے جو ای رڈ کولے جانے کے ذریعہ دستی کو اختیار حاصل ہے کہ وہ منظوری سے پہلے ٹینڈر نمونہ ڈاکٹر کسٹ ہے اور ای طرح ڈیلری تحریری درخواست پرمزور دیا نمونہ ہونے کی وجوہات بیان کرے گا۔

ضلعی پولیس آفیسر، لوئر کوہستان INF(P)1975/24

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

SINGLE STAGE SINGLE ENVELOPE

The Procuring Entity, Executive Engineer Maintenance-II C&W Department Peshawar, invites sealed bids from eligible firms/contractors enlisted with C&W Department, licensed by the Pakistan Engineering Council in the appropriate category and dully pre-qualified with the Maintenance-II C&W Department for the work as under:-

S.#	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Million)	Earnest Money 2% Earnest Money + Stamp Duty	(a) Last Date of Submission of Form (b) Date & Time of Opening	Completion Date
01	ADP No. 933/220162 Construction of Residences at Peshawar SH: Civil, Electrification, Sanitary Work for the year 2024-25	PK-C-4 and above	Earnest Money 2% Earnest Money + Stamp Duty	a) 26-08-2024 at 12:00 Noon b) 26-08-2024 at 12:30 Noon	As Per Work Order

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Bid Documents Instruction Condition to bidders can be downloaded up to one day prior to the opening date from C&W website www.cwd.gkp.pk. A Complete set of Bid Solicitation Documents may be obtained on submission of a written application one day prior to the opening date from office of the undersigned otherwise bids submitted without these documents will not be responsive.
- Original Bid Security in the shape of Call Deposit in the name of Executive Engineer Maintenance-II C&W Department Peshawar shall accompany the bid.
- All bidders are required to be registered with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority, established under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Act 2013 (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa No.XXI of 2013) for works, consulting and Non-consulting services as listed in Schedule-II of the Act.
- Each bidder shall submit his bid through sealed cover as under:-
(a) ORIGINAL and each copy of the bid shall be separately sealed and put in separate envelopes and marked as such.
(b) The Envelope containing the ORIGINAL and copies will be put in one sealed envelope and addressed to Executive Engineer Maintenance-II C&W Department Peshawar.
- The item rate system is replaced by Above/Below system on BOQ based on Market Rate System.
- Bid will be valid for **Ninety (90)** days.
- If the bid rate / cost of two or more than two bidders are same then the successful bid will be decided through toss.
- All Federal/Provincial duties/Stamp duties/Taxes will be recoverable as per directions of the Government issued from time to time.
- Execution of Work will be subject to release / availability of fund.
- The Competent authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tender by assigning the cogent reason in consultation with authority at any time prior to the award of contract.
- All other terms & conditions can be seen on official website of the C&W Department or from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours.
- A part of Notice Inviting Tender (NIT). Moreover, the **bidding entry fee @ 0.03%** of tender cost may be revived, and collected along-with earnest money, which will be **non-refundable**.
- Additional bid security Should be received as per Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Notification No. S.R.O (14)/Vol: 1-24/2021-22 dated 10.05.2021/6058-71.**
 - The Contractors quoting the bids up to a limit of 10% below Engineer Estimate shall submit bid security to the extent of 2% only of Engineer Estimate.
 - The contractors quoting their bids more than 10% below upto Engineer's Estimate shall submit along with their bid 8% Additional Security of Engineer Estimate cost in addition to 02% bid Security. If the bid is not accompanied with the required additional Security then it will be considered as non-responsive and the 02% bid security shall be forfeited in favour of Govt; and the second lowest bidder and so on well be considered accordingly.
 - [Similarly, a contractor quoting bid more than 20% below shall submit with his bid an additional security on Engineer's Estimated cost equal to the differential amount of submitted bid and Engineers' Estimate along with detailed rate analysis]. In case of more than 20% below bids, if the bid is not accompanied by the detailed rate analysis and / or required amount of additional security, then the said bid shall be considered as non-responsive. All the securities submitted along with such non-responsive bid shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly.
 - In case detailed rate analysis submitted with the bids is, in view of the Procuring Entity, not convincing, the Head of the Procuring Entity may declare such bid as non-responsive without any forfeiture of bid securities and record reasons thereof.
 - The procuring entity may offer the contract to next lowest bidder after due diligence in the context of financial difference between such two bids or may advertise procurement opportunity afresh.
 - After commencement of work by the successful bidder, the procuring entity may replace the Additional Security with a bank guarantee of the same amount from the scheduled bank; if the already deposited security is not in the form of bank guarantee.
 - The Additional Security shall be released to the contractor in four installments i.e. 1st installment of 25% to be released upon completion of 25% of the project, 2nd installment of 25% to be released upon completion of 50% of the project, 3rd installment of 25% to be released upon completion of 75% of the project and the 4th installment of 25% to be released after 100% completion of the project.
 - All previous orders, instructions and regulations issued regarding additional security shall stand superseded.

Executive Engineer INF(P) 1998/24
 Maintenance-II C&W Deptt: Peshawar

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
Ministry of Energy, Petroleum Division
Geological Survey of Pakistan

CORRIGENDUM

- Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP), an attached department of Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division), Government of Pakistan, invites sealed bids from the firms/ general order supplier/ companies/ Consortium registered with Income Tax, Sales Tax Departments and who are on FBR's Active Taxpayer's List (ATL) for the **Rent of Vehicles on need basis** to the Geological Survey of Pakistan.
- Bidding documents can also be downloaded from GSP website www.gsp.gov.pk and PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk.
- Processing fee of **Rs.1000/- (non-refundable)**, must be provide bank draft/pay order of relevant bank.
- The bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents, along with **Bid Security of PKR: 100,000 in the shape of Bank draft/Pay order** drawn in favour of Project Director, Geological Survey of Pakistan, Peshawar may reach Office of the undersigned by **19th August, 2024 at 12:00 hours**. Technical bids will be opened on the **same day at 12:30 hours** in the presence of representatives of the bidders.
- As per PPRA Rules 33(1), 2004, Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP), Government of Pakistan, has the right to reject any or all bids/ proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid/ proposal.

INCHARGE PROCUREMENT
 Geological Survey of Pakistan PID(P)203-A/24
 Plot No 10/11, Sector B-1, Phase 5,
 Hayatabad, Peshawar, Ph.# 091-9217016

LHC questions govt's disparate treatment with PTI, JI

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday criticized the government for its disparate treatment with political parties, specifically pointing out differences in its approach towards Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI).

During a hearing on PTI's request for permission to hold a rally in Lahore, Justice Ali Baqar Najafi questioned the government's policy on political activities, highlighting the differing attitudes towards PTI and JI, which was currently holding a protest.

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
COMMUNICATION & WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING

(Single Stage Two Envelope E-bidding System)

01. C&W Department (Building Division, Bannu), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites electronic Bids from the eligible firms/bidders in accordance with KPRA procurement rules 2014 on single stage two envelope procedure for the following works:

S. No.	Name of Work	Required category of PEC	Tender Form Entry Fee	Bid Security + S/Duty	Period of completion	Last date of submission of Bids and time	Date of opening of Technical Bid	Date of opening of Financial Bid
01.	Up-gradation of 150 Primary Schools to Middle Level (B&G) on need basis in KP, ADP No. 281/200026, SH- GPS Umer Gul Koroonia	C-6	0.03%	2% on E/C + S/D	As per W/Order	27/08/2024 At 12:00 PM	27/08/2024 At 12:30 PM	Date of Opening of Financial bid will be announced after the approval of Tech: bids from the competent authority
02.	Rehabilitation / Repair work in Katchen Office, DC Office, AC SDW Office due to damages after Terrorist attacks on Bannu Cantt. (Funded from District Accounts-IV)	C-6	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-

02. Bid documents and instruction to bidders can be downloaded from C&W website (www.cwd.gkp.pk) before the submission date/time.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS (KPRA Single stage two envelop bidding procedure)

- Technical bid/proposal should accompany the following.
 - Certificate that Bid Security in the shape of Call deposit (original) has been enclosed in financial bid.
 - Enlistment Order of C&W Department (photocopy)
 - Renewal of registration for CFY 2023-24 (Photocopy)
 - National Identity Card (CNIC Photocopy)
 - Pakistan Engineering Council registration copy for calendar year 2023-24
 - Form H of the Company / Firm.
 - Documents showing general capabilities, financial soundness, general and relevant experience record, personnel capabilities, equipment capabilities and Income Tax / NTN Certificates.
 - Any other document to support the technical bid.
- Technical evaluation will be carried out on marks threshold in passing all the fields including PEC Registration, Enlistment with C&W Deptt., Tax Payer proof. Relevant experience in past 05 years, Performance, Technical Personnel, required Equipment, Financial status, Auditors report, Managerial capabilities, Litigation status etc.
- Incomplete/ Conditional / Electronic bids and bids received after closing time shall not be entertained. Bids shall be signed by authorized persons.
- Bid security 2% in shape of call deposit (in Original) and 0.03% Tender Firm Entry Fee of the estimated cost in cash (non-refundable) should be enclosed along with bidding documents.
- The contractors quoting their bids upto a limit of 10% below Engineer Estimate shall submit bid security to the extent of 2% of Engineer Estimate only.
- The contractor quoting their bids more than 10% below upto 20% below on Engineer Estimate shall submit alongwith their bids 8% Additional Security of Engineer Estimated Cost in addition to 2% bid security. If the bid is not accompanied with the required amount of Additional Security then it will be considered as non-responsive and the 2% bid security shall be forfeited in favour of Govt. and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly.
- Similarly, a contractor quoting bid more than 20% below shall submit with his bid an additional security on Engineer Estimated Cost equal to the differential amount of submitted bid and Engineer Estimate alongwith detailed rate analysis. In case of more than 20% below bids if the bid is not accompanied by the detailed rate analysis and / or required amount of additional security then they said bid shall be considered as non-responsive. All the securities submitted alongwith such non responsive bid shall be forfeited in favour of Govt. and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly.
- In case detailed rate analysis submitted with the bids is, in view of the Procuring Entity, not convincing, the Head of the Procuring Entity may declare such bid as non-responsive without any forfeiture of bid securities and record reasons thereof.
- The procuring entity may offer the contract to next lowest bidder after due diligence in the context of financial difference between such two bids are may advertise procurement opportunity afresh.
- After commencement of work by the successful bidder, the procurement entity may replace the additional security with a bank guarantee of the same amount from the schedule banks, if the already deposited security is not in the form of bank guarantee.
- The additional security shall be released to the contractor in (04) Four installments i.e. 1st Installment of 25% to be released upon completion of 25% of the project 2nd Installment of 25% to be released upon completion of 50% of the project 3rd Installment of 25% to be released upon completion of 75% of the project & the 4th Installment of 25% to be released after 100% completion of the project.
- Any bidder who provides incorrect information, fake documents should be disqualified.
- Time allowed for completion of the work is as specified in the NIT which will start from the issuance of work order.
- Bids will be valid for Ninety (90) days.
- Successful Bidder should sign the agreement with the department within stipulated time after acceptance of bid.
- Call Deposit of Scheduled Banks shall be acceptable.
- If the evaluated bid costs of two or more than two bidders are same then the successful bid will be declared through draw.
- A copy of the technical proposals in the required format is mandatory and to be uploaded as a part of E-Bidding before submitting Financial Bids.
- Scanned copy of bid security i/c Tender Entry Fee shall be submitted electronically along with technical bid on E-Bidding System.
- Bid security of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd lowest electronic bidder for the specific work will be retained by the Department till the approval of bids.
- The bidder must be enlisted with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority as per KPRA Rules.
- Pay Order is not acceptable as per Notification No. of KPRA vide No. KPRA/M&E/Estt/1-12/2017-18, dated. 05/04/2018.
- THE Khyber Pakhtunkhwa finance Act XXVII of 2019 2nd Schedule under S.No.14, in case of projects funded under the Government's ADP Budget, Tax shall be charged at the rate of Two Percent (2%).
- Venue of bids opening is **office of the Executive Engineer, Building Division Bannu.**

NOTE:-

- Differential amount, if a contractor quote e.g. 25% below Engineer Estimate bid than he has to deposit alongwith his bid 2% bid security and 25% Additional Security of Engineer Estimate.
- It is mandatory to all contractors, who are participating in the bidding should sign every page of their brochure with page numbering and mentioning here total No. of Pages i.e. 1 of 200 before submitting in the office of the undersigned, unsigned brochure will not be considered in the bidding process.

Executive Engineer INF(P) 1973/24
 Building Division Bannu

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY KOHAT

ADMISSION NOTICE

FOR THE SESSION 2024-2025

Applications are invited for admission to 1st year of the three Years Diploma of associate Engineering (DAE) course in the following Technologies for both Morning & 2nd Shift with criteria as mentioned below.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION:-
 Minimum qualification for admission is (i) Metric 2nd division with science (minimum 33% marks) or (ii) Technical School Certificate (iii) G-2 with Metric in Science in the order given.

NOTE:- Prospectus alongwith admission form can be obtained on payment of Rupees 300/- (non refundable) during working hours from Govt: College of Technology Kohat admission office.

ADMISSION SCHEDULE FOR DAE

MORNING SHIFT		
S.#	Technology	Regions for eligibility
01	Civil	Candidates from District Kohat & Hangu
02	Electrical	Candidates from District Kohat & Hangu
03	Mechanical	Kohat Division

- Issuance of prospectus 08/08/2024
- Last date for submission of application forms 31/08/2024
- Test for Hafiz Quran 02/09/2024
- Display of Merit list on College notice Board of Morning Shift 05/09/2024
- Interview and Payment of Admission Fee 09/09/2024
- Classes stated 16/09/2024

EVENING SHIFT		
S.#	Technology	Regions for eligibility
01	Civil	Open Merit Not restriction of Domicile
02	Electrical	
03	Mechanical	

NOTE: Candidate desirous to apply for DAE (Evening Shift) should apply separately.

- Issuance of prospectus 08/08/2024
- Last date for submission of application forms 31/08/2024
- Test for Hafiz Quran 02/09/2024
- Display of Merit list on College notice Board of Evening Shift 05/09/2024
- Interview and Payment of Admission Fee 10/09/2024

ADMISSION SCHEDULE FOR SHORT COURSES IN EVENING

Diploma Information Technology (One Year Program) are open all the time

No. Restriction on domicile

IMPORTANT

- Incomplete applications and those received late will not be entertained.
- Separate letters for interview will not be issued.
- Admission will be strictly on the basis of merit and Technology once allotted cannot be changed.
- detailed information is available in prospectus which must be studied before submission of application.
- Nomination for reserved seats should be sent through their relevant offices/Quarters before 24-09-2024.
- Class will commence from 16-09-2024.
- For more detail visit website www.gctkohat.edu.pk

PRINCIPAL INF/KT/10
 Govt: College of Technology Kohat



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur giving away shield and certificate to position holder during ceremony to announce Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Peshawar.

Lethargy in public service delivery is intolerable, warns Zahid

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Zahid Chanzab, Adviser to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism and Culture, has warned all the concerned high ups that negligence in the provision of public service delivery and welfare of masses will not be tolerated. He said he's closely supervising performance of the provincial and local administration in Hazara region especially in Mansehra.

"The aim of establishing government institutions is to ensure public welfare and round the clock delivery of services to the people", recalled Adviser Tourism and made it clear that strict action will be taken in case of complaints received against government institutions in this regard.

He expressed these views while talking to various delegations from his constituency Mansehra at his office Civil Secretariat Peshawar.

Members of the delegations informed Zahid Chanzab in details about the problems and demands of the area.

The Adviser said that he is well aware of the public problems and difficulties of his constituency. He revealed that serious measures are being taken for the solution of the grievances raised by the people of the area. On this occasion, Zahid Chanzab also highlighted the steps being taken for the development and prosperity of the people and region. He said that under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, earnest efforts are being

made for the overall progress of the area and public. He said that in order to solve the problems of Mansehra, he is in close contact with various authorities and departments. He added that in this regard, he is working day and night to get the required development funds being allocated for the region.

He said that in order to ensure public services, the government's development policies and plans are being implemented strictly so that its fruits and benefits could be reached the people in time.

The Tourism Adviser further clarified that we have to work together for the long-term development of the area and to achieve this goal, the doors of his office will be open to the public at all times.

ICP's historic role captivates students

PESHAWAR (APP): Islamia College Peshawar (ICP), a historic Institute of Pakistan's independence movement, drew a large number of students from various educational institutions as part of the 77th Independence Day celebrations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where national flags are hoisting everywhere.

Carrying Pakistan flags, the students of Government and private schools visited ICP on Thursday and paid rich tribute to the college's pivotal contributions to the establishment of Pakistan.

The visiting students were particularly moved by ICP's role in mobilizing the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Pakistan. They explored different areas of the college, including the Khyber Union, a debating society founded before partition, which was lauded for its impact on national awareness.

Sixth grader Laiba Farooq, Anaya Bibi, Arshiya, KG student Ibrahim Khan, Zaralala among others, expressed their admiration for ICP's legacy.

They visited the college to honor its students and faculty on the eve of Pakistan's 77th Independence Day, which will be celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervor on August 14.

The students were impressed by the college's grand domes, verdant lawns, and impressive architecture. They noted that the history of the Pakistan Movement is incomplete without acknowledging ICP's contributions to the nation's formation.

Holding a torch of education for 111 years, ICP had provided a unique platform to KP's people to compete with other communities in education, civil service, economy and politics during the colonial era.

Being a beautiful combination of Aligarh Movement of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and Deoband School of Thoughts, ICP is a mere testimony to the greatness of its Founder, Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Khan.

"The idea to establish a college clicked in the minds of Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Khan, leader of Muslim League, and Sir George Roos-Keppel, the then Chief Commissioner of NWFP (now KP) in early 1909 when they met the Pathan students during their visit to the Muslim University Aligarh," writes ex-principal ICP, Prof G.D. Khilji in his memoirs.

The students requested them either to construct a Frontier hostel at Aligarh or a college may be built for them in then NWFP (now KP). As a token, the students raised around sixty rupees and gave them to Comissioner Roos Keppel to form a Frontier Hostel fund or any other project.

Later, Keppel passed the money on to Nawab Sahib. It was April 12, 1911 when philanthropists Ghulam Haider Khan, Habibullah Khan, Khushal Khan, Sethi Karim Bakhsh and Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum gathered at the residence of Abdul Karim Khan Indrabai in Peshawar.

Haji Karim Bakhsh Sethi offered to build a mosque, Rahim Shah Kakakhel promised to construct a hostel and Abdul Karim Khan donated Rs 10,000, Sethi Karim Bakhsh Rs.50,000 and Nawab of Dir promised Rs100,000 for the college fund.'

PHC extends status quo against appointment of Pro-VC at AWKUM

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Ijaz Khan Sabi has extended status quo against the appointment process of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor at AWKUM has been initiated. He argued that the provincial government is

(AWKUM) and directed provincial government as well as Higher Education Department (HED) to submit reply within 15 days, on Thursday.

Barrister Saqib informed the court that the process for appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellor at AWKUM has been initiated. He argued that the provincial government is

trying to appoint a junior professor as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, bypassing senior professors.

The counsel stated that the appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellor should be based on the principles of seniority. He argued that appointing a junior professor as Pro-Vice-Chancellor is against the University Act, and the court had

already stayed the process. However, the government has not submitted a response yet.

PHC extended the status quo against the appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellor and sought a response from the provincial government and HED within 15 days after conclusion of initial arguments.

Fakhar directs to speed up work on sports grounds in Mardan

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Adviser to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sports and Youth Affairs Syed Fakhar Jihan has directed the relevant authorities to speed up the construction work on various sports grounds and other related facilities in Mardan district.

He issued these directive while presiding over a meeting, here at Civil Secretariat in Peshawar, wherein, progress related to the development projects of the Sports Department in Mardan district, reviewed.

Provincial Food Minister Zahir Shah Toro, Director General Sports Abdul

Nasir, Director Works Ahmed Zeib, Director Development Munir Abbas and Chief Planning Officer Sports Department participated in the meeting.

Sports advisor was given a detailed briefing by the department regarding the completed and progress of under-completion schemes in the district and it was informed that the construction of a sports complex has been completed in Tehsil Rustam of Mardan, while a women's gymnasium and multi-purpose facilities hall in the district have also been completed.

Similarly, a scheme in the provincial ADP project of upgradation of sports

complexes is under completion at Mardan.

He was further informed that under the provincial project for establishing sports grounds at the tehsil level, one scheme is completed in Mardan, while under another project for the maintenance of squash courts, two courts are completed in the said district and one will be completed as soon as possible.

On this occasion, it was informed that 17 schemes have been completed in Mardan under the mega provincial project of establishing sports grounds at the Union Council level in the district.

During the meeting, the advisor directed that the speed of work on the projects being completed at different places of Mardan district should be accelerated so that the remaining work can be completed in a short time and the people can benefit from their fruits as soon as possible.

He said that the government is fully committed to provide facilities for healthy activities for the youth and the provision of sports grounds and other infrastructural facilities are projects, reflecting government vision and resolve which are completing for the people and youth of the province.

Seminar on Kashmir dispute held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: On conclusion of 5 years of illegal revocation of article 370 & 35A by the Government of India, the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) held a seminar titled "Kashmir Dispute: Latest Imperatives and Way Forward," on 08 August, 2024. The seminar was aimed at analyzing the Kashmir dispute in historical, legal and humanitarian perspectives to develop a comprehensive way forward. Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick, a renowned human rights activist and former SAPM on human rights and women empowerment graced the occasion as the chief guest. The event featured distinguished speakers, including Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Advocate Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, Barrister Taimur Malik and students from various think-tanks and universities. The speakers stressed upon the need to construct an effective legal narrative on Kashmir to engage global audience as well as youth using established media houses to advance the Kashmir cause. Ms. Mullick highlighted the continued human rights violations that are taking place in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. She proposed to establish a legal cell in the foreign office in order to provide consistency in Kashmir policies. The event successfully brought together scholars, policy makers, activists and legal experts to ponder and proffer suggestions in this regard.



PESHAWAR: Members of Mutahidda Amn Committee protesting against Israeli atrocities in Palestine.

PESCO, PEDO sign 12.8 MW power acquisition contract

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, crossing another milestone of energy sector in province, has entered into an agreement to sell the electricity generated from 2 hydropower plants of 12.8 megawatts built from its own resources with Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO).

In this regard, a ceremony was held in PEDO House Peshawar regarding the sale of electricity generated by 10.2 MW of Jabori Hydro Power Plant in Mansehra District and 2.6 MW of Machai Hydro Power Plant in Mardan District to PESCO, in which Secretary Energy and Power Nisar Ahmad Khan, Chief Executive



PEDO Riaz Jan, CEO PESCO Engineer Akhtar Hameed, Chief Engineer Development Eng. Habibullah Shah, Project Director Jabori Eng. Mustafa Kamal and other senior officials participated.

On this occasion, on behalf of Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO), Engineer Jawad Haider and the representative of PESCO signed the agreement regarding the Power

Acquisition Contract (PAC) of electricity. Addressing the ceremony, Secretary Energy and Power Nisar Ahmad Khan termed the said agreement as a milestone for the development of the energy sector in the province and reiterated his commitment that in the coming days, agreements will be made for the sale of more completed electricity from PEDO. The province is expected to earn billions of rupees annually he added.

PML-N shamelessly defending Election Act: Saif

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Adviser to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, stated that mandate-stealing Ministers of Muslim League (N) are shamelessly defending the black law of the Election Act.

Sheikh Hasina's government has collapsed in Bengal while the PML-N is losing its composure here in Pakistan as the end of the fake Form 47 government is near, which is why they are making absurd statements.

Barrister Dr Saif said that the mandate-stealing government is afraid of PTI's public/Streets power. Imran Khan is bravely facing fake cases in the same jail from which the Sharif family has twice escaped through deals.

The fake leaders of fake ministers fled to London through deals despite all facilities in jail. Imran Khan has been in the same jail for a year where the Sharif family's platelets used to drop. Even in jail, Imran Khan is truly representing the public.

IG FC calls on Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Commandant of the Frontier Constabulary, Moazzam Jah Ansari, on Thursday met with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor House in Peshawar.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues related to the Frontier Constabulary (FC), including its needs and other pertinent matters.

Governor Kundi praised the professional capabilities of the Frontier Constabulary, acknowledging their commendable role and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

He highlighted the FC's significant contribution to maintaining peace and security, alongside other security agencies.

UoP professors tax issues to be resolved: Khawaja



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Federal Tax Ombudsman Advisor, Sardar Ali Khawaja, assured that tax-related concerns of university teachers would be promptly addressed.

This announcement came during a meeting held at the Regional Office Peshawar, where heads of various departments from

Peshawar University met with the Advisor Sardar Ali Khawaja to discuss their tax issues.

During the meeting, the university representatives expressed their gratitude to the Federal Tax Ombudsman for reinstating the tax rebate, a move that has resolved a longstanding issue for the department heads. They also requested the early pay-

ment of pending refunds, which have been delayed in recent years.

Sardar Ali Khawaja emphasized that teachers, as the most respected members of society, will be accorded the utmost respect in all tax offices.

He assured that issues related to tax rebates and refunds would be resolved without delay. Furthermore, he reaffirmed the Federal Tax Ombudsman's commitment to conducting prompt, fair, and independent investigations into any instances of maladministration in tax matters. The Ombudsman will take swift action to rectify any injustices faced by taxpayers due to the actions of tax authorities and will safeguard taxpayers' rights through effective measures.



PESHAWAR: President of Frontier Mines Owners Association Sher Bandi Khan Marwat addressing a press conference. — F.P. photo

City Mayor directs provision of all facilities in public parks

PESHAWAR (APP): City Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair has said that people would be provided all possible facilities in public parks and also announced the formation of a committee for bringing improvement in the conditions of parks with Director (West), Kamran Amjad as focal person for it.

Following the directives of Peshawar High Court (PHC), the City Mayor presided over a meeting here on Thursday. Those who attended the meeting

included Director East, Rehman Khattak, Director West Kamran Amjad, Assistant Director (Regulations) Zulhijja Ilyas, Engineer Daud and Gardens' Supervisor Mohammad Ali.

On this occasion, the City Mayor directed for bringing improvement in the conditions of 20 parks and provision of all facilities to the people inside them. He further directed for bringing improvement in the deteriorating conditions of benches and com-

pletion of the necessary requirements including walking track, washrooms and provision of drinking water.

He also constituted a committee for provision of all possible facilities in all parks of the city within a period of two weeks and formed a committee for the purpose with Director (West) Kamran Ajmad as focal person of it. He further directed the plantation of maximum number of saplings during the monsoon plantation drive.



In brief

DHO hold meeting F.P. Report

KALAYA: District Health Officer (DHO) Orakzai held a meeting regarding to observe Global Breastfeeding Month and bring awareness among public, on Thursday. According to details, provincial and district-level officials attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to highlight the importance of breastfeeding and launch an awareness campaign. Various activities were decided upon, including the distribution of banners and flyers, counseling sessions, workshops, social media campaigns, and a lecture on the importance of breastfeeding in the light of the Quran.

Six profiteers arrested

SARGODHA (INP): Six shopkeepers were booked for profiteering in various parts of the city here on Thursday. According to official sources, price control magistrates inspected various points including Sial morr, Dhoodha village, Mid Ranjha road and got arrested six shopkeepers - Muhammad Umair, Zulfiqar, Muhammad Umar, Mudassar, Ghulam Muhammad and Saleem on the charge of profiteering. The magistrates imposed hefty fines on the violators. Cases were registered against the accused.

Vaccination underway

BAHAWALPUR: District Health Officer for Preventive Services Dr. Khalid Channar said on Thursday said that vaccination was underway to protect children of nomadic families from measles, polio, and other diseases. He said that vaccinations were being conducted under the health department's crash programme at locations where nomadic families reside. He emphasized that significant attention was being devoted to eradicating measles, polio, and other diseases. Regular monitoring of all activities was being carried out, he added. Dr. Khalid Channar also reported that the health department has registered more than 6,500 children from nomadic communities, and vaccination while other health services were also being provided to these children.

Passerby boy among 3 injured F.P. Report

DIKHAN: Three people including a passerby, suffered injuries during a clash over a family dispute in the limits of Dera Town Police station on Thursday. According to Rescue 1122, 28-year-old Shaukat Ullah Betanni son of Ghulam Habib along with his brother Rehmat Ullah Betanni had a dispute with their brother-in-law Habib ur Rehman Marwat son of Faiz Ullah, resident of Hamza Town, Zafarabad Colony. The brawl between Habibi ur Rehman Marwat and his in-laws led to shooting in Hamza Town. As a result, an 11-year-old passerby boy named Junaid Betanni and both the brothers Shaukat Ullah Betanni and Rehmat Ullah Betanni got injured. The Rescue teams, after receiving information about the incident, reached the site and shifted the injured to hospital after providing them first medical aid.

Tree plantation drive launched

SARGODHA (APP): A tree plantation drive was inaugurated by the district administration here on Thursday. Deputy Director Local Government Babar Shahzad Ranjha planted a sapling in Chak No 70 NB.

Rainwater enters residential building, caused damages

F.P. Report

MARDAN: In the neighboring areas of Jamal Garhi, Alaqa Center and Habib Shah banda storm water entered many houses, causing the rooms of many houses to fall to the ground. A woman was seriously injured. There were cracks in the walls of the rooms.

According to the affected people, no elected members of the assembly and other relevant authorities have yet asked them about this problem. According to the details, due to the recent heavy rains, the poor laborers Nadir Khan and Khayal Muhammad, residents of Jamal garhi Habib Shah banda Tehsil, got flooded due to rainwater entering the houses, due to which the valuables inside the house were flooded. The equipment was also exposed to water.

According to the affected family, the rainwater caused cracks in the walls of the house and the walls of the rooms, which can cause a big tragedy at any time. The affected families have appealed to the government for help. On the other hand, Jamal garhi Center Asfandyar's house was also submerged in water due to heavy rain. Asfandyar, the sole sponsor of the four children has been forced to keep all the belongings of the house in the street. Village One Chairman Maulana Shahzeb Haqqani and Zakir Khan immediately visited the affected house and assured them that all possible financial assistance will be given to the affected.

MCCI delegation meet with Income tax officials: On the invitation of Commissioner Income Tax Mardan Region, a special meeting of the business community under the chairmanship of Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Provincial General Secretary of Central Organization of Traders Zahir Shah and income tax officials held, on Thursday.

During the meeting Additional Commissioner Muhammad Alam, Inland Revenue Officer Israr Khan. Apart from this, presidents and secretaries of different markets participated. Income Tax Commissioner gave a detailed briefing on the Tajeer Dost Scheme while explaining the purpose and objectives of the meeting and requested the representatives of the businessmen to present their position in this regard. On which MCCI President Zahir Shah gave a detailed discussion and expressed his concerns regarding the features of this scheme and said that harassment will increase in the business community through this scheme.

For the business community through this scheme the proposed Table of Advance Tax (SRO) is unfair and unenforceable and imposing such a heavy tax burden on the small trader is tantamount to killing the business. All the business organizations have reservations about the Tajeer Dost Scheme, so to implement our suggestions to end it you should send recommendations from your office to the concerned authorities /Chairman FBR. Through this, advance tax from 1200 to 240,000 rupees is also excessive we are of the opinion that the tax should be determined on the basis of income and introduce a trader-friendly scheme through a simple and transparent procedure.

Acknowledging the position, Commissioner Mardan proposed from 1200 to 60,000 and besides this, he assured to convey the businessmen's recommendations to the authorities and all kinds of cooperation with the business community. Zahir Shah said that since this issue has been raised jointly by the business community of Pakistan, we will discuss it again after mutual consultation. On this occasion, the General Secretary of the Central Organization of Traders, Mardan District, Waqar Ali Bacha, Jan Muhammad, Parvez Babu, Bakht Munir, Shah Gee, Sher Ali, Nauman Saraf, Shahzad Khan, Waheed Gul, Women Chamber of Commerce President Aqeela Sambal and others were present.

Police arrests robber: The Kharki police station received information that a group of robbers is present at Kharki road near hills with the intention of stopping vehicles at gunpoint and robbing them as soon as the information was received, the police team along with SHO Kharki reached the spot while DSP Shergarh Circle, SHO Lundkharwar and SHO Chanuna were immediately informed for other assistance.

The vagrants started firing on reaching the police party, on which the police took retaliatory action, after stopping the firing, while searching the area, one vagrant, Sohail Bacha resident of Kharki, was arrested and shifted to the hospital in an injured condition.

The second co-incident accomplice took advantage of the darkness of the night to escape, the Kalashnikov and cartridges were seized from the arrested robber and a case was registered under the prevailing act, while the police teams engaged in search operation to arrest the second co-incident accomplice. Actions are in progress, further investigation is underway.

Police foils abduction, arrests alleged kidnapper

F.P. Report

LARKANA: Police intercepted some abductors near RD-17 of Tehana Guddu with the intention of abducting people. The alleged kidnapper identified as Basit Ali and arrested in an injured condition, while Tariq Tahir, who survived the abduction incident in Multan city, last day.

According to sources, the dacoits establishing friendship over the phone. On the other hand, on receiving information about the competition, Deputy Inspector General of Police Range Larkana Nasir Aftab Pathan has issued orders to SSP Kashmore at Kandhkot to give cash along with certificates of appreciation to the officials involved in the police party.

Police held 157 proclaimed offenders in 4 months: SSP Larkana

Mir Ruhul Khan KHOSO has arranged press conference in the presence of SP Headquarters Haseeb Javed Somar Memon, ASP Muhammad Asher and DSP Hydari Madam Pars Bakhraani held a press conference at Shohudair Police Conference Hall.

The details of the achievements and police performance during the four months were shared in the presence of media persons, while addressing the press conference on the occasion, SSP Larkana Mir Ruhul Khan Khoso said that during four months, there were 145 police encounters in which three robbers were killed while three robbers were arrested in injured condition, and 378 wanted suspects were

arrested, while the police recovered two Kalashnikovs, 114 pistols, 17 revolvers, 12 short guns, and arrested 202 drug dealers, 189 cases were registered against them while 228 kg 205 grams of hashish were recovered from the drug dealers.

More than one kilo of opium, more than four kilos of ice, two and a half kilos of heroin, 118 bottles of liquor, 637 kilos and 155 grams of gutka and 77 kilos and 300 grams of cannabis were recovered, while 10 cars were stolen by street crimes, 04 tractors, 35 cattle, 240 motorcycles, 08 Chunchi rickshaws, 20 loaders and broken rickshaws were recovered, while more than five million cash, 12 tons of jewelry and 230 mobile phones were also recovered in the looting incident.

Development of Hub top priority

F.P. Report

HUB: An important meeting was held between Federal Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Provincial Advisor for Industries and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri in Hub. In the meeting, there was a discussion on other political and social issues, including the agreement to adopt a common plan of action for the problems faced by the hub city.

Meanwhile, Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan arrived at the residence of Mir Ali Hassan Zehri in Hub. Councilors and other leaders of Jam Group and Peoples Party were also present on this occasion. Both the leaders agreed that the elements occupying the Hub for the last forty years neglected the Hub in terms of development even with basic facilities. Deprived due to which this area remained backward instead of developing. We have to work united to end this backwardness and put Hub on the path of development and prosperity.

On this occasion, regional problems of the Hub were also considered including consultation for in-house change in the Municipal Corporation Hub and agreed to make joint efforts for their lasting solution. Speaking to the media in Komal City Hub along with Federal Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Provincial Advisor for Industries and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that in the past periods, there was criminal negligence at the level of municipalities, which turned the Hub into ruins and the citizens of Hub had to bear the brunt of it. Now is the time to change the destiny of Hub and we will change Hub together.

Mir Ali Hasan Zehri said that President Asif Ali Zardari has given permission to change the house in the Hub after consultation, on which we are in full agreement. Both the leaders said that they are also in touch with the National Party and we hope that the National Party will support us for a better future of the Hub. Provincial Advisor for Industry and Crafts Mir

Ali Hassan Zehri said that Rajab Ali Rand is a determined politician and we hope that we will join hands to solve the real problems because it is time for us to come together for the development and prosperity of the Hub. There is an important need and we hope that Rajab Ali Rand will understand our point and we will accept whatever joint decision is taken.

Speaking to the media, Jam Kamal Khan said that even in the election 2024, we had tried to bring forward a joint candidate, but the National Party could not be convinced. Above all, working for the Hub is the first priority; moreover, the efforts for mega projects in the Hub will be accelerated.

In this regard, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri will also meet Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ali Bugti. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that he should work day and night for the interests of the people and solve their problems without regard to color, race or religion. The first priority will be to provide the people of Hub with their rightful rights and resources.



HYDERABAD: A view of Indus River downstream Kotri Barrage where water level increasing day by day.

Unknown men steal money from ATM machine

OKARA (INP): Police in Okara on Thursday registered a case against unidentified persons who first hacked an ATM machine of a private bank and then stole a sum amounting to Rs3.4 million from it.

It emerged that the persons stole money from the machine on different occasions. As per the text of the FIR registered at A-Division police station on the complaint of the bank manager, the bank management on Wednesday afternoon suspected that the machine had been hacked when it came to its knowledge that Rs0.4 million had been drawn from it. "But before the staff could reach there to catch the thieves, they had left along with the cash," read the FIR. On the other hand, DSP City said that a team had been constituted for the arrest of burglars.

Indus River in medium flood at Guddu

F.P. Report

KASHMIRE: River Indus has been in medium flood at Guddu barrage with around 3.5 Lac cusecs inflow, according to the barrage's Control Room on Thursday. Monsoon rainfall in upstream has surged the water level in Indus, officials said.

"The water level has surged in Indus River at Guddu Barrage as 3,49,911 cusecs inflow and 3,36,538 cusecs outflow recorded at the barrage," according to the control room. "The Indus River has been in medium flood at Guddu Barrage," Sindh irrigation department officials said.

The river's water level has surged by 37,000 cusecs at Guddu in last 24 hours. According to the control room, Guddu Barrage's off-taking B.S.Feeder canal has been closed owing to the flooding situation. The officials have predicted more surge in the river's water level during next 48 hours.

Man kills minor daughter

GUJRAT (INP): A merciless man killed her minor daughter by throwing her into a canal here on Thursday. Police arrested the accused.

According to details, accused Ali Ahmed Raza Sabri hailing from Chak Fateh Shah of district Gujrat got married some two years earlier and was desirous of having male child. However, wife gave birth to baby girl three months earlier which annoyed the culprit.

The accused stated to be prayer leader at Mojianwala mosque took the wife and daughter to Head Khokhar Canal and threw three-month-old Zainab into the canal. The police arrested the culprit and after registering a case against him at Dinga police station started the investigation.

Man shot dead

MASTUNG (INP): Unidentified armed motorcyclist gunned down a man and sped the scene here on Thursday. Unknown motorcyclist sprayed bullets at Akbar Khan s/o Sohrab Khan Marri hailing from Sibi in jurisdiction of Khad Koocha police station in Mastung.

Students suffering in name E-domicile

F.P. Report

BUNER: Former General Secretary of Buner District Bar Muhammad Iqbal Advocate and District Courts Petitioners Union leader Gul Rashad have branded E-Domicile a headache for parents and demanded revival of old manual procedure in larger interests of public.

They while representing rest of parents have mentioned the difficulties faced by students and other youths in obtaining e-domicile through online mode of procedure. They have branded acquisition of E-Domicile difficult like an attempt to obtain the US visas. They have appealed to the Deputy Commissioner Buner to adopt the old manual method for obtaining domicile so that uneducated parents, mostly mothers can easily obtain domicile for their children's college admissions and other matters.

Talking to the media, Advocate Iqbal and Petitioner Gul Rashad said that they have been struggling for the last fifteen days to get their daughter's domicile for Medical Dental Colleges Test and others for seeking admission in colleges after passing the HSC

examinations. They while stating their ordeals also shared their bad experiences during obtaining E-Domicile.

They added after getting birth certificates from village secretaries, they submitted it with patents identity cards at NADRA and also done the biometrics procedure. But the NADRA asked for girl's grandfather's card. It was terrible for the grandfathers when asked for their identity cards as they were also astonished over this illogical demand.

They further said their fathers were either died years ago or flatly denied that the girl was yours and you had already given your CNICs.

Advocate Iqbal and Petitioner Gul Rashad said that when they fulfilled the procedure and went to a private computer shop for registration, the operator asked to bring the receipt for depositing money in the bank and when completed the process, then entered the online data, then got confirmation from the tehsildar and then AC.

They shared that the operator told them to wait for that DC to go for final approval and since then they are waiting till now while the MDCAT days are

near and from now the HSC exams results also announced and students rush to get domicile will definitely increase even more. In such a case, the time for admissions of MDCAT and colleges will pass in roundabouts for obtaining e-domicile.

On the other hand, ADC General has said that due to the difficulties faced by the individual in the rounds of the offices in obtaining the domicile through the manual method, the government has implemented the e-domicile method in the entire province, which allows the individual will avoid wastage of valuable time and money, but due to lack of proper knowledge about the procedure, going to private computer centers instead of visiting CFC available in mobile to get registration and often wrong registration and marking errors from the DC office by the applicants.

Due to lack of correcting errors and omissions in time, it often leads to delay in domicile approval, for which the applicants should contact their computer operator where they had registered earlier so that the errors and omissions are corrected in time and get domicile quickly, he remarked.

August 14 to be celebrated with enthusiasm

Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: In order to review the preparations for the upcoming Independence Day 14th August, a special meeting was held with Additional Deputy Commissioner Kohat Hamid Iqbal in the chair at Deputy Commissioner Office Kohat on Thursday. The meeting besides the SP Kohat, Assistant Commissioners Kohat and Lachi was also attended by the Heads of the Line Departments.

The meeting discussed in detail all aspects for the celebration of Pakistan's

Independence Day with national zeal and spirit and various important decisions were made in this respect. All departments and institutions were assigned their duties regarding holding of Independence Day events.

It was decided that there will be fireworks on the Night of August 13 and lightning on all Government Offices and institutions. On August 14 National Flag will be hoisted in the District Council Hall Kohat. Likewise, Independence Day Walk, Flag March and Plantation Drive will also be the part

of celebrations. Similarly, on August 14, special sports activities will also be arranged for prisoners in Kohat Jail.

The sports department will also hold various sports events in Sports Complex. Finally, on the evening of August 14, there will be a closing and prize distribution ceremony at the Kohat sports complex which will be attended by the High Ups and prominent personalities of Kohat. He directed the authorities concerned to prepare and submit their plans in the follow up meeting.

Admn prepared for I-Day celebrations

F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: The district administration under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Muhammad Naeem Sindhu is active to celebrate the Independence Day celebrations in a grand manner.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu in connection with the Independence Day celebrations. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioners Ali Sameer,

Saqib Adnan, Iqra Nasir and Additional Deputy Commissioner General Zeeshan Labbha Masih and other heads of departments.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu said that the Independence Day will be celebrated at the district and tehsil levels with grandeur and national enthusiasm. Flags of Pakistan will be installed on government buildings and lighting will be done. The main function of the Independence Day celebration will be held in the District Council Hall. Other Independence Day

celebrations will also be held at the District Council Hall. While issuing instructions to conduct elocation competitions, tableaux, national songs in schools and colleges, he asked the District Sports Officer to organize hockey, football, cricket and local sports competitions, while the Deputy Director Colleges should hold a lecture on the theme of Independence Day will make arrangement. There will be a firework display on the night of August 13 and 14 under the auspices of the District Council.

Decision made to expand Faisalabad Airport

FAISALABAD (INP): The government on Thursday decided to expand Faisalabad International Airport. According to the details, to expand the airport, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) headquarters has directed Faisalabad Civil

Aviation to acquire land around the airport.

Following the headquarters' order, Faisalabad Civil Aviation has sent a letter to the Assistant Commissioner Sadar for the identification and acquisition of the land.

The CAA has requested the provision of DC rates for the land acquisition surrounding the airport. According to the decision, alongside Faisalabad, the expansion of Multan and Skardu airports will also be undertaken.



South Korean nuclear weapons would fracture US ties, defence chief says

SEOUL (Reuters): South Korea could rupture its US alliance and shock financial markets if it started building nuclear weapons, Defence Minister Shin Won-sik told Reuters, dismissing renewed domestic calls for the country's own arsenal to deter North Korea.

As the neighbouring North rapidly expands nuclear and missile capabilities, more South Korean officials and members of President Yoon Suk Yeol's conservative ruling party have called in recent months for developing nuclear weapons. The prospect of another term for former US President Donald Trump, who complained about the cost of the US military presence in South Korea and launched unprecedented talks with the North, has further fuelled the debate.

But Shin, a former three-star army general who also served as a lawmaker in Yoon's party, said having a homegrown nuclear arsenal risked devastating fallout to the South's diplomatic standing and economy, akin to what analysts called Black Monday this week for the stock market's worst losses since 2008. "You'll face a huge crack in the US alliance, and if we withdraw from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, it would bring various penalties, starting with an immediate shock in our financial market," he said in an interview. Shin acknowledged that the debate among politicians and foreign policy experts was a sign that many South Koreans were still anxious about American extended deterrence - the US military capability, especially its nuclear forces.

But the allies' push to strengthen that deterrence is the "easiest, most effective and peaceful" way to count-

er the North's threats, he said. Intensifying strategic rivalry between the United States and China and the Ukraine war have triggered a sweeping shift in the post-Cold War paradigm, putting South Korea near the centre of the turmoil and complicating its calculations, Shin said.

"Even in Northeast Asia, there are forces who are openly seeking to change the status quo by force, and we are at the forefront, directly affected," Shin said, speaking at his office in Seoul, the South Korean capital. By clinching a strategic partnership treaty with Russia this year, North Korea has gone from "being a headache in Asia to a global villain," while Moscow tainted its own national prestige by "begging for help" from Pyongyang and betraying the international community with its war against Ukraine, he said. South Korea responded by warning that it could consider arming Ukraine with lethal weapons, a potential shift from its policy of sticking to humanitarian and economic assistance, if Russia provides the North with advanced weapons technology.

Shin said North Korea received Russian assistance with a rocket engine used in a failed attempt in May to launch a spy satellite. But he did not consider that to cross a "red line," saying he was focused instead on any transfer of technology linked with intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons, as well as anti-air weapons, radars, tanks and fighter jets. From last year until Aug. 4, North Korea has shipped more than 12,000 containers to Russia, enough to carry about 5.6 million 152-mm artillery shells, Shin said.

The actual number would vary

because North Korea has sent three or four kinds of shells of different sizes, including rockets, and separately also supplied dozens of short-range missiles, he said. While Yoon's administration has been more open in echoing Washington's calls for "like-minded nations" to stand together in the face of tension with China and Russia, Shin said South Korea has not discussed joining other US allies and partners in naval exercises in the South China Sea, where Beijing has clashed with neighbours over maritime claims. Tension between the neighbours has flared in recent weeks, after North Korea floated thousands of balloons containing trash in protest against South Korean activists sending anti-Pyongyang leaflets.

Seoul resumed its loudspeaker broadcasts near the border for the first time in 2018, blaring news and K-pop music, which Shin called an "effective, stinging" form of psychological warfare. Among newly added news was the surprising defection of Ri Il Gyu, who worked as a senior North Korean diplomat based in Cuba, and the participation of Jin, a member of the K-pop supergroup BTS, in the Paris Olympics' torch relay. "I understand that North Korea has been struggling to block BTS' popularity as there was a craze among young people imitating their dances," Shin said, declining to identify the source of the information.

"The loudspeaker campaign would have a long-term impact as a key catalyst in driving change in society, and could potentially provide a momentum for the North's denuclearisation if we work more with the international community."

S Carolina braces for deluge

ATLANTA (Reuters): Tropical Storm Debby is forecast to make landfall early Thursday and dump even more rain on the South Carolina coast, prompting fears of flash flooding in areas already soaked by the slow-moving weather system.

The storm could dump another 9 inches (23 cm) of rain in parts of eastern South Carolina on Thursday, forecasters said, with total accumulative rainfall in some spots hitting more than 25 inches since Debby started lashing the southeastern United States. While Debby produced less rain than the previous days, Rich Bann, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service warned that Thursday would be different. "Moisture has pulsed back into Debby," Bann said, noting that the storm picked up water as it spent the last day parked over the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Georgia and South Carolina. "As Debby makes its way inland ... the threat of heavy rains will lead to flooding concerns."

Bann said that by Friday Debby would be dumping up to 4 inches of rain on Virginia up into Pennsylvania, where ground in some patches was already soaked from other storms this week, heightening flooding concerns there. By the weekend, the storm could also produce rain of up to 4 inches in central New York state and into northern Vermont. At least six people have died in Florida and Georgia in the wake of the storm, which made landfall on Florida's Gulf Coast as a Category 1 hurricane and headed northeast. Governors in the Carolinas, Florida and Georgia have declared states of emergency. The storm has already left neighborhoods and communities underwater, washing out streets and inundating homes across the region.

Emergency management officials were keeping a close watch as the rainwater drained into the numerous river systems that snake through the Carolinas. The National Water Prediction Service forecast that seven waterways would reach major flood levels before the weather event runs its course.

Ex-Catalan leader plans return

BARCELONA (AP): Carles Puigdemont, the former leader of Catalonia who fled Spain after organizing an illegal independence referendum in the wealthy Spanish region seven years ago, announced that he plans to return home despite the likelihood of being arrested on his return.

Puigdemont, 61, who fled to Belgium after the break-away bid in October 2017 quickly collapsed, said that he would attend an event organized by his political party Together for Catalonia near Barcelona's regional parliament building hours before a new regional government takes office. He did not say when or how he would arrive in Spain. The political event in Barcelona is likely to gather many Puigdemont supporters.

The Mossos D'Esquadra, the regional police in Catalonia, say that they intend to obey court orders to arrest Puigdemont, if he does return. In his announcement made on YouTube, Puigdemont recognized that he "cannot attend freely" the scheduled parliamentary session and accused authorities of "a long persecution" over the unsuccessful breakaway attempt. "This challenge must be answered and confronted," he said. Puigdemont's return is likely to generate renewed political tension over the smoldering issue of Catalan independence. The failed secession attempt triggered a protracted constitutional crisis in Spain.

Puigdemont and his supporters have long taken a confrontational and at times provocative stance toward Spain's central authorities, especially the Madrid-based government. The former Catalan leader's return threatened to complicate a deal brokered after months of deadlock between Salvador Illa's Catalan Socialist Party and the other main Catalan separatist party and left-wing Esquerra Republicana.

State of emergency declared as Ukraine launches raid into Russia



KYIV (BBC): A state of emergency has been declared in the Kursk region of Russia, as a rare cross-border attack by Ukrainian troops continued. The acting regional governor, Alexei Smirnov, said the move was necessary "to eliminate the consequences of enemy forces coming into the region".

Russian officials said at least five civilians had been killed and 31 wounded, six of them children, since the start of the incursion. Ukraine has not officially commented and the depth of the incursion remains unclear. Up to 1,000 Ukrainian troops, as well as 11 tanks and more than 20 armoured combat vehicles, entered Russia near the town of Sudzha, Moscow said.

Fighting reportedly took place in a number of villages, with local authorities urging residents to limit their movements and all public events cancelled. A number of air alerts were issued in Kursk and footage posted online - verified by the BBC - showed fighter jets flying low over the region, with smoke rising from areas on the ground. Thousands of people were evacuated from border areas and doctors were being drafted in from other cities, Mr Smirnov said. Ukrainian incursions into Russian territory have been extremely rare since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Ukrainian MP Oleksiy Honcharenko said the Ukrainian army had established control over the Sudzha gas hub, a major gas facility involved in the transit of natural gas from Russia to the EU via Ukraine, which has continued despite the war. It is the only point of entry for Russian gas into the EU. Although the claim has not been verified by the BBC, Mr Honcharenko's comment was the first confirmation of an incursion into Russian territory by a Ukrainian official. Mr Honcharenko said on Facebook that while he did not know what the "plan" behind the incursion was, it would show "Europeans and Americans that... Russia can and needs to be attacked". Speaking to the BBC's Newshour, he added that "from a military point of view, we are trying to take back the initiative". "We are showing the world that the world should not be scared of escalation or the reaction of Putin. There is no reaction," he said. "For the first time since the Second World War, Russian territory that is internationally recognised is occupied and Putin did not [turn] to nukes and so on." He said the incursion would also force Russia to move troops to the region and hopefully decrease the number of attacks it can carry out in eastern Ukraine.

A White House spokesperson said the US had no previous knowledge of the

attack and that it planned to reach out to the Ukrainian military "to learn more about their objectives". In a televised meeting with government officials, Russian President Vladimir Putin accused Ukraine of launching a "major provocation" and "firing indiscriminately" at civilian buildings and residences. Russia's Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov said the "advance" into the Kursk region had been stopped, with Russian forces "continuing to destroy the adversary in areas directly adjacent to the Russian-Ukrainian border". Mr Gerasimov said Ukrainian forces aimed to take over the area around the town of Sudzha, and that Russia had already killed 100 men and injured another 215. However, some popular and generally well-informed pro-war Telegram channels suggested the situation on the ground was not as stable as the Kremlin said.

Blogger Yuri Kotenok described the battles taking place in Sudzha and nearby Korenevo as "heavy", while the channel Rybar said that the situation in the area around Sudzha was "continuing to deteriorate" and Ukrainian formations were advancing towards the town. The BBC is unable to verify these claims. The Russian National Guard said it had strengthened the security of the Kursk nuclear power plant, which lies some 70km (43 miles) north-east of Sudzha. In the Belgorod region, which neighbours Kursk, Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov also issued missile attack warnings and said several people had been injured in Ukrainian air attacks. The head of the Ukrainian region of Sumy, Volodymyr Artyukh, ordered the evacuation of the areas that border Kursk. One colonel in Ukraine's military, Vladislav Seleznyov, told the prominent Nexta channel the attack was "preventative", with an estimated 75,000 Russian troops continuing to gather close to the border. After a major cross-border incursion by Russia into the north-eastern Kharkiv region in May, there had been fears Moscow would attempt the same into the Sumy region further north.

With Ukraine now apparently capturing several settlements and highways the other way, those ambitions may well have been frustrated for now. But with Ukrainian forces already overstretched and out-manned, some military analysts are questioning the wisdom of such cross-border raids. This is not the first incursion into Russia by fighters based in Ukraine. Some groups of anti-Kremlin Russians launched raids last year, which were repelled. The forces crossed into the Belgorod and Kursk regions again in March, where they engaged in clashes with Russian security forces.

UK military on standby for possible Lebanon evacuation

LONDON (BBC): More than a thousand British military personnel have been put on standby in case British nationals need to be evacuated from Lebanon. Preparations are being made in response to a Foreign Office warning that the situation in the Middle East could rapidly deteriorate.

On Saturday, the Foreign Office repeated a call for UK nationals to leave Lebanon - while confirming that preparations were underway to help with an evacuation of the country if necessary. An estimated 16,000 British people are currently in Lebanon, Foreign Secretary David Lammy told the House of Commons last week. Hundreds of troops have been sent to Cyprus, where the UK already has a military presence. Meanwhile, in the UK, hundreds more troops have been put on notice - meaning they are ready to be deployed to the region if necessary. The UK already has a significant military presence in Cyprus. An RAF base at Akrotiri is likely to be a

hub for any air movements, with RAF Typhoon fighter jets already stationed there. Those jets were involved in defence against an Iranian drone and missile attack on Israel in April. The statement released by the Foreign Office at the weekend said military personnel were in the process of deploying to provide operational support to UK embassies in the region. It did not mention the number of troops involved. A Royal Navy destroyer - HMS Duncan - and a landing ship - RFA Cardigan Bay - are already in the Eastern Mediterranean. RAF helicopters have also been placed on standby. Tensions have been growing across the Middle East since the Hamas attacks on southern Israel on 7 October. About 1,200 people were killed in the attack, triggering a massive Israeli military response in Gaza. At least 39,480 Palestinians have been killed since, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry. Hostilities between Israel and its neighbours have escalated following the death of

Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran - an attack Iran has blamed on Israel. Haniyeh's assassination came hours after Israel killed Hezbollah senior commander Fuad Shukr in Beirut. In response, Iran has vowed "severe" retaliation against Israel. Western officials fear that Hezbollah, an Iran-backed militia and political movement based in Lebanon, could play a key role in any such retaliation, which in turn could spark a serious Israeli response.

The US, the UK, Australia, France, Canada, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Turkey and Jordan are among the countries to have urged their citizens to leave Lebanon as soon as possible. Last year, the British government helped co-ordinate the evacuation of British nationals from Gaza, with some 200 UK citizens thought to be living in the territory before the war broke out. In 2021, over 15,000 people were evacuated from Afghanistan to the UK after the country fell to the Taliban.

Canadian police arrest man after he allegedly make threats against PM

TORONTO (AP): Canadian Police in Ontario. Dawid Zalewski, 33, of no fixed address, is facing two counts of uttering threats. "Threats to our national security can come in many forms and Canada is not immune," the RCMP said in a press release. "We are aware of the heightened security environment for public officials and the danger this presents for all

Canadians. Our No. 1 priority has been, and will always be, the safety and security of Canadians." The arrest comes weeks after two Alberta men were charged after they allegedly directed death threats at the prime minister. RCMP said in July that the men posted threats to kill Trudeau and other politicians on X and YouTube.

Absence of ceasefire hurting fight against polio in Gaza

GENEVA (AFP): The World Health Organization (WHO) says it is working on a campaign against polio in Gaza after the virus was detected there, but the continuing war presents multiple hurdles to the effort. While no clinical cases have been diagnosed so far, polio was detected in sewage in Gaza's Deir el-Balah and Khan Younis areas, WHO polio specialist Hamid Jafari said in a news conference.

"We need a ceasefire, even a temporary ceasefire to successfully undertake these campaigns. Otherwise, we risk the virus spreading further, including across borders," said Hanan Balkhy, regional WHO director. On July 30, the Health Ministry in Gaza declared the Palestinian territory to be a "polio epidemic zone", blaming the reappearance of the virus on Israel's 10-

month military offensive and the resulting destruction of health facilities.

The ministry said the CPV2 strain of the virus was detected in wastewater samples taken in the Khan Younis region in the south of the Strip, as well as in areas of central Gaza. Children under five are most at risk from the viral disease, especially infants under two, since normal vaccination campaigns have been disrupted by the conflict. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said they will send more than one million polio vaccines to Gaza, AFP news agency reported. Ghebreyesus said health workers need freedom of movement in Gaza to administer the vaccines, saying a ceasefire or at least a few days of calm was essential to protect Gaza's children.

"WHO is sending more

than one million polio vaccines which will be administered in the coming weeks," he said. Humanitarian advocates have stressed the need to end the violence to address the health crisis in Gaza. Balkhy also pointed out the risk of the development of antimicrobial resistance within Gaza, and the possibility of such strains spreading into other countries. Poliomyelitis, which is spread mainly through the fecal-oral route, is a highly infectious virus that can invade the nervous system and cause paralysis. Cases of polio have declined by 99 percent worldwide since 1988, thanks to mass vaccination campaigns and efforts continue to eradicate it completely. Israel has restricted humanitarian groups' access to Gaza, and Israeli forces have bombed aid convoys, killing dozens of

aid workers. Moreover, the Israeli offensive has put most of Gaza's hospitals out of commission. And the repeated displacement of Palestinians, who continue to face evacuation orders by the Israeli military, makes it difficult to locate and reach unvaccinated children.

There have been growing concerns about the spread of diseases in Gaza due to the humanitarian crisis, lack of medical supplies and destruction of water sanitation plants by Israel. Gaza had recorded 24 times the normal rate of diarrhoea cases, as well as more than 100,000 cases of scabies and lice, and 70,000 cases of skin rashes as a result of overcrowding, overflowing sewage and contaminated water, said Richard Peeperkorn, WHO representative in the occupied Palestinian territory.

WHO calls meeting to discuss jump in mpox cases from DRC

GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) has called an emergency meeting to discuss a jump in mpox cases spreading from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the announcement, amid an outbreak that has seen nearly 27,000 cases in the DRC and claimed about 1,100 lives, many of them children.

Since last September, cases have surged in the central African nation due to a strain of the virus that has now been detected in its neighbouring countries. "In light of the spread of mpox outside DRC, and the potential for further inter-

national spread within and outside Africa, I have decided to convene an Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations to advise me on whether the outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern," the WHO chief said in a social media post.

Ghebreyesus said he convened the meeting after cases of mpox appeared to spread to countries such as Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, where they had not been previously reported. The committee will advise the WHO on the question of whether the outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern

(PHEIC) - the highest level of alarm that the WHO can sound. The WHO said the meeting would occur "as soon as possible", but has yet to offer specific dates.

Mpox is largely spread through sexual contact and is especially prevalent among men who have sex with other men. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said last week that mpox has been detected in 10 African nations this year, including the DRC, where more than 96 percent of all cases are located. The agency added that cases are up 160 percent this year, with deaths increasing by 19 percent. The disease also appears especially prevalent among the

young, with 70 percent of cases and 85 percent of deaths in the DRC occurring among children under the age of 15. The WHO declared mpox, also known as monkeypox, a global emergency in 2022 after it spread to more than 70 countries. Vaccines helped neutralise the threat in wealthy nations, but were not made adequately accessible to poor ones, making the disease harder to ultimately eradicate and underscoring the global health risks of discrepancies in vaccine access. "We do not want the world to sit and watch and wait," said Maria Van Kerkhove, who leads WHO's outbreak department. "The time [to act] is now." — Aljazeera

Students, other Muslims protect temples, churches amid BD unrest

DHAKA (AFP): Student leaders in Bangladesh have asked supporters to guard Hindu temples and churches as diplomats and rights groups expressed concerns over reports of attacks on minority groups after the prime minister resigned amid a national uprising.

There was euphoria - but also looting and the ransacking of national monuments and government buildings - after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled the country following weeks of deadly demonstrations against her government. Opposition politicians called for the protection of all

Bangladeshis "irrespective of religion and politics, from discriminatory violence", amid reports of assaults on temples and churches.

Students were seen guarding Hindu temples and other places of worship in social media footage and images verified by Al Jazeera's fact-checking agency Sanad, including in Chittagong, the country's second-largest city. "Miscreants are systematically attacking various public and private institutions to prove the students' movement wrong," Chittagong University coordinator, Russell Ahmed, told the

Bangla Tribune newspaper. "To prevent any kind of attack on the places of worship, temples and churches of different religions in Chittagong, we have made a committee in each district ... to keep watch," he said. In the capital, Dhaka, a Muslim man was seen guarding the Dhakeshwari Temple, a Hindu place of worship. "A Muslim man spotted praying salah in front of Dhakeshwari temple... and protecting the hindu temple from all the evil people who are trying to stop the reform by attacking minorities and public properties," Saif Ahmed, the

social media manager of the Bangla Tigers cricket team, shared on X. Both Muslim and Hindu neighbours were guarding and protecting the temple, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. Students who led the protests against Hasina over government job quotas they said were discriminatory also urged people not to target minority communities in the Muslim-majority country of 170 million people. Nahid Islam, a student at Dhaka University and one of the protest organisers, told local media: "There is no grouping or division among us."

The Frontier Post

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Bangladesh has a brighter future within its grasp

In the 18th century, King Louis XV of France is said to have commented, “After me, the deluge.” The phrase is often used today to describe the disorder that can follow the sudden fall of a national leader. Following the abrupt resignation and flight from Bangladesh of prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday, however, the situation appeared to be the opposite. Ms Hasina’s departure day was dramatic, but her country appears to be tentatively returning to normal.

Footage on television showed people shopping as businesses, courts and government offices reopened and public transport resumed. The military has lifted the weeks-long curfew imposed during student-led protests. The demonstrators took issue with quotas for government jobs they claimed benefited Ms Hasina’s supporters and her ruling Awami League party.

The protesters’ storming of Ms Hasina’s residence on Monday was the climax in this chapter of unrest, which has claimed at least 300 lives, according to an investigation by the news agency AFP using data from police reports, local officials and doctors. Bangladeshi authorities have not issued an official figure on the death toll.

Bangladesh – a nation of more than 172 million people – is now at a crossroads. The protest leaders have called for Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus to be appointed chief adviser of an interim government. It is not clear yet what form such an administration will take – the country has had caretaker governments before – but restoring stability and trust in its institutions must take priority.

There is much at stake. Bangladesh has one of the world’s largest and youngest Muslim populations. It has made great economic progress in recent years. As recently as April, the World Bank was reporting the country’s economy had made a strong turnaround from the Covid-19 pandemic and projected a 5.7 per cent increase in gross domestic product for this year. The International Monetary Fund had predicted that GDP will pick up to 6.6 per cent next year as imports rebound and foreign exchange pressures ease. It has been a remarkable transformation from one of the world’s poorest countries to a lower-middle-income nation.

Much of this progress was achieved with that the World Bank called “prudent macroeconomic policies” carried out during Ms Hasina’s tenure. Yet, too many people felt that they were not sharing in this success. Bangladesh still has serious challenges when it comes to poverty and living conditions. According to the Asian Development Bank, in 2022 nearly 19 per cent of the population lived below the national poverty line and for every 1,000 babies born there, 29 died before their fifth birthday. Last year, nearly six per cent of the employed population earned less than the equivalent of \$2.15 a day – the World Bank’s international measure of poverty.

Bangladesh is also one of the countries most exposed to the threats posed by climate change and extreme weather. The UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has predicted that a rise in sea levels and coastal erosion could lead to a loss of 17 per cent of Bangladesh’s land surface and 30 per cent of food production by 2050.

Nevertheless, the dynamism that fuelled its recent economic and developmental successes bodes well for a society that wants to thrive. The task ahead will be hard; the World Bank’s April report pointed out the need for structural reforms to diversify the economy and build resilience over the medium and long term. Bangladesh needs its friends now. But with the right approach that includes a peaceful transition to a more responsive administration, the country can close this chapter and begin a new one.

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A view from the bridge on Britain’s race riots

Faisal J. Abbas

Recently had the pleasure of watching the uniquely talented actor Dominic West in Arthur Miller’s 1955 masterpiece “A View From The Bridge” at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in London’s West End.

However, it was not West’s captivating and extraordinarily convincing portrayal of Italian American working-class Brooklyn longshoreman Eddie Carbone that stayed with me long after the play had ended.

As an avid consumer of news, I always find it fascinating how history repeats itself and how some topics remain relevant no matter how much time has passed.

Among those topics are the linked issues of immigration, the quest for economic opportunity, and xenophobia — three pillars of Miller’s play that even today are still the subject of intense debate and sometimes violent protests and hate crimes, as we are currently seeing in the UK.

In the play, impoverished Italians who illegally migrated to the US with a dream of earning \$50 a week to feed their families back home are subjected to harassment and discrimination because of their habits and appearance, and accused of wanting to marry an American only to obtain a US passport.

In today’s Britain, far right groups accuse even legal immigrants — and mainly Muslims, adding racism and religion to an already toxic brew — of not only reaping the benefits of the economic system, but of taking the jobs of the “native English” and refusing to integrate culturally.

Now, as a former London resident myself, and indeed the author of a book on what it’s like to be an Arab in the UK capital, I am the first to raise my hand and say, yes, there are many immigrant groups who have failed to integrate, who deliberately abuse the system, and who cause mayhem: among the most notorious is the Egyptian cleric Abu Hamza, who arrived in the UK on a

temporary student visa in 1979, preached hate for decades while sponging off state benefits, and proved almost impossible to throw out of the country until he was finally deported to the US in 2012.

But we need to remember that for every Abu Hamza there is a surgeon, a doctor, a nurse, a lawyer, a banker, an investor, all of migrant origin, contributing to the British economy with the income tax they pay, and to their local communities with the money they spend. They can even become mayors and prime minister, as demonstrated by Sadiq Khan (of Pakistani origin) and Rishi Sunak, whose Indian parents migrated to Britain from East Africa in the 1960s.

Sunak became prime minister in October 2022 in part to restore the Conservative Party’s reputation for economic competence after years of chaos under four successive Tory prime ministers since Britain voted to leave the EU in 2016.

Among those primarily responsible for that Brexit vote was Nigel Farage, the populist far-right agitator whose entire political career has been devoted to extracting the UK from Europe. Throughout his campaign, economy with the truth was Farage’s speciality. For example, he constantly claimed that the EU was an unelected dictatorship (in fact, the European Council consists of elected member state representatives and the European Parliament is wholly elected); that 70 per cent of British laws were made by the EU (the actual figure was just over 13 per cent); and that EU membership cost Britain £55 million a day (the real cost was half that, and even that took no account of EU funds flowing the other way).

Whether Britain was right to leave the EU, as it eventually did in 2019, is an argument for another day. However, most analysts estimate that the British economy is at least 3 per-

cent smaller as a result, that Brexit has sliced 5 per cent off UK economic growth, and that every family in the country is £1,000 worse off.

It is beyond surreal that Farage, having been largely responsible for this debacle, is now stoking xenophobia and trying to blame the downturn on an influx of migrants. Someone needs to tell him and his supporters, the problem is not immigration: “It’s the economy, stupid.”

Unsurprisingly, Farage was among the first to fan the flames when three young children were stabbed to death and 10 people were injured in an attack during a dance and yoga workshop on July 29 in the northern English seaside town of Southport. Within minutes, posts on social media stated confidently that the attacker was a Muslim asylum seeker who had arrived illegally on a small boat crossing the English Channel. Those posts were lies: police swiftly confirmed that the young man accused of the attack was a 17-year-old British citizen, born in Wales to parents from Rwanda — ironically the country to which Rishi Sunak’s government planned to deport asylum seekers, because it is a “safe country.” But the damage had been done, leading to the appalling scenes of mayhem we have witnessed on Britain’s streets for the past week.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s firm and decisive response to the riots is to be applauded, and his reassurances in defense of the UK’s Muslim minority must be respected. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper should also be commended for immediately authorizing a full range of prosecutions and penalties for convicted rioters, and police have quickly brought offenders to justice: three men were jailed on Wednesday for violent disorder, the first of what will be a procession through the courts.

This is exactly the kind of deterrent that is needed.

After all, no matter how noble one might think a cause is, it doesn’t give anyone the right to take the law into their own hands. Quite frankly, I believe observers — both at home and abroad — have had enough with thugs destroying public property, disfiguring national monuments or attacking others in the name of their “cause,” whether it is religious, environmental or political.

This applies equally to all races and religions alike. Certainly, the UK’s minority Muslim community have an added responsibility to now curb any members from violating the law, no matter how angry or intimidated they feel. They would also be well advised to champion successful and inspirational stories of integration. Apart from Sadiq Khan, another impressive example would be Nadhim Zahawi, an Iraqi Kurd whose family fled Saddam’s regime in 1978 when he was 11; Zahawi became an MP, and eventually Chancellor of the Exchequer, and is a hugely successful businessman. Last week in The Times he wrote a deep and thoughtful column entitled “How the British dream of integration can survive.” In it, he argues that Britain remains the most tolerant country on Earth, but urges the quick punishment of wrongdoers while addressing the real concerns on all sides.

Speaking of all sides, we must not miss the elephant in the room: the massive reach of social media, now with the added perils of Artificial Intelligence and its deep fake abilities. This is why it was reassuring that senior UK executives from the tech giants were summoned to a meeting of Britain’s emergency COBRA committee this week to be reminded of their responsibilities.

That is as it should be. Meta, TikTok and X can claim they are merely platforms, but technically they are publishers on steroids, and without filters: as such, they should not be immune, and they too must be held accountable.

New dawn for Pakistan-Bangladesh ties

Farhan Ahmad

THE political landscape of Bangladesh has undergone a dramatic transformation with the sudden fall of Sheikh Hasina, who had dominated the country’s politics for approximately two decades. Her 20-year tenure, marked by a strong pro-India stance and tense relations with Pakistan, concluded amidst widespread protests and political unrest. This pivotal moment offers both Pakistan and Bangladesh a rare opportunity to reset and redefine their bilateral relations.

The protests leading to Hasina’s departure were initially ignited by widespread dissatisfaction with a controversial job quota system. This system, which reserves a significant percentage of government jobs and university seats for the descendants of 1971 war veterans, has faced criticism for perpetuating inequality and excluding deserving candidates. The unrest soon expanded into a broader movement against Hasina’s increasingly authoritarian rule, economic mismanagement and suppression of political freedoms. The violent crackdown on these protests, resulting in numerous casualties, underscored the urgency for political reform and ultimately led to the military, under General Waker-uz-Zaman, assuming control to stabilize the country.

For Pakistan, the end of Hasina’s administration represents a critical juncture to renew and strengthen ties with Bangladesh. During Hasina’s tenure, her government was closely aligned with India, often at the expense of relations with Pakistan. Her departure presents a renewed opportunity for Pakistan to engage with Bangladesh’s new leadership, extending a hand of friendship and cooperation. This diplomatic re-engagement can be pursued through various avenues, including cultural exchanges, economic partnerships and shared regional interests.

Cultural diplomacy can serve as a cornerstone of this renewed relationship. Pakistan can extend invitations for cultural and academic exchanges, fostering a deeper understanding of shared history and cultural heritage. Offering scholarships and educational programs to Bangladeshi students can create new bridges of goodwill and enhance positive perceptions of Pakistan among the youth.

Economic cooperation is another vital aspect that can benefit both nations. Bangladesh’s rapidly growing textile and garment sector, alongside Pakistan’s own strong textile industry, presents ample opportunities for collaboration. Joint ventures, trade agreements, and mutual investments in technology, agriculture, and infrastructure can stimulate economic growth and development. By easing trade restrictions and promoting bilateral trade, both countries can achieve a more bal-

anced and prosperous economic partnership.

High-level diplomatic engagements and confidence-building measures will be essential in rebuilding trust. Pakistan should actively engage with the interim government in Bangladesh, offering support for a peaceful transition and a willingness to work together on issues of mutual interest. Initiatives such as easing visa regulations and increasing people-to-people contacts can further strengthen this budding relationship.

The controversy surrounding the job quota system in Bangladesh mirrors challenges in Pakistan, where equitable resource distribution and representation have often led to political and social tensions. Pakistan’s experience in managing regional disparities and striving for fair representation in public services can provide valuable insights. This shared challenge can serve as a basis for cooperative dialogue as both nations work towards inclusive governance and social justice.

Regional cooperation also offers promising avenues for collaboration. Both countries face common challenges, including the effects of climate change and the threat of terrorism. By working together within regional frameworks like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Pakistan and Bangladesh can address these issues more effectively. Joint initiatives in disaster management, public health, and trade facilitation can yield significant benefits for both nations.

As Bangladesh navigates this period of political transition, India is poised to respond swiftly to secure and deepen its strategic partnership. The long-standing relationship between India and the Awami League has been a cornerstone of regional politics, characterized by close economic and security cooperation. In the wake of Sheikh Hasina’s departure, India will likely increase its diplomatic efforts to engage with the interim government and emerging political forces. This engagement is expected to include high-level diplomatic visits, affirmations of ongoing economic assistance and strategic dialogues to reinforce the strong ties between the two nations. By doing so, India aims to maintain its influential position and reassure Bangladesh of its continued support.

As Bangladesh undergoes this period of political transition, Pakistan must seize the opportunity to forge a new and constructive partnership. By focusing on cultural ties, economic cooperation, and regional stability, Pakistan can help foster a more peaceful and prosperous South Asia. The potential for a fresh start in Pakistan-Bangladesh relations is immense, and this moment of change could herald a new era of cooperation and understanding between the two nations.

Walz ticks all the right boxes for Harris

Dr. Amal Mudallali

of his achievements.

Polling suggests that more than 71 percent of Americans do not know enough about Walz to have an opinion on him, which could be a blessing: it means Walz and the Democrats have the chance to define him themselves instead of letting the Republicans do so. The Democrats pointed to Walz’s record as a decorated veteran of 24 years in the National Guard, a man who brings Midwestern appeal to a campaign that must win Wisconsin and Michigan to win the election. His social policies include paid family and medical leave, protecting abortion rights, and free school meals. Although a hunter, he went from being a supporter of firearms to a champion of gun reform and measures such as universal background checks.

A well-liked governor, a former football coach, and a social studies schoolteacher with rural roots, Walz enjoys the full support of the labor movement.

The Republicans have been quick to brand him a radical liberal and a socialist. Rep. Tom Tiffany described Walz and Harris as “the socialist dream,” while the Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Whatley said they were “the most

radical, far-left ticket in the history of our country.”

The Trump campaign called Walz a “rubber stamp” for a “dangerously liberal agenda,” while others went so far as to say that choosing him was “a signal to the flag burners and Hamas lovers that they still have a seat at the table.”

Walz is known to support Israel and has voted to send aid there, but his stance is similar to that of Harris and many other mainstream Democrats who also support a two-state solution and care about the humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people. He was one of the earliest to call for a permanent working ceasefire in Gaza, as Harris did in March.

About the ceasefire, he said: “We need a two-state solution. The atrocities of Oct. 7 are painful and real, and Israel’s right to defend itself is real, but the situation in Gaza is also intolerable. The humanitarian crisis must be brought to an end.”

Walz has visited the Middle East once, in 2009, when he traveled to Israel and the occupied West Bank and met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; and to Syria, where he met President Bashar Assad. He told the Israelis that the growing number of Jewish settlements in the

West Bank were hampering the prospects for peace.

A year later he told AIPAC, the powerful Israeli lobby group, that Israel was “our truest and closest ally” in a tough neighborhood. “A workable solution in that region can be a catalyst for stability throughout the region. And stability in the region brings stability throughout the world. The US has a proper role as a world leader being part of the solution,” he said.

The choice of Walz as running mate seems to have been received well by both Arab Americans and the uncommitted movement. Elianne Farhat, a senior adviser for the Uncommitted Campaign, said: “Gov. Walz has demonstrated a remarkable ability to evolve as a public leader and unite a diverse group of Democrats.” She hoped he would support an embargo on weapons sales to Israel. Leading Michigan politician Abraham Aiyash said Harris’s choice of Walz signaled that she was “listening to the voices of young, grassroots, pro-ceasefire, and other voters.”

For the first time in this election campaign, thanks to the Harris-Walz ticket, the Democrats can see a path to victory — but it will be a close and hard-fought election and it is still anyone’s guess who will win.

Biden vs Harris on the Middle East: Same dance, different steps

THE 2024 US election year has been one of the most tumultuous on record. The past two months have seen a shockingly lacklustre performance from President Joe Biden on the debate stage and his subsequent withdrawal from the ticket, an assassination attempt on former President and current Republican nominee Donald Trump, and the elevation of Vice President Kamala Harris to the Democratic nomination. The Harris campaign now has three months to sell its vision to the American people.

While domestic economic pressures will likely be the main focus of US voters in the election, the question of how America's 47th president will dictate foreign policy will also be critical – both for Americans and all other peoples of the world who will be directly or indirectly affected by the new administration's policies. Indeed, the next administration will have its hands full on the world stage, with ongoing wars in Ukraine and Gaza and growing US-China competition.

Looking towards the Middle East, Harris's selection of Tim Walz as her running mate locks in the missing piece on her ticket and provides further insight into what her administration could mean for the region. A sparse record on foreign policy makes it difficult to ascertain Harris and Walz's exact stances on various critical issues. Still, we have enough clues to paint a picture of their future Middle East policy which, despite some nuances, looks like it would mirror that of President Biden.

Subtle differences on Gaza

Harris's carefully crafted "As Israel defends itself, it matters how" approach to Israel's war on Gaza since October 7 and her recent declaration of "I will not be silent [on suffering in Gaza]" in the wake of Netanyahu's Washington, DC, visit have created some distance between her views on the conflict versus those of Biden in the eyes of American voters. Reports that the National Security Council had to "tone down" her language during a speech delivered in March, in which she referred to the conditions in Gaza as "inhumane" and directed Israel to increase the flow of aid, further highlighted this distinction.

Although Harris has drawn a contrast with Biden through her slightly tougher rhetoric towards Israel on the growing death toll in Gaza and even did not preside over Netanyahu's address to Congress on

July 24, these choices do not hint at a deviation from ongoing, mainstream Democratic policy. After all, despite skipping his speech at Congress, Harris had a one-on-one meeting with the Israeli prime minister the next day, and publicly reaffirmed her ongoing support for Israel. In a campaign rally this week, Harris was interrupted by individuals protesting the war in Gaza, which she deflected from and said, "if you want Donald Trump to win then say

civil war. In 2020, she stated that the Saudis have been strong partners in counterterror efforts, but the US must re-evaluate their relationship "to stand up for American values and interests".

Serving as vice president during Biden's attempts to secure normalisation between Tel Aviv and Riyadh, her position shifted, partly in response to the growing Chinese and Russian influence across the region. Her presidential

formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Given Biden's unsuccessful attempt to resuscitate the deal following the Trump administration's controversial 2018 withdrawal and the 2020 assassination of General Qassem Soleimani – both of which Harris deemed "reckless" – her prospects of securing a new nuclear agreement with Iran have diminished.

Enter VP Tim Walz
Harris's announcement

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Iran, Saudi Arabia and the wider region

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goals would likely include strengthening US-Saudi security relations and collaborating with the kingdom on technology and energy transition initiatives.

In the context of the ongoing escalation between Iran and Israel following Israel's recent assassinations of top Hezbollah and Hamas leaders, Harris's Iran policy would likely entail a delicate balancing act. During her 2020 presidential election campaign, Harris stated that the US needs to renegotiate the Iran nuclear deal,

of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her pick for vice president, a role primarily regarded as titular, only strengthens the perception that she plans to pursue a Middle East policy based on mainstream Democratic positions if elected president.

During his time as a congressman, Walz has consistently aligned himself with mainstream Democratic stances toward the Middle East, including support for the JCPOA, US withdrawal from Iraq, and US aid to Israel. He, however, opposed President Barack

Obama's air strikes in Syria and, like his running mate, resisted US support for Saudi-led operations in Yemen.

Since March, Walz has advocated for a ceasefire in Gaza and remained a proponent of a two-state solution. He has emphasised the need for increasing US humanitarian aid for Palestinians and argued for a distinction to be made between Palestinian civilians and Hamas. Walz will most likely follow Harris's lead in pursuing a Middle East policy that – while more conciliatory in tone – is almost identical to Biden's in its substance.

Following the money

As the campaign gets into full swing, Harris has to carefully navigate a Democratic Party currently divided on the war in Gaza, from the progressive left who have "rebelled" against Biden's stalwart position on Israel, to the mainstream of the party, which is comfortably pro-Israel in its stance. She is also cognisant of the power of pro-Israel lobbying organisations – particularly AIPAC, which has deployed an unprecedented \$15m to defeat NYC Representative Jamal Bowman in his primary race.

Missouri Representative Cori Bush, who has repeatedly called for a ceasefire in Gaza, has also just been defeated in her primary this week. Her opponent was backed by the United Democracy Project, which is AIPAC's super PAC wing.

As these dynamics unfold within the Democratic Party, the distinction in tone between the Biden administration and a possible Harris administrations on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza does not mean that US policy towards the conflict will change. Despite her more impassioned speech, there is no evidence that the substance of Harris's foreign policy would be any different from the established US stance.

Already, Trump is deploying attack lines against Harris, arguing that she is not adequately pro-Israel. Thus, as a candidate and as a potential president, Harris is unlikely to make a massive departure from Biden's stated policy, which has included harsher rhetoric towards Netanyahu but continued support for Israel.

The election of the Harris ticket would represent a slew of "firsts" for the US presidential office: the first female president, the first South Asian president, and the first Jewish spouse of an American president. Amid this collection of milestones, the extent to which a Harris presidency signals the beginning of a new chapter for US-Middle East policy- though doubtful –

What Britain can learn from Singapore and Malaysia on overcoming racist violence

Sholto Byrnes

THE recent scenes of violence and rioting in the UK have been so horrific that Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, Nigeria, the UAE and India have all sent out travel alerts, warning their nationals living in or visiting the country to be vigilant and avoid areas where demonstrations may take place. The anti-immigrant animus is clearly focussed on one community in particular, with the monitoring group Tell Mama recording that threats to Muslims have increased fivefold in the week up to August 2 year on year.

The moderate majority of Britons may find it comforting to blame all this on a tiny minority of far-right activists, but that would be false. A chilling new poll by YouGov found that one in three surveyed actually supported the protests. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer is to be commended for the tough line he has taken, but locking up a few hundred thugs will not address the deep divisions and rising Islamophobia that have been stoked by politicians on both the left and right in the UK for years. Britain needs to look far and wide for a new approach to race and faith relations.

Two countries it might consider are Malaysia and Singapore, both multiethnic, multifaith former colonies that suffered devastating race riots around and shortly after their independence from Britain, in 1964 in Singapore and in both states in 1969. The violence was chiefly between ethnic Malays, who are a minority in Singapore and the majority in Malaysia, and ethnic Chinese, the majority in Singapore and a minority in Malaysia.

Hundreds lost their lives, and hundreds more were severely injured. In both countries (which had briefly been united in one state from 1963-65), one of the main issues was the rights of the Muslim Malays. They feared the economic dominance of the Chinese, a people that many Malays still saw as "immigrants", no matter how many generations they had been there. And in both, while the importance of cross-community relations had been recognised from the start, there was a renewed realisation that a peaceful future would not just come about naturally – it would have to be worked for, very hard.

Singapore took a top-down approach, establishing the Presidential Council for Minority Rights (the city-state has many ethnic Indians and others as well) in 1970, and later an Ethnic Integration Policy in its public housing, with quotas to ensure a balanced racial mix. In 1990 it passed a Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act, with a subsequent amendment guarding against malign foreign influence and introducing restraining orders to prevent any breach of peace and public order.

As ever, ministers from

the ruling People's Action Party were unapologetic about any diminution of civil liberties under these laws. "We draw lines in the sand. We reinforce positive norms, and they make our society stronger," said K Shanmugam, the Minister for Home Affairs, at the time of the amendment in 2019. Everything was in pursuit of the goal the country's founding father, Lee Kuan Yew, had pledged at independence. The aim was to build "a multiracial nation where every community...can integrate fully, yet have maximum space to maintain their identities and practise their faiths, customs and way of life".

From the start Singapore's approach was not to absorb minorities in

country's Sedition Act, but the current government is also mulling a State and Nation Act that will be similar to the Maintenance of Racial Harmony Bill that is going to be introduced in Singapore.

In both countries, there is near unanimity that governments cannot move too fast – which is why neither has had a prime minister who is not from the majority ethnic group so far. "Don't spook the Malays," Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim was well-known for saying a few years ago. He knows that change can be disconcerting, the benefits of diversity have to be spelled out – although some will still cleave to their own – and reaffirming a national identity in a multiracial state is a work always in progress.

Neither Malaysia nor

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some new creation, but that of the "four circles", comprising Chinese, Malays, Indians and others, the aim being to maximise the overlapping areas between the circles to embed shared beliefs and norms.

Something similar to the four circles has long been the model in Malaysia. Even before independence in 1957, communities formed their own political parties. The Alliance Party, consisting of the United Malays National Organisation, the Malayan Chinese Association and the Malayan Indian Congress, fought and won the 1955 legislative elections, and went on to win – with more partners of still more races – every single national poll until 2018.

Again, after the 1969 riots it was fully acknowledged that something radical was needed. The New Economic Policy of 1971 was specifically formulated to achieve national unity, harmony and integrity through socio-economic restructuring (largely in favour of the Malays, who held only 3 per cent of the country's wealth in the late 1960s), and to minimise poverty among all races. Sensitive issues, especially those involving race, religion and royalty, are vigorously policed. They are already covered by the

Singapore are perfect. You can find plenty of instances where the positive stories both tell about their mixes of races and religions are undermined by ugly behaviour. But the scenes the world has recently witnessed in the UK are impossible to imagine in Malaysia and Singapore.

The rise of an array of people of colour to the very top of British politics in recent years has been both astonishing and heartening. But if the UK is a country where rioters stop cars to ask if the drivers are "white and English" and women in hijabs are afraid to go out on the streets, there is a lot of work to be done.

The Singaporean public intellectual Kishore Mahbubani has a hard truth that Britons need to be reminded of, and perhaps never truly knew. "It is not normal for multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-religious societies to live in relative harmony," he once wrote. "In some areas of life, there are no easy solutions. There may only be solutions that require vision, courage and wisdom to implement."

Very difficult questions must be asked in the UK, and asked now. And Britain would be wise to look beyond itself in its search for answers.

Why world leaders and many Israelis believe Netanyahu is avoiding a deal

EVEN before the assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh last week, many Israelis and international observers believed that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was prioritizing his own political interests over a deal to free Israeli hostages still held in Gaza. While many Israelis celebrate Haniyeh's death, there is also concern that a crucial opportunity is slipping away.

The fate of the hostages who remain in Gaza has created a public rift in Israeli society. Some Israeli media outlets have criticized Netanyahu for setting up obstacles to a deal. Large protests, often led by family members of hostages, have directed anger against the Israeli leader and his government for leaving around 115 captives in Gaza – a number that includes more than 40 who are confirmed to or likely to have died. When Netanyahu visited Washington late last month and spoke before Congress, one former

hostage and several hostages' family members traveled with him as part of his entourage, but other hostages' family members traveled separately to openly protest against the prime minister and demand a deal to release the captives.

Polling suggests that many Israelis believe that Netanyahu is putting his own interests above a deal to free the hostages. A poll published in Israeli media last month found that 54 percent of Israelis said the Gaza war has not yet ended because of Netanyahu's own political calculations. The same poll found that 67 percent of Israeli respondents believe that ensuring the hostages' return should be the priority, while only 26 percent said that continuing the war was more important.

There are multiple reasons to question Netanyahu's commitment to releasing the hostages through diplomacy. The prime minister, who has been in office longer than any other Israeli leader, wants to stay in power, and his right-wing coalition

could collapse if he agrees to a deal with Hamas. Netanyahu also faces trials for corruption and potential jail time; the longer he remains prime minister, the more opportunity he has to delay and undermine the prosecution. Public support for Netanyahu declined after the attack, and he knows that military victories could rehabilitate his image, giving him another reason to prolong the conflict.

Furthermore, Netanyahu has long held an ideology that emphasizes Israeli military power and control of territory. For years, he strung along Western leaders by suggesting that he was open to a two-state solution, while using his position to spoil any such outcome. His approach to a deal with Hamas appears to be following the same playbook.

The prime minister's actions reinforce the idea that he is avoiding a deal. On May 31, US President Joe Biden publicly presented a potential agreement that he said came from the Israelis; his speech provided an

opportunity — and pressure — for Netanyahu to agree, but he did not.

The prime minister's actions reinforce the idea that he is avoiding a deal. On May 31, US President Joe Biden publicly presented a potential agreement that he said came from the Israelis; his speech provided an opportunity — and pressure — for Netanyahu to agree, but he did not. More recently, the Israeli leader added new conditions to an agreement that was under discussion. The assassination of Haniyeh occurred within this broader context. The move is likely to improve Netanyahu's popularity within Israel, at least temporarily. It also helps to undermine negotiations. Many global leaders have noted that killing Haniyeh, a key negotiator in talks toward a ceasefire that would include the hostages' release, was hardly a sign that the Israeli government sincerely wants a deal. From Biden's understated quote that killing Haniyeh "doesn't help" negotiations to Qatar's prime minister asking, "how can mediation succeed when one party assassinates the negotiator on the other side?", the global reaction clearly saw the assassination as an indication that Israel is prioritizing its fight against Hamas over negotiations.

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ment sincerely wants a deal. From Biden's understated quote that killing Haniyeh "doesn't help" negotiations to

itizing its fight against Hamas over negotiations.

The reaction in Israel is more mixed. According to media reports, a poll by the Lazar Institute found that 69 percent of Israelis support such assassinations, even if it means delaying talks to release hostages. Many Israelis celebrated the assassination. However, protests calling for a deal to release the hostages have continued, and some Israelis, including some family members of hostages, have expressed concern that the assassination makes it more difficult to bring the captives home. In recent days, reports have emerged about intensifying disagreements between Netanyahu and Israeli intelligence and security officials over negotiations; media reports say that several such officials accused Netanyahu of trying to sabotage a deal.

It is important to note that while many Israelis feel anger toward their government and worry about the hostages, that does not mean that they oppose the war itself.

Polling by the Pew Research Center in March and April found that only 4 percent of Jewish Israelis agreed that "Israel's military response against Hamas in Gaza has gone too far," compared with 74 percent of Israeli Arabs who said the war had gone too far. Thousands of protesters have frequently turned out to support the hostages' families and demands for a deal to release them, but far fewer have protested against Israeli military action and the extreme level of destruction in Gaza.

While there are Israelis, Palestinians, and international leaders who very much want a deal that includes a ceasefire, the release of Palestinian prisoners, and the freeing of Israeli hostages, it appears that Netanyahu has no interest. He believes that continuing the war in some form will allow him to hold onto power until his popularity rebounds once again. In his approach to negotiations and to Israeli politics, he is using an old playbook that has worked for him many times before.



PESHAWAR: Businessman Forum leader Ilyas Ahmad Bilour and president Sarhad Chamber of Commerce & Industry Fuad Ishaq addressing traders community.

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 759 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 759.73 percent, a positive change of 0.99 percent, closing at 77,874.22 points against 77,114.49 points on the last working day.

A total of 493,090,983 shares were traded during the day as compared to 447,531,644 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 25.846 billion against Rs 18.388 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 434 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 182 of them recorded gains and 198 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 54 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 93,863,361 shares at Rs 5.82 per share, Fauji Fertilizer Bin Qasim with 33,971,570 shares at Rs 45.69 per share and Air Link Commun with 25,146,617 shares at Rs 120.54 per share.

Mari Petroleum

Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 259.89 per share price, closing at Rs 2,858.76, whereas the runner-up was Mehmood Textile Mills Limited with a Rs 57.13 rise in its per share price to Rs 662.13.

Reliance Cotton Spinning Mills Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 47.99 per share closing at Rs 542.46 followed by Hallmark Company Limited with a Rs 21.85 decline to close at Rs 367.90.

Rupee gains 05 paise against dollar

Pakistani rupee on Thursday appreciated by 05 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.68 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.73.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.30 and Rs 280.40 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 44 paise to close at Rs 304.85 against the last day's closing of Rs 304.41, according to the

State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen went up 01 paise and closed at Rs1.91, whereas an increase of 15 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 353.94 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 353.79.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham decreased by 01 paise to close at Rs 75.87 and the Saudi Riyal increased by 01 paise to close Rs74.25.

Gold rates remain unchanged at Rs.255,500

The per tola price of 24 karat gold remained unchanged at Rs.255,500 on Thursday, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Likewise, the price of 10 grams of 24 karat and 10 gram 22 karat gold remained constant at Rs.219,050 and Rs.200,795 respectively.

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

The gold in the international market was also traded at same rates of \$2,393, the Association reported.

Pakistan's liquid foreign reserves increased

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan increased to US\$ 14,471.9 million as of August 2, 2024 while the reserves held by the central bank were recorded as \$ 9,153.3 million.

SBP, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that liquid foreign reserves held by the central bank increased by \$ 51 million to reach \$ 9,153.3 million during the week ended on August 2, 2024.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded as \$ 5,318.6 million during the week under review, it added.

Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ended on July 26, 2024, were \$ 14,391.7 million.

Among them foreign reserves held by the central bank were recorded as \$ 9,102.2 million while \$ 5,289.5 million were held by commercial banks.

SBP, banks to remain closed on Wednesday

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and all the banks and financial institutions will remain closed on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 on the occasion of Independence Day of Pakistan.

The central bank, in a statement issued here on Thursday, announced, "The State Bank of Pakistan will remain closed on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 being public holiday on the occasion of 'Independence Day' as declared by the Government of Pakistan."

Subsequently, all the banks, FDI, MFB and other financial institutions will also remain closed on August 14, 2024 to observe the public holiday on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of Pakistan.

Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Five ships, MSC Positano, Jipro Neftis, Qi Lin Zuo, Al-Diab-II and Jin Rong carrying Container, Chemicals, Mogas, LPG and Coal, berthed at Container Terminals, Engro Vopak, Oil Terminal, Sui Southern Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile another edible oil carrier 'Rhine' is also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day.

Eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them Liquefied Natural Gas carrier 'Marangas Asclepius' left the port on today morning while another Liquefied Petroleum gas carrier 'Al-Diab-II' is expected to sail on same day afternoon.

Cargo volume of 118,456 tonnes, comprising 85,133 tonnes imports cargo and 33,323 tonnes export cargo carried in 2,250 Containers (1,740 TEUs Imports& 780 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Four ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Maersk Cabo Verde and Milaha Qatar carrying Container and LNG are expected to take berths at QICT and PGPCPL respectively on Thursday, Meanwhile four more Container ships, Atlantic Ibis, X-Press Altair, Maersk Saratoga and Torrente are due to arrive at port on Friday.

Traders, industrialists to support BF in SCCI polls

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Traders and industrialists expressed confidence over leadership of Businessman Forum leader former senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour and announced support to the Businessman Forum in Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry elections 2024-2026.

The announcement was made during a dinner-reception hosted by Businessman Forum senior leader and leading industrialist Senator Nauman Wazir in honour of BF leader former senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour and members of the business community here at the local hotel, said in a statement here on Thursday.

The BF leader and former senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour was chief guest of the event. Former FPCCI president Ghazanfar Bilour, SCCI president Fuad Ishaq, Anjuman e

Tajran Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chairman Shaukat Ali Khan, former president of the SCCI Senator Mohsin Aziz, Riaz Arshad, Haji Muhammad Ashraf, Zahidullah Shinwari, Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Faiz Muhammad Faizi, Hasnain Khurshid, SCCI senior vice president Sanaullah Khan, vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi, former SVP of the chamber Shahid Hussain, Engr Saad Khan Zahid, former vice presidents Inayat Khan, Abdul Jalil Jan, Javed Akhtar, Haris Mufti, Junaid Altaf, IAP president Ayub Zakori, former IAP president Malik Imran Ishaq, Muhammad Tariq Rana, Haji Naseer, Habibullah Zahid, Faiz Rasool, Aftab Iqbal, Fazl e Wahid, Ishtiaq Paracha, Aqeel Kayani, Nadeem Rauf, Haji Ghulam Hussain, Ihsanullah, Tajir Ittehad Peshawar president Mujeeb Rehman, Tajir Insaf President Shahid

Khan, Qurat Ul Ain, Khalid Ayub, Syed Ejaz Ali Shah, traders and industrialists were present in the event.

Ilyas Bilour in his keynote address said for the 24 years, the BF has delivered selfless services to business community, because of which traders joining the BF in a large number, which is evidence that they knew that BF is the only forum which is fully capable to address their issues by taking up with relevant authorities.

Fuad Ishaq while speaking during the ceremony said under dynamic leadership and guidance of businessman forum Ilyas Ahmad Bilour, the BF has proactively struggled for protection of business community interests, and raising constitutional rights, issues of KP on electricity, gas and provision of relief, in which BF gained successes.

Similarly, he said BF three senators also provided

services to KP and resolved issues of GIDC and ensured provision of special relief in taxes and a hefty fiscal package.

He said BF has played a vital role to raise voice for the business community and resolve their issues.

Fuad Ishaq said BF senior leader senator Nauman Wazir raised the issue of IPPs in the Senate of Pakistan. Under the BF platform, he said they have taken up issue IPPs during the last eight months.

He said BF elected representatives took oath of their respective offices with commitment to resolve community issues selflessly.

The SCCI chief claimed that no stone was left unturned to resolve their issues under the BF platform.

Senator Nauman Wazir, Shaukat Ali Khan, Riaz Arshad, Haji Muhammad Afzal and others also spoke on the occasion.

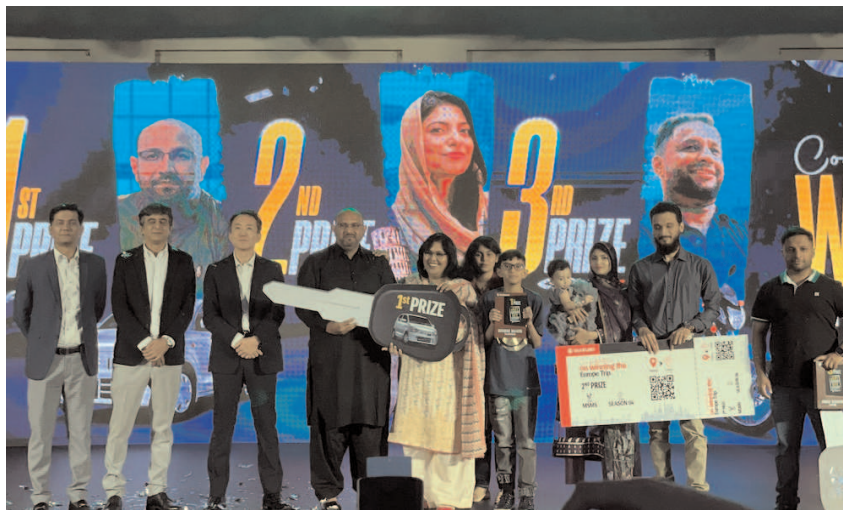
My Suzuki My Story Season 4 closing event held in Lahore

F.P. Report

LAHORE: My Suzuki My Story Season 4 wrapped up with a heartwarming ceremony in Lahore. The event was a celebration of the deep connections and cherished memories that Suzuki owners across Pakistan have experienced with their beloved vehicles.

The event kicked off with an inspiring speech by Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura, Managing Director of Suzuki, who shared the remarkable legacy of Suzuki in Pakistan. He highlighted how Suzuki has become more than just a mode of transportation; it's a trusted companion on the road of life. "Suzuki isn't just a car; it's a part of our family, sharing our joys and sorrows, our milestones and memories," he said, resonating deeply with the audience.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the top three winners of My Suzuki My



Story Season 4. These winners touched everyone with their heartfelt tales of adventures, challenges, and triumphs with their Suzuki vehicles.

Khawar Majeed - 1st Prize - A brand-new Alto 660 cc.

Aisha Kiran - 2nd Prize - Trip to Europe

Awais Rehman - 3rd Prize - GSX 125 Motorcycle

The winners were celebrated and acknowledged over their emotional journeys they've had with their Suzuki's. Their stories, filled with love, laughter, and sometimes tears, showcased the unique bond between Suzuki and its drivers.

As the event drew to a close, the excitement didn't end. A teaser for My Suzuki

My Story Season 5 was unveiled, promising even more inspiring stories and memorable moments. This glimpse into the next season ensures that the legacy of Suzuki continues, inviting more owners to share their incredible journeys.

It was a real show, showcasing a unique bond between the brand and its customers.

EFU Life wins 'Best Domestic Life Insurer of the Year - Pakistan'

F.P. Rjeport

KARACHI: EFU Life Assurance Limited, leading private sector Life, Takaful and Health insurance provider, is proud to announce that it has been awarded 'Best Domestic Life Insurer of the Year - Pakistan' at the Insurance Asia Awards 2024. EFU Life is the only Company in Pakistan to be recognized this year.

EFU Life's recognition

as the Best Domestic Life Insurer of the Year reflects its commitment to delivering exceptional insurance products, customer-centric solutions, and its unwavering dedication to the overall well-being of its clients.

The Insurance Asia Awards are known for recognizing excellence in the insurance industry across the region, with a focus on innovation, customer service, and industry leadership.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mohammed Ali Ahmed, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of EFU Life, said, "We are honored to receive this prestigious award for the second time. It reflects our commitment to the financial and personal well being of our clients, with a focus on creating value by providing innovative insurance solutions and services to cater to their evolving needs. We remain steadfast

in our promise to provide an insurance safety net to every household in Pakistan."

EFU Life has consistently led the industry with its wide range of insurance products, pioneering digital initiatives, and exceptional customer service. The Company's strategic focus on leveraging technology to enhance customer experience and streamline operations has set new benchmarks in the industry.

HFP in collaboration with HPS hold Hamdard Naunehal Assembly

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP) in collaboration with Hamdard Public School (HPS) organized Hamdard Naunehal Assembly (HNA) meeting at The Arena, Bahria Town Tower, on the theme: "The Future Heroes of Pakistan, Selecting The Best Career". Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of HFP, presided over the proceedings. Renowned voice-over actor Faizan Haq Haqi was invited as the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Haqi said: "By regularly studying and expanding one's knowledge on various subjects, a person cultivates a broader perspective, deep imagination, and greater acceptance of diversity. Children must develop a strong reading habit and regularly discuss what they read with their parents and teachers to help memorize that information. Patriotism is a sacred and noble sentiment. Parents and teachers should instill this sentiment in children. A significant part of a person's education is shaped by the home environment. Encourage your children to ask questions and provide



them with books to help find the answers, fostering a love of learning in them. Provide children with enough confidence to choose a field that aligns with their interests, preferences, and abilities. Offer constructive criticism and guide children to learn positive lessons from their mistakes."

Ms. Sadia Rashid stated that students serve as the architects in building a nation. "Throughout history, the nations that have embraced science according to their era have led the way. In modern times, equipping our new generation with advanced knowledge has become an absolute necessity. The rise of artificial intelligence is driving remarkable changes in the field of technology. We must keep pace with other nations. Parents often push their children to

become doctors or engineers without considering their child's interests. Every field has its own unique importance," she said.

She advised the students to choose any profession or field while prioritizing service to the country and its people. "Whatever field you choose, you must prioritize patriotism and service to humanity. Many distinguished individuals are worth emulating in this regard, such as Quid-e-Naunehal Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said and Mohsin-e-Pakistan Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, who excelled in their fields and played crucial roles in the development of Pakistan," she added.

Young speakers from different schools including Leader of the House - Ayesha Fawad (HPS), Leader of the opposition - Syed Muhammad Shuja

(HPS), Qarina Awan (The Savvy School), Laiba Raza (Hamdard Village School), Javaria Imran Khan (P&G Secondary School) and Tauseef (Idarieu School & College) delivered excellent speeches on the topic and received appreciation from the guests and student attendees.

Director of HFP, Syeda Maryam Fatima (HPS) Speaker of HNA, moderated the meeting. Meeting was concluded after Dua-i-Saied, presented by the students of HPS.

Prof. Dr. Syed Shabib-ul-Hassan, Vice Chancellor of Hamdard University (HU); Rustam Ali Jamali, President of Sindh Press Club; Prof. Dr. Ahsana Dar, Dean of the Faculty of Eastern Medicine at HU; and Syed Muhammad Arsalan, Director HFP graced the meeting with their presence.

SNGPL intensifies crackdown on gas theft:

95 illegal connections severed; imposed fines

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has continued its aggressive campaign against gas theft, successfully disconnecting 95 illegal connections across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad. The company has also imposed fines amounting to Rs 0.98 million on those involved in these illicit activities.

In Lahore, the enforcement team severed 7 con-

nections for unauthorized gas usage and 6 more for using compressors illegally. Additionally, one FIR was lodged in connection with a gas theft incident.

In Mardan, 8 connections were terminated for illegal gas usage, with fines totaling Rs 0.6 million imposed on the violators. The Faisalabad team disconnected 3 connections for similar infractions, accompanied by a fine of Rs 0.07 million.

In Bahawalpur, the team

disconnected 7 illegal connections and cut off another 14 for the unlawful use of compressors. The Gujranwala team severed 1 connection for unauthorized usage and imposed fines amounting to Rs 0.10 million.

In Sheikhpura, 3 illegal connections were terminated, and fines of Rs 0.21 million were levied. Meanwhile, in Multan, the team disconnected 45 illegal connections and 1 for using a compressor without authorization.



PARIS: Parattu Raveendran of India, Amit Rohidas of India and Hardik Singh of India celebrate with teammates winning the match. — Reuters photo

Athletics-U.S. lead the way in sprint relay qualifying

PARIS (Reuters): The United States took the first, convincing step towards ending their men's 24-year Olympic sprint relay drought when they qualified fastest from Thursday's heats, with more firepower to come, but Jamaica crashed out after poor changeovers.

The U.S. women's team also look well placed to reclaim the title from Jamaica after qualifying fastest, despite a changeover scare.

For a nation that routinely fields multi-finalists in the men's individual sprints and who dominated the sprint relay for decades, the U.S.'s travails in the last 30 years are nothing short of mind-numbing.

They have not won Olympic gold since 2000 and their only medal is a silver in Athens 20 years ago when their stellar team came up 100th of a second short of Britain.

They did cross the line second in 2012 but were stripped of the title due to a doping offence by Tyson Gay.

Since 1995, in the Olympics and World Championships, they are in double figures for dropped batons, disqualifications or bans.

They did get the baton round in the last two worlds, taking silver in 2022 and gold last year, and have 15 Olympic golds in the event – 13 more than anyone else – but those medals are all looking a little dusty.

Noah Lyles and Kenny Bednarek, who went in the men's 200 semi-finals on Wednesday and race the final later on Thursday, were understandably absent from Thursday's heats.

However, former world champion Christian Coleman, making his first appearance of the Games, set them on their way well.

Fred Kerley, who was involved in the botched changeover that ended their Tokyo hopes, ran a strong second leg, handing to green-haired Kyree King, and Courtney Lindsey brought them home well clear in 37.47 seconds.

Akani Simbini ran a storming last leg to take South Africa to second in 37.94, just ahead of Britain (38.04), the silver medalists in Tokyo who were subsequently stripped of their medals following a doping offence by CJ Ujah.

A slick China won the second heat in 38.24 and France were roared to second in 38.34 but Jamaica, champions in 2012 and 2016, messed up two changeovers to finish fourth and miss out on Friday's final.

IN-FORM QUARTET

The U.S. women took gold ahead of their big rivals in 2012 and 2016 but were knocked back into second in Tokyo.

Jamaica, however, are shorn of the superstars who brought them home three years ago, while the U.S. were able to field an immensely powerful and in-form quartet.

Melissa Jefferson (third in the 100), Twanisha Terry (fifth in the 100), Gabby Thomas (200 gold medalist) and Sha'carri Richardson (silver in the 100) made up Thursday's team, the last three having won gold at the worlds last year.

They sailed close to the wind with the second changeover as Terry struggled to catch Thomas, losing considerable ground to Germany, which Richardson duly made up with a terrific last leg as they qualified fastest in 41.94 seconds.

Britain, bronze medalists in the last two Games, made it through as winners of the second heat in 42.03 and will be considerably strengthened by the return of Dina Asher-Smith and Daryll Neita for the final.

There was plenty of noise too for second-placed France (42.13), with Jamaica struggling home a distant third in 42.35.

Canada finished fourth in a national record of 42.50 to go through to Friday's final as a fast loser.

Sri Lanka's Jayawickrama charged over match-fixing approach

DUBUAI (Reuters): Sri Lanka spinner Praveen Jayawickrama has been charged with three counts of anti-corruption code breaches for failing to report an approach to fix matches and obstructing an investigation, cricket's global governing body said on Thursday.

Jayawickrama, 25, was approached to fix international matches and was asked to approach another player to fix matches in the 2021 season of the Lanka Premier League, said the International Cricket Council (ICC).

"Reportedly, the Sri Lanka bowler was found to have deleted messages related to the approach for conducting corrupt practices," the ICC said in a statement. "Jayawickrama has 14 days from 6 August 2024 to respond to the charges."

Jayawickrama made his international debut in April 2021, taking 11 wickets in his first test against Bangladesh. He has not played for Sri Lanka since June 2022. Reuters could not immediately reach Jayawickrama or representatives for comment.

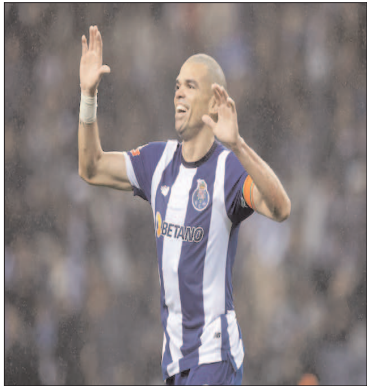
Portugal's Pepe retires from football

LONDON (Reuters): Portugal defender Pepe has retired from football, the 41-year-old said on Thursday.

Pepe's last game came at Euro 2024, where Portugal were defeated by France on penalties in the quarter-finals, and he became the oldest player to appear at a European Championship finals tournament.

"I want to thank God for giving me the wisdom to be able to continue my journey," an emotional Pepe said in a video on social media which looked back on his career.

"I can't help but also thank all the presidents who bet and believed in me to be able to perform my work. To all the employees of all the clubs



I've been to, who are the soul and essence of the clubs and the national team.

"And I want to thank everyone in the background. I want to leave a thank you and a hug of gratitude for all of you. And thank you all very much."

Pepe made 141 appearances for his country, winning the Euros in 2016, and spent 10 seasons at Real Madrid where he won three LaLiga titles and three Champions League trophies, as well as two FIFA Club World Cups.

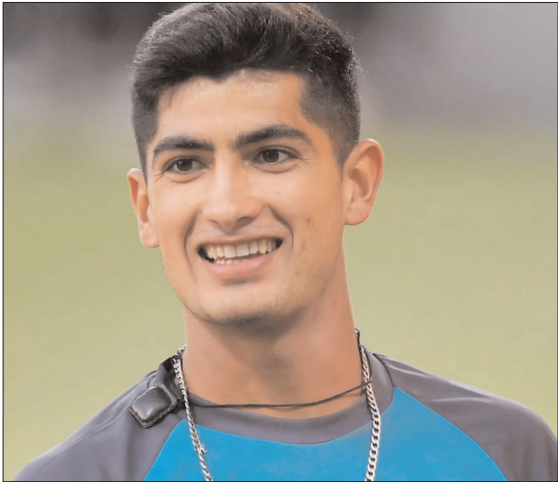
Pepe joined the Spanish side in 2007 from Porto, and returned to the Portuguese club in 2019 where he remained until the end of his career, winning four Primeira Liga titles across his two spells at the club.

Naseem Shah urges Pakistan cricket team to learn from past mistakes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's fast bowler Naseem Shah believes team needs to learn from past mistakes and come forward together as a united force.

Speaking to the media here at Islamabad Club, Shah said, "We must play as one team for Pakistan now. We have to learn from our past mistakes and improve."

Shah acknowledged the team's recent struggles, saying, "We haven't had a good time lately. We didn't play good cricket, but every team goes through such phases."



He emphasized the importance of learning from mistakes and working together to overcome

challenges.

On his personal comeback after injury, Shah said, "I'm trying to perform better. International matches are different, and taking care of your fitness is crucial."

Naseem Shah stressed the importance of prioritizing fitness, saying, "When you play for your country, you know how much you need to maintain your fitness."

Naseem Shah said, "The team should work together, and we're doing that. Everyone is playing good cricket now."

France Under-18 player 'swept away by a wave'

CAPE TOWN (BBC): France Under-18 international Medhi Narjissi is missing after being 'swept away by a wave' while swimming in the sea off Cape Town, the French Rugby Federation said.

The FFR said the incident took place during a recovery session with other players in South Africa on Wednesday before search teams were immediately dispatched.

Two sea rescue boats

and a helicopter were involved but did not find the 17-year-old, who has recently signed for Toulouse.

The search continued on Thursday as National Sea Rescue Institute spokesman Craig Lambinon said strong rip currents could have swept Narjissi into the surf zone and out to sea.

Narjissi is a member of the France squad preparing to participate in a five-

nation tournament from Monday, also involving England, Ireland and Georgia.

South African rugby leaders sent condolences to the FFR and the player's family, who were expected to arrive in South Africa later on Thursday.

"We extend our deepest condolences to the family and the French rugby community for the tragic loss of Medhi," said Mark

Alexander, president of the South African Rugby Union.

"We cannot begin to comprehend the sorrow the family must be feeling at this moment. Please know that the entire rugby fraternity stands with you in mourning the loss of Medhi.

"This devastating news has been felt deeply across the rugby community here in South Africa and around the world."

China's Luo wins weightlifting gold, sets three Games records

PARIS (AP): Luo Shifang beat Maude Charron of Canada in the women's 59-kilogram division on Thursday, making China a perfect 3-for-3 in the opening weightlifting events at the Paris Olympics.

The 23-year-old Luo set three Games records, lifting 107 kilograms (236 pounds) in the snatch and 137 kilograms (302 pounds) in the clean and jerk to finish with a score of 241 for gold. Charron, the winner at 64 kilograms in Tokyo, took silver with a score of 236. Taiwan's Kuo Hsing-chun, the winner of the 59 kilograms in 2021, took bronze at 235.



Luo dominated in her Olympic debut after sweeping gold at the world championship last year. China's Li Fabin won the men's 61 kilograms and Hou Zhihui won the women's 49 kilograms on Wednesday.

The weightlifting powerhouse nation could add two more titles in Paris, with

Shi Zhiyong in the men's 73 kilograms later Thursday and Li Wenwen in the women's +81 kilograms on Sunday. Each won Olympic gold three years ago.

Luo, Charron and Kuo were all in the same competition after the number of Olympic weight classes was reduced from seven to

five in men's and women's competitions.

Earlier Thursday, the Court of Arbitration for Sport dismissed an application by Spanish weightlifter David Sánchez López, who asked for Turkey to be banned from competition based on a recent doping punishment levied against

Turkish Weightlifting Federation when three members were found guilty. It would have only affected the men's 73-kilogram division, which Turkey's Muhammed Furkan Özbek will compete in as scheduled instead of López replacing him in the competition.

Boxer Lin reaches final amid eligibility row

PARIS (BBC): Taiwanese boxer Lin Yu-ting secured a place in Saturday's Olympic women's featherweight final amid the ongoing controversy over her eligibility.

Lin and Imane Khelif are competing in Paris despite being disqualified from last year's World Championships by the International Boxing Association (IBA) after reportedly failing gender eligibility tests.

After Khelif secured her place in the welterweight final on Tuesday,

28-year-old Lin reached her own gold-medal match with another comprehensive, unanimous decision victory as she overcame Esra Yildiz Kahraman.

As she left the ring, the 27-year-old from Turkey made the same 'X' sign with two fingers as Lin's previous opponent, Svetlana Staneva.

Kahraman first held the ropes open for Lin, then returned to the centre of the ring and made the symbol with two of her fingers, turning around to present it to all areas of the crowd.

Staneva's 'X' was reportedly said to have symbolised female XX chromosomes.

Kahraman did not speak to BBC Sport after the fight. One of her team said "no comment" when asked by the media about the meaning of the gesture.

Lin will meet 20-year-old Pole Julia Atena Szeremet, who beat Tokyo silver medallist Nesthy Petecio of the Philippines, in the biggest bout of her career on Saturday.

of its Olympic contests. ... Both U.S. wins over Serbia this summer have been by exactly 26 points — 110-84 in France and 105-79 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. ... Nikola Jokic is averaging 19.3 points and Bogdan Bogdanovic is averaging 18.5 points for Serbia in these Olympics. ... Anthony Edwards is averaging 16.8 points per game to lead the U.S., and he's doing that coming off the bench. ... If Jayson Tatum makes a 3-pointer in either of the final two U.S. games — he hasn't made one yet this summer — this will be the first U.S. Olympic team in which all 12 players make at least one shot from beyond the arc.

It's some Olympic rematches in the Paris basketball semifinals, with US-Serbia and Germany-France

PARIS (AP): U.S. coach Steve Kerr knows something unexpected is going to happen when his team plays against Serbia in the semifinals of the Paris Olympics. Maybe Serbia will change its lineup. Maybe Nikola Jokic will play the entire game. Or maybe the surprise will be that there's no surprise at all.

Whatever the case, Kerr knows the Americans have to be ready for anything.

The U.S. will look to reach the gold-medal game for the 18th time in its 20 Olympic appearances when it faces Serbia in the semifinals of the Paris Games on Thursday night. The Americans are 2-0

against Serbia this summer, winning an exhibition last month and then winning again in the Olympic opener for both teams.

"Serbia is really good," Kerr said. "We can't get lulled to sleep because we beat them twice. We have to be prepared for their best effort."

The final four teams at the Paris Games aren't an overly surprising mix, and the semifinal games are both rematches from contests earlier in this tournament.

World Cup champion Germany takes on Victor Wembanyama and host France in the first semifinal, while World Cup runner-up Serbia takes on

the four-time defending Olympic champion U.S. in the second semifinal. Germany, Serbia and the U.S. were all favored in their quarterfinal wins over Greece, Australia and Brazil, respectively, while France pulled the lone surprise of sorts by ousting Canada.

Serbia rallied from 24 points down to beat Australia. Germany — which had barely trailed at all in the tournament before Tuesday — erased a 12-point deficit to beat Greece. "We stayed together. We didn't panic, we stayed together," Germany coach Gordie Herbert said. "Adversity's good. The quarterfinal is one of the toughest games to play.

And we just talked about enjoying the moment, but it's easy to say, not so easy to do." The medal games are Saturday. Thursday's winners play for gold, Thursday's losers play for bronze.

"It's a great feeling to be able to make sure we play on the last day of the tournament, to make sure we give ourselves a chance to win a medal," France guard Evan Fournier said. "And hopefully it's going to be the right one."

Germany vs. France

How Germany got here: defeated Japan 97-77, defeated Brazil 86-73, defeated France 85-71, defeated Greece 76-63 in quarterfinals.

How France got here:

defeated Brazil 78-66, defeated Japan 94-90, lost to Germany 85-71, defeated Canada 82-73 in quarterfinals.

Medal history: France is a three-time silver medalist (1948, 2000, 2020). Germany has never won an Olympic medal in men's basketball.

Outlook: The French rode defense to their win over Canada in the quarterfinals, with the curious case of Rudy Gobert an interesting subplot to that one — he says he had surgery to fix a finger issue, coach Vincent Collet says Gobert didn't have a procedure, but either way, he'll be good to go in the semifinals. Whether he will return to the starting lineup

remains unclear. ... This is Germany's first trip to the Olympic semifinals. Going back to last year's World Cup, Germany is 12-0 in major international competition since last summer (excluding exhibitions). ... Thursday's game will be the fourth between these clubs this summer. Germany went 2-1 in the first three, and France's win came when Germany was missing a bunch of starters. ... Germany's Franz Wagner is the highest per-game scorer left in the tournament, getting 20.8 per contest so far.

U.S. vs. Serbia

How the U.S. got here: defeated Serbia 110-84, defeated South Sudan 103-86, defeated Puerto

Rico 104-83, defeated Brazil 122-87 in quarterfinals.

How Serbia got here: lost to U.S. 110-84, defeated Puerto Rico 107-66, defeated South Sudan 96-85, defeated Australia 95-90 in quarterfinals.

Medal history: The U.S. has won 16 golds (1936, 1948, 1952, 1956, 1960, 1964, 1968, 1976, 1984, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020), one silver (1972) and two bronzes (1988, 2004). Serbia won silver in 2016.

Outlook: The U.S. has started an Olympics with four consecutive games of 100 or more points for only the second time. The other was 1992; that team scored 100 or more in all

of its Olympic contests. ... Both U.S. wins over Serbia this summer have been by exactly 26 points — 110-84 in France and 105-79 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. ... Nikola Jokic is averaging 19.3 points and Bogdan Bogdanovic is averaging 18.5 points for Serbia in these Olympics. ... Anthony Edwards is averaging 16.8 points per game to lead the U.S., and he's doing that coming off the bench. ... If Jayson Tatum makes a 3-pointer in either of the final two U.S. games — he hasn't made one yet this summer — this will be the first U.S. Olympic team in which all 12 players make at least one shot from beyond the arc.



In brief

ANF recovers 188 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 188 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that 800 grams ice was recovered from a Jeddah-bound passenger at Multan Airport. 52.8 kg opium and 61.2 kg hashish were recovered from a vehicle intercepted near North Bypass Peshawar and two accused were arrested during the operation. In third operation, 48 kg hashish was recovered from a parcel sent to Karachi from a courier office in Ring Road Peshawar. 18 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near Chenab Toll Plaza, Gujarat. 4.8 kg hashish was recovered from a drug pusher, arrested in Bahria Phase 4, Islamabad. 2.4 kg hashish was recovered from a drug dealer netted in Badami Bagh Lahore. Investigations have been started to register cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act against the arrested accused.

525,900 cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 525,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 584,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1539.00 feet and was 141.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 349,000 cusecs and 321,300 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1207.75 feet, which was 159.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 41,300 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 359,300, 429,500, 336,500 and 252,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 80,600 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 86,600 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

ICT prepares for celebrations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration is gearing up for a grand celebration on August 14, marking Independence Day with a series of planned events throughout the city. The ICT administration, led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, has outlined plans to ensure a smooth and secure celebration, said the spokesman. In a meeting with representatives from various departments, the DC emphasized the importance of thorough preparation. The city will be decorated with lights and special installations, while a cleanliness campaign will be launched to ensure a pristine environment on Independence Day. Meanwhile, educational institutions also contributing through various activities. To further ensure that Independence Day 2024 is memorable for Islamabad's residents, DC Memon had visited the Pak China Centre to review preparations for a significant function. He assured that the city would be beautifully decorated, with events organized across Islamabad to celebrate the occasion. This year's celebration aims to bring the community together, with a focus on both the aesthetic enhancement of the city and the active participation of its residents.

Pakistan-Turkey agree to boost business activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Turkey and Pakistan have agreed to boost up business activities and investment in various fields by enhancing mutual trade and promote economic activities.

It was decided in a Round Table Business Conference co chaired by Trade Minister of Turkey Professor Dr. Omer Bolat and Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan.

Deputy Trade Minister of Turkey Mustafa Tuzcu, Ambassador in Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci, Presidents of Chambers of Turkey were also accompanied while prominent business community figures from Pakistan joined this session.

Abdul Aleem Khan while addressing the Pakistan-Turkey Business Round Table Conference said that the brotherhood,

mutual cooperation and friendly relations of Turkey and Pakistan span decades and these two countries have already entered into economic and joint business agreements.

He added that Pakistan wants to promote bilateral investment and business ties in various fields with Turkey because it is prime time to increase the economic activities between Turkey and Pakistan.

Aleem Khan welcomed the interest of the business community from Turkey and said that it would benefit both countries and all possible support will be provided.

Turkish Minister of Commerce said that the economic and business relations and bilateral partnership between Pakistan and Turkey are going to be in a new beginning as Turkey will also ensure all possible cooperation for

Pakistan in all circumstances.

Turkish business leaders purposed that in various sectors including infrastructure bilateral investment can be increased.

Representatives of Pakistan's main commercial institutions welcomed Turkey's proposals and said that Turkey can develop better with its modern machinery and Pakistan with its raw materials.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi called on Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan.

He told that the Pakistani Embassy in China is fully active especially the Commercial Section is working day and night. Federal Minister for Investment Abdul Aleem Khan while appreciating the services of Pakistani

Embassy in China said that we have to ensure all possible support to Chinese companies.

He said that the arrival of more than 100 Chinese companies in Pakistan for the first time in business sector is a good omen and now both the countries will further promote B2B activities.

He said that there will be investment from China in various important projects including Textile, Plastic, Surgical and Footwear, while "Joint Ventures" may also take place in construction, as well.

Abdul Aleem Khan further said that Chinese companies have to be provided all possible cooperation by Pakistani institutions and Government Authorities while holding a joint business session between Chinese and Pakistani companies will bring more positive effects.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in Federal Capital.

VC meets Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Vice Chancellor of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University (PMAS-ARID), Professor Dr. Muhammad Naeem, recently met with the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed.

During the meeting, Professor Dr. Muhammad Naeem congratulated Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed on his reappointment as the HEC Chairman for the upcoming term and extended his best wishes.

The discussion focused on the challenges facing the education sector and potential strategies to address them.

The Vice Chancellor briefed the Chairman on the ongoing research projects and educational programs at the university, emphasizing the importance of HEC's support for these initiatives.

He also highlighted various projects in the agricultural research department and the training of students.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed appreciated the university's research and educational programs, assuring continued support from the HEC for the university's developmental plans.

He further stated that the HEC is committed to enhancing the quality of education across the country and will maintain its collaboration with Arid Agriculture University to advance agricultural research and education.

Both leaders discussed various aspects of improving research and educational standards and expressed their commitment to working on joint projects in the future.

China keen to invest in uplift projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Chinese delegation in a meeting with Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Thursday expressed their keen interest to invest in development projects of Islamabad.

The meeting focused on exploring avenues for collaboration and investment in key sectors.

During the briefing, the delegation expressed desire to invest in the project of transferring CDA offices and streetlights to solar energy.

This initiative aligns with country's goal of promoting renewable energy sources and reducing carbon emissions.

Muhammad Ali Randhawa welcomed global investors, particularly from China, to invest in Islamabad's development projects.

He assured the delegation that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) would extend full support to facilitate investments.

The meeting also discussed other upcoming projects of CDA, including the Silicon Valley and Four Tier Data projects for IT.

The delegation was briefed on the details of these projects, highlighting their potential for growth and investment.

Following the meeting, Muhammad Ali Randhawa announced that work on the feasibility plan for the discussed projects would commence soon.

He appreciated China's

initiative to invest in various projects in Pakistan, further strengthening the bond between the two countries.

CDA chairman for connecting cycle tracks to metro stations

Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Thursday emphasized the importance of connecting cycle tracks with metro and other bus stations in Islamabad.

The consultants from Asian Development Bank (ADB) gave a detailed briefing to Chairman CDA on proposed cycle tracks in Islamabad.

The meeting was held via Zoom aimed at introducing an affordable and alternative mode of transportation and recreation in the Capital City.

Chairman Randhawa stressed that the project should be developed according to international standards while being cost-effective.

He directed to consult environmental experts to ensure the design is eco-friendly and preserves the city's green belt.

The ADB mission shared international best practices and experiences from various countries, providing valuable insights for the development of cycle tracks in Islamabad.

Suggestions were made to complete the project, incorporating these international standards.

New Centralized Complaint Management System developed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The new Centralized Complaint Management System developed by Asian Development Bank (ADB) will facilitate beneficiaries of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) to redress their complaints efficiently.

This was shared during a meeting between Secretary BISP Amer Ali Ahmad with the technical team of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) here Thursday.

The ADB team present-

ed a detailed briefing to Secretary BISP on the development of a new iGMS Centralized Complaint Management System.

During the briefing, the ADB team informed the Secretary that the newly developed system aimed to enhance the redressal process for BISP beneficiaries by generating a unique ID/Tracking number, allowing users to monitor and track the entire life cycle of their complaints.

The Secretary BISP

emphasized the importance of an efficient complaint reporting mechanism and suggested the introduction of a simple complaint form specifically for BISP beneficiaries. He stressed that this would make the system more accessible and user-friendly.

The ADB technical team announced that testing of the system was scheduled for October 2024, with the pilot program expected to launch in December 2024. Additionally, a test trial of

the new Complaint Management System will begin in November 2024, they said.

The Secretary BISP requested the ADB team to advance the pilot launch to September 2024 and sought their continued technical and technological support to ensure the smooth functioning of the system.

The ADB team assured that they would provide comprehensive technical training to the BISP IT team to facilitate a successful transition to the new system.

Tourism, Cuisines play vital role

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday said that tourism and cuisine played a vital role in the relations and connectivity between the countries.

The minister said this while addressing a Cuisines exhibition organized by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in Karachi.

He said that foods were the main factor to closely connect the peoples in different regions of the world and Asian, South African and Arabian cuisines were known all over the world.

Jam Kamal said that Malaysian foods were very famous in the world as their admirers were all over the world.

He said that food and tourism brought different nations closer together.

The Minister said that to invigorate the economy, tourism should be promoted in the country.

Power shutdown notified

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Thursday issued 2-day power suspension programme for Friday and Saturday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.

According to IESCO Spokesperson, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from on Friday From 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM.

Rawalpindi City Circle, E-Block, Chakra Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, CBR-II, Qureshiabad, Garja-I, Hayal, Gulistan Fatima, Ranyal, Mourat Feeders, Attock Circle, Garhi Afghana Feeder, Chakwal Circle, Maingan Feeder

On Saturday From 06:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Islamabad Circle, Isolation Hospital, Rahara, CM Pak Zong Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Saidpur Road, Siham, Badhana, Bajniyal, I&II Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Major Riaz, Lalazar, Lalkarti, PWD-II, Mehboob Shaheed, Park View, Pindi Board, Jail Park, Car Chowk, PAF, MES, Gracie Line, Rahimabad, VVIP Feeders, Attock Circle, Masood Shaheed Feeder, Chakwal Circle, Dhoda Feeder and surrounding areas.

Ministry organises quiz show among students

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Islamabad organized a Quiz Show in commemoration of 78th Independence Day Celebrations of Pakistan here on Thursday at Information Service Academy.

A large number of students, teachers from different government schools of ICT and officials from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Information Service Academy had also participated in the quiz show.

Cash prizes were distributed among the winners and runner up students teams of the quiz show competition.

Executive Director General Information Service

Academy Mr Arshad Munir distributed the cash prizes and appreciation certificates among runner up team of IMCB G/9-4 and the winner team of IMCG F/10-2.

Speaking on the occasion as Chief Guest, Arshad Munir said that I hope the participating students had learn a lot and got more knowledge about their country's history. He also shed light on the sacrifices of our forefathers rendered for getting a separate homeland.

Pakistan, he said, was established on 14 August, 1947 when Quaid-i-Azam made a history by achieving a sapartae country on the basis of a two nation ideology.

"Today's event shows that our history is based on

research, he said adding that it also ensures that our coming new generations were well aware of the Pakistan's history".

He said that we are an intelligent nation and achieving our status in the fields of sports, IT, education and other sectors across the world.

Today's participation of students in the Quiz Show and knowledge about our history proved the new generations commitment and interest with their homeland, he remarked.

He also congratulated the students and teachers of FDE Schools and Colleges, and the Ministry of information and Broadcasting for holding this outstanding event.

OPF set up PGFRC to help returned Overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development has set up a Pakistani-German Facilitation & Reintegration Centre (PGFRC) in Lahore with an advisory desk at Overseas Pakistani's Foundation here at head office.

An official source told APP here on Thursday, the objective was to facilitate the returning Overseas Pakistanis in terms of their skill development in Pakistan's social and economic fabric for gainful employment.

It is being implemented in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für

Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and supported by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

M o U) b e t w e e n Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Overseas Pakistani Foundation, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development on technical assistance to the facilitation & reintegration centre for Pakistani workers has been signed.

This initiative is helping in creating more job oppor-

tunities/employability of Pakistani workers, that will improve economic development in the long run. The centre is providing various services including advice on training and skills development.

Technical and vocational training, advice on job market trends and opportunities, advice on finding a job in Pakistan

Entrepreneurship and start-up support, psychosocial support and information on the health system in Pakistan and information on living conditions, advice on getting microfinance and loans.

More monsoon rains predicted in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Thursday forecast more monsoon rains in the country from August 09-12 with occasional gaps due to penetration of strong monsoon currents.

Strong monsoon currents were likely to penetrate from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal in upper-central parts from August 09.

Under the influence of this weather system, rain-wind/thundershower with scattered heavy falls are expected in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Galliat, Attock, Chakwal, Tala Gang, Jhelum, Mandi Bahaudin, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Wazir-

abad, Sahiwal, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Nankana Sahib, Chiniot, Faisalabad, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Sialkot, Narawal, Okara, Pakpattan, Kasur, Khushab and Sargodha from August 09-12 with occasional gaps.

Rain-wind/thundershower with isolated heavy falls is expected in Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Khanpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, Bhakkar and Mianwali, Khanewal, Lodhran, Muzaffargarh, Kot Addu, Rajanpur, Rahimyar Khan and Layyah on August 10 and August 11 with occasional gaps.

In KP, rain-wind/thundershower with isolated heavy falls are expected in

Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Malakand, Shangla, Battagram, Buner, Kohat, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Swabi, Nowshera, Mardan, Charsadda, Hangu, Kurram, Orakzai, Waziristan, Bannu, Lakki Marwat and Dera Ismail Khan from August 09-12 with occasional gaps.

In Balochistan, rain-wind/thundershower with isolated heavy falls is expected in Khuzdar, Lasbela, Kalat, Zhob, Barkhan, Musa Khel, Mastung, Sibbi, Shirani, Kohlu, Bolan, Hamai, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad and Makran coast on August 09, August 11 and 12 with occasional gaps.

Govt committed to make Pakistan polio-free

ISLAMABAD (APP): Additional Director General Health Services EPI, Dr. Samra Khurram said on Thursday that the authorities are leaving no stone unturned in their quest to make Pakistan a polio-free country saying that a comprehensive review of the existing polio drive strategy is underway with experts.

She assured that the government's determination to end polio is evident in its proactive approach where every possible measure is being taken to enhance the efficacy of the polio vaccination campaigns.

By leveraging the expertise of researchers and stakeholders, the government aims to plug the gaps in the system and ensure that no child is left unprotected against this debilitating disease, she added.

With renewed commitment and a robust strategy, Pakistan is poised to make a decisive push towards a polio-free future, she mentioned. Dr. Samra Khurram also expressed her deep concern over the persistence of polio cases in Pakistan, despite the government's efforts to eradicate the disease.

"It is a tragedy that children in Pakistan continue to fall prey to a disease that can be easily prevented with a vaccine that the government brings to people's doorsteps," she lamented.

She emphasized that the polio vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect children from the debilitating effects of polio. She urged parents to take responsibility for ensuring that their children receive the full course of vaccination, as prescribed by the

government's vaccination schedule.

Her appeal to parents comes at a critical time, as Pakistan continues to grapple with the challenge of polio eradication. By ensuring that their children are fully vaccinated, parents can play a vital role in protecting them from the life-long consequences of polio, and helping Pakistan move closer to a polio-free future.

Responding a query, she mentioned the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health in Islamabad has confirmed the detection of WPV1 in a child from Miani UC of Chakwal.

The affected child showed symptoms of paralysis on July 16 and subsequent testing confirmed polio virus infection, she added.

MNA visits Nullah Lai to review water level

RAWALPINDI (APP): MNA Tahira Aurangzeb along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Amir Khattak here on Thursday visited Gawalmandi and Pirwadhai areas to review water level in Nullah Lai.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema was also present.

Tahira Aurangzeb and Engineer Amir Khattak inspected the water level in Nullah Lai following heavy rain in twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Tahira Aurangzeb said, all possible steps were

being taken by the Rawalpindi district administration to deal with any emergency and urban flooding.

She further said that Nullah Lai was cleaned before start of Monsoon rains on the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

Despite heavy rains in twin cities, situation remained under control and there was no urban flooding in city areas, she said.

Tahira Aurangzeb appreciated arrangements made by the district administration and Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi for Monsoon.

The Commissioner said that due to the timely cleaning of Nullah Lai and other drains, no problem was faced during this season.

The officers concerned and staff had been deployed at 19 vulnerable points near Nullah Lai, he added.

Aamir Khattak said that Rawalpindi District Administration had done a great job. The DC said that all the relevant departments were on high alert. The leaves of the officers and personnel of all the concerned institutions were cancelled and best possible arrangements were made for Monsoon, he added.

Sharaei visits embassy

KABUL (BNA): Sheikh Mawlawi Abdul Hakim Sharaei, the Acting Minister of Justice of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, recently paid a visit to the Afghanistan Embassy in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, during his official trip to the country. In this meeting, Mawlawi Badruddin Haqqani, the Islamic Emirate Ambassador to the UAE, briefed the Acting Minister on the embassy's achievements and the cooperation and coordination with the host country.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Safar 03 1446 — Friday, August 09, 2024

Minister meet UNODC's head

KABUL (BNA): Mullah Abdulhaq Hamkar, Deputy Minister of Counter-Narcotics at the Ministry of Interior, held a meeting with Polik Okie, Head of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Afghanistan. According to a statement from the Ministry of Interior's press office, the discussion centered on the ongoing fight against narcotics, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts, and providing alternatives to poppy cultivation for farmers.

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

Afghan population estimated at 35.7m

KABUL (TOLONews): National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) said that Afghanistan's population is estimated to be 35.7 million people for the current solar year. Officials of this organization, during a presentation of the NSIA's annual performance, mentioned that out of this total, 18.2 million are men and 17.5 million are women. Esmatullah Hakimi, the Deputy of NSIA, said: "The population is estimated annually. The population figure of 35.7 million presented is for the year 1403 (solar year)."

Faqir Mohammad Ziar, the acting head of the NSIA, reported that with the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, this organization has also distributed electronic ID cards to 7.8 million people. According to Ziar, in the solar year 1402, this organization collected 2,512,850,000 Afghans in various revenue sectors. The acting head of the NSIA said: "Since the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, more than 7.8 million electronic ID cards have been distributed." NSIA officials cited other achievements over

the past year, including defining borders and mapping districts in 19 provinces, statistics on solar-powered wells, obtaining results on the development of 30 thousand hectares of land in some provincial centers, and obtaining precise statistics on irrigated and rainfed lands in Afghanistan. Abdul Matin Salak, an official of the NSIA, said: "In the year 1403, the total agricultural land in the country reached three million hectares, of which 2.1 million hectares are irrigated and 917 thousand hectares are rain-fed."

Torture of refugee by police sparks reactions

KABUL (Pajhwok): An Iranian security official has stressed that illegal immigrants should leave Iran by the end of this year at a time when a video of the torture of an Afghan immigrant has sparked reactions in the neighboring country. Ahmad Raza Radan, a senior Iranian security official, told IRNA that illegal migrants should leave Iran by the end of this year and return to their country of origin. He said: "Regarding illegal citizens, considering that the policy and programs are based on the return of all illegal citizens, these people must leave the country and return to their country by the end of the year. Meanwhile, some social media users have published a video in recent days saying that an Afghan immigrant named Seyed Mehdi Mousavi is being tortured by Iranian agents. In this video, it can be seen that the said Afghan migrant fell to the ground and an Iranian officer put his knee on his neck, and around this young migrant, women can be seen begging for his release. Roznama Itlaat reported that the victim's name is Seyed Mehdi Mousavi, he is a resident of Nicha locality of Helmand's Naumish district and he was tortured by Iranian police officers in Damavand area of Tehran. One of Seyed Mehdi's relatives said that Iranian police wanted to arrest Mahdavi but he resisted the move as a result he was tortured by Iranian security personnel. He said Mahdavi possessed a legal document on the basis of which the Police did not deport Afghan refugees.

IEA held more than 1,300 meetings with 80 countries



KABUL (Ariana News): Between taking power in August 2021 and February 22, 2024, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has publicly announced 1,382 diplomatic meetings with at least eighty countries, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy said in a report. The think tank said that while fighting may have helped the Islamic Emirate win its country back, diplomacy has allowed it to be

an accepted international actor, even if it remains to be recognized officially. Officials of the Islamic Emirate had 215 meetings with representatives of China, 194 meetings with Turkey, 169 meetings with Iran, 135 meetings with Qatar, 118 meetings with Pakistan, 84 meetings with Uzbekistan, 69 meetings with Russia, 63 meetings with Turkmenistan, 60 meetings with Japan and 54 meetings with Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, in the West, those who have most engaged with the Islamic Emirate are: the European Union (42), Britain (33), Norway (31), US (20) and Germany (12). The report states that the Islamic Emirate has promoted its meetings with foreign officials on its websites and X, and the talks have covered various issues, including humanitarian aid, assistance in the

field of governance, economic opportunities, industrial investment, and religious exchanges. The report noted that despite not being de jure recognized, the Islamic Emirate is de facto recognized and has been steadily acknowledged via numerous noncommittal acts. Additionally, a number of countries have since called for the Islamic Emirate's international recognition.

IE seeks transfer of prisoners from Iran

KABUL (TOLONews): The Islamic Emirate has requested Tehran hand over Afghan citizens who are imprisoned in Iran for various crimes to Kabul so that they can be punished according to Afghan laws. Hamdullah Fitrat, Deputy Spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, said regarding the Afghan citizens imprisoned in Iran that so far nearly 4,000 Afghan prisoners have been transferred from Iran to Afghanistan. The Deputy Spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate told TOLONews: "We hear news about the execution of Afghan prisoners in Iran. Our request is that Afghan prisoners be treated with caution and that they be transferred to Afghanistan in mutual understanding and coordination with Afghan judicial and legal institutions so that they can be punished according to Afghan laws." Regarding the number of Afghan prisoners previously transferred to Afghanistan, Fitrat said:



"Significant progress has been made in the discussions, and so far 4,000 Afghan prisoners have been transferred to the country. Efforts continue to transfer other prisoners as well." Earlier, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations said that currently, nearly 7,000 Afghan migrants are in Iranian prisons. "It is the responsibility of both governments to sit down together and solve this problem diplomatically.

Iran also oppresses Afghans and migrants a lot. If this issue is resolved diplomatically, I think it will have a positive impact on the relations between the two countries," Sayed Akbar Sial Wardak, a political analyst, told TOLONews. Recently, the Iranian Human Rights Organization reported that in the first seven months of this year, 300 people were executed in Iran, of which 20 were Afghan citizens.

Increase in withdrawal limits from banks

KABUL (TOLONews): The Central Bank has doubled the withdrawal limit from commercial banks. According to the acting head of the bank, individual account holders can now withdraw 150,000 Afghani per week instead of 70,000 Afghani and approximately 500,000 Afghani per month from their accounts. Noor Ahmad Agha, acting head of the Central Bank, said: "Initially, the withdrawal limit was only \$400, which gradually increased to \$600, and now they can withdraw up to \$1,000." Some residents of the

capital, welcoming the increase in the withdrawal limit, say that restrictions on cash withdrawals should be completely removed. Sanullah Ahmadzai, a resident of Kabul, said: "Initially, withdrawing money from banks was problematic, but as these restrictions are reduced, it is a good thing for the people." Adalat Abdul Rahimzai, another resident, said: "Regarding economic issues and their commercial activities, reducing restrictions is very good." At the same time, some economic experts consider

facilitating banking services important for the development and growth of banking. Siar Quraishi, the economic analyst, said: "The reduction or elimination of restrictions by the Central Bank is a positive step for customers of private and state banks, and this can increase people's trust." This comes as more than nine billion dollars of Afghanistan's assets have been frozen by the United States and European countries after the return of the Islamic Emirate, causing a shortage of funds in Afghan banks.

Kunduz Drug Center: Dozens rehabilitated return to families



KUNDUZ (BNA): Dozens of individuals have been discharged to their families after completing their treatment and recovery at the Kunduz Drug Rehabilitation Center. Abdul Aziz Khyber, Director of the Anti-Drug Campaign at the Kunduz Police Headquarters, informed the Bakhtar

News Agency that out of the 500 drug addicts admitted for treatment from Takhar, Baghlan, and Kunduz provinces, 85 have been successfully rehabilitated and returned to their families. Khyber highlighted that, over the past three years, the center has successfully rehabilitated 2,600 drug

addicts, who have since reintegrated into their communities. Several individuals who completed their treatment at the center expressed gratitude for the support provided and called on authorities to take legal action against drug dealers to prevent further addiction among the youth.

Exhibition to be held

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Industry and Commerce announces that the Afghan-Kazakh exhibition is scheduled to take place in Kazakhstan in nearly twenty days. Nooruddin Azizi, the Acting Minister of this Ministry, told TOLONews that around 300 Afghan traders will participate in this exhibition, which will be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Acting Minister of Industry and Commerce said, "We have considered both quality and quantity and are proposing a company to partner in our programs. We are chartering a plane to transport the official delegation of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and other Afghan institutions, totaling around 300 people, to this exhibition." Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce and Investment says that the participation of Afghan traders in international exhibitions in recent months has expanded trade relations with Central Asia. Khanjan Alokozay, a member of the directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said, "One effective method is that if a company or country wants to introduce its products to the world's markets, it must participate in exhibitions. This exhibition in Kazakhstan is truly effective."

KABUL (Ariana News): An organization known as "Polio-Free Afghanistan" has recently announced that a new polio vaccination campaign will begin next week in various parts of the country. On Thursday, August 8, the organization posted on social media that the campaign is scheduled to start on Saturday of the coming week in several regions of Afghanistan. Abdul Quddus Baryalai, the head of the Polio

Eradication Operational Center at the Ministry of Public Health, told the media that the campaign will last for four days in Herat, Urzgan, Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, and Nimroz. According to officials at the Ministry of Public Health, during the campaign, 4.2 million children under the age of five are expected to be vaccinated. Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only countries that have yet to eradicate polio.

This comes after Pakistani local media reported on Thursday that a fifth case of polio has been reported from a district near the Afghan border, taking the number of polio victims detected in Balochistan to 10, out of a total of 13 reported from across Pakistan this year. The latest victim is an 11-month-old infant from Qila Abdullah who has been paralyzed by the wild poliovirus. The case highlights the persistent threat

of polio and the urgency for communities to ensure polio vaccination of all under-five children living among them. In addition to the five cases reported from Qila Abdullah district, the other five cases of Balochistan have been found in Chaman, Quetta, Zhob, Dera Bugti and Jhal Magsi, whereas three cases — two from Sindh and one from Punjab — have been confirmed from the rest of the country.

Abdul Latif Nazari says SIGAR report exaggerated

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Economy has rejected the report by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) regarding \$21 billion in aid to Afghanistan, stating that this amount of money has not been made available to the citizens of the country. Abdul Latif Nazari, the technical deputy of the Ministry of Economy, called the recent SIGAR report exaggerated. Previously, the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said in its quarterly report that the United States had allocated \$20.7 billion to Afghanistan and Afghan refugees over the past three years. Abdul Latif Nazari told TOLONews: "From our perspective, the SIGAR report is exaggerated. Some of the aid that has no connection to the people of Afghanistan and has not been made available to our people is published in the name of Afghanistan; how-

ever, we want the aid to transition from humanitarian to developmental." In its 64th quarterly report, SIGAR clarified that \$2.9 billion in humanitarian and development aid, the transfer of \$3.7 billion in Afghan assets to a trust fund, and over \$14 billion to Afghan refugees have been allocated. The report said: "The United States remains the largest donor to the Afghan people. Since US forces withdrew from Afghanistan in August 2021, the United States has appropriated or otherwise made available \$20.71 billion in assistance to Afghanistan and to Afghan refugees." Another part of this report shows that while drug production has decreased, its trade from Afghanistan continues. In response to this report, the Ministry of Interior has said that following the Islamic Emirate leader's decree on eradicating drugs in Afghanistan,



the Ministry of Interior has prioritized this matter and has begun practical steps to eradicate it. "There is no exception in the fight against the cultivation, trafficking, production, import, hoarding, and storage of drugs in Afghanistan, and the police will firmly fight to eliminate this evil phenomenon," said Abdul Mateen Qani, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior. However, the Afghanistan Chamber of Industries and Mines does not

consider the world's aid to Afghanistan in the past three years sufficient. Sakhi Ahmad Paiman, the first deputy of the Chamber of Industries and Mines, said: "Real aid is the aid whose effectiveness we feel in Afghanistan. It is possible that the statistics and figures presented do not match the actual aid provided." The SIGAR report also said that the United States has provided nearly \$232 million in aid to Afghanistan in the current year.

Patients' influx puts pressure on under-resourced Herat hospital

HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): The influx of patients in the provincial hospital of western Herat province has put a huge pressure on services' providers and budget section, officials said. The provincial hospital of Herat city has a limited number of staff, beds for patients, a lab and other resources. The hospital is considered the only large health center in the western zone of the country, the officials said. Talking to Pajhwok Afghan News, the director of the hospital Dr. Mohammad Arif Jalali said they faced many challenges such as shortages of human resources to meet the needs

of the increasing number of patients. He said the hospital needed more staff and resources. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has suspended financial support to the hospital and the administration of the hospital has run out of budget to support its personnel, ambulances, gas, oxygen supplies, laboratory, patient food and personnel, he said. Referring to different organizations and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) that supported the hospital in the past, Jalali said the hospital now lacked resources. He asked humanitarian

organizations and MoPH to provide the hospital with necessary resources as they did in the past. The hospital is visited by around 1,800 to 2,000 patients on a daily basis and has only 650 beds. Assistant neurologist Dr. Barakatullah Mohammadi said the hospital conducted 500 different brain surgeries last year for differently aged patients. The operations included brain tumors, waist disk, brain bleeding and other brain problems. A number of patients' caregivers also confirmed that the doctors and other personnel of the hospital needed more equipment

and resources to conduct surgeries. Haji Nik Mohammad, a resident of western Badghis province, said that one of his relatives was sick since last six months and his illness was diagnosed after visiting the hospital several times. His patient had a tumor in his head and was under treatment since ten days. He confirmed that the hospital had good doctors and they behaved well with patients. He said "if my patient's condition improves, I would not seek any more treatment in other hospitals, but this hospital really needs more resources." Habibullah brought his

son to the hospital two months ago for the treatment of his head injury he sustained in Iran. He was satisfied with the services provided by the doctors and said: "We must not leave the country for treatment of our patients because our doctors are capable of treatment what they need is support." Experts, however, expressed concern about the lack of budget for the hospital. Dr. Nisar Ahmad Musaddiq, the head of the doctors union, said better health services needed financial support, if not provided, many more challenges would arise.

Special attention to education govt priority: KP CM

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has said that his government is paying special attention to revolutionizing the education system in line with the vision of Imran Khan. Before the PTI government in the province, the trend towards private schools was higher; our reform initiatives have restored people's confidence in public sector educational institutions, he remarked and said that performance of government schools showed that the quality of education in government schools has improved as the students, especially females are getting the best positions.

He asked the educational boards authorities that the meritorious students must get their right and there is no room for negligence in this regard; the country's development can be stabilized in real sense only by providing opportunities to the talented youth.

The first reason behind decline at the national level was the erosion of merit and transparency and that's why it has always been the priority of PTI government to ensure merit at all levels

in the province. He urged upon parents to make investment in educating their children, especially girls because an educated mother makes a great nation and she has a major role in the education of children, he added.

These views he expressed while addressing SSC result declaration/prize distribution ceremony, held here at Chief Minister's House Peshawar on Thursday. Touching upon the priority areas of his government, the chief minister said that he has directed the authorities concerned to hire rented buildings for new schools needed anywhere in the province so as to start academic activities without any delay. Without waiting for completion or construction of new buildings, schools should be started immediately in the already available rented buildings so that our children do not miss out on education and their learning process is not disturbed, he directed.

The chief minister maintained that his government is also working on introducing education card to provide quality education to talented students in the best institutions. He said that there is no substitute

for education as it is only key to success and national development.

The Chief Minister felicitated the students, their parents and teachers on achieving the top positions in SSC exams. Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in his address to students who could not succeed, said that they should not worry about failure but learn from shortcomings and turn their failure or shortcomings into strength adding that failure motivates the learners towards hard work which ultimately results in success.

The Chief Minister awarded Shields and certificates to all 51 students who secured first, second and third positions in their respective board exams. It is worth to mention here that out of 51 position holders, 19 were students of government schools. The ceremony was also attended by Provincial Minister for Elementary & Secondary Education Faisal Khan Tarakai, Minister for Live Stock & Fisheries Fazal Hakeem, Secretary Education Masaud Ahmad, Chairmen Educational Boards, other relevant high ups, position holder students, their parents and teachers.

President assents Election Act Amend Bill

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari signed the 'controversial' Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 which becomes a law. The gazette notification will be issued today (Thursday) as the bill has been sent to the Senate Secretariat.

The Senate passed the Election Act Amendment Bill by a majority vote despite protest by the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Aug 6. As the session started with Yousuf Raza Gilani in the chair, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Talal Chaudhry presented the Election Act Amendment Bill. The opposition members stood on their seats and started protest.

The amendment provides that "a candidate who does not submit the party certificate before obtaining the election symbol will be considered an independent candidate. If the list of candidates for reserved seats is not submitted within the specified period, no political party will be entitled to those seats." It also provides that any candidate's declaration of affiliation to a political party will be irrevocable.

ECP issues schedule for LG polls

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday announced the schedule for the upcoming local government elections in Islamabad.

The polling in the capital city will take place on September 29, according to the announced schedule. The ECP gave a four-day window for candidates to submit their nomination papers. The initial list of candidates will be published on August 21, while the ECP will scrutinise the nomination papers from August 22 to 26.

As per the schedule, appeals against decisions to accept or reject the nomination papers can be filed from August 26 to 29. The Appellate Tribunals will decide the appeals by September 3 and the final list will be published on September 4. As per the ECP's schedule, electoral symbols will be allotted on September 6.

'Govt has just two months left in power'

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: PTI founder Imran Khan says the incumbent government has only two months left in power. During an informal conversation with journalists at Adiala Jail during the 190 million pound reference hearing, the former prime minister stated that no matter how many cases were made against him, he would not strike any deal.

He clarified that he never offered an unconditional apology for May 9 events. He said he was only speaking for the sake of the country. "If PTI members are found involved in the CCTV footage of the May 9 incident, he will apologise and also punish them," said the party founder.

He said that he would present a witness in the Al-Qadir Trust case, but he cannot reveal the identity, otherwise, a vigo (police vehicle) will show up. "If elections are held again under the supervision of the current government, we will not accept them. No one has contacted me for negotiations. I am predicting from jail that the government has only two months left in power," said the former prime minister. "The government is sinking deeper into a quagmire. They are foolish and don't understand what's happening. I have plenty of time, but their time is running out," he added.

PTI MNA re-arrested

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab Anti-Corruption Department has announced the re-arrest of PTI MNA Imtiaz Ahmed, who had allegedly escaped custody. Imtiaz Ahmed was apprehended at Multan Airport while attempting to flee to Qatar.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari welcoming Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi, Dr. Salah Bin Mohammad M Albdeer, upon his arrival, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Israel kills 40 Palestinians in Gaza airstrikes

CAIRO (Reuters): Israeli forces stepped up airstrikes across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, killing at least 40 people, Palestinian medics said, in further battle with Hamas-led fighters as Israel braced for potential wider war in the region.

Israeli airstrikes hit a cluster of houses in central Gaza's Al-Bureij camp, killing at least 15 people, and the nearby Al-Nuseirat camp, killed four, medics said. Nuseirat and Bureij are among the densely populated enclave's eight historic camps and seen by Israel as strongholds of armed fighters. Israeli aircraft also bombed a house in the heart of Gaza City in the north, killing five Palestinians, while another airstrike in the southern city of Khan Younis killed one person and wounded others, according to medics.

Later on Thursday, 15 Palestinians were killed and 30 injured in Israeli bombings of two schools east of Gaza City, the territory's Civil Emergency Service said in a statement. The Israeli military said it struck Hamas command and control centres embedded in the Abdel-Fattah Hamouda and Al-Zahra schools in the Tuffah neighbourhood of Gaza City, where Hamas were operating. It accused Hamas of exploiting civilians and civilian properties for military purposes, an allegation Hamas denies.

Footage circulated on social media, which Reuters could not immediately verify, showed casualties being brought to a hospital on donkey carts. The armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad said they were firing anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs at Israeli forces operating across Gaza, causing deaths and injuries among them. Israel's military said it had struck dozens of military targets across Gaza over the past 24 hours, including rocket launching pads.

Hamas-led fighters set off the Gaza war on Oct. 7 last year with a shock, cross-border rampage into Israeli communities, killing 1,200 Israelis and foreigners and seizing some 250 hostages, according to

Iran says Hamas leader's killing a costly 'strategic mistake' by Israel

JEDDAH (AFP): Israel committed a costly "strategic mistake" with its killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran last week, Iran's acting foreign minister told AFP in an interview on Thursday. "The act that the Zionists carried out in Tehran was a strategic mistake because it will cost them gravely," Ali Bagheri said one day after attending an extraordinary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in the Saudi coastal city of Jeddah. Although Israel has not commented on Haniyeh's death, Iran has vowed to retaliate, setting the region on edge.

Bagheri accused Israel of wanting "to expand tension, war and conflict to other countries," while asserting it was not in a position to fight Iran. "The Zionists are in no position to start a war against the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said. "They neither have the capacity nor the strength." The meeting on Wednesday of foreign ministers from the 57-member OIC produced a declaration holding Israel "fully responsible" for the "heinous" killing of Haniyeh, who lived in Qatar and was a major player in talks to end the war in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli tallies. Since then, at least 39,699 Palestinians have been killed, including 22 within the past 24 hours, and 91,722 injured in Israel's devastating air and ground war in Gaza, the Gaza health ministry said in an update on Thursday.

The ministry in the Hamas-run territory does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its death lists. As Gaza's war churns on, Israel has been battenning down for another attack expected in the coming days following vows from Iran and its Lebanon proxy Hezbollah to retaliate for the assassinations last week of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and Hezbollah military commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut. A relatively contained conflict between Israel and Hezbollah along its northern border, a spillover from the Gaza fighting, now threatens to spiral into an all-out regional war.

On Thursday dozens of Palestinians rushed into Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis to bid farewell to slain relatives before carrying them away for burials. Reuters footage showed relatives moving out the bodies of their loved ones in plastic bags with names written on them, and holding special prayers before the funerals. The Israeli military renewed evacuation orders to

Palestinian residents in several districts in eastern Khan Younis, saying it would act forcefully against fighters who had unleashed rockets from those areas.

The army posted the evacuation order on X, and residents said they had received text and audio messages. Residents said dozens of families had begun to leave their homes and head west towards Al-Mawasi, a humanitarian-designated area but one that is overcrowded by displaced families from around the enclave. On Thursday, the World Central Kitchen (WCK), a US-based, non-governmental humanitarian agency, said that a Palestinian staff member, Nadi Sallout, had been killed while apparently off duty on Wednesday near Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza. The WCK said it was seeking further details.

The Israeli military said it did not know of any such incident, adding that it had been in contact with WCK. In April, seven WCK employees were killed in an Israeli airstrike, spurring it to suspend operations for nearly a month. Israel said then its inquiries had found serious errors and breaches of procedure by its military, and that two senior officers had been dismissed and senior commanders reprimanded.

UK riots halted by police

LONDON (Reuters): British police remained on alert on Thursday after a heavy security presence, rapid arrests and displays of unity by people across Britain on Wednesday prevented a repeat of widespread rioting involving racist attacks targeting Muslims and migrants.

After police deployed in force and thousands of anti-racism protesters took to the streets on Wednesday evening, threats of widespread gatherings by far-right anti-immigration groups did not materialise. But the government said it was still cautious after days of riots triggered by false online posts wrongly identifying the suspected killer of three young girls in a July 29 knife attack in Southport, northwest England, as an Islamist migrant. Police said a further potential 20 gatherings

and three counter-gatherings were planned for Thursday.

"We're going to continue the strong policing response, making sure that there are additional police officers ready to respond," interior minister Yvette Cooper told reporters. More than 480 people have been arrested across the country so far, with nearly 150 charged. Dozens have already been sentenced with cases fast-tracked through the justice system. Britain's most senior police officer, Commissioner Mark Rowley, said many of those arrested had criminal backgrounds.

For Prime Minister Keir Starmer, a former chief prosecutor, it is the first major test of his premiership since winning a July 4 election in which the previous Conservative govern-

ment highlighted immigration as a major issue. Rowley dismissed suggestions the riots were political. "Any suggestion they're patriots, or they've got a cause... is nonsense," Rowley said. "They're criminals."

Several thousand people from anti-racism groups gathered in Walthamstow, north London, on Wednesday following threats to an immigration advice centre there. Others protected mosques and hotels housing asylum seekers that were among other targets. Rowley hailed a "successful" night that had gone "very peacefully" apart from a few criminal incidents. Footage circulated on X showed a councillor from Starmer's Labour Party at the Walthamstow gathering calling for people to cut the throats of "disturbing Nazi fascists."

Russia battles Ukrainian troops

MOSCOW (Reuters): Russian forces were battling Ukrainian troops for a third day on Thursday after they smashed through the Russian border in the Kursk region, an audacious attack on the world's biggest nuclear power that has forced Moscow to call in reserves.

In one of the biggest Ukrainian attacks on Russia of the two-year-old war, around 1,000 Ukrainian troops rammed through the Russian border in the early hours of Aug. 6 with tanks and armoured vehicles, covered in the air by swarms of drones and pounding artillery, according to Russian officials. Heavy fighting was reported near the town of

Sudzha, where Russian natural gas flows into Ukraine, raising concerns about a possible sudden stop to transit flows to Europe.

The incursion has come as a shock to Russia, nearly two-and-a-half years since President Vladimir Putin sent his army into Ukraine in February 2022. Putin has cast the Ukrainian offensive as a "major provocation". Sergei Mironov, leader of a Kremlin-loyal political party, called it a "terrorist attack" and "the invasion of an internationally recognised foreign territory".

Kursk's regional acting governor, Alexei Smirnov, said that thousands of residents had been evacuated.

The White House said the United States, opens new tab - Ukraine's biggest backer - had no prior knowledge of the attack and would seek more details from Kyiv. Russia's defence ministry said on Thursday that the army and the Federal Security Service (FSB) had halted the Ukrainian advance and were battling Ukrainian units in the Kursk region. "Units of the Northern group of forces, together with the FSB of Russia, continue to destroy armed formations of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Sudzhensky and Korenevsky districts of the Kursk region, directly adjacent to the Russian-Ukrainian border," the ministry said.



RAWALPINDI: Ameer Jamat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman talking to media persons at Liaquat Bagh.

PHC to decide appointment of Vice Chancellors plea on 15th

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) ordered the provincial government and Higher Education Department (HED) for submission of response against re-initiation of appointment process for Vice-Chancellors for 19 public sector universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by 15th August otherwise the court will issue verdict on the available record, on Thursday.

The counsel Amir Javeed and Mubashir Manzoor advocates informed the court that the

posts of Vice-Chancellors in various universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been vacant for over a year. The previous provincial government had initiated the appointment process, which was completed by the caretaker government, the lawyers stated.

However, the current provincial government has re-initiated the appointment process and cancelled the previous search and scrutiny committee's recommendations, the counsel argued. The petitioners' lawyers argued that the provincial government had

assured the Supreme Court that the recommendations for the appointment of Vice-Chancellors had been completed and the appointments would be made soon.

The Supreme Court had disposed of the case based on this assurance by Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the lawyers informed. However, the provincial government has now re-initiated the appointment process and an advertisement is issued for the posts of Vice-Chancellors. Despite this, the government has not submitted a response yet.