

JUI leader shot dead
F.P. Report

NUSHKI: Unidentified gunmen shot dead Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam leader Mir Zahoor Nadini here on Tuesday. Unknown culprits sprayed bullets at Zahoor Nadini near Nushki Boys College. The firing led to instant death of the JUI leader and assailants fled the scene. The body was shifted to hospital for post-mortem and police after registering a case into the incident started investigations.



ISLAMABAD: MNAs Muhammad Siddiqui Khan Baloch and Abdul Abdul Rahman Khan Kanju called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

PTI introduced tradition of vendetta in politics: Tarar

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership had introduced the tradition of confrontation and vendetta in politics.

Speaking in the National Assembly, the minister strongly condemned the PTI leaders, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, for their abusive outburst against national institutions, woman political opponents and journalists at the Sangiani meeting.

He said the PTI leaders had been repeatedly asked to be careful in their dealing with other political parties as it was a question of time which ultimately changed. The minister said that Gandapur vented out his anger against institutions, Maryam Nawaz and the journalist community and used abusive language. There were empty seats on

his right side in the House as only a few opposition members had turned up after the failed meeting, he added.

Tarar said in the past, the instructions for the production order for any detained opposition member used to come from the Prime Minister's House instead of the custodian of this august House.

It was the PTI's founder on whose directives the production orders were issued, he added. He said Faryal Talpur was sent to the jail from hospital on the 'Chand Raat' (eve of Eid) only to give mental torture to her brother. Similarly, Maryam Nawaz who had secured bail in a case, was again arrested in the presence of her father, he said.

"Why they (the PTI members) are crying today?" he questioned. "As you sow so shall you reap. In the past, they (PTI) were advised to refrain from doing politics of hatred and revenge, but did not heed to the advice and now they are now facing consequences."

Taking a jibe at the PTI, the minister said the Information Ministry was thinking to produce a film titled "Main Lahore Nahi Jaon Ga" (I will not go to Lahore).

He pointed out that the PTI had not carried out even a single quality project like the Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology and Danish Schools etc in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during its over 12-year tenure. They (PTI leader) used the government funds for their personal promotion, he added.

Tarar said the PTI leaders were making tall claims of getting their leader freed but instead they seemed to be stranded now. Later responding to the points raised by MNA Rafiullah, the minister said that a youth talent hunt programme had been launched across the country under the PM's Youth Programme. To another question, he said the appointment of Pakistan Baitul Maal (PBM) managing director would be made within one week.

MNAs meet PM

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Members of the National Assembly Mohammad Siddique Khan Baloch and Abdul Rehman Kanjo met Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to address issues concerning their constituencies.

During the meeting, the overall political situation of the country was also discussed, a Prime Minister Office press release stated.

Meanwhile, Member of the National Assembly Rashid Akbar Nawani and Member of the Punjab Assembly Saeed Akbar Nawani also called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to discuss issues pertaining to their constituencies.

During the meeting, overall political situation of the country also came under the discussion. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah was also present, a Prime Minister's Office press release said.

Prime Minister message: Today, the nation commemorates the 76th Death Anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, with profound respect and reverence.

Quaid-e-Azam stands out as one of the most visionary politician and eminent statesman in history. He adeptly led the freedom movement for the Muslims of the Sub-Continent, establishing the world's first Islamic ideological state. The Freedom Movement serves as a testament to his political acumen and visionary leadership, reflecting his dedication to the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

SC rejects review plea in Monal restaurant case

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday upheld the decision of Monal restaurant's closure by rejecting a set of petitions seeking to revisit the June 11, 2024 order in which the top court declared all leases and allotments inside the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP).

Headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, a three-judge bench comprising Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan had taken up a set of petitions moved by the Monal Group of Companies, the Capital View Point Restaurant (La Montana), Sunshine Heights (Pvt) Ltd, and by

Brig retired Falak Naz Bangash of the defence ministry.

The decision reserved on September 6 was pronounced by the Supreme Court today. The apex court upheld its decision of closure of Monal restaurant, Sunshine Heights and La Montana restaurant. The Supreme Court through its March 21 judgement had ordered the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to file a list of leases in the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP).

Later, the Supreme Court office issued notices to the petitioners on April 22, 2024, and then passed an order on June 11, in which the court declared all such allotments contrary to the provisions of the

Islamabad Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Ordinance 1979. On August 15, Supreme Court (SC) issued a contempt of court notice to Malik Luqman Ali Afzal, the owner of the Monal Restaurant, located at Margalla Hills.

Hearing a case related to commercial activities at Margalla Hills National Park, CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa remarked, that the owner of restaurant assured the court about the closure of the hotel, but now he is doing 'propaganda' against justice on TV. Why he did not appear before court today, the CJP asked. Ali Afzal should give jobs to the staff of restaurant to his other eateries, the top judge remarked.

E3 and US slap sanctions on Iran over missiles for Russia

BERLIN (AFP, Reuters): Germany, France and Britain on Tuesday condemned what they said was Iran's delivery of ballistic missiles to Russia for use in the Ukraine war and declared new sanctions targeting air transport.

"We will be taking immediate steps to cancel bilateral air services agreements with Iran," they said in a joint statement, adding that they would also "work toward imposing sanctions on Iran Air." US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had said earlier, on a visit to London, that Russia had received shipments of the ballistic missiles and "will likely use them within weeks in Ukraine."

London, Paris and Berlin said that "we now have confirmation that Iran has made these transfers." "This is a further escalation of Iran's military support to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and will see Iranian missiles reaching European

soil, increasing the suffering of the Ukrainian people," they said. "This act is an escalation by both Iran and Russia, and is a direct threat to European security."

The three countries said they "will be taking immediate steps to cancel bilateral air services agreements with Iran." "In addition, we will pursue the designations of significant entities and individuals involved with Iran's ballistic missile program and the transfer of ballistic missiles and other weapons to Russia. "We will also work toward imposing sanctions on Iran Air," they said, echoing a step also taken by Washington.

Blinken said Washington had privately warned Iran that providing ballistic missiles to Russia would be "a dramatic escalation" and said new sanctions would be imposed later on Tuesday. The US later identified nine Russian-flagged vessels it said were involved in the delivery of weapons from

Iran to Russia, designating them as "blocked property" under Washington's sanctions regime, according to the Treasury Department's website.

It also imposed additional measures on previously sanctioned airline Iran Air, the department said in a statement. Blinken said Iran has trained dozens of Russian military personnel to use its Fath-360 close-range ballistic missile system, which has a maximum range of 75 miles (121 km).

The UK also said on Tuesday it had started terminating "all direct air services between the UK and Iran" as part of the new sanctions. London said it was acting alongside international partners to "cancel its bilateral air services arrangements with Iran," which would "restrict Iran Air's ability to fly in to the UK." Iran Air operates direct flights between London and Tehran three days a week, according to the schedule listed on its website.

Gohar decries crackdown moments

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Police on Tuesday released Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan a day after he was arrested over violation of newly-implemented rules regarding public gathering in Islamabad.

The PTI chief was also discharged from a case registered against him in the Sangiani police station. He told media that police took him into custody and interrogated about some cases. Police told him that there was no case registered against him, he said.

A day earlier, police arrested PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar outside Parliament House. Earlier, PTI's firebrand leader Sher Afzal Marwat was also taken into custody. A scuffle was also witnessed between the police officials and Marwat's guards after which one of the guards of the PTI leader was also taken into custody.

After the arrest of Marwat, PTI leader Shoaib Shaheen was also detained by the Islamabad police from his office. Talking to media outside the judicial complex, the PTI chairman condemned the crackdown launched against the PTI leaders following the Sept 8 public gathering in the federal capital.

The Frontier Post

2 PTI leaders declared POs
F.P. Report

LAHORE: Two leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) were declared proclaimed offenders (POs) by an anti-terrorism court (ATC) here on Tuesday in a case pertaining to torching police vehicles in Gulberg during the May 9 violence. The PTI leaders declared proclaimed offenders by ATC included Mian Aslam Iqbal and Khurram Shahzad.

NA Speaker demands immediate release of PTI MPs

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A day after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers were chased within the Parliament's premises, National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday reprimanded the Islamabad Inspector General (IG) of Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, demanding their immediate release.

"You cannot arrest anyone from the Parliament House or lodges. These parliamentarians should be released immediately," said the speaker. Sadiq's directive comes in the wake of the arrests of PTI lawmakers followed by a fiery speech delivered by the party's leader Ali Muhammad Khan on the floor of the lower house on Tuesday.

Sadiq added that he is "very saddened" by this incident and also watched the footage of PTI leader Sher Afzal Marwat's arrest. "What way was it to arrest a parliamentarian?" the speaker questioned IG Rizvi.

The speaker maintained he won't remain silent on arrests of lawmakers and will action. "Whatever happened in the Parliament will have to be protested. I have ordered all the videos," he said, summoning the leadership of all political parties in the chamber. Sadiq stressed that the matter is to be looked into with seriousness. "I will file a case against those involved in yesterday's incident."

In the next move, the speaker immediately summoned IG Islamabad, DIG operations and senior superintendent of police (SSP) operations. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that the remarks in the PTI public rally had challenged Pakistan's integrity.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, he said that the rally had undermined Pakistan's integrity, unity, and federation. He condemned linking Pakistan's existence with any individual, describing it as deplorable. He also strongly denounced the remarks made by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur about attacking Punjab and his comments targeting women, political leadership, and the

Bill to increase number of SC judges tabled in Lower House

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: 'The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2024' aimed to increase the number of apex court's judges from 17 to 23, in the National Assembly on Tuesday. The bill was introduced by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) lawmaker Daniyal Chaudhry. As per "The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024", the total number of judges, including the Chief Justice, will increase from 17 to 23. The bill sought amendment in the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997. It should be mentioned here that the total number of judges in the apex court other than the Chief Justice is 16. The government did not raise any objections to the bill. However, opposition leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai opposed the bill and pointed out a quorum issue in the assembly. The bill was referred to the relevant standing committee for consideration.

journalist community.

He said that Gandapur's remarks hurt the sentiments of political leaders and media workers. He termed September 8 as a "black day" in the country's history in which the KP chief executive had challenged the federation. The minister expressed regret over the former ruling party's avoidance of dialogue with other political parties and alleged that PTI attempts to gain power through backdoor means.

He also regretted the PTI leadership's actions targeting defence installations on May 9 and highlighted that the memorials of martyrs were attacked by PTI workers. He slammed the Imran-founded party for failing to work towards strengthening democracy and Parliament.

During his speech, PTI lawmakers — Khan and Shandana Gulzar Khan — stood up and protested against Asif's remarks which led to the exchange of some harsh words between the MNAs. Responding to their protest, the defence czar said that they started shouting when he started telling facts about them.

He recalled: "Article 6 was imposed against me by these people [during the PTI government] and Ali Muhammad Khan backed the cabinet's decision at that time." Continuing to slam the PTI, Asif said that the PTI leaders were just staging drama. Addressing Shandana,

Asif said: "I don't want to talk to you or you'll complain you are a woman." In response, when Ali Muhammad Khan told Asif to mind his manners, the latter retorted, "I learnt these manners from you." Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain extended an offer to the opposition, urging them to unite to strengthen parliament, democracy, and the country's overall progress.

Speaking on the floor, he said that this is the right time to work together for the common people's prosperity, development, and upliftment. Recalling events from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, he said that during the PTI sit-in, institutions like pvt and parliament were attacked. He also said the civil disobedience campaign initiated by PTI leaders, during which people were asked not to pay their bills.

The minister also recounted the incident where the doors of Maryam Nawaz's hotel room were broken in Karachi. He said that opposition leaders were arrested on fabricated charges during the PTI government. He said that PTI founder avoided meeting opposition members in the National Assembly. He also recalled that during that time, parliamentarians urged the PTI leadership to refrain from victimizing opponents.



PESHAWAR: PTI senior leadership addressing a press conference.

‘Democratic process should be allowed to progress freely’

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: PTI leader Salman Akram Raja highlighted Monday's shameful incident outside Parliament, where the sanctity of the institution was violated.

Addressing a press conference along with other party leadership, the PTI leader called for the release of CCTV footage of May 9 incidents, stating that attacks on the constitutional system are being made to conceal the truth. Raja said that Pakistan's democratic process and constitution should be allowed to progress freely.

He pointed out that certain individuals are exerting control over the democratic process. Addressing remarks made by CM Ali Amin Gandapur at a political rally, Raja clarified that Gandapur's statement about coming with drums and music, if rally permission wasn't granted, was never intended to disrespect women.

Raja expressed regret for any offense caused, saying, "We apologize. We plead, let Pakistan be free." He warned that a group believes they control Pakistan's destiny, and cautioned that the system cannot work if constitutional amendments are made under threats and intimidation. He questioned how a rally could be easily stopped and suggested that the arrests of PTI MNAs are being used as a distraction for other motives. "Why are we now behind Bangladesh and Nepal?" he asked. Raja concluded by

Imran ‘closes doors to negotiations’

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan has announced that negotiations with any party, including the Establishment, will be closed. Speaking to journalists at Adiala Jail on Tuesday, the PTI founder said he had authorised six party leaders to talk to the Establishment. Regarding the Lahore rally, Imran Khan said that whether permission is granted or not, the PTI would hold the rally in Lahore on Sept 21. When asked about KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's speech in the Islamabad rally, the PTI founder responded that CM Gandapur represented the sentiments of the nation, and he stood with him. Replying to another query, the former prime minister responded that those apologising for Gandapur's statement were cowards and should not be in the party. When asked about Senator Faisal Vawda, Imran Khan stated that everyone knows who Faisal Vawda speaks for, and if the Arshad Sharif murder case is given an open trial, the truth will be revealed.

stating that only through democracy and adherence to the constitution can people receive their rights, adding that in the past, every voice has been suppressed by certain forces.

Addressing the press conference, Ayub, who is also the Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, slammed the coalition government for using all tactics to stop his party's Islamabad public gathering. He went on to say that the ruling parties in the coalition government levelled false allegations against the Imran-founded party and jailed its leaders.

Condemning the arrests of the PTI leaders in a police crackdown yesterday, Ayub termed September 9 a "black day" and claimed that

"masked whisked away several party leaders" besides arresting MNA Sher Afzal Marwat and Shoaib Shaheen. PTI senior leader Asad Qaiser, in the press conference, announced that his party will fight for its rights on the streets besides continuing its legal battle in the courts. He demanded the release of PTI founder Imran Khan and other party inmates.

Asad Qaisar also demanded fresh elections in the country and termed the incumbent government "illegitimate". He suggested that contempt of court cases should be filed against the Islamabad police chief and commissioner as they placed obstacles along the rally in the federal capital.

‘Ambush on parliament exposed fake PML-N govt’

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has condemned the government's actions following an ambush on parliament, calling it a betrayal of democracy and accusing the current administration of fascist tactics.

Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Dr Saif, expressed the party's resolve to resist what he termed the "fascism of the fake government," which he claims only serves to strengthen the resolve of PTI leaders and supporters.

Saif criticized the government's crackdown, stating that last night marked the "funeral of democracy," with lawlessness prevailing throughout the halls of Islamabad. He alleged that an ambush on the Parliament was grounded last night and that honourable members were forcibly arrested while the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ayaz Sadiq, passively observed.

The advisor of the CM compared the situation to the worst instances of dictatorship, condemning the disrespect shown to lawyers and parliamentarians. "The success of a meeting is a sign of ill-feeling," Saif remarked, indicating the government's actions were not only undemocratic but also fuelled by malice. Saif affirmed PTI's commitment to continue its struggle, declaring that the fight would persist until the release of Imran Khan, the party's founder and former Prime Minister.

PTI's Ali Muhammad Khan blasts govt: Heated arguments and exchange of accusations between government and opposition lawmakers were seen in the National Assembly on Tuesday following the arrest of PTI MNAs last night from Islamabad, including the parliament premises.

In a fiery speech on the floor of the lower house on Tuesday, PTI's Ali Muhammad Khan, who appeared emotionally charged, lambasted the arrests of his fellow party leaders.



CM announces initiatives to upgrade agriculture, improve farmers' lot

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has announced a series of initiatives aimed at advancing agriculture and improving the socio-economic conditions of farmers in the province.

During a review meeting with the Agriculture Department on Tuesday, she highlighted the introduction of several key projects: Kissan Cards, Agricultural Mall Pilot Project, Green Tractor Scheme, Agricultural Graduates Internship, and Tube Well Solarization Projects.

The chief minister noted that the distribution of 40,000 Kissan Cards to farmers through 136 agriculture centers across the province has commenced from today. Farmers can get Kissan Cards from agricultural center in the agricultural office in each tehsil. They will be able to use

these cards to buy agricultural inputs for the wheat crop after October 15.

The CM said that 500,000 farmers will benefit from Kissan Card. A farmer will be able to get a loan from Rs 30,000 per acre to Rs 150,000 through Kissan Card.

Agricultural Mall Pilot Project will be started in Okara, Bahawalpur, Sahiwal and Sargodha, she said and added that seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural goods, counseling, loans and other facilities will be available at these Malls.

CM Maryam Nawaz approved the Fresh Agriculture Graduates Internship Program, under which training of 1,000 agriculture graduates will start across Punjab from next week. She said these agriculture graduates will access the farmers through geomapping, and will

advise them in the field on how to get good harvest.

Under CM Green Tractor Scheme, 10,000 tractors will be given away in a year. The Punjab government will give a subsidy of Rs 1 million on each tractor. Farmers will be able to apply after the launch of the scheme on September 20. Maryam Nawaz said that the agricultural tube well solarization project is in the final stages, adding that the Punjab government will pay 50 percent on solarization of electric and diesel tube wells.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Information & Culture Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari and Agriculture Minister Ashiq Hussain Kirmani attended the meeting. The Chief Secretary, Secretary Agriculture and other relevant officers were also present.

Tessori honoured with "Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Award"

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori was honoured with the "Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Award" by Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula in a ceremony held here at Governor House on Monday night.

"Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Award" is the highest award of Ethiopia and Governor Tessori was honored with the award for his outstanding services in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia. Speaking on the occasion,

Ethiopian Ambassador Jemal Beker said Kamran Tessori played an important role in starting Ethiopian Airlines.

Jemal Beker appreciated the role of Governor Sindh in building bilateral public relations between both countries. Governor Kamran Tessori thanked Ambassador Jemal Beker for bestowing him of Ethiopia's highest award.

Sindh Governor said that bilateral relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia have become very stable today and hoped that these relations would flourish in the days to come.

Sindh govt imposes ban on sale of drug-related items

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Sindh government has banned the sale of items used in the production and consumption of drugs.

On the instructions of Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi has issued a notification prohibiting all items used in drug consumption.

According to the notification, Section 144 has

been imposed on the sale of wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic, and ceramic pipes, roach clips, bongs, marijuana pipes, and other related items. Station House Officers (SHOs) of the concerned police stations are authorized to register cases against violators under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that this ban is an important step in the ongoing war against drug abuse in Sindh. He emphasized, "Our aim is to discourage the availability of devices used in drug consumption. Strict measures will be taken to protect the people, especially the younger generation, from the menace of drugs."

Anti-polio campaign continues in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi, as the head of the Polio Task Force, is personally supervising the anti-polio campaign in the metropolitan.

He visited District South on Tuesday, and reviewed the ongoing anti-polio campaign. He met with polio teams and spoke with them.

He said that the role of polio teams was crucial in the efforts to eradicate polio from the country. He said that anti-polio is a national cause and they should work with a spirit of national service.

Deputy Commissioner South, Altaf Sario, briefed the Commissioner about the anti-polio campaign in District South. He said that the campaign was successfully ongoing in the district. On the first day of the campaign, 49,408 children under the age of five were administered polio drops in the district.

The Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the officials of the city administration in the struggle to eradicate polio from the country. The Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners to ensure that the target of administering polio drops to children is achieved.

Meanwhile, Coordinator of Polio Task Force, Saud Yaqoob, briefed the Commissioner about the progress of first day of the campaign. He said that on the first day, 524,926 children under the age of five were administered polio drops in Karachi.

The campaign will continue until September 15. In the current anti-polio campaign, more than 2.7 million children will be administered polio drops.

Excise dept arrests four 'drug dealers'



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Excise Narcotics Control operations in Rohri and Tando Walhar resulted in the arrest of four drug dealers, with significant quantities of hashish, ice, and heroin recovered.

A team from Excise Narcotics Control, led by Excise Inspector Allan Khan Abbasi, conducted an

operation on Tando Adam Road near the Railway Gate in Tando Walhar, arresting three drug peddlers: Ali Akbar, Tahir Baloch, and Manyu alias Manu. The team recovered 154 grams of ice from Ali Akbar, 244 grams of ice from Tahir Baloch, and 160 grams of heroin from Manyu alias Manu.

In another operation, Excise Narcotics Control

Sukkur, under the leadership of Excise Inspector Qamar Syal, arrested drug dealer Qurban Ali Brohi near Khadim Pump in Rohri. A total of 5 kg of hashish was recovered from the possession of Qurban Ali Brohi.

Cases have been registered against the accused, and the Narcotics Control Team has commenced investigations.

Minister holds PEF 88th BoD meeting

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat chaired the 88th meeting of Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) Board of Directors (BoDs) at the PEF head office, here on Tuesday.

Member Chief Minister's Task Force Muzammil Mehmood participated as a new board member while Secretary Schools Education Khalid Nazir Wattoo, Secretary Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Education Syed Haider Iqbal, Education Expert Asma Waziri, Director STEM, University of Education Dr. Intizar Hussain Butt, Assistant Chief, Planning and Development Department Dr. Saima Malik, Deputy Secretary Technical, Social Welfare Department Muhammad Iftekhar Hussain Bhatti, Additional Finance Secretary Meer Raza and Technocrat Dr. Basit Khan attended the meeting.

During the session, Malik Shoaib Awan was elected as the new Chairman of the Punjab Education Foundation.

Governor directs VCs to make varsities drug free

LAHORE (APP): Chancellor, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has directed the Vice Chancellors of all universities to make campuses drug and narcotics free and take concrete steps to protect female students from harassment and provide them safe environment in universities.

According to the details shared by Governor's spokesperson here Tuesday, Governor Punjab/Chancellor Sardar Saleem has issued a letter to the Vice-Chancellors of all the universities of Punjab to strictly ensure the prohibition of smoking in the campus premises and hostels to make the educational institution drug-free.

He said that it is necessary to ensure drug testing in educational institutions for all those students who are accused of drug-related crimes. He said that

such students should undergo blood test, dope test, hepatitis test, this initiative will help promote a safe and conducive learning environment for other students. He said that necessary arrangements should be made for psychological counseling sessions for such students who are found involved in taking drugs.

The Governor Punjab also stressed that the entry of unidentified persons in the universities should be fully checked. He said that entry of any person without identity cards should be prohibited to ensure that no stranger can enter campus premises and hostels.

In this regard, the university should issue visiting cards to the visitors at entry gates. He said that it should be made mandatory for all students/faculty members/employees of the universities to wear ID cards.

Punjab Governor/Chancellor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that it is a matter of great concern that incidents of harassment against women are increasing in universities.

He has issued instructions to the Vice Chancellor of

Punjab Universities to implement the Protection Against Harassment of Women Act, 2010, and the guidelines of the Higher Education Commission regarding harassment in letter and spirit.

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
FATA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (SDU)
 Planning & Development Department,
 civil secretariat, Peshawar, KP
 Office: Erstwhile FATA Secretariat, Warsak Road,
 Phone No.9222718 Email:pmufipdp@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Reference to the advertisement publish vide INF(P) 2100/2024, in Mashriq, Bayan, Watan and The Frontier Post, date 22-08-2024 and on official websites of KPPRA/P&D Department, the same is amended/corrected as follows.

- The bid submission date may be read as 19-09-2024 at 1400hrs instead of 17-09-2024 and will be open on same day at 1430hrs due to public holiday on account of 12th Reb ul'Awal.
- All others terms and conditions remains the same.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
 FATA Infrastructure Program INF(P)2366/24

PAF BASE, KOHAT
TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders / bids are invited from the Government - Registered firms / contractors to rent out PAF Shops (33 shops) located at Shaheen Market Bannu Road, Kohat. Tenders / bids for each shop should be submitted to the office of Officer Incharge Personnel Squadron, PAF Base, Kohat on or before **26 September, 2024** at 1000 hrs. The Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1200 hrs. The application received after due date will not be entertained. The undersigned reserves the rights to accept / reject any tender, on technical grounds.

Officer Incharge, Personnel Squadron
PAF Base, Kohat
 Ph: 0922-9260095 Ext: 5031
 Mobile: 0323-9452311

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
FATA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (SDU)
 Planning & Development Department, civil secretariat, Peshawar, KP
 Office: Erstwhile FATA Secretariat, Warsak Road, Phone No.9222718 Email:pmufipdp@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Reference to the advertisement published vide INF(P) 2194/24, in daily newspapers of DAWN, AAJ, JIHAD, The Frontier Post and Daily Express, dated 27-08-2024 and on official websites of KPPRA/P&D Department, the same is amended/corrected as follows.

- The bid submission date may be read as **20-09-2024** at 1430hrs instead of **18-09-2024** and will be open on same day at **1500hrs** due to extension requested by the proposed bidders in the Pre-bid meeting.
- All others terms and conditions remain the same.

PROJECT DIRECTOR
 PMU-FIP
 INF (P) 2373/24

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)
CORRIGENDUM

SITUATION VACANT NOTICE NO. 12/2024

1. Reference is made to the Situation Vacant Notice No. 12/2024 published in Newspapers dated: 8th September, 2024
 2. Please amend to read the details regarding selection criteria of the following posts as under:

Post	No. of Position	Prescribed Qualification & Experience	Quota & Pay Scale	Age Limit
Sr. Deputy Director Airworthiness (Avionics) (EG-04)	Two (02)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelors in Avionics Engineering from HEC recognized university with at least 2nd Division Must have valid PEC Registration Valid PCAA AML Holder Five (05) Year Airworthiness Management Experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merit-02 Lump sum Pay: 286,300/- per month (negotiable) with 5% annual increment Contract: 03 years (Extendable) 	• 40 years (including all age relaxations)
Sr. Deputy Director Airworthiness (Aerospace) (EG-04)	Two (02)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelors in Aerospace Engineering from HEC recognized university with at least 2nd Division Must have valid PEC Registration Valid PCAA AML Holder Five (05) Years Airworthiness Management Experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merit-02 Lump sum Pay: 286,300/- per month (negotiable) with 5% annual increment Contract: 03 years (Extendable) 	• 40 years (including all age relaxations)

ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR HUMAN RESOURCES
 HEADQUARTERS PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY,
 B-6, KDA SCHEME-1 KARSANZ
 KARACHI
 Tel: 021-32521367 (Ext:3118)

PID-K 683/24 **www.caapakistan.com.pk**

PAKISTAN AIRPORTS AUTHORITY
 پاکستان ایئرپورٹ اتھارٹی

TENDER NOTICE

1. Applications are invited for tenders in sealed cover by Pakistan Airports Authority duly supported with documentary evidence from contractors having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Category C-6 or above for the work mentioned below:

Name of Work	Tender Fee	Earnest Money	Tender opening date & Time
PATCH REPAIR WORK ON LOOP TAXIWAY 'J & H' LINK AT BKIP PESHAWAR	Rs. 3000/-	Rs.140,000/-	26-09-2024 at 11:30 hours in under mentioned office

2. Bidding document, for above mentioned work will be issued to those contractors / firms having valid PEC certificate in category C-6 or above with specialization code CE-01.
 3. The bidding process shall be based as per PPRA Single Stage-Single Envelop bidding procedure.
 4. The firm shall have valid registration with FBR having active NTN certificate. The firm shall also submit declaration as sole proprietor / partnership deed and copy of CNIC of owner (s) / proprietor.
 5. Submit Professional Tax Clearance Certificate or undertaking on non-judicial stamp paper.
 6. Firm shall have prior experience of works in security restricted areas of airport / airbase and have experience of successful execution of airside pavement work.
 7. Tender documents shall only be issued to authorized representative of the contractor / firm / company having valid and genuine proof of authorization of the firm / company which he represents against a written application on letterhead of firm.
 8. Tender documents will not be issued to those firms / contractors whose past performance with PCAA at any airport / location is found unsatisfactory or currently under litigation / debarring / blacklisting process with PCAA.
 9. Tenders will be received in the office of the **DIVISIONAL ENGINEER ES (CIVIL) BKIP PESHAWAR ON 26-09-2024 AT 11.00 A.M AND WILL BE OPENED ON THE SAME DAY AT 11.30 A.M.**
 10. Earnest money amounting to **Rs.140,000/- (One Hundred and Forty Thousand)** shall be deposited in the shape of Call Deposit / Bank Draft prepared in favour of Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority.
 11. Tenders can be purchased from the office of the undersigned on payment of prescribed tender Fee (Non-refundable) as mentioned against above work.
 12. No tender document shall be issued by post or on the opening date of tenders.
 13. The authority may reject all the tenders as per PPRA rule in vogue.
 14. Tenders are also available at PPRA Website www.ppra.org.pk and CAA Website www.caapakistan.com.pk.
 15. **"WARNING"** Pay orders / Bank Drafts or any other financial instruments to be submitted by Bidders and Contractors as Tender Cost, Earnest money / Bid Security and Bank Guarantees, if found fake or dishonoured by issuing bank / financial institution at any pre / post contract stage of the case, would call for blacklisting and legal action as per law of the land."

DIVISIONAL ENGINEER ES (CIVIL)
BKIP PESHAWAR

PID K.793/24



PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister Faisal Khan Tarakai addressing a seminar on International Literacy Day at a local school.

PHC seeks report on blockage of citizen’s passport

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) has sought a response from the Director General of Passports, Director General of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and NADRA regarding a petition filed against the blocking of a passport of a resident of Hangu, on Tuesday.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Sabzada Asadullah heard the petition filed by Muhammad Irfan. The counsel Rahman Ullah Shah informed the court that the petitioner is a resident of Hangu and was working as a geologist in Dubai. On April 4, 2024, during his visit to Pakistan, the FIA seized his passport and claimed that the person who traveled on the previously issued passport in his name was arrested in Saudi Arabia.

The lawyer argued that all investigations in this regard have been completed, and it has been established that the petitioner has no connection with the matter. He stated that the passport was issued due to a mistake by the passport department, and the FIA is investigating the matter. However, due to the blocking of his passport, the petitioner has lost his job despite holding a good position.

The lawyer further argued that if the passport was issued, it was not done by the petitioner but by the passport office. Therefore, he cannot be punished for this mistake.

He requested the court to direct the authorities to issue a passport to the petitioner for traveling abroad.

The lawyer also informed the court that the federal government has established an inquiry committee for such cases, which is still inactive, affecting thousands of people. The court directed the federal government to submit its response in this regard and sought a detailed report. The hearing was adjourned till 16th October.

CM asked to apologize for using derogatory language

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, President of the Pakistan Peoples Party Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, condemned Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's statement against journalists, calling it highly irresponsible and inappropriate. Gandapur leveled serious allegations against journalists and threatened them, which is unbearable.

Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha criticized Gandapur's use of derogatory language and threats against journalists during a public gathering.

He said Gandapur's behavior was unacceptable and that his mental health seems to be unstable.

Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha emphasized that journalists in Pakistan face extremely challenging conditions while performing their duties. Despite facing pressure and restrictions, they should not be spoken to in such a manner.

He added that irresponsible statements by political leaders provoke their party workers, putting the lives and property of media workers at risk.

CPU inaugurated to promote children rights

PESHAWAR (APP) In a significant step towards ensuring the protection and welfare of children in the Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has inaugurated a Child Protection Unit (CPU) in District Khyber.

The aim of the unit is to safeguard and promote the rights of children, providing prevention and response to cases of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony was Additional Secretary Social Welfare Department KP, Muhammad Farooq.

He said that the establishment of this CPU reflected the government's strong commitment to ensuring the protection of children at risk and fostering a safer environment for the most vulnerable members of society.

He appreciated the Department of Social Welfare for the successful inauguration of the Child Protection Units Khyber.

The establishment of CPU is a direct response to this persistent need he said adding that children face various forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in society and it was joint responsibility of all to build stronger systems to protect them from all forms of abuse and exploitation.

This unit would focus on identifying, preventing, and responding to child at risk, ensuring their fundamental rights to life, development, participation, and protection, he noted.

Muhammad Farooq also stressed the importance of collective action in addressing the complex challenges of child abuse, violence, exploitation, and neglect.

He urged all relevant line departments to closely collaborate with the CPU Khyber and emphasized the significance of building strong partnerships with parents and communities to create a protective environment for children.

He thanked UNICEF, especially Sohail Ahmad Child Protection Specialist for his continuous technical and financial support for the Child Protection in MDs, and hoped this partnership would continue in future.

He assured to provide every possible support on behalf of the Government to protect child rights.

In his remarks by the Deputy Commissioner Khyber Sana Ullah Khan, added that the establishment of CPU was a direct response to protect needs of child at risk.

ASJ convicts murderer involved in honor killing

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Shaukat Ali has sentenced the murderer named Sabir for double lifetime imprisonment and imposed fine of Rs1.2 million for killing his sister-in-law along with her beloved in the name of honor. Deputy Public Prosecutor Zulfiqar Ali and Assistant Public Prosecutor Asim argued the case before court. During the trial, the public prosecutors argued that the absconding accused, Anayat and Nabi Rehman, including the husband of the deceased, had shot and killed the victims in the name of honor. A First Information Report FIR was registered at Bara Police Station under sections 302, 311, and 34 on May 24, 2022. ASJ court completed the trial and sentenced the accused to 50 years imprisonment and a fine of 1.2 million rupees for the double murder.

Meanwhile, the prosecution has proved the guilt of accused Sabir beyond any shadow of doubts and this court found the accuse guilty, therefore, the accused is hereby convicted on two counts. The normal penalty for the offence of Qatl-e-Amad is death, however, in the instant case three accused are charged on the deceased which is fully proved that resulted in the death of deceased and it could not be ascertained that whose fire was fatal, therefore, major penalty of death is avoided, the verdict stated.

‘Illegal occupation of govt land’ FIR registered against FIA court judge, says Special Assistant to CM

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: FIR has been registered against Special Judge FIA Court Islamabad Humayun Dilawar, his brother Sadiq Dilawar, father Dilawar Khan and Registrar Taj Mali Khan for illegal occupation of government land, anti-corruption has also obtained an arrest warrant from the court.

In a video message released from his office, Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Anti-Corruption Mossadeq Abbasi has said in details that an FIR registered against Special Judge FIA Islamabad Humayun Dilawar, his brother Sadiq Dilawar, father Dilawar Khan and Registrar Taj Mali Khan for illegal occupation of government land in Bannu district. It is said that in 1976, Dilawar Khan made a case against Ghulam Asad alias Kala that I have possession of the said land, so this land should be transferred to his name.

This land is also called Shamilat / Mazi. While under Section Three of the River Protection Act, no one make any kind of construction up to 200 feet from boundary of river.

He further said that they were allowed to use this land for farming only. In 1980, the court passed the order and this 176 kanal land was transferred to Dilawar Khan.

On January 24, 2023, during the caretaker government, Dilawar Khan made his two sons, Humayun Dilawar and Sadiq Dilawar witness and made a fake entry in the degree in decision, and transferred three additional mugza, which are 39 kanals, in his name.

These are 199 kanals and 16 marles of land, which have been made part of a private housing society. The value of which is around one and a half billion.

Mossadeq Abbasi further said that we are also taking action against the issuing of NOC which has been given because the public at large has been Cheated.

The authorities should not have given NOC as this society is on Shamalti land. An FIR has been registered in this regard. While arrest warrants have been obtained for the accused.

Mossadeq Abbasi further said that we will send a copy of the FIR and related documents to Chief Justice Islamabad High Court and Registrar Islamabad High Court that the senior judge is involved in fraud. We will take the case to the Supreme Judicial Council to identify persons who are sitting in such high positions. Full action will be taken against them so that they are punished

Physiotherapy part and parcel of modern medical science: Dr. Syed

PESHAWAR (APP): In order to mark the World Physiotherapy Day, the College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (CPMR) on Tuesday organized one day seminar at Paraplegic Center Peshawar (PCP) focusing on the theme of low back pain management.

The seminar, held at CPMR Hall, was attended by senior physiotherapists, faculty members, staff and large number of physiotherapy students.

Dr. Syed Muhammad Ilyas Chief Executive PCP, addressed as chief guest wherein he asserted that physiotherapy is essential component of modern medical sciences, enabling millions of physically disabled individuals to recover without the use of medicine. He stressed that many people suffering from spinal cord injuries and various forms of back pain can only find relief through physiotherapy, rather than relying on drugs. Dr. Ilyas also pointed out that without proper treatment, these individuals would otherwise remain a burden on their families and society.

Dr. Amir Zeb, Director Rehabilitation, emphasized that 619 million people worldwide suffer from back pain, significantly reducing national productivity. He noted with concern that this issue is increasingly becoming a major concern, particularly in developing countries like Pakistan.

Dr. Muhammad Ilyas and Dr. Amir Zeb urged the students to focus on mastering all aspects of physiotherapy, pursuing research and harnessing their creative potential to advance this vital field, in line with the goals of World Physical Therapy Day.

Earlier, senior physiotherapist Dr. Rafiq Bacha of Special Education Complex Hayatabad presented his research paper, offering practical demonstrations on the rehabilitation of patients with various back pain issues.

Students of CPMR presented a thought provoking tableau, highlighting the importance of physiotherapy and preventing back pain. The tableau underscored the need to avoid taking physically disabled individuals to false faith healers or quacks, but instead bring them to the Paraplegic Center for proper rehabilitation.

Govt decides to start awareness campaign against dengue

PESHAWAR (APP): The meeting was attended by concerned officials and stakeholders. The meeting decided to launch an awareness campaign in the city to orient population about dengue prevention measures.

Participants also decided strategy to visit every household in the city and inform residents about the precautionary measures to control dengue.

It was decided that local population would be invited to support activities of social welfare department against dengue.

Afterwards, teams of population welfare visited various localities of the city to inform people about measures needed stop larvae breeding of dengue mosquito.

Governor chairs BoGs meeting of Edwards College

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Tuesday presided over the 14th Board of Governors meeting of Edwards College at the Governor House.

The Governor expressed dissatisfaction with the unnecessary delay in the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, saying that stringent action would be taken in case of further delays in the preparation and approval of minutes from past meetings.

The meeting included a detailed review of the progress on the decisions taken during the last Board of Governors meeting.

A proposal was presented to reduce unnecessary expenses and increase the number of scholarships for students. Under the proposal, 14 students from merged districts will receive 100 percent scholarships.

Additionally, the proposal included five scholarships for disabled students, three for Hafiz-e-Quran students, and three for transgender students.

The discussion also covered the appointment of a permanent Principal for the college.

The Governor emphasized that relevant rules and procedures should be reviewed for this appointment. Governor Kundi directed that a proposal be prepared for establishing branches of Edwards College in Abbottabad and Dera Ismail Khan.

He also announced plans to hold a meeting with students and faculty to gather suggestions for the overall improvement of the college.

The Governor instructed to expedite work on meeting minutes and other related matters.

Special guests at the meeting included CEO of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute Shakil Durrani and renowned educationist Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Bishop Peshawar Sarfraz Humphrey Peter, Commissioner Peshawar Division Riaz Mehsud, Principal Edwards College Professor Shujaat Ali, Director Higher Education Department Dr. Faridullah Shah, representatives from the Higher Education Department and Finance Department, and other board members participated.

Remembering Rahimullah Yusufzai - II

Riaz Yusufzai

SENIOR Taliban leaders believed that the fatwa was not issued in Afghanistan but in London some time ago. Where Bin Laden took refuge after leaving Sudan almost two years ago. In this article, Afghanistan's refusal to extradite Osama bin Laden to the US, bin Laden's family background, his criticism of Shah Fahd and his family, the US Embassy in Islamabad and Peshawar, Lahore and the US Embassy in Islamabad after his alleged fatwa. Increasing the security of American consulates in Karachi, unconfirmed (reports) about the arrival of American commandos in Pakistan, returning to Afghanistan with fighters from different Arab countries on May 18, 1996 after a long stay of five and a half years in Sudan.

Jalal Interviews with CNN near Abad and bin Laden with his three wives and children under the protection of his own men and a Mujahideen commander near Jafarabad have been briefly highlighted.

Similarly, in an article titled "OPTING FOR TRADITIONS" published in The News International in August 1998, Rahimullah Yusufzai writes that by refusing to hand over Osama bin Laden to the US government, the Taliban are following an old Afghan and Pashtun code, which says that you should not refuse shelter to someone who seeks your protection. There are countless stories in history of how Pashtuns sacrificed their lives or suffered loss of life and property just because they refused to hand over their guest to others. He writes that in recent times, a tribal elder in the Mohmand Agency of the (then) Frontier Province agreed to suffer demolition of his fort-like house by the government rather than of handing over a wanted person to the then Governor Fazal Haq. Even the power of a martial law administrator could not force him to abandon a man who had sought his "Nanwate" (protection). Similarly, several examples are presented in this article. He writes that the Taliban are also unwilling to give bin Laden a free hand and allow him to use Afghan soil for his political and military operations. Mullah Muhammad Umar explained to Bin Laden and Bin Laden obeyed what Mullah Umar said. At the end of the article, the author writes that bin Laden had become a liability that Mullah Umar could not wish away as it would be against Afghan traditions to refuse protection to someone who has knocked at your door.

In another issue of The News International, in his article entitled "A CRUISE TO DEATH", Rahimullah Yusufzai talked about the cruise missiles launched by the US to target Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan and the US missile technology and weapons in detail. These missiles were fired at terrorist training camps in Afghanistan's Khost province. Pakistan's airspace was used for it. The opposition, especially the religious and political forces, raised hue and cry against the Nawaz Sharif government. These missiles were allegedly fired from the US ships in the Arabian Sea from Pakistan. About 75 missiles were fired from Red Navy patrol ships that night, simultaneously hitting targets 2,500 miles away in Afghanistan and Sudan. Most of the cruise missiles, 52 in Khost, some in Nangarhar and at least one in the Balochistan desert in Pakistan, were fired at targets in Afghanistan. While six to seven were allegedly fired in the Sudanese capital. In this article, he has quoted the eyewitnesses who saw the cruise missile being fired and the names of those who were injured. He goes on to write that there are jokes about cruise missiles in the US about how they can fly over traffic lights, and can turn left or right after being on each side. The Tomahawk cruise missiles, 18 feet long and costing nearly about \$1 million each, can carry 1000 pounds of explosives. Fly 700 to 1000 miles and with sophisticated satellite guidance can hit its targets with remarkable precision. They were developed in the 1980s. He writes that Osama and his close lieutenants have abandoned the place much before the attack. So they survived but the US definitely showed how accurate and advanced US missile technology weapons they have.

In an article published in The News in September 1998, "THE CULT HERO IS BORN", he writes, "In an Islamic world desperately shot of genuine heroes," Osama Bin Laden has emerged as a new cult figure. On August 20, after the successive attacks on suspected terrorist hideouts in Afghanistan and Sudan, angry protesters in the United States described him as "the beloved of God" in Palestine, Osama "the lion" in Pakistan, and as the "soldier of Islam", in Afghanistan. Speakers in the protest rally in Afghanistan also said that Osama means lion in Arabic. Many declared that Osama is a lion had come out of his cage to devour the enemies of Islam. He goes on to write that 42-year-old bin Laden has now become a household name. A decade ago, he was a quiet and shy man who found solace in helping Afghan mujahideen, widows and orphans. Bin Laden was among the thousands of volunteers who travelled to Afghanistan via Pakistan to fight against the Russian invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979, receive military training, and do humanitarian work. After the attacks, strong pressure was put on Mullah Omar to expel Osama bin Laden from Afghanistan, but being a Pakhtun and a religious person, he completely rejected this demand of America and now Osama bin Laden emerged as a new Muslim hero.

In an article published in The News International on October 13, 1998 entitled "BIN LADEN EXPLOITS", Rahimullah Yusufzai writes that politicians, police and intelligence agencies around the world used Osama bin Laden to cover up their failures and shortcomings. They have found a scapegoat and exonerate themselves by blaming him for all the evil and has covered in great detail the alleged involvement in the bombings of US embassies in Tanzania and other incidents in this article. He wrote Bin Laden may or may not be involved in all bombings but one reason why he has landed himself in trouble because he talk big. Likewise, in a November 1998 article published in the News under the title "MISSION GET OSAMA", he writes that the United States has in the past been successful in capturing individuals it considered most wanted and For this purpose, they used to set a reward of million dollars.

Continued



In brief

Four killed in road mishap F.P. Report

SHANGLA: Four persons were killed and two injured when a passenger jeep plunged into deep ravine near Leko Kamar area Tehsil Chakaisar, Shangla. According to police, passenger jeep that was en route to Chakaisar from Kazang village fell into ravine. The jeep crumbled and ripped into three pieces before reaching depth of gorge. Four persons including Jamshaid Ali, Imran, Izat Sayed and Umar Farroq were killed in the incident and two sustained injuries. Rescue teams recovered the bodies and shifted injured to nearby hospital for treatment. Meanwhile, locals have urged authorities to repair dilapidated roads of the area where traffic incidents happened frequently.

Action against illegal pesticides F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to the vision of Punjab Chief Minister actions are being taken against those who sale fake, substandard and illegal pesticides medicines, on Tuesday. According to the details, Director Agriculture Pest Warning Faisalabad Asrar Arshad, while talking to The Frontier Post said that our teams are working in the field on a daily basis across the division and the vendors selling fake, substandard and illegal pesticides medicines. He further said that 3000 kg and 475 liters of substandard and illegal pesticides worth more than 50 Lak rupees have been exported across the division and 28 FIRs have been registered against them in different police stations. Director Agriculture Pest Warning said that we are trying to get such dealers and Vendors who sell fake, substandard and illegal pesticides Medicines are not entitled to any exemption. In the end, he said that our teams will continue operations.

Two crushed to death

RAJANPUR (INP): Two including mother and son were crushed by an over speeding trailer while another youth were critically injured in the accident here on Tuesday. According to details, a reckless driven trailer ran over a motorcycle carrying three people at Indus Highway in Rohjan area of Rajanpura. As a result of accident, motorcycle riding mother and son died on the spot while a youth was critically injured. Trailer driver escaped the scene. Police and rescue teams reached the scene, shifted the bodies and injured to hospital. The police impounded the trailer and after registering a case against driver at large started raids for his arrest.

Arrangements reviewed

BAHAWALPUR (INP): Held under the chair of Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa, a meeting of the administration was held here on Tuesday to the review arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH). The meeting was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sumera Rabbani, Assistant Commissioner Bahawalpur City Dr. Sana Ramchand, and members of the District Peace Committee. Speaking on the occasion, DC Zaheer Jappa said that the cleaning of procession routes, removal of encroachments, and other necessary matters should be completed on time.



SWABI: Religious scholar, Sheikhul Quran, Maulana Tayyab Tahiri presenting shield to KP CM Adviser for Information, Barrister Saif during his visit to Darul Quran Panjpir.

Murder of teacher police negligence: APTA

F.P. Report

BUNER: A protest was held against the brutal murder of a female school teacher, with protesters demanding the immediate arrest of the culprits and action against the relevant police officers. The protesters also demanded that the deceased teacher be awarded a presidential award.

The protest was held outside the Totalai police station, where teachers, students, and government employees gathered in large numbers. The protesters condemned the murder and criticized the police for their failure to provide protection to the teacher, who had approached them three

years ago for help.

Speakers at the protest, including Syed Mairaj Ali Shah, Secretary-General of the All Primary School Teachers Association, and others, strongly condemned the incident and demanded that the government take immediate action against the culprits. They pointed out that the main accused had fled abroad and demanded that he be brought back to Pakistan and punished.

The speakers also recalled that the deceased teacher, Nargis, had approached the District Police Officer and SHO Totalai three years ago for protection, but the

police had failed to provide her with adequate security.

The protesters demanded that the Inspector General of Police act against the police officers involved in the case, including the District Police Officer and SHO Totlaei. They also demanded that the government award the deceased teacher a presidential award for her bravery in resisting her abduction and forced marriage. The Assistant Commissioner of Khadokhel Tehsil, who was present at the protest, also condemned the murder and assured the protesters that the culprits would be arrested soon.

Jealous brother kills younger sibling F.P. Report

SWABI: The police in Swabi district on Tuesday arrested a 17-year-old boy who killed his 12-year-old younger brother in jealousy-- within a few hours of the brutal crime.

Topi police said the body of a 12-year-old boy, identified as Muhammad Kashif, was found in bushes near his home in the Zarobi area. The body had strangulation marks on the neck and the killer had left no clues to avert tracing.

Police said DPO Swabi while taking a strong notice of the incident directed DSP Topi, Hassan Khan and SHO Haroon Khan to trace the killer at all cost and bring him before the court of law. SHO Haroon Khan, Additional SHO Saidul Amin Khan and their team thoroughly inspected the crime scene and CCTV footage of the area and arrested the elder brother of the deceased named Anas, son of Fazal Rohan on suspension.

During investigation Anas confessed to killing his younger brother, saying that his parents used to love Kashif more than him and he was jealous of this situation. He told the police that he took his younger brother to the nearby buses and strangled him with nylon rope. Topi police, after registering a case against him, started further investigation.

TMA announces pen down strike F.P. Report

MARDAN: Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Rustam employees announced a pen-down strike in response to a citizen's misconduct and interference in official work. During the collection of service tax, TMA staff were verbally abused by a citizen. They declared that the strike and protest would continue until legal action is taken.

A FIR was lodged at Chora Police Station against the citizen on the complaint of TMO Rustam. The incident occurred in the Spenkai area of Rustam, where a citizen behaved inappropriately with the TMA staff while they were collecting service tax approved by the provincial government and the Tehsil Council Rustam.

The citizen not only abused the staff but also discouraged others from paying the service tax. In response, TMO Rustam Pir Azam filed a case against the citizen for obstructing official work and preventing others from paying the tax.

Following this, TMA staff announced a pen-down strike and also stopped cleaning streets and markets. In solidarity, all members of the Tehsil Council Rustam supported the strike. Due to the strike, the sanitation system in the entire Tehsil has been disrupted, causing significant inconvenience to the residents. TMA staff stated that the strike will continue until legal proceedings against the citizen are completed.

Eleven dengue fever cases reported in Dir

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The health authorities during a meeting held here informed the district administration that so far 11 cases of Dengue fever had been reported in the Lower Dir district. A meeting in this regard was chaired by deputy commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan and attended by ADC Bashir Khan, district health officer Dr Wali Khan, medical superintendent of the DHQ hospital Timergara Dr Ali Asghar, district entomologist Abdul Waris, representatives of local government and other government departments.

The meeting was informed that a separate isolated ward had been set

up for dengue patients at the DHQ hospital Timergara. The DC directed the stakeholders to launch a special campaign against dengue fever through print, electronic and social media platforms. The official also asked the prayers' leaders and khaatebs to play their active role in making the people aware of the dangers and precautionary measures regarding the dengue fever.

School building: The parents and area elders of the Banda Talash village on Tuesday complained that the building of the government high school in their area was demolished two years ago but work was yet to start on it. Talking to local journalists at Talash,

they said that hundreds of the students at GHS Banda Talash were forced to get education without building. They said the old building was demolished two years ago for reconstruction. The elders said the concerned contractor stopped work on the building due to unavailability of funds for the project. They pointed out that several meetings in this regard had been held with the high up of the education department and district administration but to no avail. The area elders demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and the minister for elementary and secondary education to take notice of the issue and resolve it soon before the start of winter.

Implementation of Jirga decisions to be ensured

F.P. Report

KOHAT: In order to ensure implementation on the decisions of the Grand Tribal Jirga held under the headship of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur at Peshawar, an important meeting was convened with Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram in the chair on Tuesday.

The meeting beside others was also attended by the officers of district administration and heads of the line departments. The meeting thoroughly debated upon the strategy on implement-

ing the decisions of the Grand Tribal Jirga in Tribal Sub Division Darra Adam Khel of Kohat district and certain decisions were taken on this occasion. The heads of each department briefed about the ongoing and proposed projects apart from its future strategy.

The Deputy Commissioner gave clear instructions that every department and institution should prepare a viable and workable action plan for the development of the merged areas in line with the vision of the Chief Minister so that their backwardness can be removed in real terms.

Chief Minister in this regard.

The Deputy Commissioner made it clear that no negligence or laxity will be tolerated on the implementation of the decisions of the Grand Tribal Jirga and it will be implemented in letter and spirit at all costs. He directed that every department and institution should prepare a viable and workable action plan for the development of the merged areas in line with the vision of the Chief Minister so that their backwardness can be removed in real terms.

Tribesmen condemns new surge in terrorism

F.P. Report

WANA: A surge in unrest in South Waziristan's Lower region has left local communities in fear, with recent threats targeting Maulana Zeenat Ullah, head of the Bahar-ul-Uloom Madrasa in Karez Kot Gangi Khel, intensifying concerns.

According to family sources, Maulana Zeenat Ullah, who had gone to the mountains to oversee his personal pine nut harvest, has been at the center of a troubling series of threats. During his absence, unknown individuals reportedly harassed his

family and children. This isn't the first time the cleric has faced such intimidation.

The family, claiming no personal enmity, is baffled by the continuous harassment. They report frequent sightings of a vehicle with tinted windows loitering near their home at various times of the day and night.

In one incident, the unknown assailants allegedly questioned the children about Maulana Zeenat Ullah's whereabouts, and when the children refused to provide information, they were subjected to physical abuse. Maulana Zeenat Ullah,

well-regarded for his religious and community leadership, not only heads the madrasa but also delivers Friday sermons advocating for peace and societal reform. He is closely related to prominent local religious figures, Maulana Asam u Din and Shakirollah.

The residents of Karez Kot Gangi Khel have now urged local authorities and security forces to take immediate action. They are calling for a crackdown on those responsible for creating the unrest and a swift resolution to ensure the safety of the community.



MINGORA: KP Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Cooperative, Fazal Hakeem inaugurating clinical laboratory at Saidu Sharif hospital.

First aid week: Rescue 1122 holds awareness rally

F.P. Report

MULTAN: In observance of global first aid week, Rescue 1122 Multan on Tuesday held an awareness rally led by District Emergency Officer Dr. Hussain Mian. Aimed to highlight the importance of first aid in saving lives during emergencies, the rally was participated by Rescue personnel, volunteers, and local citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Hussain Mian stated the need for everyone to acquire basic first aid training. "Every individual in society must be equipped with first aid knowledge, as it enables us to save lives during emergencies, whether at home, while traveling, or in the work-

place. A trained first aider can make a critical difference in life-threatening situations," he stated.

Rescue 1122 Multan has provided first aid and life-saving training to more than 1,110 individuals so far in 2024. These trained citizens can now play a crucial role in assisting injured persons during emergencies, potentially saving lives before professional help arrives. In addition, Rescue 1122 has offered on-site first aid to 77,875 injured persons this year, significantly reducing the risk of fatalities.

Emergency Officer Operations, Muhammad Bilal, also stressed the importance of first aid training in society. "It is the responsibility of our community to ensure that indi-

viduals are trained in emergency first aid. By doing so, trained locals can assist before formal rescue teams arrive, so reducing the severity of accidents and emergencies," he said.

Rescue 1122 Multan continues its mission to train various institutions in first aid, with the goal of creating a safer society. Participants in the rally included Control Room In-Charge Mudassir Zia, Station In-Charges, members of civil society, and Rescue Volunteers. Awareness pamphlets were distributed to the public at the end of the event. Rescue 1122 remains committed to building a safe and informed society through continuous training and public engagement, the participants shared their views.



UN chief calls destruction, deaths in Gaza the worst

UNITED NATIONS (AP): The UN chief said that the United Nations has offered to monitor any cease-fire in Gaza and demanded an end to the worst death and destruction he has seen in his more than seven-year tenure.

Secretary-General António Guterres said in an interview with The Associated Press that it's "unrealistic" to think the UN could play a role in Gaza's future, either by administering the territory or providing a peacekeeping force, because Israel is unlikely to accept a UN role. But he said "the UN will be available to support any cease-fire." The United Nations has had a military monitoring mission in the Middle East, known as UNTSO, since 1948, and "from our side, this was one of the hypotheses that we've put on the table," he said.

"Of course, we'll be ready to do whatever the international community asked for us," Guterres said. "The question is whether the parties would accept it, and in particular whether Israel would accept it." Israel's military assault on Gaza, triggered by Hamas' attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, has stretched for 11 months, with recent cease-fire talks failing to reach a breakthrough and violence in the West Bank reaching new highs.

Stressing the urgency of a cease-fire now, Guterres said: "The level of suffering we are witnessing in Gaza is unprecedented in my mandate as secretary-general of the United Nations. I've never seen such a level of death and destruction as we are seeing in Gaza in the last few months." The war has killed over 40,900 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry, part of Gaza's Hamas government, does not differentiate between fighters and civilians in its count though it says about half of the dead have been women and children. Israel says at least 17,000 militants are among the dead. The war has caused vast destruction and displaced around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people, often multiple times.

Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon reacted to Guterres' comments saying, "It is disappointing to see the UN advocate for a cease-fire without mentioning the hostages and without condemning Hamas." "A cease-fire cannot - and will not - take place so long as our remaining hostages taken from us on Oct. 7 remain in captivity in Gaza," he said in a statement. "I urge the UN Security Council to urgently convene and condemn Hamas in the strongest possible terms and demand the release of all 101 hostages in Gaza." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government have accused the UN of being anti-Israel and have been



highly critical of UN humanitarian operations in Gaza, including accusing UN workers of collaborating with Hamas. He also has voiced skepticism about peacekeeping missions, saying only Israel can protect itself.

Facing protests at home and increasing urgency from allies, Netanyahu has pushed back against pressure for a cease-fire deal and declared that "no one will preach to me." Looking beyond an agreement, Guterres stressed that a two-state solution to the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not only viable, "it's the only solution." The United States and others support Palestinian statehood in lands captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, but Netanyahu, who is leading the most conservative government in Israel's history, has opposed calls for a two-state solution.

Guterres asked rhetorically whether the alternative is viable. "It means that you have 5 million Palestinians living there without any rights in a state," he said. "Is it possible? Can we accept an idea similar to what we had in South Africa in the past?" He was referring to South Africa's apartheid system from 1948 until the early 1990s when its minority white population marginalized and segregated people of color, especially Black people. "I do not think you can have two peoples living together if they are not in a basis of equality, and if they are not in a basis of respect - mutual respect of their rights," Guterres said. "So the two-state solution is, in my opinion, a must if we want to have peace in the Middle East."

The Palestinians have circulated a draft UN resolution demanding that Israel end its "unlawful presence" in Gaza and the West Bank within six

months. The proposed General Assembly resolution follows a ruling by the top United Nations court in July that said Israel's presence in the Palestinian territories is unlawful and must end. In the wide-ranging interview, the UN chief painted a grim global picture, saying, "Our world is in total disarray - I would say in total chaos." Conflicts are spreading and the most dramatic ones like Ukraine and Gaza have no end in sight, he said. Climate change is having devastating effects and artificial intelligence is developing without serious guardrails. At the same time, Guterres said, "we see dramatic inequalities" and developing countries struggling, many submerged in debt and without resources to educate their children and or provide basic infrastructure.

The secretary-general has invited world leaders to a summit in the days before their annual high-level meeting at the UN General Assembly later this month to recommit to working together to meet those challenges and reform multilateral institutions established after World War II, including the UN. Guterres said Ukraine's recent incursion into Russia's Kursk region shows that the war, now in its third year, will not end quickly or easily. "The situation in Ukraine is stuck, and I do not see a cease-fire in the immediate future," he said. The secretary-general also said UN humanitarian operations are in crisis because needs have increased dramatically "with the proliferation of conflicts, proliferation of natural disasters, with climate change moving fast." But funding has not. Unfortunately, the priorities of the world's leaders "do not correspond to the real needs of humankind at the present moment," he said.

Putin not interested in Western media interviews

MOSCOW (Reuters): President Vladimir Putin is not currently interested in granting an interview to Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who was freed from Russian prison last month, nor with any other Western media outlets, the Kremlin said.

Gershkovich, who was convicted in Russia of espionage charges which he, his newspaper, and Washington strongly denied, asked the Kremlin leader for an interview as he was being released in a major East-West prisoner swap on Aug. 1, the Wall Street Journal reported. Asked if there was an answer to Gershkovich's request, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "So far, we are not interested in such an interview."

"In order for there to be an interview with foreign media, and a specific one at that, we need to have an occasion. So far we don't see such an occasion." Many Western journalists have quit Russia since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Gershkovich, who was based outside Russia but continued to travel to the country, was arrested in March 2023 in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg while on a reporting trip.

Poland neutralises sabotage group

WARSAW (Reuters): Polish security services have neutralised a sabotage operation orchestrated by Russia and Belarus that aimed to destabilise Poland, Deputy Prime Minister Krzysztof Gawkowski said. Warsaw has repeatedly accused Moscow of attempting to destabilise Poland because of its role in supplying military aid to its neighbour Ukraine, allegations Russia has dismissed.

Saboteurs, operating from Belarus in cooperation with Russia, penetrated local and central government institutions, including state-owned companies implementing military contracts, he said. "The Belarusian and Russian foreign services... had a specific goal - to extort information, to blackmail individuals and institutions and to wage a de facto cyberwar," said Gawkowski, who is also minister for digital affairs. He said the operational goal, to steal data for blackmail purposes, had been thwarted. Gawkowski says cyberattacks have doubled since last year, targeting Polish organisations and institutions, including logistics companies that run military deliveries to Ukraine. "In cyberspace, dangers come every hour, every minute. It often happens that there are over a thousand incidents in a day," said Gawkowski, who in June said Poland had blocked several cyberattacks on its critical infrastructure. Poland has also linked Russia to incidents of sabotage and arson on its soil and says Russian secret services are actively trying to gather information on weapons deliveries to Ukraine after Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Turkey heads to AL meeting

ANKARA (Reuters): Turkey will discuss the Gaza war and ties with the Arab League when its foreign minister attends a ministerial meeting of the group in Cairo for the first time in 13 years, a Turkish diplomatic source said. Turkey, which has condemned Israel for its war against the Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza and joined steps towards Israel facing genocide charges at the World Court, has had rocky ties with the Arab League in recent years.

While it has mended long-strained ties with Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, Ankara remains at odds with other Arab League members including Syria. After the war in Gaza started, Turkey joined a joint contact group formed at a summit of the Arab League and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to seek an end to the war.

EU buys too much defense equipment abroad

BRUSSELS (AP): European Union countries are buying too much of their defense equipment abroad, almost two thirds of it in the United States, and failing to invest enough in joint military projects, a landmark report on EU competitiveness warned.

The 27 member states are also failing to make best use of Europe's research and development capacities to modernize their armed forces, with just a fraction the level of US investment, said the report by former Italian prime minister and European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi. The report comes as the EU continues to struggle to find enough weapons and ammunition to help Ukraine survive the full-scale Russian invasion, now in its third year, and to kickstart Europe's defense industry.

"Europe is wasting its common resources. We have large collective spending power, but we dilute it across multiple different national and EU instruments," said Draghi's report, which has been a year in the making and is likely to fuel an overhaul of the bloc's industrial strategy. Part of the problem, it said, is failing to invest properly in Europe to create stronger defense firms. "We

are still not joining forces in the defense industry to help our companies to integrate and reach scale," it said. The report pointed out that "we also do not favor competitive European defense companies."

The report notes that, between mid-2022 and mid-2023, 63% of all EU defense orders were placed with US companies, and a further 15% with other non-EU suppliers. Last week, the Netherlands joined a list of EU members to order big budget US-made F-35 warplanes. Across the 27 nations in 2022, defense research and development spending amounted to 10.7 billion euros (\$11.8 billion) - just 4.5% of the total - compared with \$140 billion in the United States, or around 16% of all defense spending. NATO allies - almost all of whose members are part of the EU - have been ramping up defense spending since Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014. Their aim is for each country to spend at least 2% of gross domestic product on their national defense budget.

Consecutive US leaders have been exhorting European allies and Canada to spend more on defense

for more than a decade, although former President Donald Trump was the only one to threaten to refuse to defend any country that did not respect the goal. Much of the money goes back to US industry. NATO forecasts that 23 of its 32 members will meet or exceed the 2% target by the end of the year, up from just three countries in 2014. Western defense spending has been further spurred by Russia's fully fledged invasion of Ukraine in 2022. On top of this, NATO allies also want to dedicate at least 20% of their national defense expenditure to major new equipment. That includes funds for research and development, which is crucial for modernizing their armed forces.

The report highlighted the shortcomings of countries investing in their national defense industry rather than joint procurement. When Ukraine appealed for artillery, for example, EU countries supplied 10 types of howitzers. Some use different 155 mm shells, causing logistical headaches. In contrast, the A-330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport plane was developed jointly, and this allowed participating countries to pool resources and share operating and maintenance costs.

A mini Russia emerges in Serbia as many flee war

BELGRADE (Reuters): On a sweltering summer morning in Serbia's capital Belgrade, Vadim Morus, a professional ice skater from Russia, glides across an outdoor rink. Morus is 1,000 miles (1,600 km) from his native Moscow, but is beginning to feel at home. He fled Russia with his fiancée in 2022, part of a wave of tens of thousands who came to Serbia after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It's a long way to come, but many chose Belgrade for its ancient cultural and religious ties to Moscow.

"There are few ice skaters in Serbia who can train others, so I have plenty of Serbian students," Morus, 24, said. Since war began in Ukraine in February 2022, Russians fleeing conflict, conscription or the politics of President Vladimir Putin, have established a vibrant community in Serbia, according to interviews with two dozen immigrants and local officials. While the actual number of Russians in Serbia is smaller than those who have fled to countries such as Germany, their presence is acutely felt in Belgrade, a city of less than two million people.

Russian-owned clubs, kindergartens, and medical

practices have sprung up. Russians buy food in Russian shops. Russian bands, singers and comedians are performing in Russian clubs, and Russian artists showcase their work in Russian-owned galleries. Between February 2022 and mid-2023, more than 30,000 Russians registered for temporary residence in Serbia, the latest interior ministry data show. Officials did not provide data for the comparative period before this but said that the numbers represented a sharp increase. During this influx, Russians established 11,081 businesses across various sectors, from internet-based services to hospitality and sports schools, according to Serbia's business registry.

Viktor, 42, a veterinarian from St. Petersburg, fled Russian mobilisation in the fall of 2022. Without the necessary qualifications to practise in Serbia, he works as a handyman in Belgrade, exclusively serving Russians. "I repair plumbing, electrical installations, windows, and even make furniture. I don't really need Serbian customers," said Viktor, who asked not to be named for fear of his family's safety back in Russia. Relations between Serbia

and Russia date back centuries and remain cordial today, although Serbia is also trying to join the European Union, which condemns Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

After World War I, thousands of so-called White Russians fled the Communists during the civil war to the newly formed Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Still, many struggle to integrate and prefer instead to cling to a mini Russia inside Serbia. Ironically many Serbians support Putin and do not share the views of those who fled. "The call of Russian culture is too strong for Russian emigrants in the first generation to even want to fit into the society in which they found themselves, regardless of whether it is Serbian or Western," said Belgrade-based political scientist Aleksandar Djokic.

Morus the ice skater hesitated to elaborate on his reasons for leaving Russia, but his fiancée Alexandra Mashkanova stepped in. "We left due to ideological reasons. A few days after February 24, we were trying to understand what was happening, and then we decided to leave," she said.

China announces joint naval, air drills with Russia

BEIJING (AP): China's Defense Ministry announced joint naval and air drills with Russia starting this month, underscoring the closeness between their militaries as Russia presses its grinding invasion of Ukraine. The ministry said the "Northern United 2024" exercises would take place in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk farther north, but gave no details. It said the naval and air drills aimed to improve strategic cooperation between the two countries and "strengthen their ability to jointly deal with security threats." The notice also said the two navies would cruise together in the Pacific, the fifth time they have done so, and together take part in Russia's "Great Ocean-24" exercise. No details were given. China has refused to criticize Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, now in its third year, and blamed the US and NATO for provoking President Vladimir Putin. While China has not directly provided Russia with arms, it has become a crucial economic lifeline as a top customer for Russian oil and gas as well as a supplier of electronics and other items with both civilian and military uses. Russia and China, along

with other US critics such as Iran, have aligned their foreign policies to challenge and potentially overturn the Western-led liberal democratic order. With joint exercises, Russia has sought Chinese help in achieving its long-cherished aim of becoming a Pacific power, while Moscow has backed China's territorial claims in the South China Sea and elsewhere.

That has increasingly included the 180-kilometer (110-mile) wide Taiwan Strait that divides mainland China from the self-governing island democracy that Beijing considers its own territory and threatens to invade. Based on that claim, the Taiwan Strait is Chinese. Though it is not opposed to navigation by others through one of the world's most heavily trafficked sea ways, China is "firmly opposed to provocations by countries that jeopardize China's sovereignty and security under the banner of freedom of navigation," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing. Mao was responding to a report that a pair of German navy ships were to pass through the strait this month for the first time in

more than two decades. The US and virtually every other country, along with Taiwan, considers the strait international waters.

Sweden announces \$440m for Ukraine

STOCKHOLM (Reuters): Sweden will send its 17th aid package to Ukraine with further military support totalling 4.6 billion Swedish crowns (\$443 million), Defence Minister Pal Jonson said.

The new package will include ammunition for infantry fighting vehicles already donated by Sweden, as well as purchases that would facilitate a transfer of Gripen fighter jets in the future, though no such transfer has been decided on yet. "We want to have the ability to donate Gripens to Ukraine at a possible later stage," Jonson told a press conference. Jonson said support included additional combat boats, missiles and camouflage gear as well as funding to support defence procurements for Ukraine.

Iranian missiles in Russia are a legitimate target: Ukraine

KYIV (AP): A senior Ukrainian official said that Western partner countries must allow Ukraine to use weapons they have supplied to strike military warehouses inside Russia because of strong suspicions Iran has provided ballistic missiles for the Kremlin's war effort.

The United States has told allies it believes Iran has sent short-range ballistic missiles to Russia for its war in Ukraine, two people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press at the weekend. Western countries supporting Ukraine in the war have hesitated to let its military strike targets on Russian soil, fearing they could be sucked into Europe's biggest conflict since World War II, but the head of the Ukrainian presidential office said "protection is not escalation."

"In response to the supply of ballistic missiles to Russia, Ukraine must be allowed to destroy warehouses storing these missiles with Western weapons in order to avoid terror," Andrii Yermak said on his Telegram channel. He did not specify which country was supplying the missiles. Russia has already subjected Ukraine to repeated and devastating long-range missile and drone bombardments that have killed more than 10,000 civilians since the start of the war in February 2022, according to a United Nations tally. The barrages have also crippled electricity production.

Ukraine has refused to cave in, however, and recently launched a bold incursion into Russia's Kursk

Ukraine disappointed at Slovak PM's fascism comments

KYIV (Reuters): Ukraine expressed disappointment at allegations by Slovakia's pro-Russian prime minister that Kyiv should act to remove from its military ranks what he described as fascist elements within the Ukrainian military. Fico's appeal reflected Russian arguments in its war against Ukraine, including the Kremlin's contention that its 2022 invasion sought to "denazify" its smaller neighbour. Ukrainian Foreign Ministry: "In Kyiv, there is disappointment regarding the statement made by Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico towards Ukrainian soldiers, which goes against the existing level of trust and cooperation between Ukraine and Slovakia." "We all talk about fascism, Nazism, and yet we tacitly tolerate the fact that there are units running around Ukraine which have a very clear designation, which are linked to movements that we now consider dangerous and forbidden," Russia routinely refers to Ukraine's leaders as Nazis. President Vladimir Putin cited the need to rid the country of Nazis from the very first day of the invasion in February 2022. Fico's adherence to the Kremlin line as a NATO leader complicates Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's almost daily pleas for the Alliance to provide long-range weaponry and permission to use it on Russian territory.

region even while toiling to hold back a Russian push in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region. Russia has been receiving Iranian-made Shahed drones since 2022. The possible shipment of Iranian ballistic missiles to Russia as well has alarmed Western governments as President Vladimir Putin reaches out to other countries to provide him with support.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said of the Iranian missile reports that "this kind of information is not true every time." He added, however: "Iran is our important part-

ner. We are developing our trade and economic relations. We are developing our cooperation and dialogue in all possible areas, including the most sensitive ones, and will continue to do so in the interests of the peoples of our two countries."

In Iran, foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani denied Tehran armed Russia with missiles. "We strongly reject allegations about Iran's role in sending weapons to one side of the war and we assess these allegations as politically motivated by some parties," Kanaani said.

Philippines Senate holds ex-mayor Alice Guo in contempt a second time

MANILA (Reuters): Former Philippine town mayor Alice Guo was held in contempt for a second time after refusing to answer senators' questions on suspected ties to Chinese criminal syndicates and how she escaped the country two months ago.

The 38-year-old ex-mayor of Bambang was arrested in Indonesia last week, alongside a Chinese monk and with her hair cut short in disguise according to authorities, and deported home. She denies any criminal links. Appearing in a bulletproof vest at a Senate investigative panel, Guo looked unrattled and evaded most questions, saying death threats and ongoing criminal cases constrained her from responding. She did not specify or give proof of the threats.

Senators first held Guo in contempt in July and ordered her arrest for failing to appear at a hearing. Law

enforcers later found out she left the Philippines in July, going to Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. Bambang mayor since 2022, Guo was removed from office by the Ombudsman last month for grave misconduct. She faces graft charges at a Philippine trial court and a money laundering complaint at the Department of Justice. Senators took turns to grill Guo, becoming irked and accusing her of lying that she is Filipino despite evidence obtained by the National Bureau of Investigation showing her fingerprints match Chinese national Guo Hua Ping.

"I move to cite Guo Hua Ping, also known as Alice Guo, in contempt of the Senate for testifying falsely and evasively before this committee," said Senate committee head Risa Hontiveros, whose motion was quickly passed. Asked how she escaped, Guo said she and compan-

ions left on a yacht with the help of an Asian woman she refused to name, before transferring to a larger boat. The Senate launched an investigation into Guo in May after a casino raid in Bambang uncovered what law enforcers described as scams run from a facility on land she partly owned. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. urged Guo last week to disclose how gambling businesses targeting customers in China, known as Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs), had branched into crime. Marcos banned the online gambling industry in July. "I am not involved in POGO," Guo said in one of her few clear responses to the Senators. Her case has gripped the Philippines at a time of growing suspicion about China's activities following an escalation of territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

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Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

Founder

Bilal Shah Afridi

Chief Executive

Jalil Afridi

Managing Editor

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

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001

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

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

The UN General Assembly could be a chance to realign some of the world's values

THE UN General Assembly Hall's rostrum often doubles as a stage for theatrics. At the opening of UNGA's 67th session, in 2012, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stood in front of fellow world leaders with a doodle of a bomb, meant to illustrate Iran's nuclear programme. A few years earlier, Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi delivered a one-hour-40-minute diatribe on matters ranging from the Iraq war to swine flu to the assassination of John F Kennedy.

UNGA presidents, who serve a one-year term, have the task of getting past these histrionics to focus efforts on larger, more consequential issues – like war, poverty and climate change. It's a tough job. Two gavels have been broken by presidents trying to keep order – the most recent incident was last year.

On Tuesday the UNGA convenes for its 79th session, at a time when crises seem to be proliferating along with their consequences. The war in Gaza has dragged on for 11 months, having killed almost 41,000 Palestinians. The war in Sudan is in its second year, the war in Ukraine in its third and the war in Syria is more than a decade old. In none of these examples are peace talks progressing. All told, this year has seen six major armed conflicts, in which at least 10,000 people have been killed since the start of the year, spread across four continents.

Other crises are more pernicious. The developing world, the UN says, currently faces the worst medium-term economic outlook in a generation. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals, one of the UNGA's signature initiatives, are in bad shape. Only 17 per cent of the SDGs' 169 targets are on track to be achieved by the end of this decade; more than a third of them have either stalled or regressed.

Considering all of this, those convening in New York this week for the new UNGA session should be under enormous pressure. But unlike its leaner, superpower-heavy counterpart the UN Security Council, the UNGA's resolutions are not legally binding. And with 193 members, each with an equal vote, the UNGA is not agile.

In an essay for The National over the weekend, outgoing UNGA President Dennis Francis wrote that the multilateral system "has often been found wanting, unable to proactively respond with the speed, decisiveness and unity that the times demand".

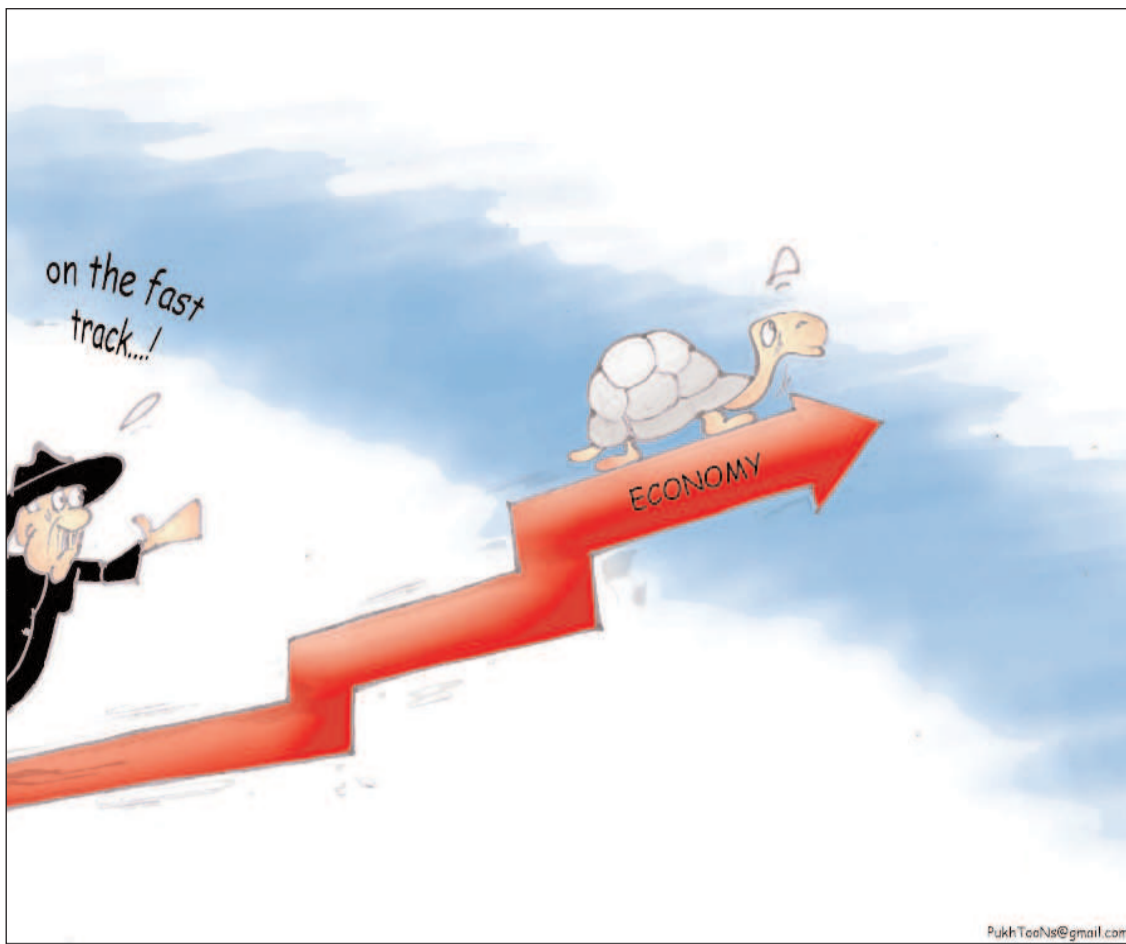
Big-tent forums can make decisions quickly if their participants embrace a sense of urgency. Climate summits provide an example – Cop28 in Dubai convened all UNGA member states and a handful of others, and resulted in the concrete, groundbreaking UAE Consensus covering several highly contentious climate change issues.

But maintaining a unity of values in the longer term is a bigger problem in global governance. Ostensibly universal principles are fading as superpower rivalries grow. At an economic conference in Italy this week, Jordan's Queen Rania called for a return to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter as she highlighted western double standards over the plight of Palestinians compared with Ukrainians.

In the end, if values are ever to become universal again, the UN General Assembly remains the best venue we have for such a realignment; it is where global consensus and new international norms are forged. In many cases, these norms eventually form the basis for new (and binding) areas of international law. Whatever antics ensue from time to time, that process is not mere theatre.

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Why Pakistan has not realized Quaid's dream?

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

MORE than seven decades have passed since Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah led the historic movement for Pakistan's creation, securing a homeland for Muslims of the Sub Continent through his extraordinary vision, determination, and leadership. His vision was not simply about carving a piece of land; it was about creating a state that would embody the values of justice, equality, rule of law, and inclusivity. Quaid-e-Azam's dream was for Pakistan to become a beacon of hope and progress for its citizens, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, or social background. He envisioned a nation where Muslims could practice their faith freely, without fear of persecution, but also where people of other religions could live peacefully and equally as citizens of the state.

However, as we reflect on the state of Pakistan today, it is evident that we have fallen short of Quaid-e-Azam's vision in several critical ways. While the initial years after independence were marked by efforts to build the foundations of a democratic and inclusive state, the journey since then has been fraught with challenges that have taken Pakistan far from the ideals Jinnah had in mind. The question remains: why have we not succeeded in fully realizing the vision of Quaid-e-Azam?

One of the key reasons is the persistent political instability that has plagued Pakistan since its inception. Quaid-e-Azam firmly believed in democracy and the importance of representative governance. He saw democracy as the bedrock of a modern state, where the will of the people would guide the government. However, Pakistan has been repeatedly disrupted by military coups, authoritarian rule, and weak demo-

cratic institutions. The frequent interruptions to democratic processes have hindered the country's ability to establish a stable political framework, which is essential for the implementation of long-term policies in line with Jinnah's vision. The lack of political continuity has also contributed to a culture of political patronage and corruption, further distancing Pakistan from the principles of justice and accountability that Quaid-e-Azam advocated.

Economic disparity is another significant reason for the divergence from Quaid-e-Azam's vision. Quaid-e-Azam was deeply concerned about the economic well-being of the people and the need to build a strong economy that could sustain the new state. He understood that economic independence was crucial for political sovereignty and social stability. Yet, Pakistan today faces significant economic challenges, including poverty, unemployment, inflation, and a widening gap between the rich and the poor. Economic mismanagement, corruption, and a failure to invest in human development have resulted in a society where a small elite enjoys privileges while the majority of the population struggles to meet their basic needs. This disparity has not only led to social unrest but has also undermined the sense of national unity that Jinnah emphasized.

Another critical factor contributing to the failure to implement Quaid-e-Azam's vision is the rise of religious extremism and intolerance in the country. Jinnah's vision for Pakistan was inclusive and pluralistic. In his famous speech on August 11, 1947, he clearly stated that Pakistan was to be a state where people of all religions would have the freedom to practice their faith without interference from the state. However, over the years, Pakistan has

witnessed a growing trend of religious intolerance and sectarian violence. Minority communities, who were once integral to the social fabric of the country, now often face persecution and discrimination. This shift away from the principles of religious freedom and tolerance that Quaid-e-Azam espoused has not only tarnished Pakistan's image internationally but has also sown divisions within the country.

The education system in Pakistan is another area where we have failed to align with Jinnah's vision. Quaid-e-Azam placed great emphasis on education, seeing it as the key to progress and development. He wanted Pakistan to become a knowledge-based society where people would be empowered through learning and innovation. Yet, Pakistan's education system is deeply flawed, with significant disparities in access and quality across different regions and socioeconomic classes. The lack of focus on education has hindered Pakistan's ability to compete globally and has perpetuated cycles of poverty and underdevelopment. Furthermore, the curriculum often promotes narrow interpretations of history and religion, contributing to the rise of extremist ideologies instead of fostering a culture of critical thinking and intellectual growth.

Corruption has also played a significant role in preventing the realization of Jinnah's vision. Quaid-e-Azam was a man of integrity, and he wanted Pakistan to be a state where public officials served the people with honesty and dedication. Unfortunately, corruption has become deeply entrenched in our society. This has not only eroded public trust in the government but has also diverted resources away from essential public services such as

healthcare, education, and infrastructure. The culture of corruption has created a system where merit is often disregarded, and personal gain takes precedence over the national interest, further derailing the country from Jinnah's ideals.

Moreover, the rule of law—a cornerstone of Jinnah's vision—has often been undermined in Pakistan. Quaid-e-Azam was a staunch believer in justice and the supremacy of law. He wanted Pakistan to be a state where every citizen, regardless of their social or political standing, would be subject to the law and where justice would be served without fear or favor. However, the judicial system in Pakistan allegedly has often been influenced by interference or applying doctrine of necessity and has failed to deliver timely and impartial justice. This has contributed to a sense of lawlessness and impunity, further weakening the social contract between the state and its citizens.

In conclusion, while Pakistan was founded on the principles laid down by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, we have struggled to fully implement his vision. Political instability, economic inequality, religious intolerance, corruption, a flawed education system, and the erosion of the rule of law are some of the key factors that have contributed to this failure. However, it is not too late to course correct. By reaffirming our commitment to the values of democracy, justice, equality, and tolerance, we can begin to steer Pakistan back towards the path that Quaid-e-Azam envisioned. It is the responsibility of both the leadership and the people to work together to build a Pakistan that truly reflects the ideals of its founding father. Only then can we honor the sacrifices made for the creation of this nation and ensure a prosperous future for generations to come.

France gets new PM

Eyad Abu Shakra

THE deadlock in France has been broken, at least temporarily. The first step of forming the next government was taken after a prime minister was tasked with forming it.

In principle, there is nothing problematic about choosing Michel Barnier, a seasoned politician and diplomat who has distinguished himself in the corridors of French and European politics and who played a pivotal role in the negotiations between the UK and EU over Brexit.

Barnier is a man of the traditional right, which is currently represented by The Republicans party, today the fourth-largest parliamentary bloc in France. The traditional right had exerted great influence and enjoyed remarkable support for decades. Indeed, it had been the dominant force in French politics since the emergence of the Fifth Republic, which Gen. Charles de Gaulle founded on the ruins of political anarchy and the frailty of some socialist and centrist leaders in the post-Second World War era.

France notably lost its former colonies during this period, first with the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in Indochina, then the Algerian War of Independence and finally the independence of France's remaining colonies in West Africa. De Gaulle had laid the foundations for this movement, which was later modified by its members, with some ambitious leaders, such as Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Jacques Chirac and Nicolas Sarkozy, creating their own "schools" and naming them after themselves. Indeed, after De Gaulle's success in building the Fifth Republic through the traditional right-wing Gaullist movement, the traditional left managed to regroup under the leadership of another remarkable figure, Francois Mitterrand. Mitterrand achieved this by rebuilding the Socialist Party and then gradually increasingly benefiting from an alliance with the communists, whom he eventually tamed, co-opted and ultimately marginalized almost completely by the time the Berlin Wall fell, and with it the Warsaw Pact and European communism under the shadow of the former Soviet Union.

France has always been home to second-rate forces — from the far right to the far left — that operate outside of the two traditional "tents" of Gaullism and Mitterrandism. These forces' fortunes would wax and wane depending on the circumstances, the quality of their leadership, the forms of the challenges they faced and the alliances they made. However, for the first time in the history of the Fifth Republic, both now find themselves in the back seat.

Neither of them ever imagined they would become extras in a play whose producer, director and scriptwriter they have no influence over. However, that has been true in France since Emmanuel Macron upended the political landscape after he turned on the Socialist President Francois Hollande and founded a new party in his own image — a pragmatic, ambiguous, enigmatic movement that is only loosely committed to tradi-

tional principles.

In the 2017 presidential election, voters did not see Macron's break with the Socialists as a betrayal, but rather a natural course of action for an ambitious and intelligent young leader who saw Hollande's approval rate collapse (it was as low as 4 percent by the autumn of 2016). Thus, they also voted for Macron's newly formed party, En Marche! — now part of the Ensemble coalition — in the subsequent general election. They put their faith in him despite his party being in its infancy, the inexperience of its leaders and its "gray" slogans.

In the 2022 presidential election, when voters extended Macron's mandate, the outcome was more of a rejection of the far-right Marine Le Pen than it was an endorsement of Macron. The electorate no longer believed that he had magical solutions for the problems of this "country with 258 varieties of cheese," as is often said to highlight the difficulty of satisfying the French people. The outcome of this year's snap parliamentary elections not only demonstrated that Macron's party is incapable of governing on its own; it also underscored the gravity of France's governance crisis. Political and parliamentary power in France is currently shared among four forces, none of which have much in common with any of the others. That will not change unless Macron succeeds in leveraging the immense powers of the presidency in France's current presidential system to undermine the solidity of these blocs and exploit their contradictions.

The largest of the four political forces is the New Popular Front, a coalition with 182 seats that brings together most of France's left-wing parties. Macron's presidential coalition is the second largest with 168 seats. Then comes the far-right National Rally with 143 seats. The Republicans are in last place and by a large margin.

In recent weeks, the burning question has been what Macron's priorities are and which forces he will seek to isolate, break apart or create rifts within it. It is no secret that Macron was never comfortable with the left having a strong parliamentary presence and he was betting that the New Popular Front would splinter. However, he also understands the risks of betting on a direct alliance with the far right.

Accordingly, Macron concluded that the best and safest approach was to call on a well-known and trusted figure from one of the smaller blocs — someone who he could come to an understanding with and who would be acceptable to the far right. At the same time, he has left the door open to any left-wing faction that is tempted by the idea of joining a coalition government, impelling them to break with the New Popular Front.

Barnier meets the criteria. Thus, he was appointed before complex questions regarding the formation of the government were resolved. At the heart of the Elysee's considerations were timing, shifting priorities, personal ambitions and room for maneuver ... why not, so long as Macron has the final say?

Education dilemma

Adil Hussain

THE most precious resource that we humans possess is the time that can be spent in a number of ways. The value of time can only be perceived when it is invested in such things that can bring some crucial positive changes in human life and society. The best way to make your time more productive is to study books. Reading books always clear confusion about complicated and complex issues and helps in better understanding of different things. Reading Books enhances the maturity level of a person and is crucial for the formulation of a balanced approach towards the newly emerging issues in society. Intellectual people always carry a balanced view which in turn shapes the public opinion of society.

The education system of a country plays an important role in promoting the value of books in society. A better education system always produces skilled and productive citizens which is vital for the development of a welfare and healthy society. As education contributes to every field of life, a balanced education system creates good leaders, doctors, teachers, politicians, judges and so on. These peoples then establish and operate the political, Social and economic system of a country. Thus the more stable and comprehensive education system will inevitably results in the shaping of a well organized

and flexible conditions that will govern the country to easily adjust with the rapidly changing local, regional and global economic and political environment. Contrary to this, the ineffective system not only promotes instability but destroys the very foundations of human civilization. Education system in Pakistan has been the subject of debate from the very first day of its existence. Unfortunately our education system is not capable of producing productive citizens. It contributes a very small amount of strength to the changing complexities of the modern ages. The question is that what is the problem and what factors contributes to the failure of our educational set up. It will be difficult to mention all the factors that is responsible for the present scenario. However, following are some of the basic factors responsible for educational crisis in Pakistan.

The root-cause of all the issues is the existing curriculum of our education system. It only focuses on theoretical aspects of different courses. But no emphasis is given to practical education. All this happens when there is no strong intellectual team or they are not allowed to have a say in designing the syllabus for educational institutions. History reveals that the great leaders always have great visions in their minds. They oppose the outdated laws and culture of society because they have an alternative plan in their minds. The Congress

ministries of 1937 had greatly been discredited for their aggressive approach towards Muslims and the atrocities they committed against their opponents in India. But one of the positive aspects of the Gandhi education system of 1937 after Congress established ministries in 8 provinces was that 7 year schooling should be centered around practical education. Our education system does not focus on skills and practical knowledge that is why every department of the country is suffering from unprecedented challenges with no clear way out there by destabilize the country.

Secondly, the installment of incompetent teaching staff to the department of education particularly on higher level further complicated the issue. The over reliance of our teachers and students of social sciences on YouTube and Google and Artificial Intelligence is damaging our intellectual standard a lot. Most of the teachers do not prepare themselves for the lectures. They do not study books and rely on such invalid sources like YouTube and others for survival in the field. This over reliance on websites such as YouTube, Chat Gpt, AI and the like is the prominent cause of the failure of our education system. Utilizing technology for better information is very good but these are not reliable sources for courses like social sciences which requires a comprehen-

sive knowledge on complex issues. These are not valid sources because the content of history and other related things on YouTube are mostly exaggerated in their descriptions and are mostly driven by the desire to reach more followers through propaganda for more money.

The Introduction of BS system in Pakistan was a welcoming step as it greatly undermined the corrupt basis of the old educational system. This system was first introduced by the United States of America to boast their academic excellence but it is not working here with the same spirit as in America. Because in America it is called the Bookish System, in which for every course you have to study books. Whereas the teachers and students in Pakistan do not follow books. The Teachers, instead of promoting the bookish culture give some hand written notes to the students. And students also happily follow these notes as they are striving for getting more GPA. The laziness of both the teachers and the students have further contributed to the failure of Our education system.

The remedy, therefore, lies in redefining the concept and tradition of education. Promoting a Bookish Culture with a high emphasis on practical education is the only way to improve our existing system. The teachers, who are the key actors of the system should focus on their performance. Acting in the capacity of leading the community

, they should take the responsibility to promote the skills of their students and motivate them to contribute greatly to the uplift of this country. But the students must also have to make re-adjustment with the system. Their goal should be excellence, not high grades in exams.

The lack of Unity within the teaching community also is one of the factors. It is the responsibility of all the teachers to establish a better understanding within their community and to highlight all the shortcomings of the education system that need to be improved. We always blame the government and the concerned authorities for the failure but we are equally responsible for this dilemma. Because the authorities are mostly confined to the surface issues. It is the role of the teachers to point out the problems and then submit it to the higher authorities for further action. We must take some positive steps to improve the system otherwise this will work for a long life to come and we will be no more different even after hundreds of years. Arranging a grand intellectual dialogue forum for re-defining educational set up, promoting collaboration between the governing authorities, lecturers and teaching organizations for a comprehensive education system is the need of the time for the revival of socio-economic stability and communal harmony in the country.

AdilKhanonline899@gmail.com

Bridge attack underlines Jordan’s thorny peace with Israel

MANAGING the 30-year-old Jordan-Israel peace treaty has never been easy for Amman. The 1994 “Wadi Araba” peace deal was supposed to end decades of hostilities. The two countries fought bloody wars in 1948 and 1967 and, in both, the Hashemite Kingdom lost men and territory and had to welcome hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees. But in 1968, at the Battle of Karameh, the Jordanian army and the Palestinian resistance were able to push back an Israeli incursion into the East Bank of the River Jordan. A political and military stalemate ensued and Jordan and Israel found themselves enmeshed in a “no peace, no war” situation.

That remained until 1994, when the late King Hussein decided to sign a peace treaty with Israel’s Yitzhak Rabin after the Palestinians secretly negotiated their deal with the Israelis at Oslo.

But the majority of Jordanians, many of whom are of Palestinian origin, never really appreciated the fruits of that peace. For the Jordanian negotiators, the treaty delineated the final borders between the kingdom and Israel, while designating the West Bank as occupied territory, the future of which would be negotiated separately between Israel and the Palestinians. Jordan would reap other benefits, like an annual share of water from Lake Tiberius and a recognized “special role” for the Hashemites over Al-Haram Al-Sharif, which the Jordanian Waqf would administer.

One of the bilateral understandings in the treaty was to maintain the policy of open bridges, adopted in 1967, which allowed West Bank Palestinians to cross into Jordan and back.

The treaty was ratified by the Jordanian parliament, but most Jordanians never fully embraced it. It was often described as a cold peace, one between states rather than people.

Challenges to the treaty soon materialized. Rabin was assassinated by a radical Jew in 1995, paving the way for a young and fiery right-wing politician, Benjamin Netanyahu, to form his first government in 1996. From then on, King Hussein and Rabin’s vision for a bright and peaceful cooperation between the two neighbors began to disintegrate.

Much has happened since then to mar ties between the two countries. Ironically, most

incidents took place on Netanyahu’s watch, including on Sunday morning, when a Jordanian truck driver shot and killed three Israeli border guards on the Israeli side of the King Hussein Bridge, aka Allenby Bridge. The assailant was shot dead by Israeli soldiers.

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Osama Al-Sharif

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Israel was quick to shutter all crossing points with Jordan. Netanyahu blamed Iran’s “evil axis” for instigating the attack. One far-right member of his Cabinet urged him to annex the Jordan Valley and crush Palestinian armed resistance in the West Bank.

For Jordan, the incident occurred two days before crucial legislative elections, in which political parties were competing, including the Muslim Brotherhood’s Islamic Action Front. The Islamists were quick to celebrate the killing of the Israelis, holding rallies honoring Al-Jazi and praising armed resistance against Israel. How

Sunday’s incident affected voters’ choices in Tuesday’s poll remains to be seen.

A few months ago, Jordanian officials castigated Hamas for calling on Jordanians to become active in confronting Israel, warning the Islamist movement against interfering in domestic affairs. And Jordanians expressed their anger when Amman

Hussein Bridge in 2014. Also, in 2017, an Israeli security guard shot and killed two Jordanians at Israel’s Amman embassy compound and was allowed to leave for Israel. Netanyahu welcomed him as a hero. No one was punished for either incident.

Netanyahu’s provocation of Jordan includes allowing Jewish worshippers, and later Cabinet ministers, to storm Al-Aqsa Mosque on an almost weekly basis in a clear violation of the status quo proclamation.

Jordan’s links to the Palestinians in general and the West Bank in particular are both historic and unique. Until 1967, the West Bank was administered by Jordan and tens of thousands of its residents still retain their Jordanian citizenship.

King Abdullah took the lead in warning of the dire humanitarian catastrophe that Israel was creating in Gaza. The Jordanian army carried out dozens of humanitarian air drops over the enclave. He has pressed the US and other Western governments to enforce a ceasefire.

But in response, Israeli officials have attacked the kingdom and its leadership, all while fanatics in Netanyahu’s government openly talk about annexing the West Bank to kill the prospect of a Palestinian state and hinting that Palestinians will eventually be expelled to Jordan. The “Jordanian option” has been supported by the Likud and other right-wing Israeli parties. At the same time, Jewish ultranationalists speak of Greater Israel extending its borders to Jordan as well.

For Jordanian officials, managing peace with Israel is becoming a risky business. On more than one occasion, they have declared that the forced transfer of Palestinians from the West Bank would be tantamount to a declaration of war.

At the same time, the same officials are realizing that the kingdom is finding itself between a rock and a hard place. The demise of the two-state solution, which Amman backs wholeheartedly but is becoming dubious, delivers an existential threat to Jordan. Jordan’s closest allies, the Americans, have proven weak and indecisive before Netanyahu and his gang.

While Jordan is wary of its citizens becoming radicalized as a result of Israel’s war crimes and direct threats, it can only tighten its internal security while looking for ways to manage what has become a thorny and complicated relationship with Israel.

— Arab News

What’s in a name? Resistance to genocide

Adnan Mahmutovic

new plaque with his father’s name instead: Asim Tuzlic.

In my view, even that name is not right as it was not properly anchored into the local lingo. Fejzina Cesma was. Still, someone was bothered by the Muslim name and carved “Zmajevac” into the stone in Cyrillic letters. “Zmajevac” is the name of nearby ruins from the late Middle Ages, but it has nothing to do with the fountain in people’s memory.

According to the Muslim faith, it does not matter what the place is called. In this sense, Juliet is right on that theological level. A spring by any other name will quench thirst all the same. Water does not belong to anyone. Fejzina Cesma was an effort to make it accessible and therefore every drop drank by man or beast as long as it exists will be a coin in Fejzo’s chest with which he will hopefully buy a place in paradise.

We refugees, who only visit our motherland every summer, use the old names by instinct, or maybe even out of “inat” (spite). All the new names are foreign to us, and I imagine, at some level, they must feel foreign to many Serbs who use them because those names are nationalistic, toxic names.

Did they feel proud and

You won’t find this spring in books or Google Maps, neither under its old name “Fejzina Cesma” nor its new name, Zmajevac (Dragon’s Place). Its changing name symbolises everything we went through in the war, which we so stubbornly hang on to. Why did mother’s grandfather Fejzo, a Muslim man from an idyllic little town with an old Ottoman fortress overlooking incredible waterfalls, decide to build a water fountain in the first place? Traditionally, among Muslims, there is a belief that one of the ways to keep amassing good deeds even after your death is to leave a public good, a “khayr”, something that will benefit all people. It is what we call a “waqf”.

that did not grow out of that earth there, those rivers there, those dense woods there.

The new Serbian-sounding names, as well as the very adjective “Serbian”, which is attached to every nook and cranny, must appear weird to most people because there is no country on earth with original names that can bear so many nationalist tags.

Why would a random bridge in the small town of Celinac be called the Bridge of Serbia and be adorned with a Serbian flag? Why would anything be called by names of fascists and war criminals from the not-so-distant past? Why would my street be called after a place in Serbia and not after the World War II partisan hero Sevala Hadic, a Bosniak woman who fought the Nazis? My house has both the old and the new street name sign and the new one has already faded while the white writing on the original blue plate shines so bright.

Of course, Bosnia is not unique in this pursuit of erasure through renaming. There’s practically no place on earth where erasure has

not been carried out at some point in history: new names inscribed on the palimpsest of the land.

Consider the historical changes in the names of the holy land, that place which so dominates our global consciousness right now. We cannot avoid following the parallel war over names such as “Palestine” and local places within the territories of Israel that is taking place in real and virtual spaces, even on the international stage. If we are to dig into its background, we may learn that the state of Israel established a committee in 1949 whose task was not simply to recover ancient Hebrew names if there were any, but also to invent new ones.

Israel’s first Prime Minister David Ben Gurion made the directive clear, “We are obliged to remove the Arabic names for reasons of state. Just as we do not recognise the Arabs’ political proprietorship of the land, so also do we not recognise their spiritual proprietorship and their names”.

I sometimes try to pity the bureaucrats tasked with finding new names for everything. That is a lot of things. So many things. Those are projects one can get stuck in and have to hand them down to new generations.

Did they feel proud and

WHEN asked why his latest map had erased the whole of the West Bank, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu retorted with the most detestable of answers. “I didn’t include the Dead Sea. It’s not shown on the map. I didn’t show the Jordan River. It’s not on this map. I didn’t show the Sea of Galilee,” was Netanyahu’s response.

The Israeli leader must have known that neither the Indigenous population of Palestine nor the West Bank including East Jerusalem — which are recognized as occupied territories under international law — are topographical or geographical phenomena.

It should be obvious that Netanyahu deliberately erased the West Bank from his map, which he displayed on Sept. 2 during another one of his tirades on why Israel must maintain “security control” over Gaza. There are plenty of factors that demonstrate that this assertion is true.

One, Netanyahu has erased Palestine and the Palestinians from previous maps as well, with the prime example being his

“New Middle East” map, which he proudly held up during a UN General Assembly speech in September 2022.

Two, the Israeli PM does not even recognize the term “West Bank” in the first place. Even in his defense of why his latest map showed that Israel had swallowed the territory, he responded by saying that he “was talking about Gaza,” not “Judea and Samaria.”

This biblical reference to the Palestinian homeland fits perfectly into the prevailing Israeli political discourse, which is championed by the most ardent far-right, ultranationalist extremists in Israeli society. Israel’s current regime simply does not believe that Palestinians have any historical claim to, or political rights and aspirations in, their own land.

Among a long stream of such comments, a few stand out. For example, in March 2023, Israel’s far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich denied the existence of Palestinians during a private memorial service in Paris. There is “no such thing as Palestinians because there’s no such

thing as the Palestinian people,” he said.

As for National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, the erasure of Palestinians

even thousands. The Land of Israel is for the people of Israel.”

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And, of course, Netanyahu himself, who in March 2019 stated that Israel is “the national state, not of all its citizens, but only of the Jewish people.”

Such a discourse is backed up by action, namely the constant expansion of illegal Jewish-only settlements,

West Bank and a government program that, in April 2020, agreed to annex large parts of the occupied region.

Three, Netanyahu rejects the very discussion of a Palestinian state. He even pushed for a vote in the Israeli Knesset on opposing the establishment

Israeli-Palestinian conflict and destabilize the region.” The resolution was passed with 68 votes in favor and only nine against. This vote represents the pinnacle of Netanyahu’s political career, which has largely been dedicated to thwarting any attempt to achieve

of a Palestinian state because it would pose “an existential danger to the state of Israel and its citizens, perpetuate the

Court prosecutor Karim Khan requested the issuing of arrest warrants for several Israelis and Palestinians. Lead among them was Netanyahu, who Khan accused of “extermination,” “willful killing” and “other inhumane acts as crimes against humanity.” In fact, Netanyahu’s controversial map only highlighted the borders of Gaza so that the Israeli leader could present a case as to why his killing campaign in the Strip must continue. In his previous maps, Gaza was also erased.

We have long argued that Israel is a settler colonial entity that can only exist through constant expansion, at the expense of the territorial and political rights of the Indigenous population. Most of the world can now see this truth manifesting itself daily, everywhere in historic Palestine.

The international community must abandon its silence and hold Israel accountable to international law through active pressure and direct sanctions. Those who use genocide as a convenient political tool have no place among law-abiding nations.

— Aljazeera



PSX turns bullish, gains 671 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 671.73 points, a positive change of 0.85 percent, closing at 79,286.74 points against 78,615.00 points on the last working day.

A total of 509,490,385 shares were traded during the day as compared to 491,124,197 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 13.763 billion against Rs.10.124 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 436 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 202 of them recorded gains and 170 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 64 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 117,010,305

shares at Rs 1.52 per share, Kohinoor Spinning with 57,119,736 shares at Rs.10.06 per share and Agritech Limited with 18,160,711 shares at Rs.35.31 per share.

Hoechst Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.137.38 per share price, closing at Rs 2,069.23, whereas the runner-up was Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited with a Rs 68.99 rise in its per share price to Rs 17,368.99.

Hallmark Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 104.68 per share closing at Rs 999.96 followed by Khyber Textile Mills Limited with Rs 60.65 decline to close at Rs 545.81.

Rupee gains 09 paise against dollar: Pakistani rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 09 paise against the US dollar in the interbank

trading and closed at Rs 278.61 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.70.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.85 and Rs 280.45 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by 70 paise to close at Rs 307.51 against the last day's closing of Rs 308.21, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.93, whereas a decrease of 47 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs364.75 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs365.22.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham decreased by 02 paise to close at Rs 75.85 while the Saudi Riyal

increased by 01 to close at Rs74.26 respectively.

Gold rates up by Rs1,300 to Rs261,700: The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,300 and was sold at Rs.261,700 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs.260,400 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.1,114 to Rs. 224,365 from Rs. 223,251 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.205,668 from Rs. 204,647, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.50 to Rs.2,900 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.42.87 to Rs.2,486.28.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$10 to \$2,500 from \$2,490, the Association reported.



PESHAWAR: Former FPCCI president Ghazanfar Bilour, president SCCI Fuad Ishaq, vice president Ijaz Khan Afridi alongwith other businessman forum leaders visiting markets during electioneering campaign.

‘PayPak Cardholder Campaign’ launched F.P. Report

KARACHI: National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) is pleased to announce the launch of its latest “PayPak Cardholder Campaign,” providing customers with an exciting opportunity to win gold.

By using NBP PayPak Debit Cards, customers can enter to win a 2.5g gold bar through various transactions, including ATM withdrawals of Rs. 500 or more, retail purchases of Rs. 5,000 or more, and online transactions of Rs. 5,000 or more.

A total of 75 gold bars will be awarded, with 25 winners in each transaction category. This exclusive campaign will run from September to December 2024, giving NBP PayPak cardholders the chance to benefit from their everyday spending.

Workers’ remittances increase

ISLAMABAD (APP): The overseas workers’ remittances witnessed an increase of 44 per cent during the first two months of the current fiscal year 2024-25, the State Bank of Pakistan latest data said.

The inflow of US\$ 5.936 billion was recorded during July-August 2024-25 as compared to the inflow of US \$4.123 billion during July-August 2023-24, showing growth of 44 per cent.

Similarly, on a year-on-year basis, the worker's remittance went up by 40.5 per cent in August 2024 to US \$2.942 billion from US \$ 2.094 billion during the same month last year.

Remittances inflows during August 2024 were mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia (\$713.1 million), the United Arab Emirates (\$538.4 million), the United Kingdom (\$474.8 million) and the United States of America (\$322.4 million).

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships, Maersk Hartford, Au Taurus, Eva Hong Kong, Ncc Bader and Sea Destiny carrying Container, Palm oil, Chemicals, Gas oil and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminals, Engro Vopak Terminal, FOTCO Oil Terminal and Pakistan Bulk Terminal respectively on report period.

Meanwhile eight more ships, MSC Surabaya-VIII, MSC Cape Town-VIII, Maersk Nyassa, HPC Vision, Chem-route Sky, Khairpur, Al-Diab-II and Saimaisma with Container, Fertilizer, Palm oil, Mogas, LPG and LNG are arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours.

Nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, Haj Mohamad, Diamond Globe and EVA Hong Kong are expected to sail on Tuesday.

Cargo volume of 107,312 tonnes, comprising 88,317 tonnes imports cargo and 18,995 tonnes export cargows handled at the port during last 24 hours.

SCCI’ election: BF intensifies canvassing drive

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: With two weeks left in the election of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce, the Businessman Forum has accelerated an ongoing electioneering campaign in different bazaars and markets in city areas.

On Tuesday, the businessman forum leaders visited Namak Mandi, Jahangirpur, Gemstone, Medicine markets and Shah Qabool markets chanted pro-businessman forum slogans and supported former senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour and expressed full confidence in his leadership.

The traders and shopkeepers announced their full support for the BF in the upcoming SCCI election. They claimed that the BF will sweep the election.

During the campaign, the former FPCCI president Ghazanfar Bilour, president of the SCCI Fuad Ishaq,

senior vice president Sanaulah Khan, vice president Ijaz Khan Afridi, Anjuman e Tajran Lifetime president Haji Muhammad Afzal, former senior vice president Inayat Khan, former vice presidents Haji Abdul Jalil Jan, Javed Akhtar, Malang Khan, Saddar Gul, Faiz Rasool, Ishaiq Paracha, Fazal e Wahid, Aqeel Kayani, Gul Zaman and other traders leader were present.

On the occasion, traders eulogized sacrifices of Bilour family and selfless services of the businessman forum. They vowed to vote and support the BF in the upcoming SCCI elections.

Minister reiterates resolve to restructure power sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Tuesday recounted the structural reforms being undertaken in the power sector to improve its efficiency and service delivery.

The reforms included reconstitution of Boards of Directors of Discos by bringing in professionals from private sector and reducing the number of government nominees to bring in more efficiency in the boards and improve overall service delivery, he said.

The minister made these remarks during a meeting with Chairman Board of Directors K-Electric, Mark Skelton, which among others was attended by Javed

Kureishi, Member Board of Directors KE, Mubasher H. Sheikh, Member Board of Directors KE, Moonis Alvi, CEO KE, Imran Qureshi, Chief Regulatory Affairs KE, M. Aamir Ghaziani, CFO KE and senior officials of the Finance Division.

The meeting was convened to exchange views around K-Electric's plans for catering to growing energy demands of Karachi and the company's transition to renewables to ensure affordable and sustainable energy for the residents of port city.

The KE team briefed the Minister regarding its plans to include renewable in its generation mix, with a view to lowering down the cost of electricity for Karachi. They also apprised the

Minister of other initiatives being taken by KE for improved service delivery to residents of Karachi.

He reiterated the government's resolve to ensure private sector participation in all government-owned discos and gencos and mentioned the start of process of privatizing of three discos in line with the Prime Minister's vision to enable and facilitate the private sector to lead the economy.

The Minister also lauded the initiatives taken by K-Electric for further investment and expansion of its energy and distribution operations, and assured full support for its efforts to transition to renewables and production of cheaper and affordable energy through the use of domestic resources.

Chinese delegation from Shandong CCI visits LCCI

LAHORE (APP): A high-level delegation from the Shandong Chamber of Commerce & Industry, China, visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) here Tuesday.

LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt presented the address of welcome to the delegation led by Li Chong. Shahbaz Siddique, Convener of the Standing Committee on “Pak-China Business Relations, was also present.

The LCCI Vice President praised the consistent interest of Chinese trade missions in engaging with the LCCI, recognizing it as a pivotal hub for enhancing bilateral trade relations. He specifically acknowledged the vital role of Li Chong and his delegation in exploring business opportunities that could further strengthen the economic ties between the two nations.

Adnan Khalid Butt underscored the importance of mutual cooperation in various sectors, including Minerals, Steel Structures, Gold Mines, Salt Mines, Construction and Medical Equipment. He emphasized that the Pakistani business community is eager to collaborate with Chinese enterprises in these fields, with the aim of fostering long-term partnerships that could lead to significant economic growth.

He also highlighted LCCI's ongoing efforts to

facilitate such interactions, noting that the chamber provides a robust platform for policy consulting, technology exchange, market networking, investment consulting, and brand recognition. He expressed his belief that these engagements would not only enhance the visibility of Pakistani industries but also create new opportunities for innovation and investment.

The Chinese delegation, led by Mr. Li Chong, expressed their appreciation for the warm reception and shared their enthusiasm for further strengthening Pak-China relations. Mr. Chong highlighted the longstanding brotherly ties between the two countries, emphasizing that the deep-rooted friendship provides a strong foundation for expanding economic cooperation.

Chong also shared insights into China's recent advancements in these industries and expressed confidence that collaboration with Pakistani businesses could yield mutually beneficial results. He noted that the Chinese delegation is not only interested in investing in Pakistan but also keen to invite Pakistani investors to explore opportunities in China. The delegation emphasized the need for joint venture projects that would create a win-win situation for both countries, ultimately leading to sustainable economic development. The LCCI and the

Chinese delegation reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral trade and exploring new avenues for collaboration. LCCI Vice President reiterated LCCI's readiness to support Chinese companies in navigating the Pakistani market and encouraged continued dialogue between the business communities of both nations.

The visit by the Shandong delegation marks another significant step in the ongoing efforts to strengthen Pak-China economic relations, with both sides expressing optimism for a prosperous future built on mutual respect and cooperation.

Interbank treasury bond index opens higher

BEIJING (APP): China's interbank treasury bond index in net price opened at 1,039.91 points Tuesday, higher than the previous close of 1,039.39 points, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trade System. The index reflects real-time trading of treasury bonds in China's interbank bond market. The index opens at 9 a.m. on every workday and is updated every five minutes until closing at 5 p.m.

SBA accelerates drive for victory in Sarhad Chamber’s elections



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In the run-up to the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce elections, former Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali, Syed Zahir Ali Shah, and Muhammad Ishaq, along with candidates including Luqman Shah, Ashiq Muhammad, Ghulam Bilal Javid, Bakht

Mir Jan, Ikram Khan, and Arshad Khan, visited Kohat Industrial Estate and Cantonment Plaza, Haroon Enterprises, and met with various members and senior leaders. During their visit to Kohat Industrial Estate, they met with Abdul Hameed, Haji Sanaulah, Haroon Shafiq, Momin Khan, Muhammad Ameen, Farmanullah, Samiullah,

Gul Sharif, Ibrahim Khan, Tamur Zaman, Abdullah, Haji Mehran Gul, Haji Insaf Shah, and Misbah Khan, who pledged full cooperation and support.

They also participated in the campaign led by Abid Ud Din at Cantonment Plaza, meeting with Asif Clearing Agent and other members. On this occasion, Waris, Nisar, and Syed

Siraj-ud-Din were also present. Later, Haji Ghulam Ali and the delegation visited Haroon Enterprises and met with Haroon Siddiqui, Shakir Siddiqui, and Ali Siddiqui, requesting their cooperation and support for the Sarhad Chamber elections, to which they assured full cooperation.

Zaki and other members were also present during these meetings. Zahir Ali Shah, Muhammad Ishaq, and Malik Mehar Elahi stated that they have nominated educated candidates from every sector to restore the Chamber's credibility and play a significant role in resolving the business community's challenges.

They urged the members of Sarhad Chamber to support Sarhad Business Alliance's candidates and contribute to addressing the issues faced by the business community.

Sohail Pasha elected chairman PTEA unopposed

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) has elected Sohail Pasha as unopposed Chairman of PTEA, whereas Mahmood Ahmad and Ameer Ahmed were elected uncontested Senior Vice Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively.

Earlier, twenty-four members were also elected unopposed for the Executive Committee seats of PTEA for the next two-year term.

Member PTEA Election Commission Rana Javed Akhtar, declaring unofficial results, said here on Tuesday that only three nomination papers were received for the office Chairman, Senior Vice Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Association.

After scrutiny, these papers were found correct and hence, all these three office-bearers have been declared elected uncontested. However, the official announcement of election result will be made on 28th September 2024 during the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

New PTEA Chief Sohail Pasha hails from a famous, prominent and successful business family. He is an active member of renowned business network known as M/s Riaz Enterprises.

He has earned a good name and fame in exports, business and industry. He holds rich practical experience of 30 years as Professional Management Executive. He is serving on boards of many charitable, health and educational institutions contributing to society.

Meanwhile, Vice Chairman Pakistan Textile Exporters Association Muhammad Idrees congratulated the new office-bearers of the association and hoped that they will strive hard to take this association to new heights of excellence in terms of advocacy, service and performance.

He expressed the hope that new PTEA team would make its utmost efforts to

meet the upcoming challenges and would strive for an enabling environment to restore viability and growth of the textile industry and turn Pakistan into a destination for outsourcing of textile business.

Pointing out the core issues of textile sector, he said that a string of serious efforts, strong lobbying, tangible initiatives and out of the box solutions for the policymakers would help the textile industry to keep it operational despite all odds.

As textile industry is a major contributor to national economy, therefore the new leadership should keep in mind that they are rendering service to Pakistan by working for textile industry, he added.

New PTEA Chief Sohail Pasha, speaking after his election, said that chairing the country's premier textile association is an honour as well as a challenge for him, particularly in this

testing time.

He said that the textile industry, the key driver of the country's exports and employment, is facing a serious blow of non-viability due to the high cost of doing business and at a comparative disadvantage in respect of production cost in the region.

Immediate remedial measures are required to check this drastic downfall, he said, adding that the textile sector will have to deliver to steer the country out of economic troubles. “For this, we need the cooperation of not only the entire sector but also of value-added associations,” he added.

The Annual General Meeting of PTEA will be held on 28th September 2024 and results of annual elections will be announced officially. Newly elected body will take charge of their offices from 1st of October 2024.

Stock markets, dollar diverge on rates watch

LONDON (AFP/APP): European and Asian stock markets diverged along with the dollar Tuesday after a rally on Wall Street as traders assessed the outlook for interest rates in the United States and Europe.

Investors were looking ahead to US inflation data due Wednesday, the eve of an interest-rate decision from the European Central Bank. “Tomorrow’s US inflation figures could be the next key test of investor sentiment,” noted AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould.

The Federal Reserve is widely seen cutting US interest rates at next week's meeting but debate surrounds whether it will be by 25 or 50 basis points, with some arguing that going for the bigger option could suggest decision-makers are worried.

With Friday's US non-farm payrolls showing the

labour market slowing faster than expected, concerns are growing that the world's top economy is headed for recession, which sent stocks tumbling last week.

“Financial markets have shifted their focus from bringing down inflation to shoring up economic growth,” said Saira Malik, chief investment officer at asset manager Nuveen.

“Market volatility has climbed amid downside surprises in macroeconomic data -- especially labour market indicators.”

Official data in Britain on Tuesday showed wages grew at the slowest pace in two years, indicating that the Bank of England could next week decide against cutting interest rates for a second meeting in a row.

The pound firmed against the dollar and euro on the data, while London's FTSE 100 stock index --

featuring numerous multinationals earning in the US currency -- dropped. In the eurozone, Paris climbed and Frankfurt dipped in early afternoon deals.

All three main indices on Wall Street closed up more than one percent on Monday, which followed steep pre-weekend falls as tech stocks slumped.

Fresh worries about China's economy are also dampening sentiment, with a mixed bag on trade doing little to encourage investors and weighing on oil prices.

Data showed exports jumped in August but imports fell well short of expectations as the country's leaders struggle to boost consumption.

That came a day after news that inflation rose less than expected in July, reinforcing the view that moves to boost consumer demand and business activity have not taken hold.



In brief

Men's U19 competitions postponed

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday announced to postpone the National Men's U19 competitions indefinitely due to unavoidable circumstances. The National U19 competitions were due to start on September 11 and 14 respectively. The new schedule of both the tournaments will be shared in due course.

Wazeer set to face Indian rival

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani boxer Usman Wazeer has announced his upcoming fight against Indian pugilist Jorwal. He said at a press conference here at Islamabad Model College for Boys, I-8/3, on Tuesday. The thrilling encounter is scheduled to take place on September 26 in Bangkok, Thailand. As Wazeer gears up for his 14th professional fight, he is poised to face a formidable opponent from India, making this a historic Pakistan vs. India showdown in the boxing ring. With 13 consecutive international victories under his belt, Wazeer is determined to make Pakistan proud once again. The 26th of September promises to be an electrifying day, with Wazeer's impressive record and prestigious titles, including the World Youth Title, Asian Title, and Middle East Title. Wazeer seeks to further cement his status as a national hero and a source of pride for Pakistan and Gilgit-Baltistan. He also shared exclusive insights into his preparations and strategies for the upcoming fight, exuding confidence and a fierce determination to emerge victorious.

China bans 43 soccer players

BEIJING (Reuters): The Chinese Football Association has banned for life 38 soccer players and five club officials after a two-year investigation into match-fixing and gambling, as part of a crackdown on corruption in one of China's most popular sports. The investigation found that 120 matches had been fixed, with 41 football clubs involved. Zhang Xiaopeng, a senior official from the Ministry of Public Security, told a press conference in Dalian, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. The report did not say whether all the matches were in China. Three former Chinese internationals Jin Jingdao, Guo Tianyu and Gu Chao and South Korean player Son Jun-ho were among those banned for life, according to findings made public on Tuesday at the press conference by the ministry and the General Administration of Sport of China, at which the CFA president was also present. None of the players have made any public comment. Son was released in March after being detained for 10 months in China and returned to South Korea. Zhang said 44 individuals faced criminal penalties for bribery, gambling, and the illegal opening of casinos, while 17 others were found to have engaged in bribery and match-fixing. CFA President Song Kai said 43 of the 44 had been banned for life from football-related activities, and 17 others received five-year bans. The findings were announced ahead of a World Cup qualifier in Dalian later on Tuesday where Team China will host Saudi Arabia after last week's 7-0 loss away to Japan. The sport has long grappled with corruption, which fans have blamed for the underperformance of the men's national team. China in turn has ramped up its crackdown on soccer-related graft.



DALIAN: Jiang Shenglong of China heads the ball during the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifier third round Group C match between China and Saudi Arabia at Suoyuwan Football Stadium.

Australia struggle in WC qualifying as Son lifts Korea

Hong Kong (AFP): Australia failed to score for the second successive match, China slumped to another defeat but Son Heung-min scored a stunning goal as South Korea got off the mark in Asian World Cup qualifying on Tuesday.

Graham Arnold's Socceroos, having been shocked at home 1-0 by Bahrain last week, dominated a Group C encounter with Indonesia but were held 0-0 in front of almost 80,000 fans at the Gelora Bung Karno Stadium in Jakarta.

Australia carved out a succession of chances but lacked any cutting edge, coming closest when Bayern Munich teenager Nestory Irankunda thundered a shot against the post.

"It was our game all along," Irankunda said. "We should have won it. We should have put them away in the first half." Next month, Arnold's men face China at home in Group C and then a tough trip to inform Japan. "There's eight games to go," said Arnold. "It's not like it's a disaster, but I've got to go home and do a lot of thinking."

Saudi Arabia had to play the last 71 minutes of their Group C match against China in Dalian with 10 men, but Roberto Mancini's side found a way to come back from a goal behind to win 2-1 in the dying seconds.

Hassan Kadish equalised with a header from a corner before half-time and repeated the feat in the last minute of the 90 to spark wild celebrations from the visitors.

China, who were thumped 7-0 in Japan last week in their opening Group C encounter, had taken the lead in the 14th minute via an Ali Lajami own goal.

Wild weather South Korea's English Premier League strike force of Hwang Hee-chan and Son Heung-min both scored as they beat Oman 3-1 in Muscat.

Wolverhampton's Hwang opened the scoring after 19 minutes before Jung Seung-hyun's own goal equalised on the stroke of half-time.

Tottenham's Son got South Korea's second, turning outside the box and firing home an unstoppable left-foot finish on 82 minutes. Joo Min-kyu put the result beyond doubt in the 11th minute of added time after being played in by Son.

It was South Korea's first win in the final Asian qualifying phase after they were held goalless at home by Palestine last week. The Palestinians could not repeat their heroic performance in Seoul, however, and were beaten 3-1 by Jordan in a match played in Kuala Lumpur because of the war in Gaza.

North Korea drew 2-2 with Asian Cup champions Qatar in wild weather in a Group A match played in Vientiane. Ri Il Song gave North Korea an early lead, in what was nominally their home fixture, before they were reduced to 10 men when Jang Kuk Chol was red carded for preventing a goal-scoring opportunity.

Akram Afif scored the resulting penalty and Almoez Ali put the Qataris 2-1 up at half-time. After the break, the heavens opened violently, dumping huge amounts of water on the Laos National Stadium pitch.

Kang Kuk Chol pierced the gloom with a rasping free-kick equaliser from 30 yards before puddles on the pitch grew into lakes leaving the referee no choice but to take the players off. There was a delay of more than 20 minutes until the rain eased but when the teams resumed there were no further goals as the players struggled on the waterlogged surface.

In another Group A match Uzbekistan beat Kyrgyzstan 3-2 in Bishkek. The top two from each of the three six-team Asian groups will be guaranteed a place at the expanded 48-team World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The third qualifying round wraps up in June.

England Test captain Stokes back for Pakistan tour

LONDON (AFP): Ben Stokes returns as captain for England's three-Test tour of Pakistan next month while Brydon Carse could make his debut just weeks after completing a ban for breaches of betting rules.

Stokes will skipper the side after missing the 2-1 home series win against Sri Lanka with a hamstring injury. Opener Zak Crawley is also in the squad announced on Tuesday after missing the same series with a broken finger.

Bowling all-rounder Carse, who returned to action in late August after serving a three-month ban for historical betting violations, appears to be the main beneficiary of a year-end elbow injury to Durham team-mate and fellow quick Mark Wood. The South Africa-born

29-year-old, who has featured in 17 white-ball internationals for England, takes his place in a 17-strong squad alongside another player yet to make his Test bow, Jordan Cox.

The tour is scheduled to get under way on October 7 in Multan.

There are due to be further Tests in Karachi and Rawalpindi but renovations ahead of next year's Champions Trophy are causing problems at those venues. One or more of the games could be moved to the United Arab Emirates or Sri Lanka.

Dan Lawrence, a makeshift opener against Sri Lanka in the absence of Crawley, has been dropped.

Young left-arm fast bowler Josh Hull has been

retained while Jack Leach and Rehan Ahmed -- two spinners who featured in England's historic 3-0 series whitewash over Pakistan in 2022 -- are recalled.

Leach was displaced as England's number one spinner this season by Shoaib Bashir but the Somerset pair, plus Leicestershire's Ahmed, form Stokes's trio of frontline slow bowling options.

England squad for three-match Test tour of Pakistan:

Ben Stokes (captain), Rehan Ahmed, Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Jordan Cox, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Josh Hull, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Olly Stone, Chris Woakes.

National hero Haider Ali returns home



ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani para athlete Haider Ali arrived here at Islamabad International Airport on Tuesday, greeted by a hero's welcome after clinching the bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

The officials from the

Pakistan Sports Board and members of the National Paralympic Committee were in attendance to receive the champion, marking a triumphant return for Ali.

Ali's impressive career boasts an array of medals, including a gold medal at the Tokyo Paralympics, a

silver medal in Beijing 2008, and a bronze medal in Rio 2016.

His outstanding performance at the 2022 Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, where he achieved a remarkable 51.23 meters, secured his direct qualification for the 2024 Paris Games.

Afghan-NZ Test second day called off after 'huge mess'

GREATER NOIDA (AFP/APP): Ground staff used electric fans in a desperate bid to dry the pitch in the Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand Tuesday, but play was called off for a second straight day with one official calling it "a huge mess".

The one-off Test at Afghanistan's adopted home near India's capital New Delhi was supposed to start on Monday, but the toss is yet to take place because of rain and the poor condition of the Greater Noida ground.

On Tuesday, grounds-men covered areas of the pitch in anticipation of more rain, while others waved electric fans over the worst wet patches.

Ground staff dug up one wet outfield area in the midwicket region, refilling it with dry soil and laying fresh turf. Umpires carried out repeated inspections and finally called off play in the mid-afternoon.

The venue, hosting its first Test, has only basic drainage and has been criticised for its facilities dubbed

"ill-equipped" by the Times of India newspaper. Despite sunshine on Monday and Tuesday the outfield remained soaked after days of preceding monsoon rain.

The teams stayed in their hotels on Tuesday morning but New Zealand, who were unable to complete any of their training sessions ahead of the Test, later put up nets on the ground and players went through their drills.

Afghanistan has hosted several Twenty20 and one-day internationals at Greater Noida since 2017.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has offered Afghanistan venues to train and host matches outside their troubled nation, including in the northern Indian cities of Lucknow and Dehradun.

Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) officials have been cautious about criticism, fearing it could spoil relations with the BCCI, but said they were disappointed. "This is a huge mess. We are never coming back here," an ACB official was quoted as saying by Indian

media. But after the second day's play was scrapped, Afghanistan officials spoke officially to reporters.

"Everyone, including the ground authorities, have worked hard," Menhajuddin Naz, the ACB international cricket manager, told reporters.

"Even if it had been any other venue, they would have struggled to get it back on time."

Naz said they had been offered to host the Test in the northern city of Kanpur or the southern city of Bengaluru, but had opted for Greater Noida.

"We chose Greater Noida as it was most convenient in terms of logistics. It was closer to Delhi and also connectivity from Kabul was better," said Naz. This is only Afghanistan's 10th five-day match since they were granted Test status in 2017.

There has been no public reaction from Tim Southee's New Zealand, who will next travel to Sri Lanka for two Tests before returning for three more against India.

Pakistan grabs two bronze medals

MULTAN (APP): Pakistani team shone on opening day of 5th World Nomad Games, by securing two Bronze medals in Mas-Wrestling being held in Astana.

Pakistani team celebrated a triumphant start at the 5th World Nomad Games with outstanding performances in Mas-Wrestling on the tournament's opening day.

The team secured two bronze medals, showcasing their exceptional skills and determination.

Shaffat Ullah led the charge by clinching the first bronze medal of the games in the 70 kg weight category.

Demonstrating remarkable prowess and strength, Shaffat Ullah overcame formidable opponents from Australia and Kazakhstan, and secured his bronze medal by defeating Mongolia in a thrilling bronze medal match.

Adding to the day's successes, Muhammad Asim earned the bronze medal in the 80 kg weight category. His path to victory included impressive wins over athletes from Iran and Uzbekistan, culminating in a decisive victory against Poland in the bronze medal bout.

In a statement on Monday, Nawab Furqan Khan, President Pakistan Mas-Wrestling Federation, expressed his pride and excitement: "Our athletes have delivered exceptional performances on the first day of the Games. Shaffat Ullah and Muhammad Asim have showcased not only their skill but also their dedication and hard work.

These achievements reflect the strength and spirit of Mas-Wrestling in Pakistan. We look forward to even greater success as the games continue and are proud to represent our country on this prestigious stage."

The success of the team is a testament to the exceptional leadership and support provided by Coach Muhammad Saad and Official Ch Ihtsham Akmal, he noted.

Their guidance and strategic planning were instrumental in achieving these remarkable results.

FIH confirm nominations received for upcoming elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Hockey Federation (FIH) has confirmed the nominations received for the positions to be elected by the National Associations that are members of the FIH at the 49th FIH Statutory Congress on November 9, 2024.

FIH Elections Oversight Panel (EOP) has completed its assessment of all the candidates nominated for the positions of FIH President and FIH Ordinary Executive

Board Members and has determined that all nominations submitted meet the required standards and criteria, said a press release.

List of Valid Nominations- For the position of FIH President: Mohammad Tayyab Ikram (MAC). For the two positions of FIH Ordinary Executive Board Member female: Danae Andrada Barrios (URU) and Katrin Kauschke (GER) and Hazel Kennedy (ZAM).

For the two positions

of FIH Ordinary Executive Board Member male: Alberto Daniel Budeiskiy (ARG), Erik Cornelissen (NED) and Deon James Morgan (RSA).

The EOP will supervise all the election process during the Congress. The aim of the EOP is to ensure that the FIH elections are carried out in a fair and transparent manner consistent with the FIH Statutes, Integrity Code, Elections Manual and General Regulations.

Brother of Pogba to be tried in kidnap case



Paris (AFP): French judges on Tuesday ordered six men to stand trial in a kidnap and extortion case involving French footballer Paul Pogba, with the star's brother Mathias one of the accused, sources close to the case said.

The trial follows a two-year investigation into the alleged extortion and kidnapping of the former Manchester United midfielder in a high-profile case that emerged in 2022.

Five people close to the World Cup winner are suspected of having "meticulously prepared" a meeting in the Paris suburbs on March 19, 2022, which ended with Pogba being kidnapped and held by two unidentified men who demanded he give them 13 million euros (\$14 million), according to Paris prosecutors.

Pogba's brother Mathias -- a former striker himself -- was not present for that meeting, but is suspected of

having put pressure on his younger brother afterwards "with the same determination to get (Paul Pogba) to hand over the money", according to prosecutors.

All have denied their guilt in the affair, claiming they were "victims" of armed robbers and that they were assaulted after Paul Pogba refused to pay. But prosecutors called for the three childhood friends and two former acquaintances from the town where Pogba grew up in eastern Paris who were present on the night to be tried for extortion, illegal restraint and criminal conspiracy.

Pogba -- who plays for Juventus and the French national team but is currently serving a four-year ban for doping -- filed a complaint with Italian prosecutors saying he was the target of a multi-million-euro blackmail plot. "Curse on Mbappe"

During the investigation, Paul Pogba stated that he had "voluntarily" helped members of the group, but then refused to hand seven million euros over to three of them in September 2021. He subsequently kept his distance from the group, he said. In late September 2022, his brother Mathias -- who was born in Guinea -- posted a series of videos on social media incriminating Pogba and accusing him of having "abandoned" his family.

The videos came a month after Mathias Pogba had put another video online in French, Italian, English and Spanish promising "great revelations" about his brother. During the investigation, Mathias said he had been afraid for his safety and that of his family, saying he had been manipulated by the other suspects, and that he hoped he would soon be reconciled with his younger brother.



NOIDA: Glenn Phillips has a go with his part-time offspin, Afghanistan vs New Zealand, only Test 2nd day.



In brief

ANF seizes 76.5 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 76.5 kg drugs worth Rs 180 million and arrested five accused including an Afghan national, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that during the last 24 hours, ANF conducted raids in different areas against drug dealers supplying drugs in educational institutions. 1200 grams hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near a private university in Rawalpindi. In another raid, 20 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused arrested near a major government educational institution in Quetta. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to students of educational institutions, he informed. He further said that 8 kg powder used for making intoxicated tablets was recovered from an Afghan resident rounded up near the Pak-Afghan border in Torkham. Over 10 kg heroin was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Jamshoro toll plaza and two accused were arrested during the operation. More than 30 kg heroin hidden in an uninhabited area of Loralai for smuggling was recovered. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.

IRSA releases 203,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 203,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 215,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550.00 feet (maximum conservation level) and was 152.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 120,700 cusecs and 120,200 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1228.30 feet, which was 180.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 26,400 cusecs and 15,200 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 131,000, 118,000, 167,400 and 119,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 28,500 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 10,300 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Rs 3.6 mln fines imposed on unfit PSVs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district police on the directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani have imposed fines amounting to Rs 3.6 million on unfit Public Service Vehicles (PSVs). According to a police spokesman, Police were taking strict action in accordance with the law against unfit commercial vehicles. Rawalpindi district Police under special campaign launched in Rawalpindi district issued challan slips to 3393 PSVs and impounded 443 during last 16 days. He informed that during a special campaign launched against unfit vehicles, police challan over 3393 and imposed fines amounting to over Rs 3.6 million on the rules violators. He said that Police were taking action in accordance with the law against unfit PSVs, checking route permits and licenses of the drivers.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presiding over the meeting of Treasury & Opposition Members in National Assembly at Parliament House. —APP Photo

US Envoy Blome highlights "Recharge Pakistan" initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the United States in Islamabad Donald Blome on Tuesday addressed the launch of the "Recharge Pakistan" initiative here at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS). The ambitious climate project aims to bolster flood resilience and enhance water security across vulnerable regions in Pakistan.

Ambassador Blome began his remarks by recognizing PIPS, an independent research and training facility for parliamentarians established with U.S. funding. He emphasized the institute's significant role in educating and supporting Pakistani lawmakers through extensive training and policy research.

The "Recharge Pakistan" initiative, which sees a \$5 million contribution from the United States, is designed to address critical water management challenges exacerbated by climate change. Groundwater, vital for drinking water, agriculture, and livestock, is under threat as climate change disrupts

natural water recharge processes. Ambassador Blome likened groundwater to a battery that powers essential life functions but is increasingly unable to recharge due to changing environmental conditions.

The project will deploy a network of green infrastructure solutions to rehabilitate floodwater channels, restore wetlands, and improve soil water absorption. Expected outcomes include reducing greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 53,000 tons of CO₂, creating 127 new groundwater storage basins, and reducing flooding hazards across 50,000 hectares. The initiative is projected to benefit approximately 687,000 people directly and over seven million indirectly in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh.

The envoy highlighted the historical U.S.-Pakistan partnership in water management, citing collaborative projects like the Mangla and Tarbela dams. He underscored recent efforts under the U.S.-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework, which focuses on renew-

able energy, smart agriculture, and water management. "Recharge Pakistan" builds on this longstanding partnership and represents a further commitment to addressing climate change impacts. The initiative comes in response to the severe effects of the climate crisis experienced by Pakistan, including the devastating 2022 floods and the impacts of rising temperatures on glaciers and agriculture.

Blome commended the efforts of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and other partners for their role in planning and implementing the project. He reiterated the U.S. commitment to supporting Pakistan in building a greener, more climate-resilient future.

The launch event marked a significant step in the ongoing collaboration between the U.S. and Pakistan, aiming to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and promote sustainable development in one of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions.

Interior Minister meets ANP President Senator Aimal Wali

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday met with President Awami National Party Senator Aimal Wali Khan.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest and the overall situation of the country were discussed. Both leaders also talked about measures for establishment of peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Naqvi said that terror-

ism is condemnable in all its forms, and the national narrative against terrorism is the voice of Pakistan. He emphasized that everyone needs to be united against the terrorism.

He stated that Awami National Party has bravely fought against terrorism. He also paid homage to the martyrs of Awami National Party, who embraced martyrdom in the war against terrorism.

He stressed that it's time to rise above political and parochial differences and to purge Pakistan of the terrorist groups. He is also reiterated the commitment to eliminate terrorists with the support of public.

President Awami National Party Aimal Wali Khan assured ANP's full support for counter-terrorism and said that terrorists have martyred innocent people.

Chandio urges political forces to unite for country's economic prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Maula Bakhsh Chandio on Tuesday urged all the political parties to work for economic prosperity of Pakistan.

All the political issues must be resolved through negotiations, he said while talking to a private television channel.

Commenting on arrest of Opposition members on

violation of code of conduct, he said, it is a regrettable incident but this culture was promoted by the leaders of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI), during their period of tenure of government.

He suggested all the political parties including Opposition to sit on the table and initiate dialogue for resolving political issues.

There is a dire need to

strengthen Pakistan's economy, he said adding that we should work for political stability and strengthening democratic system to achieve the development goals.

In reply to a question about talks with PTI to melt down political heat, he said PPP and PML-N leaders have invited PTI on many occasions to sit for talks but the PTI rejected the dialogue offer.

Anti-polio drive continues in ICT; 2 held for violations

ISLAMABAD (APP): A five-day door-to-door anti-polio vaccination campaign entered its second day in the Federal Capital while a school principal was arrested for refusing to allow students to receive the polio vaccine.

All the Assistant Commissioners are actively participating in the field alongside polio workers to ensure the campaign runs smoothly, said the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration. On the occasion, the district administration urged full cooperation to ensure the success of the door-to-door campaign.

For this purpose, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Pothohar, Aneeq Anwar, visited the Jhangi Syedan area, while AC Secretariat Abdullah Khan oversaw the campaign in Bari Imam, Barah Kahu, and Phulgran. During their visits, some challenges faced by polio workers were identified. In response, they urged citizens to cooperate with health teams. One person was arrested for refusing to let polio workers vaccinate children.

The district administration emphasized that it is crucial for parents to ensure their children receive polio drops, warning that refusal to vaccinate is a serious offense. In a separate incident, the principal of a private school within the Nilore police jurisdiction was also arrested after he

refused to let polio workers administer the vaccine to his students.

Although the principal was released after discussions with the district administration, the incident highlights the legal requirement to cooperate with polio workers. The authorities stressed that preventing polio workers from doing their job is a criminal act.

The district administration has appealed to all citizens, especially school administrations, to cooperate with the ongoing polio campaign. They reminded everyone that protecting children from polio is a collective responsibility and that refusing to vaccinate puts the wider community at risk.

Jam calls for digital inclusion to empower Women

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday called for digital inclusion to empower women in the country.

The minister for commerce, underscored the importance of digital inclusion as a key driver for economic equality during his keynote address at the "Shaping Tomorrow: Private

Sector Engagement in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" event, hosted by UN Women Pakistan in Islamabad, said a press release issued here.

He highlighted the critical role of the private sector in advancing gender equality, stressing that technology can serve as a "great equalizer" for women's empowerment. "The private sector plays a major role in driving change, and today's event has showcased the need for collaboration in achieving gender equality. By prioritizing digital inclusion, we can remove the barriers that have historically kept

women out of the economic mainstream," Minister Jam Kamal Khan stated.

He further announced that the Ministry of Commerce, through its new e-commerce policy, will implement various initiatives aimed at empowering women through policy and facilitation measures.

The event, which focused on the role of private enterprises in fostering gender equality, aimed to advocate for more robust participation from businesses in supporting women's economic empowerment, leadership roles, and entrepreneurship.

In her opening remarks, Maria Holtsberg, UN Women Country Representative a.i., echoed the minister's call for private sector engagement. She emphasized that "empowering women economically is key to unlocking their full potential," and noted that investing in women contributes not only to business success but also to broader social development, including improved

health, education, and social outcomes.

Two panel discussions at the event further explored key issues related to women's empowerment. The first, titled "Leveraging Digital and Financial Inclusion for Enhanced Livelihoods of Our Women and Girls," featured speakers from SECP, Karandaaz, P@SHA, and Jazz, who discussed enhancing access to finance and bridging the gender digital divide. The second panel, "Investing in Women's Leadership in the Private Sector," brought together leaders from JICA, the Pakistan Business Council, and Ubuntu Care to discuss strategies for fostering women's leadership in business.

The event saw strong participation from private sector companies, WEPs signatories, financial institutions, donors, and international organizations, all working together to create pathways for women's economic empowerment through private sector engagement.

Resolving public issues top priority, DIG

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Syed Ali Raza, on Tuesday said that the Islamabad Police is committed to resolving public issues on priority.

According to ICT spokesperson, special directives have been issued by the Inspector General (IG) Police, Syed Ali Nasir Ali Rizvi for the solution of masses issues at their doorsteps. He said this while listening to the complaints and issues of the public as well as police officials during the Khuli Kachehri held at his office. Senior police officers were also present on this occasion, he added.

During the Khuli Kachehri, he listened to the complaints of the citizens and marked their applications to the concerned officers for timely action on merit, he said. He said DIG also directed them to send reports to his offices in the given time frame.

DIG further said that strict action will be taken against officials involved in bribery or corruption and a zero tolerance policy will be adopted in this regard.

Syed Ali Raza emphasized that Islamabad Police would not leave any stone unturned to secure the lives and property of the citizens. "Such interaction would be continued in future to provide maximum relief to the citizens" he added.

He said that interaction during "Khuli Kachehri" would help to promote friendly policing and will also ensure self-accountability, immediate resolution of citizens' problems. The protection of life, property and self-respect of citizens comes first, he maintained.

Police arrest bike lifter

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested a bike lifter and street criminal and recovered three stolen motorcycles and other items from his possession, said a Police spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, R.A.Bazar Police Station managed to net a bike lifter namely Khurram Shehzad, and recovered three stolen motorcycles and other items from his possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway.

Superintendent of Police, Pothohar said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind bars.



ISLAMABAD: An eye catching view of sunset in the federal capital. —APP Photo

Military vehicles repaired

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of National Defense has announced the repair of 1,145 military vehicles in the workshops of the Special Units' Brigade. The Ministry's press office reported on Tuesday that 1,145 various types of military vehicles, which had been left damaged under the previous administration in the garrison units of the Special Units' Brigade, have now been repaired and made operational by the brigade's engineering teams.

Khairullah visits Russia

KABUL (BNA): Mullah Khairullah Khairk-hwa, Acting Minister of Information and Culture of IEA, has officially arrived in Russia for a cultural event. Invited by the Russian government, Minister will participate in International United Cultures Forum, taking place from September 11 to September 14 in St Petersburg. The forum aims to promote international cultural collaboration and exchange, bringing together representatives from various nations.

Five-year plan launched to create 1.5 million jobs

KABUL (TOLONews): Officials from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs said during a program presenting their one-year achievements that employment opportunities for 1.5 million people in various sectors will be created over the next five years.

According to the officials, this plan will be implemented based on 15 agreements signed at the National Labor Conference.

Officials said that, based on the decree of the leader of the Islamic Emirate, all laws, regulations, and procedures of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs have been revised considering current needs and to ensure the welfare of employees and the public in both the government and private sectors.

Mohammad Zahid Ahmadzai, Deputy Minister of Labor at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, said during the program: "Forty years of war have passed in Afghanistan, and the unemployment rate is low, despite much propaganda in this area. Even for countries that consider themselves very advanced, the unemployment rate is low."

Rahimullah Sarah, an advisor to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs,



said: "The labor law, social law, and the review and revision of 40 legislative documents have been sent for approval to the high authorities."

The Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs added that in the past year, over 74,000 people have been provided with technical and vocational training needed in the job market.

Samiullah Ebrahimi, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, spoke about the ministry's achievements, such as following up on commitments from the

National Labor Conference, distributing work permits, gathering comprehensive information on the labor market from 27 provinces, and pursuing the signing of agreements with countries like Qatar, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates to send skilled workers to these countries.

Samiullah Ebrahimi also mentioned that establishing employment centers at the regional level, monitoring the activities of employment agencies, organizing training and technical programs, addressing child

labor cases, and continuing support programs for orphaned and destitute children are other achievements of the past year.

Samiullah Ebrahimi added: "To send individuals abroad for work, nine agreements have been signed in Dari, Pashto, and English with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and meetings have also been held to finalize them."

Officials at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs also reported that in the past year, more than 118,000 work permits were issued to domestic citizens, and 3,381 permits were given to foreign nationals. Similarly, the ministry has identified 70 hazardous jobs with health risks and informed factory owners of the working conditions and important standards for these jobs.

Aga Khan Foundation to restore Nasir's Tomb

BADAKHSHAN (TOLONews): The Directorate of Information and Culture of Badakhshan has announced the start of the restoration work on the tomb of Nasir Khusraw in the Yamgan district of Badakhshan province.

The restoration work on this historic monument is being carried out by the cultural division of the Aga Khan Foundation and is expected to be completed within the next three months.

Zabiullah Amiri, the head of Information and Culture for Badakhshan, said: "Fortunately, after a long time, our efforts have borne fruit, and the tomb of Nasir Khusraw is being restored and renovated by the Aga Khan Foundation's cultural team. Inshallah, the work will take three months to complete."

Cultural activists in Badakhshan have welcomed the restoration of Nasir Khusraw's tomb and have called for serious attention to the preservation and maintenance of other historical monuments and sites in the province.

Ahmad Nabil Qazizada, a cultural activist in Badakhshan, said: "We hope that the government will maintain all the historical monuments in Badakhshan and not allow anyone to destroy them."

Another cultural activist, Mohibullah Hairat, said: "We welcome the start of the renovation of Nasir Khusraw's tomb, and our request is that other historical monuments also be restored."

Nasir Khusraw Balkhi's tomb is situated on rocky hills that have faced the risk of collapse due to wars, rainfall, and other natural events. Previously, several cultural figures and local residents had called for the restoration of this historical site.

Work on TAPI project to begin today

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum has announced that work on the TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) project is set to begin in Afghanistan today (Wednesday), with senior officials from the Islamic Emirate and Turkmenistan in attendance.

According to ministry spokesperson Homayoon Afghan, all preparations for the TAPI project have been finalized. Once work begins, the project is expected to create both direct and indirect job opportunities for thousands of people.

"It is expected that tomorrow, Wednesday, the work on the TAPI project will officially begin in Afghanistan with a ceremony. With the start of this project, thousands of Afghans will find employment opportunities, and Afghanistan will gain

access to affordable and sustainable energy," Homayoon Afghan said.

The TAPI project, a significant economic venture for Afghanistan and the region, has completed 214 kilometers of its pipeline on Turkmenistan soil. This pipeline will annually transport 33 billion cubic meters of Turkmenistan gas to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India.

The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) also views the implementation of the TAPI project as crucial for enhancing Afghanistan's political and economic relations with regional countries.

ACCI board member Khan Jan Alokozay said: "We hope that there will be no further delays and that the project will start. The importance of this project is immense. With the start of

this new work, we believe that a significant change will come to our economy."

Shakir Yaqoubi, an economic expert, emphasized the project's importance, saying: "With the implementation of the TAPI project, we expect to earn close to \$400 million, more or less, in transit fees and gain access to sufficient gas resources. It will also enhance large-scale economic cooperation and interactions between Afghanistan and regional countries, boost Afghanistan's transit position more than ever, and secure a favorable and prominent place for Afghanistan in the new economic order."

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the implementation of the TAPI project will provide Afghanistan with nearly \$450 million annually in transit fees.

Traffic incidents claim 1,200 lives in six months

KABUL (TOLONews): The General Directorate of Traffic has reported that in the past six months, more than 2,700 traffic incidents have occurred in the country, resulting in over 1,200 deaths. According to officials at the General Directorate of Traffic, these incidents have also resulted in more than 4,000 injuries.

Non-compliance with traffic laws, excessive speed, and driving by underage individuals are cited as reasons for the increase in traffic incidents in the country.

Abdul Wadood Khairk-hwah, director of Planning and Policy of the Kabul Traffic Directorate, told TOLONews: "Approximately 700 men, 103 women, and 377 children have also died, with a total of 1,200 fatalities."

Meanwhile, a number of drivers consider urban congestion, the lack of standard roads, and some drivers not having driving licenses as factors contributing to traffic incidents in the country.

Murtaza, one of the drivers, told a TOLONews reporter: "Many young people are on the roads; they do not know the traffic laws properly, and that is why accidents happen."

Nangialai, another driver, said: "Some drivers neither have a license nor are of legal age. The government should pay attention

to this."

But what steps should be taken to reduce traffic incidents?

Mohammad Mansour, a resident of Kabul, said: "Our demand from the government is that those without licenses should not be allowed to operate within the city, and also, the congestion in the cities should be reduced."

Previously, the General Directorate of Traffic Police had announced a plan to prevent traffic incidents in the country and said that the electronic management plan would be implemented on five major highways in the country, which have seen the most traffic incidents.

Hibatullah emphasizes importance of unity

KABUL (Ariana News): The Islamic Emirate's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada visited northern, northeastern and northwestern provinces of the country recently and met with officials, religious scholars, and ethnic elders where he emphasized the importance of unity among the people.

He said if there is no justice, the system will not survive, Arg quoted him as saying in a statement.

In a voice message, Akhundzada said in a meeting with officials of Balkh province that if there is no justice and if personal needs are put first, the Islamic system will not survive.

"If there is oppression, terror, personal orders and the powerful person is not held accountable, poor people are held accountable and things are mediated and justice is not applied, this system will not remain," said Akhundzada.

He also stressed the need for unity and solidarity among the people in Badghis, Faryab, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Balkh, Samangan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces in another meeting with officials, religious scholars, and tribal elders.

Hamdullah Fitrat, IEA's deputy spokesman, stated that Akhundzada asked the meeting participants to work for unity among the country's ethnic groups.

Kunduz to buy 6,000 tons wheat

KUDUZ (TOLONews): The Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock of Kunduz plans to purchase over 6,000 metric tons of wheat from the province's farmers this solar year.

The purpose of buying wheat in this province is said to be to support farmers and prevent its hoarding in the market.

Salahuddin Wahidi, the head of the agriculture department of Kunduz's Department of Agriculture and Irrigation, said: "One of the goals is to encourage farmers by purchasing wheat at higher prices than the market rate. This wheat will be stored in the silos of the provincial center and used in emergency situations."

Residents of Kunduz said that this initiative, in addition to supporting farmers, will help prevent price gouging and address emergencies.

Qasim Jan, a resident of Kunduz, said: "This is the best decision because our farmers' wheat is purchased at a good price, stored properly, and used in emergencies."

Alamgir, another resident of Kunduz, added: "It's a good move because if there is a drought, the Islamic Emirate will sell it at the same price."

Tarlai's residents sans access to drinking water

MAZAR-I-SHARIF (Pajhwok): Some residents of Tarlai area in the Charkant district of northern Balkh province have complained about access to clean drinking water and asked the government to address their problems.

Relevant government officials acknowledged the issue and stress resolution.

Mohammad Ayoub, a resident, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the inhabitants have to walk a few kilometers to bring drinking water to their houses.

Ayoub said: "We have a lot of problems, as our children go and fetch water from the river, they lose the chance to attend the schools, we want the government of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) to dig water-wells in the area and build water

facilities for us."

Hasibullah, another resident said, around 300 families lived in the Tarlai area, none of the families have access to clean water.

This is a big challenge for the people, we need the help of the government and other humanitarian organizations to solve the issue, he said.

Sher Mohammad, a tribal leader of Charkint also admitted that most of the people in that district had no access to clean water, they used ponds or irrigation-channels water for their daily uses.

Such water is not only unhealthy for the people but very hard to get during the droughts or winter snowy times, he said.

Additional to the clean water issue, a number of the residents in Charkint

have also complained about having no access to health services and schools due to the damaged roads.

Deputy Governor of Balkh Noorul Hadi Abo Idrees has also confirmed the problem but insisted that it would be addressed.

Abo Idrees said: "The government has been paying more attention to remote areas of the country, more check dams, linking roads, water supply facilities and schools had been built during the past three years, the official still try to address the remaining problems as well."

Additional to the residents of Charkint, the inhabitants of some districts in Balkh also complain about the shortages of clean water, they ask from the government to solve their problems.

Hundreds of women enhance livelihoods through craftwork



BAGHLAN (BNA): The Department of Information and Culture in Baghlan province reports that over two thousand women are actively involved in sewing, embroidery, and

handicraft production within the province.

Mawlawi Izzat Mir Haqani, Director of Culture and Tourism at the Baghlan Department of Information and Culture, revealed that

these women are working in numerous local workshops, focusing on sewing, embroidery, food production, and various handicrafts. This engagement enables them to manage

their family's economic responsibilities effectively.

Hamida Siddiqi, a representative of women entrepreneurs in Baghlan, highlighted that in the province's center and districts, two thousand women are contributing to their family's livelihoods through their work in sewing, embroidery, and handicrafts. The profits they earn are significantly enhancing their daily lives.

Hosseina and Begum, who are employed in sewing, expressed that they work in a safe and secure environment, which allows them to perform their duties with confidence. They have called on institutions and international organizations to extend support to handicraft workshops, advocating for the creation of additional employment opportunities for women.

Aid distributed to 120 families

KABUL (BNA): Humanitarian aid has been distributed to 120 families in Anaba district, Panjshir, who suffered losses due to recent floods that destroyed their agricultural lands. The families affected have faced significant challenges in rebuilding their lives after the disaster.

Alhaj Mohibullah Jahid, Head of the Panjshir Natural Disaster Management Authority, informed Bakhtar News Agency that the distributed aid included essential food and non-food items. These supplies consisted of rice, oil, milk, and blankets to help the families meet their immediate needs.

The support provided is part of the ongoing efforts by the Natural Disaster Management Authority to assist those affected by the recent floods.

Businesspeople seek women-only market

ZARANJ (Pajhwok): The Women's Chamber of Commerce and Investment in Nimroz province has announced a significant increase in the number of businesswomen and investors. The chamber is actively working towards establishing a special market in the province exclusively for women.

Nimroz Women's Chamber of Commerce Director Palwasha Shams told Pajhwok Afghan News the number of women involved in business in the province had surged dramatically over the past three years.

Three years ago, only 60 women were officially engaged in business, but the number has now risen to 250, indicating more than a four-fold increase.

Shams estimated around 1,000 women were currently working indirectly, engaged in online and home-based businesses.

She attributed the rise in the number of female entrepreneurs to increasing unemployment and dropout rates among girls from schools and universities, prompting many to start small and large businesses to generate income and create job opportunities.

Previously, female entrepreneurs in Nimroz were dispersed due to the absence of a women's chamber. However, since the establishment of the chamber two years ago, these entrepreneurs now operate under one umbrella.

Shams claimed the chamber had played a crucial role in supporting

women through exhibitions and specialized training programmes, conducting over 200 training sessions in the past two years to enhance the skills of businesswomen.

For a year, the chamber has been advocating for the creation of a women's market. Many women producing clothing and handicrafts lack a dedicated space to market and sell their products at affordable prices.

The chamber has approached government agencies for permission for setting up such a market and remains hopeful about a positive outcome.

The number of women entrepreneurs in Nimroz is steadily going up. They are calling for the establishment of a market for women.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Dr. A Q Khan Hospital Trust called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Ukraine targets Moscow in biggest drone attack yet

MOSCOW (Reuters): Ukraine targeted the Russian capital on Tuesday in its biggest drone attack so far, killing at least one and wrecking dozens of homes in the Moscow region and forcing around 50 flights to be diverted from airports around Moscow.

Russia, the world's biggest nuclear power, said it had destroyed at least 20 Ukrainian attack drones as they swarmed over the Moscow region, which has a population of more than 21 million, and 124 more over eight other regions. At least one person was killed near Moscow, Russian authorities said. Three of Moscow's four airports were closed for more than six hours and almost 50 flights were diverted.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the drone attack was another reminder of the real nature of Ukraine's political leadership, which he said was made up of Russia's enemies. "There is no way that night time strikes on residential neighbourhoods can be associated with military action," said Peskov.

"The Kyiv regime continues to demonstrate its nature. They are our enemies and we must continue the special military operation to protect ourselves from such actions," he said, using the expression Moscow uses to describe its war in Ukraine. Kyiv said Russia, which sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine in February 2022, had attacked it overnight with 46 drones, of which 38 were destroyed.

The drone attacks on Russia damaged at high-rise apartment buildings in the Ramenskoye district of the Moscow region, setting flats on fire, residents told Reuters. A 46-year-old

woman was killed and three people were wounded in Ramenskoye, Moscow regional governor Andrei Vorobyov said.

Residents said they awoke to blasts and fire. "I looked at the window and saw a ball of fire," Alexander Li, a resident of the district told Reuters. "The window got blown out by the shockwave." Georgy, a resident who declined to give his surname, said he heard a drone buzzing outside his building in the early hours.

"I drew back the curtain and it hit the building right before my eyes, I saw it all," he said. "I took my family and we ran outside." The Ramenskoye district, some 50 km (31 miles) southeast of the Kremlin, has a population of around a quarter of a million people, according to official data. More than 70 drones were also downed over Russia's Bryansk region and tens more over other regions, Russia's defence ministry said. There was no damage or casualties reported there.

As Russia advances in eastern Ukraine, Kyiv has taken the war to Russia with a cross-border attack into Russia's western Kursk region that began on Aug. 6 and by carrying out increasingly large drone attacks deep into Russian territory. The war has largely been a grinding artillery and drone war along the 1,000 km (620 mile) heavily fortified front line in southern and eastern Ukraine involving hundreds of thousands of soldiers.

Moscow and Kyiv have both sought to buy and develop new drones, deploy them in innovative ways, and seek new ways to destroy

them - from using shotguns to advanced electronic jamming systems. Both sides have turned cheap commercial drones into deadly weapons while ramping up their own production and assembly to attack targets including tanks and energy infrastructure such as refineries and airfields.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has sought to insulate Moscow from the grinding rigours of the war, has called Ukrainian drone attacks that target civilian infrastructure such as nuclear power plants "terrorism" and has vowed a response. Moscow and other big Russian cities have largely been insulated from the war.

Russia itself has hit Ukraine with thousands of missiles and drones in the last two-and-a-half years, killing thousands of civilians, wrecking much of the country's energy system and damaging commercial and residential properties across the country. Ukraine says it has a right to strike back deep into Russia, though Kyiv's Western backers have said they do not want a direct confrontation between Russia and the US-led NATO military alliance.

There was no immediate comment from Ukraine about Tuesday's attacks. Both sides deny targeting civilians. Tuesday's attack follows drone attacks Ukraine launched in early September chiefly targeting Russia's energy and power facilities. Authorities in the Tula region, which neighbours the Moscow region to its north, said drone wreckage had fallen onto a fuel and energy facility but that the "technological process" of the facility was not affected.

Gaza truce deal a strategic opportunity: Israel minister

TEL AVIV (AFP): Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant offered his support for a hostage release agreement in the first phase of a Gaza truce deal, saying it would give Israel a "strategic opportunity" to address other security challenges. Bringing the hostages home is "the right thing to do," Gallant told foreign journalists.

"Achieving an agreement is also a strategic opportunity that gives us a high chance to change the security situation on all fronts," he said. Israel, which has been at war with Palestinian militants in Gaza since Hamas's October 7 attack, is also engaged in near-daily clashes with Lebanon's Hezbollah movement on its northern border with Lebanon. Urging the international community to keep up the pressure on Hamas to reach an agreement, Gallant said he firmly supported the first stage of a three-phase ceasefire deal announced by US President Joe Biden on May 31, hoping to build on it for an eventual end to the war.

"Israel should achieve an agreement that will bring about a pause for six weeks and bring back hostages," Gallant told journalists at a sit-down on Monday at his office. His remarks were released for publication on Tuesday. Gallant also said Hamas's military capabilities had been severely damaged after more than 11 months of war and that it no longer existed as a military formation in Gaza.

"Hamas as a military formation no longer exists. Hamas is engaged in guerrilla warfare and we are still fighting Hamas terrorists and pursuing Hamas leadership," he said. His comments came as mediators the United States, Qatar and Egypt struggle to reach an agreement between Israel and Hamas to end the war in Gaza, which has killed nearly 41,000 people. The widespread destruction has produced a dire humanitarian situation in the besieged territory, underscored by the recent confirmation of its first polio case in 25 years.

Kim vows to put N-force ready for combat with US

SEOUL (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to redouble efforts to make his nuclear force fully ready for combat with the United States and its allies, state media reported Tuesday, after the country disclosed a new platform likely designed to fire more powerful intercontinental ballistic missiles targeting the mainland US.

Kim has repeatedly made similar pledges, but his latest threat comes as outside experts believe Kim will perform provocative weapons tests ahead of the US presidential election in November. In recent days, North Korea has also resumed launches of trash-carrying balloons toward South Korea. In a speech marking the 76th founding anniversary for his government, Kim said North Korea faces "a grave threat" because of what he called "the reckless expansion" of a US-led regional military bloc that is now developing into a nuclear-based one. Kim said such a development is pushing North Korea to boost its military capability, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

Kim said North Korea will "redouble its measures and efforts to make all the armed forces of the state

including the nuclear force fully ready for combat," KCNA said. North Korea has been protesting the July signing of a new US-South Korean defense guideline meant to integrate US nuclear weapons and South Korean conventional weapons to cope with growing North Korean nuclear threats. North Korea said the guideline revealed its adversaries' plots to invade the country. US and South Korean officials have repeatedly said they don't intend to attack the country.

Since 2022, North Korea has significantly accelerated its weapons testing activities in a bid to perfect its capabilities to launch strikes on the US and South Korea. The US and South Korea have responded by expanding military drills that North Korea calls invasion rehearsals. Many analysts believe North Korea has some last remaining technological barriers to overcome to acquire long-range nuclear missiles that can reach the US mainland, though it likely already possesses missiles that can hit key targets in South Korea and Japan.

South Korean officials and experts say North Korea could conduct nuclear tests

or ICBM test-launches before the US election to increase its leverage in future diplomacy with the US. Observers say North Korea likely thinks a greater nuclear capability would help it win US concessions like sanctions relief.

North Korea as of Tuesday morning did not appear to have staged any major military demonstration to mark this year's anniversary. But the North's main Rodong Simmun newspaper published a photo of Kim inspecting what appeared to be a 12-axle missile launch vehicle, which would be the largest the country has shown so far, during a visit to a munitions plant.

This sparked speculation that the North could be developing a new ICBM that is bigger than its current Hwasong-17 ICBM, which is launched on an 11-axle vehicle. When asked about the photo, Pentagon spokesperson Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder refused to provide a specific assessment of North Korea's missile capabilities and reiterated that Washington was working closely with Seoul, Tokyo and other partners to preserve regional security and deter potential attacks.

Doctors in Kolkata defy court order

NEW DELHI: Junior doctors in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal defied a Supreme Court order requiring them to return to work on Tuesday, as they vowed to continue a weeks-long strike for workplace safety following the gruesome murder of a female doctor.

The 31-year-old trainee doctor was raped and murdered in early August inside the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in West Bengal's capital, Kolkata, where she worked. A police volunteer also working at the hospital has been charged with the murder and arrested, but the case has since triggered daily demonstrations by medics calling for greater protection and workplace safety.

On Monday, the Supreme Court, which took up the matter in the wake

of nationwide outrage over the incident, ordered the protesting doctors to return to work by 5 p.m. the next day and the state's authorities to ensure the safety and security of doctors in hospitals. The West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front, which represents about 7,000 physicians in the state, said it would follow the court's order only if their safety demands were met by the state.

"The Supreme Court has said that the state can take action after 5 p.m., if they want to. At the same time, the Supreme Court has also asked the state to increase the security measures which has not been done at all," Dr. Anustup Pal, the association's member, told Arab News, as protesters gathered in front of the state's health department to demand the resignation of its key leadership. "We will

continue till the demand is met," Pal said. "We are unhappy at the representation done by the state at the Supreme Court."

The protest is supported by the West Bengal chapter of the Indian Medical Association — the country's top physicians' body — which issued a statement after the court's order, saying that no steps were being taken to deliver justice after the brutal murder and that the protest "will not die down." Dr. Sourav Datta, member of the association's central committee, told Arab News that "almost no demand" from the protesting doctors had been fulfilled so far. "Whatever decision they will take, the IMA will unconditionally give support to them," he said. "The IMA will be with them." — Arab News

Zardari lauds services of A.Q. Khan Hospital Trust

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has assured the Chairperson of Abdul Qadeer Khan Hospital Trust, Dr. Dina Khan, of his support to the Trust that provides free medical and healthcare services to the deprived and marginalized section of the society. He commended the services of the Trust offering accessible healthcare to the needy people.

The President expressed these views during a meeting with the delegation of Dr. A.Q. Khan Hospital Trust, led by Dr. Dina Khan, daughter of Mohsin-e-Pakistan Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan (Late), at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Tuesday. Ms. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, MNA, was also present during the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the Trustees namely Mr. Habib-ur-Rehman, Raja Arshad Mehmood and Advisor Chaudhry Ghulam Yasir Abbas.

Dr. Dina Khan briefed the President about the role of the hospital in the provision of medical services to the people. She also apprised the President about certain problems being faced by the Trust and highlighted that some former trustees had committed financial embezzlement and had misused the accounts of the Trust.

KP Ombudsman takes action on complaint

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: On the strict instructions of the provincial ombudsman, the medical institute returned the arrears to the student within 15 days. The student's father had lodged a complaint against Hangu Bab Al Madinah Medical Institute. According to the details, last month, Mohammad Azim, a Pakistani citizen living in Qatar, filed a complaint with the Federal Ombudsman about Hangu Bab Al Madinah Medical Institute that his son was charged a fee for giving papers but was deprived of giving papers in the examination hall. On which the federal ombudsman sent the case to the provincial ombudsman of the concerned province.

Regarding the complaint from the provincial ombudsman office, higher education, registrar Khyber Medical University and other relevant authorities were informed, after which the matter was resolved within 15 days. According to the provincial ombudsman, the management of Bab Al Madinah Institute returned the arrears to Muhammad Azim after giving notices to the concerned institutions.

In this regard, Mohammad Azim, who complained in Qatar, said that the provincial ombudsman resolved the matter within two weeks and made it clear that the federal and provincial ombudsmen are taking immediate action on public complaints and with their best initiative. Proved that redressal of citizens' grievances can be possible from here. Muhammad Azeem said that he is grateful to Provincial Ombudsman Muhammad Tayyab, Investigation Officer Adeel Ilyas, Attaché Welfare Community Safara Doha Qatar and others who took immediate action and resolved the matter.

LHC reinstates Lt Gen Munir as Nadra chief

F.P. Report

LAHORE: A division bench of the Lahore High Court on Tuesday reinstated in-service army officer, Lieutenant General Munir Afसर, as Nadra (National Database and Registration Authority) chairman.

The bench suspended the decision of Justice Asim Hafeez who ordered the Nadra chairman's removal, on the application of the federal government. Justice Hafeez removed the Nadra chief on the petition of a citizen, Ashba Kamran, who contended that the caretaker government appointed an in-service army officer as Nadra chairman by amending the Nadra Act. The petitioner argued that the caretaker government was not mandated to take decision on permanent policy matters and requested the court to remove him from office.

PHC restrains KP govt from varsities land sale

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional comprising of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmad has issued a restraining order against the sale of land belonging to various government universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, halting the sale of land and seeking a response from the provincial government, on Tuesday.

The petitioners, Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, provincial president of Pakistan Peoples Party, and Daras Khan Advocate, were represented by Gohar Rahman Khattak, while Additional Advocate General Numan-ul-Haq Kakakhel represented the provincial government.

The petitioners' lawyers informed the court that over 400 kanals of land were acquired for the University of Engineering and Technology Mardan, Agricultural University Mardan Campus, and Bacha Khan Medical College in Mardan between 2009 and 2012. However, media reports suggest that the provincial government is planning to sell the land, and officials of the educational institutions are being pressured to revise the original master plan.

The lawyers argued that the government does not have the authority to sell university land, and the land in question has been used for constructing buildings. They added that the government is trying to sell university land to reduce its expenses instead of cutting its own expenditures.

PHC sought a response from the provincial govern-

ment in the previous hearing, but no response was received. The Additional Advocate General Nauman Kakakhel informed the court that no such order or decision has been made, and the petitioners' lawyer requested a stay order to prevent the sale of land.

The court issued a restraining order against the sale of university land and sought a response from the provincial government in the next hearing. The Chief Justice remarked that if the provincial government is not selling the land, then there is no issue. The court has restrained the provincial government from selling university land and has sought a response in the next hearing.

Court seeks response against inclusion of block, umbrella schemes: A two-member bench comprising of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmed has sought a response from the relevant authorities on a petition filed by opposition members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly against the inclusion of block/umbrella schemes in the Annual Development Program (ADP) by the provincial government, on Tuesday.

The petition was filed by opposition leader Dr. Ibadullah, provincial assembly members Arbab Muhammad Usman, Ahmed Kundi, Arbab Muhammad Umar, Karomatullah Khan, Ihsanullah Khan, Muhammad Iqbal Khan, and 19 other assembly members through Sultan Muhammad Khan and Babar Khan Yusufzai Advocates.

In the petition, the oppo-

sition members adopted a stance that they represent different political parties that secured around 30 million votes in the 2024 general elections. They informed the court that in June 2024, the provincial government presented the budget and approved the ADP, which includes some block and umbrella schemes and development projects, violating the law.

The petition argued that the inclusion of these schemes in the ADP is illegal and that the release of funds for these schemes is also against government policy. They claimed that these projects were approved without following the proper procedure and that the government is violating its own policy by releasing funds for these schemes.

The petitioners alleged that these projects were included in the ADP based on favoritism and nepotism, and that opposition members are being discriminated against, with their constituencies not being included in the development projects. They stated that the government is releasing funds to the constituencies of ruling party members while ignoring the opposition members' constituencies.

The petitioners requested the court to declare the inclusion of umbrella and block schemes in the ADP as illegal and to restrain the respondents from releasing funds for these schemes and distributing them until the petition is decided. They also requested the court to order the government to allocate development funds equally among all constituencies without any discrimination.

Toshakhana case: Gilani challenges NAB jurisdiction

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has challenged the jurisdiction of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the

Accountability Court in the Toshakhana reference case against him, President Asif Ali Zardari, and former Premier Nawaz Sharif. The hearing took place in Accountability Court No 3 under Judge Abid Sajjad on Tuesday. Gilani's lawyer argued that following the restoration of certain amendments, the Accountability Court and NAB no longer have the authority to hear this case.

In response to the challenge, Judge Abid Sajjad issued a notice to NAB, asking it to clarify whether the Toshakhana case falls under its jurisdiction. The court has adjourned the hearing until September 26,

pending NAB's response. The reference filed by NAB accuses Yusuf Raza Gilani of providing illegal benefits to Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif by allowing them to retain vehicles gifted by various foreign states and dignitaries.

The reference alleges that Gilani, through dishonest and illegal means, relaxed the procedures for submitting and disposing of these gifts in the Toshakhana, enabling the retention of the vehicles against a nominal payment of 15% of their total value. Further, the reference states that Asif Ali Zardari made payments for the vehicles through the Omni Group's chief executive and his son, with no plausible justification provided for these transactions. NAB's investigation established that these payments were linked to illegitimate laundered proceeds benefiting the

accused.

The reference also claims that Gilani, in collusion with Zardari and Nawaz, illegally altered the rules governing the acceptance and disposal of gifts, which specifically prohibit the purchase of vehicles by recipients. This misuse of authority allegedly caused a wrongful loss to the national exchequer. According to NAB, during his presidency, Asif Ali Zardari accepted vehicles as gifts from the United Arab Emirates in 2005 and from Libya in 2008, but failed to report or deposit these vehicles in the Toshakhana, prioritising personal gain.

Meanwhile, Nawaz Sharif, who did not hold public office in 2008, is accused of illegally acquiring benefits in connivance with Gilani by circumventing the established procedures for accepting and disposing of gifts.

Journalists stage walkout of KP PA session

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Journalists staged a walkout from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly session on Tuesday to protest against Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's derogatory remarks against the journalist community.

Led by Khyber Union of Journalists President Nasir Hussain and Press Gallery Secretary Rasool Dawar, Journalists chanted slogans outside the assembly hall, demanding an apology from the chief minister. The journalists warned that if an apology was not forthcoming, the scope of the protest would be widened. However, after receiving assurances from provincial ministers, the journalists postponed their protest.

Provincial ministers Zahir Shah Toru, Meena Khan Afridi, and others met with the journalists, assuring them that the chief minister would clarify his remarks and reveal the names of journalists who have been defaming the community.

The government values journalists and appreciates their services for freedom of expression and democracy, the ministers said, adding that the chief minister would also address the matter in the assembly.



KP Assembly's urgent session meeting summoned

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: An urgent session of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly has been summoned on Tuesday amid recent arrests of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders. According to a notification issued by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Secretariat, the sitting has been scheduled at 3 pm on Tuesday. The sitting was scheduled to be held on September 23 but it has been fixed on Tuesday after the arrests of PTI leaders including Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali. A resolution to condemn the recent is likely to be adopted by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly.

Earlier, the Islamabad police on Monday arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan outside the National Assembly. Barrister Gohar was arrested by the police outside the Parliament House soon after PTI MNA Sher Afzal and PTI leader Shoaib Shaheen were arrested from the capital city. According to sources, the arrests were made in a case pertaining to violation of laws in the PTI's public gathering in Islamabad on September 8. According to police, Sher Afzal Marwat will be detained at Kohsar police station. Opposition Leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub, Zartaj Gul and other PTI leaders will also be arrested as the law enforcers are waiting for other members to come out of the National Assembly, the police sources added.