

JUI-F seeks extension
F.P. Report
ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) has requested a two-month extension from the Election Commission for conducting its internal party elections. The Election Commission's three-member bench, chaired by the Chief Election Commissioner, heard the case where JUI-F's junior lawyer argued that the party's internal elections are being conducted in phases.



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ECP criticise PTI
F.P. Report
ISLAMABAD: The ECP has postponed the hearing of PTI internal election case until October 2. The decision came after a three-member bench, led by Member Sindh Nisar Durrani, reviewed the case. During hearing, Member KP Ikramullah criticized PTI for holding internal elections after five years, stating, "You will have to face the consequences of holding elections after such a long delay."

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PPP backs setup of constitutional courts: Bilawal

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari chaired a meeting of Provincial Presidents of Peoples Lawyers' Forum at Zardari House Islamabad on Wednesday.

The Central President of PLF Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, member National Assembly Syed Naveed Qamar and the Political Adviser to the Chairman, Jameel Soomro were

posed Constitution amendments whereas the government wanted changes in this regard. The PPP supported to reduce the age for a judge at the time of appointment and the government agreed to the proposal and included it in the draft. The government had also proposed to increase the age of Chief Justice for three years making it 67 years but the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam opposed it and suggested to keep the retirement age to 65. The changes of the age of

and the Senate on national security. Regarding Article 63-A, Chairman Bilawal said that the unconstitutional verdict has deprived the members Parliament from voting according to their wishes. If a member Parliament votes against party policy then he will not only lose his membership but his vote will also not be counted. The PPP is of the view that the members Parliament should be allowed to vote according to their wishes as was done before and their vote should also be counted. Chairman Bilawal said that the alleged draft of constitutional amendment is not the real draft.

Meanwhile, in appearances on separate private television channels, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stated that the alleged draft of the constitutional amendments is not the real draft. He said that the PPP seeks to advance the reforms promised in its manifesto. Moreover, the unconstitutional ruling on Article 63-A has deprived Parliamentarians of their right to vote according to their own will. They cannot cast their vote against party lines and risk disqualification if they do so. This is why it is imperative to achieve a minimum consensus, for which Maulana Fazlur Rehman's support is crucial.

Chairman PPP expressed his desire to build consensus around the promises of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. The draft currently under discussion is temporary and will remain so without the backing of Maulana Fazlur Rehman or other allies. It can only be put forward after taking everyone's input into account, forming consensus, securing approval from the cabinet, and presenting it in the National Assembly. The PPP's stance, from the very beginning, has been to pursue clear and concise judicial reforms.



also in attendance. The President PLF Central Punjab Raheel Cheema, Southern Punjab Sheikh Ghias President KP, Gohar Rehman President Balochistan, Behram Khan and President Sindh Qazi Bashir attended the meeting.

Chairman PPP informed the provincial Presidents of PLF regarding the progress on proposed constitutional amendments. The meeting discussed in detailed the proposed constitutional amendments. The issue of establishing of Constitutional Courts also came under discussion.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the PPP is in favour of establishing Constitutional Courts according to the Charter of Democracy and party's manifesto. The PPP did not discuss the age of judges in the pro-

posed Constitution amendments whereas the government wanted changes in this regard. The PPP supported to reduce the age for a judge at the time of appointment and the government agreed to the proposal and included it in the draft. The government had also proposed to increase the age of Chief Justice for three years making it 67 years but the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam opposed it and suggested to keep the retirement age to 65. The changes of the age of

judges would give a perception that someone would be in and someone would be out which is not appropriate. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also said that in his view Justice Mansoor Ali Shah will be the next Chief Justice. He said that Justice Qazi Faez Essa and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah were the part of the Bench which announced the historic decision of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's murder. He said that he has lot of respect for these two judges.

Chairman Bilawal said that the PPP has a principled stance about military courts and is not in favour. If the government really wants to legislate about military courts then our demand is to convene a combined meeting of the National Assembly



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

King Charles phones PM

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: King Charles III of the United Kingdom on Wednesday telephoned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and formally invited him to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa in October.

Accepting the invitation, the prime minister said that the CHOGM in Samoa would be a significant moment in the history of the Commonwealth, being the first summit to be chaired by the King since becoming Head of the Commonwealth, according to a PM Office press release.

Prime Minister Sharif reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the Commonwealth and the values enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter. He said that the CHOGM in Samoa would provide a forum to discuss opportunities for enhancing intra-Commonwealth cooperation on a number of important issues, such as fostering sustainable development, strengthening democratic institutions, and empowering Commonwealth youth.

Shehbaz emphasises enhanced cooperation with British leadership: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed his commitment to working closely with the British leadership to strengthen relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom, emphasizing that their long-standing ties could be further enhanced through cooperation in various areas.

Talking to British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott, the prime minister stressed the importance of prioritizing government's initiatives, particularly the economic challenges being faced by the country. He emphasized the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation on trade and investment, climate change, social connectivity, and regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. He stated that millions of Pakistanis residing in Britain served as a vital link between the two countries, playing a key role in enhancing bilateral relations. The prime minister also extended his best wishes to King Charles, while the British High Commissioner conveyed good wishes for Pakistan on behalf of the British Government.

'Cabinet, SC must work within ambits'

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former Supreme Court Bar Association president Hamid Khan once again asserted that only Justice Mansoor Ali Shah would be recognised as chief justice (after retirement of CJP Qazi Faez Isa).

Speaking to media at the Lahore High Court (LHC), he stated that the national convention slated for Sept 19 would reject the proposed constitutional amendment. "We would not accept any constitutional court," Hamid Khan stressed. He emphasised that they only recognised the Supreme Court and they would not accept limitation in its constitutional standing.

Russian Deputy PM, COAS discuss ties

Dar, Alexey unite for enhanced cooperation

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI / ISLAM-ABAD: Mr. Alexey Overchuk, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, paid a courtesy call on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at the General Headquarters.

During their meeting, they engaged in productive discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, and bilateral cooperation across various sectors.

The COAS reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fostering traditional defence ties with Russia. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen security and defence cooperation in multiple domains.

The visiting dignitary praised the Pakistan Armed Forces' pivotal role in combating terrorism and their tireless efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

Meanwhile, Deputy



Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk on Wednesday agreed to maintain collaboration in multilateral forums, including the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

During the delegation-level talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, both sides reviewed the full range of bilateral cooperation and committed to strengthening dialogue and collaboration in trade, industry, energy, connectivity, science, technology, and education. Deputy

Prime Minister Overchuk's visit is taking place in pursuance of the vision of Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif and President Vladimir Putin on transforming bilateral relations into a solid, mutually beneficial economic partnership.

Pakistan and Russia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for bilateral cooperation in economy and trade at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad, witnessed by Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk.

Accountability and regional tensions

US responds to Pak's former military officials

Jalil Afridi

WASHINGTON D.C: In a press briefing, Matthew Miller, Spokesperson for the US Department of State, was asked a series of questions regarding ongoing developments in Pakistan, including the recent accountability actions against military generals and broader concerns about terror financing.

The questions, posed by a journalist from The Frontier Post, centered around corruption investigations, links between money laundering and terrorist financing, and diplomatic tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The journalist highlighted the unprecedented arrest of a Pakistani intelligence General on charges of corruption, noting the growing excitement among the public and the press in Pakistan. The journalist further expressed hope that the US State Department would disclose details of assets owned by Pakistani

military generals in the US. Miller, however, did not provide an update, simply stating, "I don't have any update on that, no." In a follow-up question, the journalist drew attention to alleged links between the channels used for money laundering by Pakistani officials and the same networks being used for terror financing.

A recent arrest of a Pakistani individual in Canada on terrorism charges was also mentioned. Miller reiterated the US government's commitment to enforcing laws related to support for terrorism but refrained from commenting on the specifics of the case. The final question by The Frontier Post pertained to the diplomatic tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan, referencing a recent incident where an Afghan diplomat in Pakistan refused to stand for the Pakistani national anthem.

The diplomat cited the presence of music in the

anthem as the reason for his protest, amidst heightened tensions between the two neighboring nations. Miller, however, chose not to comment on what he described as a sensitive and ongoing matter, concluding with, "I just don't have any comment on that."

The exchange reflects growing concerns over corruption and military accountability in Pakistan, as well as the regional complexities surrounding Pakistan-Afghanistan relations. While the US State Department has yet to make any official statement on the asset ownership of Pakistani military officials or the specific incidents in question, it remains clear that issues of corruption, terrorism financing, and diplomatic tensions continue to dominate discussions in the region. This developing story is being closely watched by observers in both Pakistan and the United States as calls for greater transparency and international cooperation grow louder.

Consultations on constitutional package underway, says Tarar

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said that extensive consultations with all political parties on the proposed constitutional package were underway.

Talking to the media, he said that all the political parties tried to reach a consensus on the draft bill both inside and outside the Parliament. The parties on both sides of the aisle in the Parliament had thorough discussions on the constitutional amendments, he added.

Tarar said the role of the Law Minister in the drafting of constitutional amendments and engaging all political forces was highly com-

mendable. He cited that many countries, including Italy, Germany and Spain, had supreme courts and constitutional courts side by side.

"Constitutional matters go to constitutional courts so that common citizens do not face any obstacles in the way of justice and their cases reach logical conclusion well in time." Citing the example of the United States, he said that cases on the Capitol Hill attack were concluded within a span of few months and the culprits were brought to justice. Similarly, Likewise, the perpetrators of London riots had also been punished by the courts.

Unfortunately in Pakistan, he said, the cases related to the May 9 events were still pending. It was a question

mark that why the culprits were roaming free, he added. He said the countries where constitutional courts were operational, the system of timely provision of justice was functioning, with easy evaluation of the judges' performance.

Tarar quoted Law and Justice Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar stating that his client from Attock had been released after completion of his jail term but still his case was pending in the Supreme Court. He said that the main objective behind the creation of the constitutional court was to segregate constitutional petitions from criminal, civil and corporate cases. It was the best option to provide speedy justice to the common man, he added.

Fazl sticks to stance on amends bill

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Wednesday categorically rejected the bill draft for the constitutional amendment, asserting that it would be an utter dishonesty with the nation to support it.

Speaking to media after the lunch hosted by former speaker and PTI leader Asad Qaiser, the JUI-F chief said 'they' denied the ownership of the draft. He questioned the draft that was delivered earlier and said it was nothing short of a joke. He made it clear that the bill draft was not acceptable at any cost.

The JUI-F head refused to respond to a question on the alleged talk of the PTI founder in the Adiala Jail. Former president Dr Arif Alvi, PTI spokesperson Raouf Hasan and others also attended the lunch reception. Earlier, in July, Asad Qaiser and Maulana Fazlur Rehman discussed the overall political situation.

They also discussed the Supreme Court's judgement allocating reserved seats to the PTI. Fazlur Rehman said his party accepted the Supreme Court's ruling regarding reserved seats and expressed his goodwill towards the PTI. The JUI-F chief said the decision would help foster a positive environment for negotiations to address concerns and would be beneficial in improving mutual relations between both parties. Asad Qaiser said back then that the decision would establish the supremacy of the constitution and democracy in the country.

For his part, Asad Qaiser castigated the incumbent rulers for 'concealing' the draft of the constitutional package, which he said contained at least 56 amendments, even from its own parliamentarians. "We do not accept this legislation in any respect." The PTI leader further said that the future course of action will be decided after consultation with all opposition parties. However, he mentioned, they will table this matter in tomorrow's lawyers' convention in Lahore.



BEIRUT: A civil defence first responder carries a wounded man whose hand-held pager exploded, at hospital in Lebanon.

9 killed in second wave of blasts in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP, AFP): Explosions in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon were apparently a second wave of detonations of electronic devices, state media said on Wednesday. The report said walkie-talkies and even solar equipment were targeted a day after hundreds of pagers blew up.

At least nine people were killed and 300 were wounded, the Health Ministry said. A Hezbollah official told the Associated Press that walkie-talkies used by the group exploded. Lebanon's official news agency reported that solar energy systems exploded in homes in several areas of Beirut and southern Lebanon, wounding at least one girl.

The new blasts hit a country thrown into confusion and anger after Tuesday's pager bombings, which appeared to be a complex Israeli attack targeting Hezbollah members that caused civilian casualties, too. At least 12 people were killed, including two children, and about 2,800 people were wounded as hundreds of pagers used by Hezbollah members exploded wherever they happened to be — in homes, cars, at grocery stores and in cafes.

Wednesday's blasts caused fires, injuries and a state of hysteria because some of the devices were being carried by security personnel during the funeral ceremonies for the victims of the pager explosions on Tuesday. Explosions were heard in the southern suburbs of Beirut and several areas in the south and the Bekaa Valley. Many were injured outside hospitals where the wounded from Tuesday's bombings were being treated. Several of the wounded were transferred to Baalbek hospitals.

Some devices exploded with their carriers in front of the American University Hospital in Beirut. Four cars containing devices exploded in the town of Aabbassiyeh in the south, three people were injured when a device exploded in a car in Jdeidet Marjeyoun, and parked cars exploded in Nabatieh because there were wireless

devices in them. Ambulances rushed everywhere, and Hezbollah supporters went out on motorcycles searching for victims after abandoning all their communication devices.

The Lebanese Army Command asked citizens "not to gather in places witnessing security incidents to make way for the arrival of medical teams." According to initial information, the devices that exploded on Wednesday are Icom V82 models, bought in the deal for pagers last spring. Panic increased when information circulated on social media about the explosion of solar panels connected to internet devices. There were also claims that computers exploded.

A Hezbollah member in a video clip that showed a room with shrapnel damage, said: "This was because of the device's battery. I removed it from the device and put it aside. Look what happened." Footage showed fires in residential apartments in the southern suburbs of Beirut and in the south, and casualties during funeral ceremonies after their devices exploded. The Axios website reported that "Israel blew up thousands of wireless communication devices used by Hezbollah elements in a second wave."

In the first wave of bombings, it appeared that small amounts of explosives had been hidden in the thousands of pagers delivered to Hezbollah and then remotely detonated. The reports of further electronic devices exploding suggested even greater infiltration of boobytraps into Lebanon's supply chain. It also deepens concerns over the attacks in which hundreds of devices exploded in public areas, often with many bystanders, with no certainty of who was holding the rigged devices. Meanwhile, Hezbollah vowed on Wednesday to punish Israel for a deadly attack in which hundreds of pagers were used by the militant group's members exploded almost simultaneously across Lebanon.



27-km two-way road completed: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has delivered on yet another promise under the 'Punjab Khushhal' project, with the completion of a 27-kilometer two-way road connecting Pakpattan to Sahiwal. This was stated by Punjab Minister for Communication and Works (C&W) Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharth while talking to the media, here on Wednesday. He said the road was completed with Rs. 2.7 billion and was expected to serve between 20,000 to 25,000 vehicles daily.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Chief Medical Officer

Our Client, Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited (PRCL), invite applications from eligible individuals to serve as Chief Medical Officer on a contractual basis. Applicants should possess the following qualifications, experience, and meet the specified age limit:

Key Responsibilities:-

- The Chief Medical Officer will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following duties:
- To visit head office daily for 5 hours and scrutinize medical files, bills of panel hospitals etc.
- To check, verify and countersign the claims of employees and their families for medical reimbursements from PRCL;
- To attend patients for consultations as envisaged in PRCL HR Manual, and to issue reference letters and/or any other advice as contained under treatment clause of PRCLHR Manual;
- To carry out medical examination of all newly recruited employees;
- To refer patients to panel hospitals/approved specialists, as the case may be;
- To conduct random visits to employees or their families at panel hospitals where they are admitted and liaise with panel hospitals' authorities for best possible treatment of the patient(s);
- To provide technical assistance to Administration Department of PRCL during the performance of their functions with regards to medical facility;
- To assist PRCL in implementing medical rules/regulations and policies for medical attendance;
- Any Other task assigned by Chief Executive Officer of PRCL or any authorized officer of PRCL.

Education:

- MBBS from recognized and well-reputed institute recognized by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.
- MCPSP Family Medicine or equivalent Foreign Qualification or Higher Qualification in Internal Medicine or Family Medicine will be a plus.

Experience:

- Must have at least 4 years' experience in healthcare administration of a corporate set-up, Company or hospital as on the last date of submission of application.

Age:

Maximum 55 years of age on closing date of the applications.

Terms and Conditions:-

- The selection will be on basis of merit in accordance with the criteria prescribed in this advertisement.
- The interviewing committee will be the competent authority for finalizing the order of merit on basis of the performance of candidates in the interview.
- The appointment will be initially for two years; however extendable further as per need of company with mutual agreement of both parties and subject to approval of the competent authority.
- The selected candidate will be paid fixed amount per month as consultancy fee, to be mutually decided in interview commensurate with relevant verifiable experience of the candidate.
- To assist PRCL in implementing medical rules/regulations and policies for medical attendance;
- The work may require travelling within or outside Pakistan however the same shall be strictly subject to prior approval by the CEO.

Important Notes:

- Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited (PRCL) is an equal opportunity employer.
- Interested Applicants may apply within fifteen days from the publication of this advertisement.
- Original academic/ professional documents mentioned in resume along with will be required at the time of interview.
- The applicants working in public sector are required to provide NOC at the time of interview.
- The candidate shall not be entitled for any TADA while appearing for the interview.
- PRCL reserves the right to stop the hiring process at any stage without assigning any reason.
- Only shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview and Selection will be finalized as per merit resulted by the interview.
- Any efforts made to influence the recruitment and selection process will lead to disqualify the potential candidate, who may otherwise have qualified.

If you have the required experience, educational qualification, leadership, and management skills to take up the challenging assignment, you are requested to apply within fifteen days from the publication of this advertisement. To apply, please visit <http://jobs.hrs-int.com/>. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Application received after due date shall not be entertained.

www.hrs-int.com

PID (K) 860/24

Sindh's number plate auction to raise fund for flood victims



F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Excise Department, Government of Sindh, has announced the commencement of an online auction for premium number plates as part of a fundraising initiative. Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the auction will offer number plates in platinum, gold, and silver categories.

The aim of this auction is to raise funds for the construction of houses for the victims of the devastating

floods in the province.

A high-level meeting of the Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Department was held in Karachi under the chairmanship of Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon.

Secretary Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Muhammad Saleem Rajput, DG Excise Aurangzeb Akbar Panhwar, DG Narcotics Control

Usman Ghani Siddiqui, Riaz Hasan Khoso, along with other directors, assistant directors, and officials, participated in the meeting. Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon announced

that a special portal would be introduced for premium number plates. Participants will be able to bid for plates in the platinum, gold, and silver categories.

Interested individuals will have the opportunity to acquire premium plates through online bidding within a specified time-frame.

He further stated that a major fundraising event is planned in Karachi on October 12, 2024. The event will feature bidding on premium and personalized number plates, with all proceeds allocated to the flood victims' housing project in Sindh.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon announced

that a portal will also be introduced for the resale of premium number plates.

In the meeting, presided over by Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, it was also decided to take strict action against officers and employees found negligent in their duties related to combating drugs.

He stated that additional manpower from the police and other resources will be mobilized against narcotics. The goal of accelerating these operations is to launch a coordinated and aggressive campaign against drug-trafficking networks, aiming for long-term success in combating narcotics.



PUBLIC NOTICE

AUCTION OF GOLD

Branch: DI Khan Auction Date: 20th September-2024 Branch code: 3033 Time: 10:00 AM

Finance facilities were extended by Mobilink Bank against the security of deposit and pledge of gold to the customers mentioned below. The customers who have neglected and failed to repay the finance extended to them by Mobilink Bank along with the markup thereon.

Customer Name	CNIC #	Address	Gold Weight (GM)	Detail of Gold Ornaments
Yasmin Bibi	12101-9280306-6	Mohala Kumharan Wala, Dera Ismail Khan	115	1 Tulsi, 6 Choorian, 1 Katmala, 1 Tikka with Jhumer
Gul Amir	12101-1498788-9	Post Office T T Mills Korai, Tehsil & District Dera Ismail Khan	29	2 Mala, 2 Jorey Kangan

Notice is hereby given to the customers in above mentioned that if payment of entire outstanding amount financed along with markup is not made by them to Mobilink Bank within 1 day of the publication of this notice, Mobilink Bank shall auction the gold ornaments and no further Public Notice shall be issued to call upon the customers to make the payments.



BALLOT PAPER

Ballot Paper for voting through post for the Special Businesses at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 12:00 noon at factory premises in Pezu, District Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and through video conferencing.

Contact Details of the Chairman at which the duly filled in ballot paper may be sent:

Address: The Chairman, Lucky Cement Limited, 6-A Muhammad Ali Housing Society, Karachi. Attention of the Company Secretary

E-mail address: company.secretary@lucky-cement.com

Phone: +92-21- 111-786-555

Website: www.lucky-cement.com.

Folio / CDS Account Number	
Name of Shareholder / Proxy Holder	
Registered Address	
Number of shares Held	
CNIC/Passport No. (in case of foreigner) (copy to be attached)	
Additional information and enclosures (in case of representative of body corporate, corporation, and federal Government)	
Name and CNIC of Authorized Signatory	

I/we hereby exercise my/our vote in respect of the following special resolutions through postal ballot by conveying my/our assent or dissent to the resolutions by placing tick (✓) mark in the appropriate box below: (In case if both the boxes are marked as (✓), your poll shall be treated as "Rejected")

S. No.	Agenda / Description of Special Resolutions	I / We assent to the Resolution(s) (FOR)	I / We dissent to the Resolution(s) (AGAINST)
1.	<p>Resolutions For Agenda Item No. 5</p> <p>To consider and if deemed fit, ratify and approve (as the case may be), the following resolutions, as special resolutions, with respect to related party transactions / arrangements conducted / to be conducted, in terms of Sections 207 and / or 208 of the Companies Act, 2017 (to the extent applicable), with or without modification:</p> <p>"RESOLVED THAT the transactions carried out by the Company with different Related Parties, during the year ended June 30, 2024, as disclosed in note 39 of the unconsolidated financial statements of the Company for the said period, and specified in the Statement of Material Information under Section 134(3), be and are hereby ratified and confirmed.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Company be and is hereby authorized to enter into arrangements or carry out transactions from time to time including, but not limited to, for the purchase and sale of goods, commodities and materials including cement, chemicals, vehicles, or availing or rendering of services or share subscription, with different related parties to the extent deemed fit and / or approved by the Board of Directors, during the financial year ending June 30, 2025. The members have noted that for the aforesaid arrangements and transactions some or a majority of the Directors may be interested. Notwithstanding the same, the members hereby grant an advance authorization and approval to the Board Audit Committee and the Board of Directors of the Company, including under Sections 207 and / or 208 of the Companies Act, 2017 (to the extent applicable) to review and approve all related party transactions as per the quantum approved by the Board of Directors from time to time.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the related party transactions, for the period ending June 30, 2025, shall be deemed to have been approved by the members, and shall subsequently be placed before the members in the next Annual General Meeting for ratification and confirmation."</p>		

The number of persons who offered themselves to be elected as directors is not more than the number of directors fixed under section 159(1) of the Companies Act, 2017 to be elected. Accordingly, all persons who had offered themselves to be elected as directors shall be deemed to have been elected as directors of the Company and no separate casting of vote to be carried out.

Shareholder / Proxy Holder Signature/Authorized Signatory

(In case of corporate entity, please affix company Stamp)

- Duly filled ballot paper should be sent to the Chairman of Lucky Cement Limited at 6-A Muhammad Ali Housing Society, A. Aziz Hashim Tabba Street, Karachi. Attention of the Company Secretary or e-mail at company.secretary@lucky-cement.com
- Copy of CNIC/ Passport (in case of foreigner) should be enclosed with the postal ballot form.
- Ballot paper should reach the Chairman within business hours by or before **Wednesday, September 25, 2024**. Any postal ballot received after this date, will not be considered for voting.
- Signature on ballot paper should match with signature on CNIC/ Passport. (In case of foreigner).
- Incomplete, unsigned, incorrect, defaced, torn, mutilated, over written poll paper will be rejected.
- In case of a representative of a body corporate, corporation or Federal Government, the Ballot Paper Form must be accompanied by a copy of the CNIC of an authorized person, an attested copy of Board Resolution / Power of Attorney / Authorization Letter etc., in accordance with Section(s) 138 or 139 of the Companies Act, 2017 as applicable. In the case of foreign body corporate etc., all documents must be attested by the Counsel General of Pakistan having jurisdiction over the member.
- Ballot Paper form has also been placed on the website of the Company at: www.lucky-cement.com. Members may download the Ballot paper from the website or use an original/photocopy published in newspapers.

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION
Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Communications
NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
BALOCHISTAN-NORTH REGION, QUETTA
(ADMINISTRATION SECTION)

TENDER NOTICE
FOR PROCUREMENT OF STATIONERY ITEMS
(BID NO. I) 2024-2025

- National Highway Authority (NHA)** invites Sealed Bids from well reputed NTN/GST Registered **Active Firms** having sufficient experience in relevant field are invited for **Supply of Requisite Stationery and Allied Items** for National Highway Authority, Balochistan North Region Quetta. However, the quoted rates will remain valid up to June 30, 2025 (for Financial Year 2024-25).
- Detailed specifications and other terms & conditions including proposed quantity (on as and when required basis) are given in the **Bidding Documents** which can be **downloaded from NHA website (www.nha.gov.pk)**. Bidding Documents can also be obtained from the office of Deputy Director (Admn) NHA, Quetta on any working day during office hours on submission of a written request on firm's letter head along with pay order of Rs. 1000/- (Non-Refundable) in favour of General Manager (Balochistan North) National Highway Authority, Quetta.
- The Bids shall comprise on **Single Stage Two Envelopes (Method of Procurement)** duly sealed and signed. The envelopes should be marked clearly of its purpose in bold and legible letters to avoid inconvenience.
- The Bids completed in all respects along with Bid Security amounting to Rs.50,000/- in shape of Pay Order in the name of General Manager (Balochistan North) NHA, Quetta, should reach in the office of **Deputy Director (Admn) NHA Quetta on October 07, 2024 till 11:00 Hours with all Requisite Samples**. Technical Bids shall be opened by the Purchase Committee on the same day at **11:30 Hours** in the presence of the bidders/authorized representative, who may choose to attend.
- NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids as per PPRA Rules.
- All Firms are advised to get EPADS (PPRA) Registration at www.eprocure.gov.pk immediately as Manual Bid/Proposal/Application (hard copy) will be eliminated.**
- This Advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk.

GENERAL MANAGER (BALOCHISTAN-NORTH)
National Highway Authority
NHA Complex, Near Wapda Grid Station, Airport Road, Quetta
Phone #:081-9241087 & E-mail admn.quetta@yahoo.com **PID(I)No.2012/24**

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Members of **Lucky Cement Limited** (The "Company") are hereby notified that, pursuant to section 159(4) of the Companies Act, 2017 (the "Act"), the following persons have filed, with the Company, notices of their intention to offer themselves for election as Directors of the Company for a term of three years at the 31st Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held on **Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 12:00 noon** at Company's registered office situated in Pezu, District Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

NAME	CATEGORY
1. Mr. Muhammad Ali Tabba	Executive Director
2. Mr. Muhammad Sohail Tabba	Non-Executive Director
3. Mr. Jawed Yunus Tabba	
4. Mr. Masood Karim Shaikh	
5. Mr. Khawaja Iqbal Hassan	Independent Director
6. Mr. Shabbir Hamza Khandwala	
7. Ms. Mariam Tabba Khan	Female Director

As the number of persons who have offered themselves for election is not more than the number of Directors fixed by the Board of Directors under section 159(1) of the Act and Regulation 7A of the Listed Companies (Code of Corporate Governance) Regulations, 2019; the above-mentioned candidates shall be deemed to have been elected unopposed at the said Annual General Meeting.

The Independent Directors have been chosen considering their expertise, qualifications, diversity, skills and knowledge, aligning with the criteria outlined in Section 166 of the Act, and the corresponding Regulations. The profiles of above-named candidates have been posted on the website of the Company.

Karachi: September 19, 2024

ALI SHAHAB
Company Secretary

Deputy Chairman NAB calls on Governor Punjab

LAHORE (APP): National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Deputy Chairman Sohail Nasir called on Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and gave a detailed briefing on Accountability Facilitation Cell (AFC) during a meeting at the Governor's House, here on Wednesday.

Court Notice

In the Court of district Judge /Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar.Suit No 101/CR. Institution 6/10/2023. Date of hearing. 19/9/2024. Abdul Jabar VS Ghani Rehman etc. Notice to No .1.Ghani ur Rehman.5.Asmat Khan sons of Abdul Jabar.6.Alefaat Bibi w/o Khaista Rehman.12.Farman s/o Ghani Rehman resident of Peerabai thesels Gadezai district Buner.Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.00 am dated 19/9/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Additional district Judge I /Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar.Suit No 7/CR. Institution 28/3/2024. Date of hearing. 1/10/2024. Fazal Ghafoor VS Noor Sahib Gul. Notice to No .3/2.Abdul Hakim.3/4.Gul Hakim sons 3/8 c.Mst Gul Wari d/o Pardullah Khan.5/2.Norul Abrar s/o Rasol Shah.4.Sher Afzal s/o Sarwar Shah resident of Agarai Durmai thesels Mandanr district Buner.Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.00 am dated 1/10/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

KP govt launches ‘Ikhtiyar Awam Ka’ portal

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has launched an innovative portal "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" as an important initiative towards promoting good governance and addressing public issues in the province. Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has formally launched this newly developed portal at a ceremony held here at Civil Secretariat Peshawar on Wednesday.

The "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" portal is a robust and users-friendly digital platform that is now open for citizens to file complaints regarding their issues and grievances.

This 24/7 portal will ensure a real time-tracking and monitoring of public complaints regarding services delivery in public sector entities allowing for swift redressal and resolution. Overseas Pakistanis can also register their concerns and issues on this portal.

This inclusive platform featuring simplified complaint submission mechanism, multi-channel interaction, data security and privacy, citizen feedback loop, and AI-powered analytics and reporting, is available on mobile app, WhatsApp, email, telephone and written application, offering dashboards for all departments and officers, ensuring seamless coordination and swift implementation of government decisions.

Similarly, this pioneering initiative, fostering effective communication between the government and citizens, will also facilitate to increase transparency, accountability, and public confidence in the government.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur emphasized the portal's significance, stating, "The purpose of this portal is to provide immediate solutions to people's problems. We are empowering the people, because solving their problems is our priority."

He assured that complaints will not be closed until the complainant is satisfied, reiterating the government's commitment to citizen-centric governance.

This revolutionary portal is a testament to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's dedication to leveraging technology for good governance and citizens empowerment, he said and added that as the province continues to embrace digital transformation, the "Akhtiar Awam Ka" portal sets a new standard for public service delivery and participatory governance in the province.

The Chief Minister maintained that 99-points "Awami Agenda" has already been provided to civil administrations resulting in enhanced services delivery and significant improvement throughout the province.

Launching of "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" portal will further expedite the implementation of that agenda, he concluded. Provincial Cabinet Members, Acting Chief Secretary, Inspector General Police, Administrative Secretaries attended the ceremony. Divisional commissioners, Regional Police Officers, Deputy Commissioners and District Police Officers also attended via video link.



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur launching Ikhtiyar Awam Ka portal as an important initiative towards promoting good governance and addressing public issues in the province.

Inaugural ceremony of pre-service training held at KPJA

PESHAWAR (APP): The five-week Pre-Service Training (PST) for newly inducted Civil Judges-cum-Judicial Magistrates/Ilaqa Qazis commenced at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy Peshawar (KPJA), here on Wednesday.

The inaugural ceremony was chaired by Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, the Chief Justice Peshawar High Court/ Chairman KPJA, as the Chief Guest.

Justice Ijaz Anwar, Senior Puisne Judge/Vice-Chairman KPJA, Barrister Ikhtiar Khan, Registrar Peshawar High Court, Jehanzeb Shinwari, the Director General KPJA, and directors of KPJA also attended the ceremony.

Jehanzeb Shinwari, DG, KPJA welcomed the chief guest and paid thanks to him for sparing time to grace the ceremony. He also extended heartiest congratulations to the trainees on their entry to the noble profession. He highlighted that the tier of civil Judges was like a nucleus of the district judiciary. He added that judges should have the law at their fingertips. As a Judicial officer, they must possess a deep understanding of both substantive and procedural laws, enabling them to deliver expeditious and effective justice to the litigant public.

DG Academy, further elaborated that to equip the participants to meet the challenges and demands of their new assignment, the Academy has designed the training program, aiming to sensitize them about their new responsibilities, to inculcate ethical values and standards and to enhance their professional skills and knowledge.

In his address Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, Chief Justice Peshawar High Court/ Chairman KPJA, congratulated the participants on their appointment as civil judges cum Judicial Magistrates/Ilaqa Qazis and said that it was not an ordinary position. He highlighted the fragile nature of this noble profession.

He further highlighted that the office of a judge and qazi comes with a unique set of obligations and values, such as independence, impartiality, dignity, propriety, equality, competence, and diligence.

Elaborating the significance of training, the Chief Justice PHC said that pre-service training was an essential requirement for the participants, which would enable them to perform efficiently and effectively.

Highlighting the effect of conduct of judges/qazis, he made special reference to Judicial Ethics and placed great emphasis on the study of "Adab-ul-Qazi" written by Dr. Mahmood Ahmad Ghazi.

KP Govt's days are numbered, claims Khizar

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: PML-N leader Arbab Khizar Hayat has said that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's government has only a few days left. He challenged Ali Amin Gandapur on any platform, stating that if he cannot prove the corruption of the government, he will retire from politics forever.

Arbab Khizar Hayat further said that the provincial government has broken all records of corruption, with transfer postings being auctioned off.

He also mentioned that a charge sheet is being prepared against the provincial government, detailing each instance of corruption. He added that the Chief Minister has lost the people's confidence and soon, the PML-N and its allies will form the government in the province.

Meanwhile, Arbab Khizar said that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur should immediately apologize for using inappropriate language about Maryam Nawaz and Gharida Farooqi.

He added that it has become a habit of PTI members to use offensive language against women in public rallies. If the Chief Minister does not apologize, not only will PML-N workers but also the people of the province will besiege the Chief Minister's House, warned Arbab Khizar Hayat.

He further cautioned PTI leaders to control their language, or else we know how to respond in kind. "Our silence should not be mistaken for weakness; we do not want to create chaos in the province," said Arbab Khizar Hayat.

Despite all hurdles PTI popularity on the rise: Hayat

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and President Lalazar Union Council Hayat Khan has said despite lapse of one year the series of arrests and unjustified raids could not stop against PTI workers and leaders. Hayat Khan said that his residence is still being raided and the police are harassing him unnecessarily.

He further said that the crackdown that is being done against the leaders in the province has left the workers no longer safe and they are also being harassed on one pretext and the other, but they are standing side by side with their leadership in this difficult situation which we are facing. He demanded that the series of raids against workers and leaders should be stopped.

He added that the house of Asim Ali Shah former campaign leader PK79 was raided few days back and their family is being harassed without any reason. He demanded fair treatment of the establishment with all political forces and they should treat them like children of the state. He said that what kind of justice is this that one party is allowed all facilities while the other is not allowed to stage a rally.

KP's first patient safety conference held at PIC

PESHAWAR (APP): On the occasion of World Patient Safety Day, Peshawar Institute of Cardiology (PIC) successfully organized the first Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Conference in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This conference, held with the theme "Improving Diagnosis for Patient Safety" as per WHO guidelines, brought together healthcare professionals from across the country and internationally, including experts from the UK, India, and the USA. Young doctors, nurses, and practitioners were also present in large numbers.

The conference aimed to discuss innovative approaches and experiences in ensuring patient safety and improving the healthcare system. Various experts presented case studies, research material, and presentations, all focused on making healthcare services safer and more effective.

Professor Dr. Hafizullah, Chairman of the Board of Governors at PIC, commended the entire PIC team, stating that the conference represents a significant step forward in patient health and safety. He emphasized their commitment to implementing best practices from around the world to provide high-quality healthcare services to their patients.

International experts participating through online links highlighted modern medical techniques and steps taken to ensure patient safety in their presentations.

They shared experiences related to optimal patient diagnosis, medication use and testing, infectious diseases, artificial intelligence in healthcare, and patient safety, emphasizing the need for international collaboration to ensure patient safety.

The presentations included various case studies and their analyses, focusing on the prevention of incidents affecting patients and the successful measures taken for their protection.

Dr. Babar Alam, WHO representative in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, commended PIC management for organizing the important conference. He reiterated WHO's commitment to providing full support to PIC for organizing such crucial conferences in the future to further improve the health system in the country and the province.

At the end of the conference, participants expressed their commitment to working together to further improve the quality of patient care in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

This conference has paved the way for a new approach to patient safety, promising improvements to the province's healthcare system. Shields and certificates were awarded to participants and members of the organizing committee.

Power shutdown schedule notified

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Pesco authorities have notified power shutdown in various suburban areas of the province due to necessary maintenance work.

According to Pesco, power supply will remain suspended from will remain suspended from Kohat Road Grid Station on 21st, 24th, 26th and 28th September from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM, resultantly consumers of PAF Express, Kohat Road, Wazir Bagh, Old Deh Bhadar, Old Kohat Road, Dora Road, New Deh Bhadar, Scheme Chowk feeders will face inconvenience.

Power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar City grid station on 21st, 24th, 26th and 28th September from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM, resultantly consumers of Sikhandar Pura, Lala, Hashnagri, Chughal Pura, Chamkani, Jhagra, Redio pak, Sethi Town, Gulbargh, Hussain Abad, Zaryab, Phandoo Road, City Home, Bana Mari, Urmar, Islamabad, Faqir Abad, Sheikh Abad, Molvi G, Nishterabad, NHA feeders will face inconvenience.

Similarly, power supply will remain suspended from Shiekh Muhammadi grid station on 21st, 24th, 26th and 28th September from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM, resultantly consumers of Badbair, Masho Gagar, Balazai, Sirband, Sheikhhan, Shahab Khel and AWT feeders will face inconvenience.

Power supply will remain suspended from Dalazak grid station on 21st, 24th, 26th and 28th September from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM, resultantly consumers of Mian Gujar, Gulbela, Pakha Ghulam, Wadpaga 1,2, Gulabad, Lucky Star, Doran Pur, BRT, Guluzai, Muhammad Zai, Jannah College, New Sir Band Pura feeders will face inconvenience.

Prosecutors to boycott from court's proceedings

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Prosecution Officer Welfare Association (POWA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to boycott from court proceeding from today (Thursday) for indefinite time across the province in favor of their demands, on Wednesday.

The decision was made during a provincial convention which was attended by POWA president Sangin Shah, Javed Ali Mohmand, Fida Gul, President of Peshawar High Court Bar Association, Amin Khan, President of Peshawar Bar Association and Zaman Khan lawyer's representative.

According to details, POWA demands establishment of an independent and autonomous prosecution department. Creation of a Prosecutor General's office. The association also argued for revision in pay scale like judiciary and police.

POWA demanded provision of vehicles and residential facilities for prosecutors as well as basic amenities for female prosecutors.

They also demanded amendments in Prosecution Act from the provincial assembly.

The association presented a 9-point agenda to the government, warning that if their demands aren't met, they will paralyze the entire criminal justice system.

The speakers claimed that since 2004, the prosecution department has been headed by officials from other departments, rather than experienced prosecutors. They added that Punjab and Sindh have separate prosecution departments, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa does not.

The association's General Secretary, Javed Ali Mohmand stated that they have been making these demands since 2015, but the government has taken no action. All bar associations including Peshawar High Court Bar Association have expressed solidarity with the prosecutors and vowed to support their demands.

KMU's mission to become a role model of research-driven

VC Prof. Dr. Zia-ul-Haq professional actions for Khyber Medical University not hidden from anyone

Sajjad Muhammad Khan

PESHAWAR: Prof. Dr. Zia-ul-Haq is the only person who is overseeing the excellence of Khyber Medical University Peshawar, organizational, academic programs and general administration matters of the university.

In meeting I found him to be very talented, religious, cheerful and friendly person also favored me by giving the gift of Holy Quran. He is a professional and sweet-spoken person who hails from the beautiful Gandigar valley of district Dir. His professional actions for KMU are not hidden from anyone.

His exceptional leadership and vision have significantly contributed to the university's growth and excellence." Professor Dr. Zia ul Haq, Vice Chancellor of Khyber Medical University (KMU), has embarked on a mission to transform the institution into a beacon of academic excellence, research, and innovation.

With a vision to propel KMU to unprecedented heights, Dr. Haq's leadership is poised to leave a lasting impact on the university and the region.

Under his stewardship, KMU has witnessed substantial growth since its inception in 2007. Eight constituent and 93 affiliated institutes have been added, and a faculty of 220 eminent scholars, including 52 doctors of philosophy, has been enlisted. This unprecedented achievement is a testament to Dr. Haq's commitment to academic excellence.

He envisions a paradigm shift in KMU's academic stance, from mere existence to becoming a hub of innovation and discovery. He aims to empower scholars to actualize their potentials, bringing them to the forefront of scientific discovery and innovation.

To achieve this vision, Dr. Haq has outlined a 120-day plan focusing on: Institutional expansion; Process and service enhancement; Effective redress systems for general and ethical concerns.

VC KMU reiterates KMU's mission to become a role model of research-driven, practice-informed, diverse, inclusive, and equitable institution of academic excellence. He emphasizes living up to values of integrity, inclusiveness, diversity, innovation, equity, and rigorous science/economic will being and prosperity.

Dr. Haq's own achievements serve as a testament to his vision. With 15 years of academic, research, and administrative experience, he has: Published over 50 research articles and 03 book chapters; Secured exceptionally high research funding from UN, NIHR, and MRC UK; Played a pivotal role in shaping health policies and responses to COVID-19; Received HEC Country Best Researcher, HEC Best University Teacher, and Life-Time Achievement Awards; Appointed as visiting Professor of Public Health at the University of Glasgow, UK, and Director of the Asian Consortium for Health Research, Nanjing Medical University, China.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq's leadership and vision have set KMU on a path to excellence. His commitment to transforming the institution into a hub of innovation and discovery will have a lasting impact on the region. As KMU continues to soar to new heights, Dr. Haq's legacy will inspire generations to come.

Under prof Dr. Haq's stewardship, KMU is poised to become a leading institution in Pakistan and beyond. His dedication to academic excellence, research, and innovation will ensure that KMU remains at the forefront of medical education and healthcare.



PESHAWAR: Activists of Paramedical Association holding protest outside Peshawar Press Club. — INP photo



In brief

Mobile snatching on the rise Syed Waliullah Shah

NOWSHERA: Unknown armed robbers snatched three mobile phones from two brothers and their friend as well as cash in thousand at gunpoint in the premises of Bara Banda police Chowki, last day. According to details, Usman, owner of Usman Mobile Shop said that he was dropping off his brother and his friend Yousaf Khan at their home on a motorcycle when unknown masked robbers stopped them at gunpoint near Gul Khan Korona on Kalingar Road. The robbers took thousands of rupees in cash and three valuable mobile phones from them and escaped into the fields. Previously, armed individuals had also snatched a valuable mobile phone from a student sitting in a tailor's shop near Police Checkpost. Bara Bandah, beating him with a pistol butt. Due to the repeated incidents of robbery and theft in the limits of Police Check post Bara Bandah, residents feel insecure and demand action from high-ranking police officials.

Woman gives birth on footpath

DADU (INP): A woman gave birth to a child on a footpath opposite the DSP office in Dadu district on Wednesday. According to the details, the woman was brought to Civil Hospital Dadu for delivery purposes, but later doctors decided to refer her to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) which was far away from the Civil Hospital. On her way to the hospital, the woman's condition deteriorated because she was unable to reach the hospital due to a traffic rush and other hurdles, so she gave birth to a child on the footpath opposite the DSP office. Later, she was shifted to the gynaecology ward of District Headquarters Hospital.

Contaminated milk kills two F.P. Report

HARIPUR: Two children died after drinking contaminated milk in the Rahmatabad area of Haripur, police said on Wednesday. The tragic incident took place within the jurisdiction of Sarai Saleh police station. Local police and rescuers arrived at the scene and started piecing together evidence. The Haripur assistant commissioner arrived to examine the situation. The bodies were taken to the Trauma Centre for post-mortem. Meanwhile, the Assistant Commissioner ordered the seizure of the milk stock for testing. To find the source of the contaminated milk and bring individuals accountable, a formal police inquiry has been started.

Vehicle plunges into gorge, 3 die F.P. Report

UPPER DIR: In a tragic accident, a vehicle fell into a deep gorge in the Panah Kot area of Upper Dir, resulting in the deaths of three riders, rescue 1122 said on Wednesday. Vehicle was transporting fruit to Dir when it veered off the road and plunged into the gorge. Rescue 1122 reported that emergency response teams were promptly dispatched to the scene but, unfortunately, all three occupants of the vehicle were found dead. The deceased have been taken to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) in Dir and subsequently sent to their respective homes.

Jirga protests against proposed education institutions land sale

F.P. Report

MARDAN: The members of Loya Jirga accompanied by large number of residents of district Mardan here on Monday held protest demonstration against the provincial government plan to sale out lands of universities, medical college and service road alongside the bypass road.

The protest demonstration was organized by Loya Jirga Mardan. The protestors marched from college chowk to office of the Commissioner Marand. The protestors were carrying banners and placards inscribed with their different demands regarding the educational lands and properties.

Addressing on the occasion, the Loya Jirga leaders asked the provincial government to take back its decision regarding the selling of educational institutes and service road lands. They were of the opinion that future of hundred of thousands of youngsters hailing from Mardan and other adjacent districts were depended and related to those educational organizations. They alleged that this act of the chief minister Ali Ameen Gandapur was comprised on totally injustice.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial was eliminating educational institutes instead of providing fund to the under-construction projects, they said, adding that residents of Mardan district would never accept the said injustice and irrational decision regarding the universities land. They lamented that funds were being increased with the purpose to promote and boost education across the world, they maintained. They also deported that the rulers who were ruling the KPK province for the last more than eleven years, had adopted anti-educational policies.

They expressed that their concerned that the PTI leadership were claiming in the past to make education accessible to every citizen but now those leaders were planning to sell out lands and properties of educational institutes.

They warned that they would leave no stone unturned to force the government to take its decision back if the incumbent rulers did not take the matter as serious. At the end, the Loya Jirga delegation comprising of political and social organizations of Mardan regarding university lands met Deputy Commissioner Mardan Mian Behzad Adil in the conference room of the Commissioner's office.

The delegation was comprised of President of the Jirga Imran Mandori, City Mayor Himayatullah Mayar, President Mardan Chamber of Commerce Zahir Shah, President Press Club Muhammad Bashir Adil representatives of political parties, social and trading organizations.

Jirga representatives presented their demands regarding land allocated for universities and ring road to the administration and submitted the memorandum containing their demands to Deputy Commissioner Mian Behzad Adil. DC Mardan listened carefully to the Jirga's submissions and assured that these demands will be conveyed to the provincial government.

Commerce to bring national prosperity: MCCI: Provincial General Secretary traders union and President of Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Zahir Shah said that the electricity bills have brought out the cries of the poor people the businesses of the business community have been destroyed. All prosperity depends on commercial development. Traders are the backbone for the stability of the country's economy.

The government should give relief to trader's community and the people, he was addressing at the occasion of oath taking ceremony of Carpenters Association Baghdad where he was the chief guest. He took the oath of office from the newly elected cabinet. On this occasion, All Carpenters Association President Zaman Khan Mashwani, General Secretary Rahat Zeb, Chairman Ghulam Sarwar Saraf, Waqar Ali Bacha, Awais Khan, Faqir Muhammad Saraf, Aftab Mohmand, Gul Said, Tahir Khan Hoti, Shah Jee, Waheed Gul, Naveed, Amjad Akhtar and others also spoke.

Addressing the ceremony, the provincial general secretary of the central organization of traders and the President of Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Zahir Shah said that in such a worst inflation where the people are barely getting two times meal a day, the monthly electricity bills of thousands of rupees is not less than a punishment for them. Due to the daily increase in electricity prices and new taxes, the prices of electricity bills are skyrocketing. Imposing income tax and sales tax in household bills is beyond understanding as it is injustice on the part of the government towards the poor people.

Instead of giving relief to the people, the rulers are bent on extracting their money, Zahir Shah demanded that the electricity prices should be fixed immediately and the cruel taxes should be removed and the long bills of the people should be fixed. The electricity prices should be reduced for the poor man. Mardan is a very fertile area economically, keeping in mind the importance of furniture and light engineering in Mardan, the government has approved the establishment of a separate industrial zone.

Commissioner commits to ensure public service delivery

Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Syed Motasim Billah Shah and the Deputy Commissioners along with their subordinates in the division are actively engaged on implementing the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Program "Awami Agenda" and under this Program, so far, actions against hundreds of officers and officials have been taken for failing to implement the Awami Agenda.

Commissioner Kohat Syed Motasim Billah Shah has visited dozens of hospitals, educational institutions and government departments/institutions in all the five districts of Kohat division, including the merged tribal districts.

The Commissioner and all administrations of Kohat continued its activities under the "Awami Agenda" on holidays also and actions have been taken against the employees who found guilty and negligent.

Commissioner Kohat paid a surprise visit to various Patwarkhanas of Kohat district the other day to check the records and suspended one Patwari on the spot for absence, poor cleanliness and non-displaying of fee rates and ordered immediate disciplinary action against him. Similarly, attendance and records in other two Patwarkhanas were found to be correct.

The visitors who were waiting in front of the Patwarkhana of the absent

Patwari, praised the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government's Program "Awami Agenda" and welcomed the Commissioner Kohat on his sudden arrival. They appreciated the immediate action against the Patwari and demanded the Commissioner Kohat to continue his actions regularly.

Commissioner Kohat maintained that the purpose of his surprise visits is the reformation of government servants, improvement of services delivery of the government departments & institutions and provide relief to the people. Inshallah, the raids and surprise visits will be continued until the goals of "Awami Agenda" are achieved, he assured.

Residents hold protest against death of patient

F.P. Report

LARKANA: A 23 years youth Rauf Rehman Soomro died due to the alleged negligence of the doctors in a private medical center in Sachal Colony of Larkana, while the relatives of the deceased youth protested for justice at the main SSP Chowk, on Wednesday.

A sit-in was held while some emotional youths also shouted slogans against the doctors of the private medical center. Addressing the sit-in, the deceased youth's brothers Zamir Hussain Soomro,

Rizwan Hussain Soomro and his uncle Abdul Ghafoor Soomro and others protested and said that our deceased young man was suffering from stone disease, which we examined by Dr. Abdul Rashid Sheikh at City Medical Center near Sachal Colony, who prescribed some medicines and asked to operate on the young man on Saturday.

According to the advice, we admitted the young man to the center and after the operation, the young man suffered pain in his abdomen, but the doctor was not present at the cen-

ter at that time, so our young man died, and then the staff of the private hospital, including the dead young man, throw us out of the center, they strongly appealed to the Chief Justice of Sindh High Court and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

The matter should be investigated and the doctors and staff involved should be arrested and a case of murder should be registered against them and justice should be done with the blood of the deceased, otherwise we will be forced to take very strict measures.

Govt removes DC, SSP, DHO Jacobabad over negligence

F.P. Report

JACOBABAD: The Sindh Government has taken strict action following the reported negligence in the security and arrangements for polio workers in Jacobabad. As a result, the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) and District Health

Officer (DHO) Jacobabad have been removed from their positions.

In an official notification, the SSP Jacobabad has been directed to report to the Central Police Office (CPO), while the Deputy Commissioner Jacobabad has been instructed to report to the Services, General Administration,

and Coordination Department (S&GAD). The District Health Officer has also been relieved of his duties due to the lapse in ensuring the safety of polio workers. The government remains committed to ensuring the safety of polio workers and will not tolerate any lapses in this regard.



HYDERABAD: A large number of people participating in Eid Milad Un Nabi celebrations.

Teachers urged to improve teaching process F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: District Education Officer (male) Lower Dir Inayatullah Khan on Wednesday, paid a surprise visit to GHS Dheri Talash and other public sector schools in Talash early in the morning. The DEO checked attendance of the teaching, non-teaching staff and students.

He also visited various classrooms, observed teachers' methodology of teaching and asked questions from the students. The DEO expressed pleasure on getting satisfactory answers from students. He appreciated the staff for punctuality and effectiveness. The DEO also checked overall cleanliness on school's premises and expressed pleasure on exemplary cleanliness.

Later on, addressing the teachers, DEO Inayatullah informed them regarding the CM 'Awami Agenda' and directives of the Hon'ourable Directress of education. He directed the teachers to observe strictly official time, chlorinate drinking water, observe cleanliness day a week, install dustbin in classrooms, properly guide Students, establish an Audio-visual Aids room, properly arrange science lab and teach students according to the lesson plan. He also directed the clerical staff to update profiles of teachers and students. The DEO appreciated the staff for their punctuality and devotion.

KKKU issue schedules F.P. Report

KARAK: Khushal Khan Khattak University (KKKU) Karak has announced schedule of tests for admission in MS, M. Phil and Ph. D. programs, on Wednesday.

According to a statement issued by the Director of Academic and Research, Dr. Fasih ur Rahman, the admission tests for MS, M. Phil and Ph.D. programs will be held in the university premises on Tuesday, 24th September.

All those candidates who have not yet registered for the test, they will be facilitated to registered themselves on the spot. The registration fee for test admission has been fixed at Rs1 thousand.

Eid-e-Milad (SAW) observed F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: Youth Department and Tehsil Municipal Administration Takhtbhai celebrated the birthday of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) to Eid-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW). Assistant Commissioner Takhtbhai, was the special guest. Students from schools and madrasas participated in a Naat and Quran recitation competition to pay tribute to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W).

Prominent educationist Dr. Nisar Ahmed Shamozy, senior journalist and Small Industry President Dost Muhammad Darvesh, Chief Officer Usman Ali Nashad, MPA spokesperson Shahid Khan, and Assistant Commissioner Takht Bhai Junaid Khalid delivered comprehensive speeches on the topic of Seerat-un-Nabi.

Eid-e-Milad observes at Peer Baba Mazar

F.P. Report

BUNER: In connection with Eid Milad-ul-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him), a spiritual ceremony was held in Peer Baba Jamia Masjid under the management of Sajjada Nashen Makhdoom Syed Hussain Shah Bacha. Buner former Deputy Commissioner Ismail Khan, brother of MNA, Johar Ali Khan, Khateb Jamia Masjid Qari Yaseen members of Sadat Buner, elders, youth, younger, children, minority community and key figures from other districts participated in large numbers.

On the occasion religious scholars delivered speeches and highlighted that the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) birth is the highest expression of mercy and benevolence for the world of mankind and God's creation and exhorting Muslims to celebrate

the birthday of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) with open hearts and to spread the message of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The ceremony was also attended by well-known Naat reciters who offered prayers of devotion to the glory of the Holy Prophet and received praise.

On the occasion the students of Madrasa Jamia Darbar Aalia recited holly Quran and the participants wore flower garlands to them. The prayer leader of Jamia Masjid Darbar Hazrat Peer Baba Qari Yasin offered a collective prayer and later on langar (food) was distributed to all the participants on behalf of the Makhdoom family.

Mushaera held: District Youth Officer organized Musharia among the students of Government Degree College Daggar, on

Wednesday. ADC Syed Akram Shah was chief guest of the event. According to details, dozens of students presented their poetry and received good applause from the students. Shields and certificates were distributed among the poets at the end of the performance.

The chief guest in his address said that the district administration is promoting the mission of highlighting the hidden talents of the youth by organizing positive activities for the youth. In this regard, sports, poetry contest, painting, speeches, Naat khawani and Husni Qiraat for the students and youth.

The aim behind to encourages the youth by organizing healthy competitions. The Chief Guest added that the youth of Buner are very talented and such activities will be continued in the future to highlight their talents.

Traders' warns of protest against Food Authority

F.P. Report

JAMRUD: Traders in Jamrud bazaar have threatened to launch a protest against unfair treatment and harassment towards local shopkeepers by the Food Safety and Halal Food Authority.

President Anjumane-Tajeran, Jamrud Bazaar Kahsef Afridi said that early morning on Wednesday, the officials of Food Safety and Halal Food Authority intercepted ghee supply at Takhta Baig check post, transported from Ashraf road, Peshawar to local market

and shifted the commodity to tehsil Jamrud compound for possible fining.

Unfairly harassing and fining the local businessmen was unacceptable, Afridi said. He alleged that the authority seized the item on pretext of sub-standard quality but claimed that action was taken without proper testing and evidence.

The confiscated ghee is made in a factory (ghee mill) located in Bara, where from it transports to Ashraf road, Peshawar (main ghee market) for distribution he added and said if the edible item is of poor quality then

the authority concerned should cancel the factory and seal it. We understand the importance of food safety but not at the cost of our livelihood, he remarked.

The traders demanded immediate release of the confiscated commodity and threatened that if the Authority did not revise its course of check then they would shut down their shops in protest against it. According to the official of the Food Safety and Halal Food Authority, the seized ghee was of poor quality and harmful to health.

Exposure visit to Gomal Zam Dam arranged

F.P. Report

WANA: The Mehsud Press Club in collaboration with Gomal Scouts arranged a trip for over 70 journalists and social media activists to Gomal Zam Dam. The purpose of the visit was to inform participants about the significance, benefits, and positive impacts of the dam on the region.

During the visit, Nauman Khan, the Resident Engineer of WAPDA gave a detailed

briefing on the dam's construction, agricultural benefits, electricity generation, and improvements in the groundwater level. Representatives from the officials of the agriculture department and other relevant departments also provided valuable information to the visiting delegation of media persons.

The participants lauded the initiative, saying the visit enhanced their understanding of the importance of Gomal Zam Dam. One social media activist

remarked, "Even though we live here, we were not fully aware of the dam's significance, and today's visit has greatly increased our knowledge."

The president of the Mehsud Press Club highlighted the importance of projects like Gomal Zam Dam in the development of South Waziristan and expressed gratitude to the Gomal Scouts Commandant and other institutions for their cooperation in facilitating the visit.

Mitho Dacoit killed during police encounter

RAHIM YAR KHAN (INP): One notorious dacoit, Asif alias Mitho Chandia, was killed during a police encounter in Mouzah Kharkay, district Rahim Yar Khan on Wednesday.

A Punjab police spokesman said that after receiving information that a dacoity incident took place in Mouzah Kharkay. A police team was reached at the crime scene. After noticing the police team, dacoits started firing on the police team.

Police team start chas-

ing the fleeing dacoits. During severe firing between the police team and the dacoits, one dacoit was killed while his other companions fled away, successfully taking advantage of darkness. Mitho Chandia was involved in different heinous crimes including robbery, theft, dacoity, and attacks on police teams.

Police records further showed that he was wanted by Punjab police for his involvement in dozens of crimes. Police recovered a motorcycle which they

snatched from a citizen, currency, Kalashnikov ammunition and another motorcycle which the dacoits used for committing crimes.

The police team also shifted the dead body of Dacoit to a local hospital for postmortem. Police teams raided different suspicious locations to arrest dacoits who fled way. Inspector-General of Police Punjab (IGP) Dr Usman Anwar, lauded the performance of Punjab police to thwart an attempt at robbery.



Putin orders Russian army to become 2nd largest

MOSCOW (Reuters): President Vladimir Putin ordered the regular size of the Russian army to be increased by 180,000 troops to 1.5 million active servicemen in a move that would make it the second largest in the world after China's.

In a decree published on the Kremlin's website, Putin ordered the overall size of the armed forces to be increased to 2.38 million people, of which he said 1.5 million should be active servicemen. According to data from the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), a leading military think tank, such an increase would see Russia leapfrog the United States and India in terms of the number of active combat soldiers it has at its disposal and be second only to China in size. The IISS said Beijing has just over 2 million active duty service personnel.

The move, the third time Putin has expanded the army's ranks since sending his military into Ukraine in February 2022, comes as Russian forces push forward in eastern Ukraine on parts of a vast 1,000 km (627-mile) front-line and try to eject Ukrainian forces from Russia's Kursk region. Although Russia has a population more than three times larger than Ukraine's and has been successfully

recruiting volunteers on lucrative contracts to fight in Ukraine, it has - like Kyiv's forces - been sustaining heavy battlefield losses, and there is no sign of the war ending anytime soon.

Both sides say the exact size of their losses is a military secret. Andrei Kartapolov, chairman of Russia's lower house of parliament's defence committee, said the increase in active troop numbers was part of a plan to overhaul the armed forces and gradually increase their size to match what he described as the current international situation and the behaviour of "our former foreign partners."

"For example, we now need to form new structures and military units to ensure security in the north-west (of Russia) since Finland, with which we border, has joined the NATO bloc," Kartapolov told Parlamentskaya Gazeta, the Russian parliament's in-house newspaper. "And in order to carry out this process, we need to increase the number of troops."

Putin since 2022 had previously ordered two official increases in the number of combat troops - by 137,000 and 170,000 respectively. In addition, Russia mobilised over 300,000 soldiers in September and October

2022 in an exercise which prompted tens of thousands of draft-age men to flee the country. The Kremlin has said that no new mobilisation is planned for now, however, and that the idea is to continue to rely on volunteers signing up to fight in Ukraine.

Dara Massicot, an expert in the Russian military at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace think tank, questioned whether Moscow was ready to foot the bill for the increase in active servicemen. "There are ways to staff a standing 1.5 million force but the Kremlin will not like them if they are truly grappling with what that requires," Massicot wrote on X. "Are they really able to boost the defense budget to sustain procurement AND this requirement?"

Massicot, who has released a report on Russia's drive to regenerate its army, said Moscow could take the unpopular and difficult decision of expanding the draft size or change the law to allow more women to work in the military to reach such a goal. "Look for signs that this is a real initiative to recruit and expand, and not a kind of show to intimidate others. The current volunteer method is working but has strains. This (the expansion) means more expense/strain," she said.

Six die in a landslide caused by heavy rains

MEXICO CITY (AP): A landslide caused by heavy rains has killed six people near Mexico City, authorities said. The landslide in Naucalpan, a community northwest of Mexico City, also affected a house and school, the State of Mexico government said in a statement. The victims were four men and two women. Another three people were injured and transported to a state hospital.

State Gov. Delfina Gómez ordered the deployment of rescue teams and security task forces to support affected families. The deaths in Naucalpan occurred a few days after another landslide killed nine people in Jilotzingo, west of Mexico City in the State of Mexico. A 3-month-old baby was among the victims. Two children, ages 10 and 12, and a 34-year-old woman were rescued. Several homes were affected and authorities had to evacuate more than 100 people for fear of further landslides.

The landslides and heavy rains have been pounding the State of Mexico since the start of the rainy season in late July. In cities like Chalco that have also experienced heavy torrential rains, the combination of unchecked growth and failing infrastructure have caused sewage-infused waters to invade streets, homes and businesses.

Doctors Without Borders closes operations

GENEVA (AP): Doctors Without Borders said it has closed its operations in Russia after 32 years, citing a Justice Ministry letter that said the medical aid group had been removed from a register of foreign non-governmental organizations.

The aid group, also known by its French name Médecins Sans Frontières and acronym MSF, said it will retain its branch office in Moscow, but operations - run by its Dutch affiliate - have stopped. It was MSF Netherlands whose registration was withdrawn, a group spokesperson said in an email. MSF has been in Russia since 1992 and has operated programs that provided aid for homeless people and migrants, tuberculosis treatment, and general health care including for infectious diseases such as AIDS.

Russia has banned a wide array of international organizations, groups and movements on the grounds that they threaten the state. In the past two years, organizations added to the bans include Greenpeace for allegedly threatening Russia's security and constitutional order; the environmental groups Worldwide Fund for Nature and Wild Salmon Center for projects that would impede economic development, and the LGBTQ "international public movement," which does not exist as a unified organization. Russia also banned The Moscow Times, a popular English-language news website that operates from the Netherlands.

MSF said it has provided assistance to more than 52,000 people who either crossed into Russia from Ukraine or were internally displaced in Russia since Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. MSF said it had been planning to respond to the humanitarian and medical needs of internally displaced people in the Kursk region in Russia, where Ukrainian forces have recently made inroads. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russian forces have launched a counteroffensive in the Kursk region to dislodge Ukraine's troops who stormed across the border more than five weeks ago. It was the first time since World War II that Russian territory was under foreign occupation.

Norman Stali, the operations manager for MSF programs in Russia, said the aid group was "very sad" to end the programs, "as many people in need of medical and humanitarian assistance will now be left without the support we could have provided to them."



MEXICO CITY: Estrella Bejarano, mother of two children who died after a rain-induced landslide, speaks with Mexico State Governor Delfina Gomez in Naucalpan, Mexico.

Climate change is turbo-charging Somalia's problems

MOGADISHU (BBC): Somalia may be one of the poorest countries in the world and beset by violence, but it is "fixable", according to its top climate official.

The country has been torn apart by more than 30 years of overlapping conflicts - including an Islamist insurgency, a civil war, and a series of regional and clan confrontations. Yet Abdihakim Ainte, the Somali prime minister's climate advisor, still regards his country as "as story of potential - of promise". What makes his optimism all the more surprising is the fact climate change is amplifying virtually all the challenges his country faces.

One commentator described climate change as a "chaos multiplier", because it exacerbates existing tensions and entrenches conflict in fragile states like this. But Somalia, the easternmost country in continental Africa, can't be held responsible for our changing climate. The figures are staggering. Somalia has emitted roughly as much carbon dioxide from fossil fuels since the 1950s as the US economy does in an average three days. The most obvious effects of climate change here have been in agriculture. Somalia is still overwhelmingly an agricultural economy, with about two thirds of the population depending on farming and animal herding for most of their income.

In 2022 the country experienced its worst drought for 40 years - an event scientists estimate was made 100 times more likely by human-caused climate change. The extent of the challenge Somalia faces became clear as the convoy of International Red Cross (ICRC) Land Cruisers were travelling in rumbled into the dry scrub that covers most of the country. We were

accompanied by three guards clutching AK47s - Somalia is the only country in the world where Red Cross staff travel with armed security as standard. The camel herders and small-scale farmers we met are on the front line of climate change here. For thousands of years Somalis have been eking out a living moving their herds of camels and goats from one pasture to the next across this dry land. But climate change is disrupting the patterns of rain that made this way of life possible.

Sheik Don Ismail told us he lost all his camels during the drought, when grazing grounds dried up and the fodder he grew on his small farm wasn't enough to sustain them. "The well became dry and there was no pasture, so the animals began to die," he said, shaking his head. "The life we lead now is really bad - really bad." That drought left farmers and herders fighting for access to water and pasture. Sheik Don said he was sometimes forced to defend his land at gunpoint. "There is no respect if you don't have a gun," he said. "The herders who lead their animals into the farm stay back when they see my weapon. They get scared." In a country divided into rival clan groups and already scarred by violence, these localised disputes can easily spiral into full-blown battles, said Cyril Jaurena, who runs the ICRC operation in Somalia. "Access to boreholes and pastureland gets more and more difficult to find, and so the population in the area might end up fighting - competing for those resources, and sometimes it goes to people shooting at each other," he warned. And drought isn't the only problem here. Last year Somalia experienced terrible floods as a result of rains scien-

tists say were made twice as intense by human-caused global warming. The floodwater washed away precious soils killing hundreds of people and displacing one million others. The effects of Somalia's climate change "double whammy" are all too evident in the hunger clinic the Red Cross runs in a hospital in the port city of Kismayo on the south coast.

Every day a steady stream of mothers bring their malnourished babies here. Many have had to cross from territory controlled by al-Qaeda's lethal affiliate, Islamist militants al-Shabab, to get here. The UN estimates more than 1.5m children under the age of five are acutely malnourished in Somalia. Around four million Somalis have been driven into vast makeshift refugee camps - about a fifth of the total population. Displaced people make their homes out of anything they can get hold of - pieces of old fabric, plastic sheets and rusty corrugated iron - all draped over a web of dry sticks. Some people even unroll tin cans into strips to form parts of their walls. There is little international support, if any. At the refugee camp I visited, just outside the city of Garowe in the north of Somalia, families have to pay for their food and water, as well as pay rent for the scraps of land where they build their shacks. After more than three decades of war, Somalia has fallen way down the list of international priorities. Its problems have been eclipsed by what seem like more urgent conflicts, in places like Ukraine and Gaza. The UN calculates Somalia needs at least \$1.6bn (about £1.2bn) to meet the basic humanitarian needs of the people this year, but so far just \$600 million has been pledged by donor governments.

Zimbabwe and Namibia will kill scores of elephants

HARARE (AP): Zimbabwe and Namibia have announced plans to slaughter hundreds of wild elephants and other animals to feed hunger-stricken residents amid severe drought conditions in the southern African countries.

Zimbabwe said it would allow the killing of 200 elephants so that their meat can be distributed among needy communities, while in Namibia the killing of more than 700 wild animals - including 83 elephants - is under way as part of a plan announced three weeks ago. Tinashe Farawo, a spokesman for the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, said permits would be issued in needy communities to hunt elephants and that the agency also would kill some of the overall allotment of 200 animals.

"We will start culling as soon as we have finished issuing out permits," Farawo said. The elephants will be taken from an area where the population has become unsustainable, Farawo said. The hunting will take place in areas such as Hwange National Park in the country's arid west where there has been increasing competition between humans and wildlife for food and water as rising temperatures make the resources more scarce. Hwange has more than 45,000 elephants, but now has the capacity to sustain only 15,000, Farawo said. The country's overall population of about 100,000 elephants is double what the country's national parks can sustain, park officials say.

The El Nino weather phenomenon has worsened the situation, with the parks agency in December saying that more than 100 elephants died due to drought. More animals could die of thirst and hunger in the coming weeks as the country enters the hottest period of the year, Farawo said. Zimbabwe's Environment Minister Sithembiso Nyoni told Parliament last week that she had given the go-

ahead for the culling program. "Indeed Zimbabwe has more elephants than we need, more elephants than our forestry can accommodate," Nyoni said. She said the government was preparing "to do like what Namibia has done so that we can cull the elephants and mobilize the women to dry the meat, package it and ensure that it gets to some communities that need the protein." The Namibian government last month approved the culling of 723 animals, including 83 elephants, 30 hippos, 60 buffalos, 50 impalas, 300 zebras and 100 elands, among others. The animals will be sourced from five of Namibia's national parks, where it is also looking to reduce its elephant numbers amid conflicts between people and wildlife. "This is necessary and is in line with our constitutional mandate where our natural resources are used for the benefit of Namibian citizens," environment department

spokesman Romeo Muyunda said. "This is also a prime example that conservation of game is really beneficial." Botswana, which is between Zimbabwe and Namibia, has the world's largest elephant population at 130,000, but unlike its two neighboring countries, it has not talked about slaughtering its elephants to feed its people. Guyo Roba, a food security and agricultural expert with the Kenya-based environmental think tank Jameel Observatory, said government measures in Zimbabwe and Namibia were understandable given the extent of the drought and the state of their animal populations. "They are working against a wildlife population that is above their carrying capacity," Roba said. "So it may seem controversial initially, but the governments are torn between remaining faithful to some of their obligations at an international level in terms of conservation and supporting the population," Roba said.

Starvation in war-hit Sudan 'almost everywhere': WHO

GENEVA (BBC): Starvation in war-stricken Sudan "is almost everywhere", the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) has told the BBC's Today programme after visiting the country.

"The situation in Sudan is very alarming... the massive displacement - it's now the largest in the world, and, of course, famine," director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. He said 12 million people were already displaced, adding that attention in the global community to Sudan was "really low" and race was a factor.

Thousands of people have been killed since a civil war broke out in April 2023 between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). "Imagine: destruction, displacement, diseases everywhere, and now famine," Dr Tedros told the BBC. He said he had recently visited a camp for the internally displaced people and a hospital in Sudan. "You see there many children skin and bone, emaciated." Close to

25 million people - half of Sudan's population - "need support", Dr Tedros said. He stressed that Sudan "is not getting the attention it deserves", and that was the case with other recent conflicts in Africa.

"I think race is in the play here. That's what I feel now. We see the pattern now." Dr Tedros - who grew up during war in Ethiopia - said: "Especially in Africa, I think the attention is really, really low." "That's the sad part, because you see it repeatedly, not just in Sudan," he added. "I know the smell of war, the image of war, the sound of war," the WHO chief said. "From that, I can understand how it impacts others, and I remember my mother praying I survive a day at a time - growing up, survival of the day was a big thing, I see the same thing is Sudan and Gaza." Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Dr Tedros said the world did not give "equal attention to black and white lives". At the time, he elaborated by saying only a fraction of the aid given to Ukraine was

given to other humanitarian crises, with Tigray in Ethiopia, Yemen, Afghanistan and Syria not receiving the same treatment. Dr Tedros urged mainstream media to give more attention to Sudan, describing the situation there as a "tragedy".

In August, a UN-backed committee of experts declared a famine at a camp housing about 500,000 displaced people near the besieged city of el-Fasher in Darfur, one of the regions worst affected by the conflict. The leader of Sudan's army, Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the head of the RSF, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, had jointly staged a coup in 2021, but then fell out eventually plunging Sudan into a civil war last year. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is accused of supporting the RSF with money and guns - which it denies - while Saudi Arabia is said to have close ties with the Sudanese government. Various mediation efforts, brokered by Saudi Arabia and the US, have failed to end the conflict.

Starmer looks to Italy on how to stop migrant boats

LONDON (BBC): Sir Keir Starmer has suggested he will study Italy's asylum processing deal with Albania as part of a "pragmatic" approach to tackling migrant boats crossing the English Channel. Speaking to reporters, the prime minister said he had discussed the "concept" of Italy's deal during talks in Rome with Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni.

Meloni said Sir Keir had shown "great interest" in the planned scheme, under which some migrants rescued in Italian waters will be sent to the Balkan country to have their asylum claims processed. Sir Keir also said he was interested in Italy's model of paying north African countries to do more to stop boat crossings. He added that deals with Tunisia and Libya "appears to have had quite a profound effect" in helping Italy cut the number of migrant arrivals. The Labour government has scrapped a Conservative plan to send asylum seekers on a one-way ticket to Rwanda, where they would only be able to apply for refugee status in the east African nation. But it has indicated an interest in schemes under which migrants crossing the English Channel could have their applications to stay in

the UK processed abroad. Italy's right-wing government, led by Meloni since October 2022, is not a natural political ally for Labour leader Sir Keir, but he has expressed an interest in learning from its tactics to counter illegal migration. Under its five-year deal with Albania, agreed last year, some migrants rescued by the Italian coastguard will be sent there to have their asylum claims processed in two centres funded and managed by Italy.

In a key difference with the Rwanda plan, those that succeed will come to Italy as refugees. Those whose applications are rejected will be detained in Albania until they can be returned to their home countries. Only migrants from countries deemed safe by Italy - whose claims are more likely to be rejected - will be sent, whilst pregnant women, minors and other categories of vulnerable people will be excluded. The scheme, which the Italian government says will cost 670m (£564m), was meant to start in August but has been delayed, with Meloni saying it will be "few weeks" before it gets going.

It has been criticised by some right groups, who have questioned how failed asylum claims could be properly appealed and

argued it could leave people in legal limbo. En route to Rome, Sir Keir said he was "interested" in learning about the scheme and later confirmed he had discussed it during his meeting with Meloni. The prime minister also discussed the model with Albanian counterpart Edi Rama during a summit of European leaders in July, when he said he wanted to "look at what works".

Speaking at a press conference, Sir Keir said the impact of Italy's Albania deal was not yet clear because the scheme had yet to begin operating, but he had discussed "the concept of it" with Meloni. It is not clear, however, how likely it is such a deal could be replicated. Albania, which is seeking to bolster its long-standing application to join the EU, has suggested that such a deal is only with Italy, its closest ally in Europe.

Sir Keir also underlined he was also interested in Italy's agreements with north African countries, which have emerged as important hubs for migrants attempting to make the journey to Europe. Alongside the EU, Italy has granted Tunisia financial aid for education and energy projects in return for greater efforts to stop migrants crossing the Mediterranean.

Attack on army base 'practically ends' peace talks: Colombia

BOGOTA (AP): An attack on a military base in eastern Colombia killed two soldiers and injured at least 21, Colombia's military said, as tensions escalate between Colombia's government and one of the nation's largest remaining rebel groups.

Colombia's military blamed the National Liberation Army for the attack, with President Gustavo Petro hinting that the attack will lead to a suspension, or a cancellation of peace talks with the rebel group. "This is an attack that practically closes

a peace process, with blood," Petro said during a ceremony, in which he named a new judge to one of Colombia's highest courts.

The National Liberation Army, or ELN, ended a cease-fire with the Colombian government in August, but is still involved in peace talks aimed at ending more than five decades of conflict. The army said that the group fired homemade rockets from a cargo truck that had been parked near a base in Puerto Jordan, a small town in Colombia's

Arauca province. The ELN was founded in the early 1960s by union leaders and university students inspired by the Cuban Revolution. The group has an estimated 6,000 fighters in Colombia and finances itself through drug trafficking and illegal gold mines.

Recently the ELN has been spreading into rural areas abandoned by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the large rebel group that made a peace deal with Colombia's government in

2016. After being elected two years ago, President Gustavo Petro quickly launched peace talks with the ELN and several smaller armed groups under a policy known as total peace. But talks with ELN floundered as the group continued to conduct kidnappings and tax civilians in areas under its control. The ELN has also expressed its frustration with a recent effort by Colombia's government to start separate peace negotiations with one of its splinter groups in southwest Colombia.

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Events are spiralling out of control

A defining characteristic of the bitter conflict that has racked the Middle East since October 7 last year is its sheer number of outrageous – almost unprecedented – incidents.

From an Israeli strike on an Iranian diplomatic complex in Syria to Houthis drones and missiles travelling thousands of kilometres to land in Israel – not to mention Hamas's attack on Israeli towns and the collective punishment of Palestinians still taking place in Gaza – barely a week goes by without another scarcely believable development.

Yesterday's audacious – and indiscriminate – attack on Hezbollah's pager network in Lebanon is another such incident. It is also another step on the road to an uncontrollable war.

As the devices exploded in homes, supermarkets and on the streets, it became apparent that this was quantitatively different to the kind of targeted assassinations often attributed to Israel's intelligence services. Footage posted online showed devices blowing up beside Lebanese civilians going about their day. In addition to members of Hezbollah killed and injured, two of those killed were children.

The National spoke to one woman as she waited for news about injured relatives. The scenes she saw in Beirut's Bahman Hospital were straight out of a film, she said: "There was blood everywhere, people without eyes, holes in their back and their hands covered in blood."

There was a time when such incidents would have led to focused diplomatic efforts to contain and be analysed for weeks. Now, one startling event in this spiralling conflict is swiftly followed by another, leaving people in the Levant with the feeling that things are now utterly out of control. Lebanese civilians are living in terror, Gaza has been destroyed, the West Bank is under attack and Israeli civilians displaced from the north of the country are fearful of strikes from as far away as Yemen. Officials and humanitarians seem unable to stop this drumbeat of escalation.

Yet, that is exactly what must happen – and an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, something demanded by the vast majority of the international community, should be the starting point. In his exclusive interview with The National published today, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that "we are seeing the risks of spreading this conflict to Lebanon, to other parts of the Middle East". However, he also made clear that despite regional tensions, "hope is the last thing we should lose", adding that "negotiations are going on and ... problems that exist are relatively minor if there is political will to solve them".

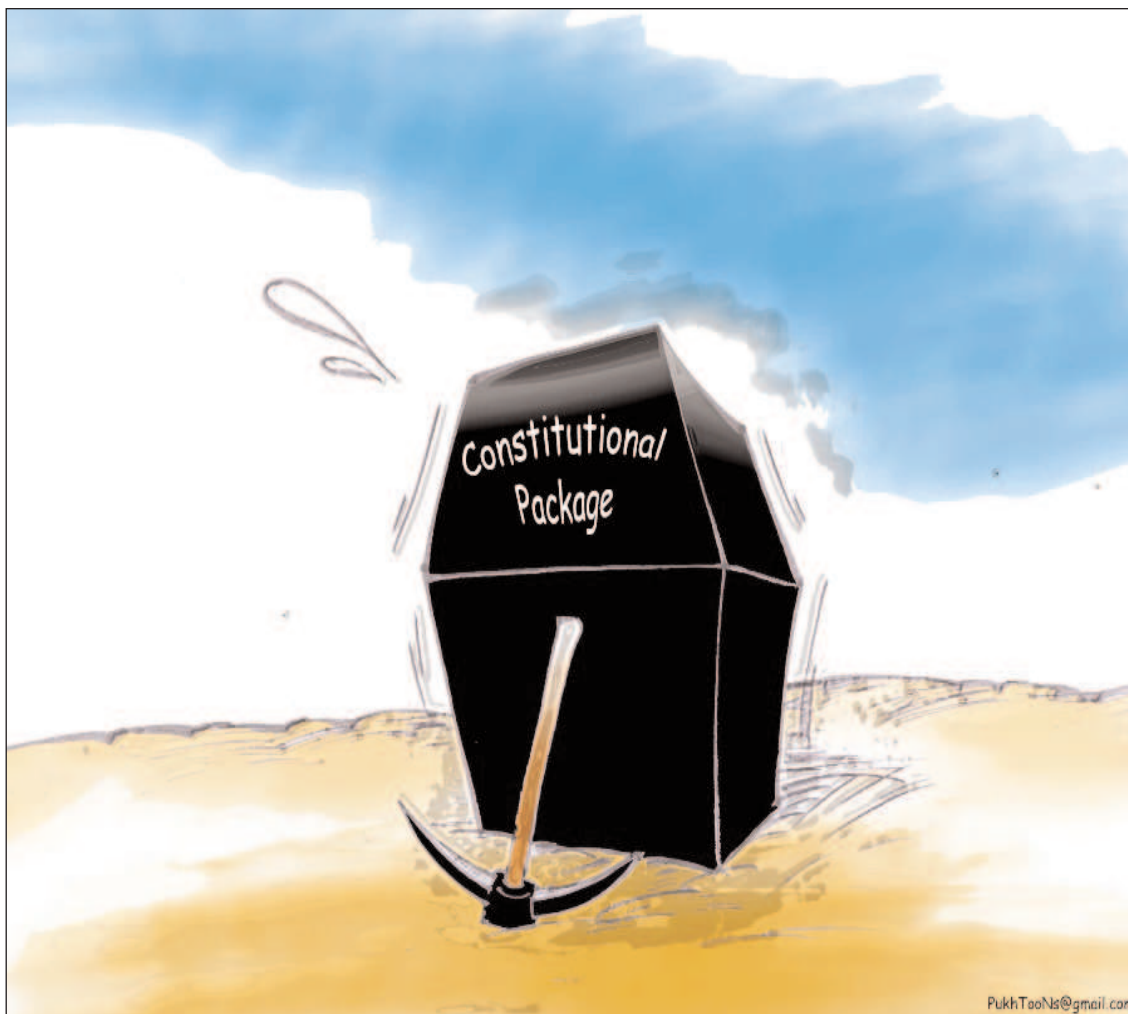
Although that political will seems in short supply right now, events like yesterday's mass bombing in Lebanon may leave the various protagonists with no option but to return to the path of peace. Hezbollah has little to show for its interventions since October 7 and a failure to respond will be seen as weakness. But a strong response could lead to Israel carrying out a more intense attack that could devastate Lebanon.

Similarly, Israel is under considerable pressure on several fronts – politically, militarily and diplomatically. Its apparent escalation in Lebanon invites an armed response that makes it less likely that it will achieve its stated war aim of enabling thousands of internally displaced civilians to return home.

Given the dizzying pace of incredible events and red lines being crossed in this war, it is more vital than ever that there is a ceasefire in Gaza, the remaining Israeli hostages and Palestinian detainees are released and that the political process be restarted with international support. The alternative is waiting for another attack – or mistake – that could tip the balance into full-scale war.

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



What to watch for in last weeks of US election campaign

Kerry Boyd Anderson

AFTER months of political campaigning, the US is now into the final countdown to the 2024 election. For observers of this election – which has major implications for American and global politics – there are a few key events and factors to watch over the next few weeks.

Election day is Nov. 5, but early voting is already starting in some states. The presidency, the House of Representatives and about a third of Senate seats will all be contested. In many states, voters will also make choices about state- and local-level positions.

For the presidential race, most of the traditionally important events are already over. The Republican and Democratic parties have held their primary elections and caucuses to choose their candidates. The Republican convention, where the candidate is officially chosen, took place in July and the Democratic convention in August.

Another traditionally important event in presidential campaigns is a debate between candidates – or, typically, several debates. There is a long history of debates between US presidential candidates, but the current norms around the debates emerged with the age of television.

This year saw some changes in recent norms, as President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump bypassed the Commission on Presidential Debates and negotiated their own terms for a debate on CNN.

That June 27 debate

fundamentally changed the 2024 election. Biden's performance was widely seen as poor, amplifying concerns about his age and mental acuity.

As Trump gained a clear lead in polls after the debate, concerned Democrats began to demand a change. Eventually, Biden ended his candidacy and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris. The Democratic Party rapidly united behind her, making her the official candidate at the convention in August.

On Sept. 10, Trump and Harris participated in a televised debate on ABC News. Afterward, Trump said he would not debate Harris again, though he might change his mind, and Harris has expressed interest in another debate. Meanwhile, vice presidential candidates J.D. Vance (Republican) and Tim Walz (Democratic) are scheduled to debate on Oct. 1 on CBS News.

While Americans might not have another opportunity to see Harris and Trump go head-to-head, both candidates will hold many campaign rallies and events, especially in the battleground states that will determine who wins.

Harris' campaign is focusing on maintaining the current enthusiasm within much of the Democratic Party while actively courting swing voters. Trump's campaign seeks to maintain energy among his supporters while focusing substantial resources on encouraging potential voters who are often disconnected from politics

to show up at the polls for Trump.

Both candidates seem to prefer local and niche media to traditional national media, so there might not be many broadly televised interviews before the election.

There are still several weeks left before the election concludes, leaving room for unexpected events. There is a tradition in US politics of speculating about an "October surprise" – a last-minute news event that is unexpected or planned by an opponent that could change the election's outcome. Furthermore, this race has already seen two attempted assassinations of the Republican candidate and a late switch in the Democratic candidate. More surprises could be in store.

Throughout the rest of September and October, pollsters will frequently release new data. This close to the election, polling can provide useful insights.

However, observers should focus on polling in the battleground states that will determine the election's outcome, rather than on national polling. Poll results in Pennsylvania, for example, are far more relevant than nationwide surveys.

Also, polling can help to explain that a race is very tight but, in a close race, polling may not be useful for predicting the winner; for example, some polling in several battleground states is so close that the results fall within the survey's margin of error.

As Americans and many people around the world anxiously wait to

see who wins, the reality is that the result might be unclear as Nov. 6 dawns. Some previous elections took days or even weeks for the final vote tallies to be completed and for courts to settle disputes. Trump, who argues that he won the 2020 election, has invested significant campaign resources in preparing to challenge votes that favor Harris.

Furthermore, this year's election is the first presidential election to take place in the wake of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol as members of Congress voted to certify the presidential election results.

In the nearly four years since that attack, narratives about its nature and why it happened have diverged along partisan lines, so many Americans have very different perspectives on the event.

The Jan. 6 attack blew an enormous hole in Americans' confidence that their democracy automatically includes a peaceful transfer of power, and the breaking of that norm opens the door to more potential violence and distrust after the upcoming election.

Trump's insistence that he won the last election also means that many of his supporters would not accept a Harris victory. Also, when Trump won in 2016, his opponents accepted his win but, in a very different political environment in 2024, they might be less willing to do so if the outcome is close and contested. Observers of US politics are naturally focused on the weeks leading up to Nov. 5, but the weeks immediately following the election will also be crucial to the future of US politics and policy.

How will Afghanistan feature in the race for the White House?

Maria Maalouf

THREE years after the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan, both Democrats and Republicans are revisiting the incident. Neither side is providing a credible or comprehensive explanation as to why Kabul fell into the hands of the Taliban on Aug. 15, 2021. Instead, the lack of an Afghan strategy on the part of both the Biden and Trump administrations is being filled with mutual accusations of "you lost Afghanistan." The issue now is how the Afghan problem will fit into the 2024 presidential election campaign.

Republicans believe that Democrats are vulnerable on the issue of Afghanistan. It was the Biden administration that failed to stop the Taliban's onslaught on Kabul and protect the government of then-President Ashraf Ghani. More problematic was the Daesh suicide bombing attack on Kabul airport that killed 170 Afghans and 13 American military personnel during the evacuation.

Republicans in Congress last week released a report, which was the culmination of a three-year investigation into the factors and circumstances that led to the US failure in Afghanistan. Among its findings were: "(The Biden administration) had the information and opportunity to take necessary steps to plan for the inevitable collapse of the Afghan government, so we could safely evacuate US personnel, American citizens, green card holders and our brave Afghan allies."

Days earlier, as the report on Afghanistan was being finalized, House Republicans subpoenaed Secretary of State Antony Blinken, requesting his testimony on the Afghan withdrawal. So far, he has not responded to their demands. Instead, a State Department spokesperson said: "The secretary has testified before Congress on Afghanistan more than 14 times – more than any other Cabinet-level official. It is disappointing that, instead of continuing to engage with the department in good faith, the committee has issued yet another unnecessary subpoena." Additionally, a White House spokesperson described the Republican report as "cherry-picked facts, inaccurate characterizations and preexisting biases."

The timing of the report on Afghanistan holds significant weight in the 2024 election race, but it remains unclear if it will influence voters. The report aims to blame President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris for failing to maintain the pro-Washington government in Afghanistan. According to Texas Republican Rep. Michael McCaul, who chaired the investigation as a member of the House Foreign Relations Committee, "at each step of the way, the administration picked optics over security."

The report itself is a thorough attempt to uncover what happened in Afghanistan. It spans more

than 350 pages and includes testimony from numerous senior military officers at the Pentagon. Seven lengthy public hearings were held and about 20,000 pages of State Department documents and correspondence were examined. Among the key sources was retired Col. Seth Krummrich, who was the chief of staff for the Special Operations Command Central. He noted: "I called their advance 'the red blob.' We tracked the Taliban advance daily, looking like a red blob gobbling up terrain."

Additionally, the report made several good recommendations, such as emphasizing the need for future noncombatant evacuation operations to succeed and calling on Congress to establish standard operating procedures for such drawdowns. It also urged the State Department and Department of Defense to brief Congress on plans for noncombatant evacuation operations when an embassy has been designated a high-threat post.

However, such a policy option will likely not establish foreign policy consensus or national security reconciliation between Republicans and Democrats. The Biden administration and the Harris campaign have placed the blame on the Trump administration for the deal it signed with the Taliban in February 2020. On the other hand, the Trump campaign argues that Biden botched the Afghan deal and that his administration could have followed its schedule to ensure a safe American pullout from Afghanistan.

Afghanistan was discussed in last week's presidential debate between Trump and Harris, but without reference to the report. Trump attempted to use the strategic retreat from Afghanistan as an indication of joint Biden-Harris responsibility, emphasizing that the withdrawal left billions of dollars of equipment behind and that Harris played a direct role in the debacle, which embarrassed America on the world stage. Therefore, according to Trump, Harris is unfit to lead as commander-in-chief.

In conclusion, the Trump campaign succeeded in forcing a discussion about Afghanistan during a debate that was watched by 57 million people in the US. Most likely, there will be more debates about Afghanistan in the remaining weeks of the campaign. However, the ultimate arbitration on Afghanistan will come from Afghan Americans living in the US. They can make the best judgment on what transpired in their home country. When they voice their opinions on such a critical policy, it may encourage more Arab and Muslim Americans to speak up courageously about their concerns, frustrations, ambitions and hopes regarding America's relationship with the Arab and Islamic worlds. This could represent a political victory for Arab and Muslim Americans.

Lebanon pager attack: Israel's terror playbook strikes again

Belén Fernández

ON Tuesday, hundreds of handheld pagers used by members of the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah simultaneously exploded across Lebanon, killing at least 12 people, including two children. Nearly 3,000 others were wounded, many of them critically.

No one has claimed responsibility for the operation, but it is not hard to guess who is behind it: Israel, a nation that specialises in terrorising selected Arab civilian populations under the pretence of fighting terror. Since October of last year, this same nation has busied itself carrying out genocide in the Gaza Strip, where officially more than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed but the true death toll is likely many times higher.

And while the ostensible targets of Tuesday's attack were pager-wielding Hezbollah members, it was carried out with the full knowledge that the fallout would be indiscriminate and that massive civilian casualties would ensue. But that is the whole point of terrorism, is it not?

Hezbollah, it bears underscoring, owes its entire existence to the terroristic 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon that slaughtered

tens of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians. Israel's torture-happy occupation of southern Lebanon persisted until May 2000, when the Israeli military was ignominiously forced to withdraw its forces by the Hezbollah-led Lebanese resistance.

In 2006, Israel returned to Lebanon in a 34-day assault on the country that decimated Lebanese infrastructure and killed an estimated 1,200 people, the majority of them civilians. After all, a nation that thrives on perpetual war cannot afford to let too much time elapse in between blowing things up.

Of course, Israel perpetually claims to be acting in self-defence – and wantonly detonating pagers across Lebanon has apparently now been added to the "defensive" repertoire. But a glance at history reveals that, as in Palestine, Israeli machinations in Lebanon have traditionally been driven by distinctly predatory motives.

Consider a 1955 diary entry courtesy of Moshe Sharett, Israel's second prime minister, who outlined then-Israeli Army Chief of Staff Moshe Dayan's vision of finding a Lebanese army officer, "even just a Major," who could be made

sympathetic to the Israeli cause: "We should either win his heart or buy him with money, to make him agree to declare himself the savior of [Lebanon's] Maronite population".

After that, things would quickly fall into place: "Then the Israeli army will enter Lebanon, will occupy the necessary territory, and will create a Christian regime which will ally itself with Israel. The territory from the Litani [River] southward will be totally annexed to Israel and everything will be all right".

Granted, things did not pan out precisely as Dayan had planned. But, hey, annexation can take time.

This particular diary entry, translated into English, appears in a 1980 book titled Israel's Sacred Terrorism: A Study Based on Moshe Sharett's Personal Diary and Other Documents. The manuscript author is Livia Rokach, daughter of former Israeli Interior Minister Israel Rokach.

A 1985 review of the book observed that David Ben Gurion, Israel's inaugural prime minister who ceded the premiership to Sharett, had "carried out a policy he described as 'retaliation', but

which Sharett saw as one of regular provocations designed to bring about a new war in which Israel could seize more territory from the Arabs in Gaza, the West Bank, Sinai, Syria and Lebanon". Fast forward nearly seven decades from that 1955 diary entry, and provocation – pardon, "retaliation" – is still the name of Israel's game.

Since the onset of all-out genocide in Gaza in October, almost 600 people have been killed in Lebanon in a sort of side war being waged by Israel, which also undertook to assassinate Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr in Beirut in July – an attack that killed three civilians, including two children, and wounded 74 others.

But the mass bloodshed occasioned by exploding pagers takes provocation to a new level. Lebanese hospitals are overwhelmed, and Lebanon's health ministry is scrambling to collect blood donations for the wounded. Meanwhile the United States is, as ever, standing by to ensure that the situation remains as flammable as possible.

Speaking to the press on Tuesday following the pager attack, US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller fielded a question from a jour-

nalist regarding "reports that Israel will declare soon that the northern front [with Lebanon] is the main front in this war" and the capacity of the US to keep the conflict from "exploding into a regional war".

According to Miller's eloquently coherent response, the US would "continue to push for a diplomatic resolution" while talking to its "partners in the region about the need to do – to avoid any type of steps that would avoid escalation of the conflict". Ultimately, however, he stressed that "this is a question for parties in the region and what kind of world and what kind – they want to live in and what kind of future that they want to have".

And yet it's rather difficult to push for a diplomatic resolution to anything while you are simultaneously funneling billions of dollars and all manner of weaponry to a regional partner who happens to be perpetrating genocide.

Rest assured that however Hezbollah responds to Israel's latest provocation, the Israeli military will have yet another bloody "retaliation" on hand. And this, to be frank, is not the kind of world anyone should want to live in.

Harris isn’t giving the specifics some undecided voters say they want

VOTERS want more from Kamala Harris. But while the Democratic nominee has been clear about what she is not — Donald Trump — she is either unwilling or unable to spell out a comprehensive blueprint for exactly what she would do as the 47th president.

In an interview on Tuesday, the vice president mostly stuck to broad themes and headlines about her economic plan that were largely familiar from a previous big-picture policy speech and her convention address.

But a candidate who has been criticized by opponents for running on “vibes” and surfing a wave of joy refused to be pinned down on specifics and details, instead citing her values and background to attest to her sincerity.

For instance, when asked at Tuesday’s National Association of Black Journalists event how she’d alleviate the “squeeze” many Americans feel over child and elder care, she said her plan was for no family to pay more than 7% of their income on such costs. But she offered no roadmap for how she’d drive major social policy reform through what is likely to be a polarized Congress next year and didn’t say how she’d pay for it.

On another intractable issue, the Israel-Hamas war, Harris was strong on aspiration, vague on specifics and seemed to fall on both sides of the issue. “I absolutely believe that this war has to end. And it has to end as soon as possible,” she said. “And the way that will be achieved is by getting a hostage deal and a ceasefire deal done. And we are working around the clock to achieve that end.” She added: “Far too many innocent Palestinians have been killed.”

Few would quarrel with her diagnosis of the situation, but the US has been pursuing the mirage of a deal for months. There’s no sign Israel and Hamas want an agreement.

And after months of failed diplomacy, the White House seems to be taking a breather.

It may be unrealistic to expect Harris, a member of an incumbent administration, to break with Biden over the war. And she’s got no power to stop it herself. But her hedging and repetitive soundbites in recent weeks show little evidence of new ideas.

While her debate performance last week projected strength, Harris is not usually a gifted political athlete in spontaneous, high-pressure media sitdowns like ex-President Bill Clinton, for instance.

And it doesn’t come naturally to her to drill down deep into policy questions like Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. This makes her vulnerable to attacks by the Trump campaign and conserva-

tive media that her “word salads” mean she’s not up to being president — even if Trump often communicates in a scattershot stream of consciousness and is spreading dangerous falsehoods.

The question that could define the election

This all raises two key questions. Does it matter that Harris is hardly a policy wonk? And is it really likely that this most unusual of elections will turn on something as conventional as a policy platform?

Harris is, after all, offering herself as a fleeting chance for Americans to escape the bitterness and division of the Trump years. Her success in triggering the former president in their debate was in

Stephen Collinson

instinctive sense that he understands them and will protect them. The vice president’s success may not be confined to her policy stances on issues like abortion — though these are critical — but a sense that a different, more optimistic future is within reach with her at the top of the Democratic ticket.

And the presidency, more than any other high office, tests temperament as much as policy gravitas.

Even so, voters looking for a more granular approach may be disappointed with the Democratic nominee. The list of policies recently added to the Harris campaign website is rudimen-

Few would quarrel with her diagnosis of the situation, but the US has been pursuing the mirage of a deal for months. There’s no sign Israel and Hamas want an agreement. And after months of failed diplomacy, the White House seems to be taking a breather. It may be unrealistic to expect Harris, a member of an incumbent administration, to break with Biden over the war. And she’s got no power to stop it herself. But her hedging and repetitive soundbites in recent weeks show little evidence of new ideas. While her debate performance last week projected strength, Harris is not usually a gifted political athlete in spontaneous, high-pressure media sitdowns like ex-President Bill Clinton, for instance. And it doesn’t come naturally to her to drill down deep into policy questions like Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. This makes her vulnerable to attacks by the Trump campaign and conservative media that her “word salads” mean she’s not up to being president – even if Trump often communicates in a scattershot stream of consciousness and is spreading dangerous falsehoods. The question that could define the election This all raises two key questions. Does it matter that Harris is hardly a policy wonk? And is it really likely that this most unusual of elections will turn on something as conventional as a policy platform?

service of her primary goal – exposing his wild behavior and showing that he’s unfit for the Oval Office.

The days when presidential elections were decided by chunky policy speeches – if they ever existed – have been swept away in the social media era and by the sound and fury epitomized by the Republican nominee. And since Harris is a last-minute replacement for President Joe Biden, it’s not surprising she lacks a long-established policy shop pumping out programs.

Issues matter, but elections also involve less defined, more emotive choices. While Trump’s voters might buy into his headline rhetoric on immigration, their bond with their candidate is often anchored in an

tary. And good luck working out whether she’d break with Biden in handling the world’s most pressing crises – from the war in Ukraine, to China’s superpower challenge and Iran’s nuclear program. The vice president is yet to give a major foreign policy address since becoming the Democratic nominee — a concern for voters who wonder how she’d lead the free world.

Harris’ reluctance to plunge into a round of major media interviews or town hall events – and her preference for friendly social media influencers and local media – is only adding to the opacity about her views.

But she’s not running in a vacuum – her undisciplined opponent is hardly a policy wonk. Trump would often switch his

administration’s priorities to care more about himself than ideology.

And Harris might be smart to avoid taking positions that could scare off disaffected Republicans and moderate suburban voters she’s seeking to win over. Already, arch conservatives like former Vice President Dick Cheney and former Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, who see Trump as an existential threat to the republic, have found a way to endorse the Democratic nominee.

Voters want to know more about Harris

Still, recent polls show that the vice president has a window of opportunity to court voters who want

King last week. Rooney, from the Philadelphia suburbs, doesn’t want to vote for Trump but voiced concern over the Democratic nominee’s positions on fracking and other issues.

Antonio Munoz, a veteran and retired police officer who owns a taco bar in Nevada, is leaning toward Harris but is frustrated that she’s not done more to detail her vows to help small businesses. “I’ve been checking her website and you read it, but it’s not specific,” Munoz told King. “We need a different plan to get over the hump with this inflation that has caused severe damage to a lot of businesses. ... She needs to be more direct.”

A lack of specifics may give Trump less to attack. But the risk is that leaves Harris without a strong defense. She’s getting criticized every day by negative ads in battleground states mocking her as an architect of unpopular “Bidenomics.” She might be promising to crack down on supposed price gouging by supermarkets, but she skipped over the issue preoccupying millions of Americans in her Tuesday interview in Philadelphia and pivoted to another message.

“Is the price of groceries still too high? Yes. Do we have more work to do? Yes. And I will tell you, I do believe that I offer a new generation of leadership for our country that is about, in particular, turning the page on an era that, sadly, has shown us attempts by some to incite fear, to create division in our country,” Harris said.

The vice president did tout her plan to offer a \$50,000 tax deduction to spur small business start-ups, her proposal to increase the child tax credit to \$6,000 and a push to increasing housing stock and provide assistance to first-time homebuyers. Yet as she often does, she spoke in generalities rather than offering step-by-step plans.

And that’s exactly how it should be, according to the only other female presidential nominee of a major party. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton scoffed at demands for endless policy plans from Harris.

“She does not have to do it. I am going to just cut to the chase,” Clinton told the “On with Kara Swisher” podcast, released on Monday.

“Policy details are not going to do it,” Clinton said. “I put out more policies than I think anybody ever has ... and I talked about the economy every day, but literally after the election, I was told that I never talked about the economy. Campaign policy is really about showing you can govern with your values in a way that can improve people’s lives.”

Clinton said Harris’ principal message was the right one, namely that “I am going to help you, I am going to protect you, I am going to try to provide opportunities for you.”

— CNN

From Ukraine to Gaza, UN needs urgent reform to tackle 21st-century crises

David Donoghue

THE United Nations rests on three equally important and interdependent pillars: sustainable development, peace and security, and human rights. In adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, world leaders emphasised that “sustainable development cannot be realised without peace and security”.

When the agenda was being negotiated, there was no guarantee that an agreement would be reached at this point. Many in the Global South had misgivings about including the pursuit of peace as a goal. They feared this would introduce unfair conditionality and be prejudicial to war-torn developing countries.

The Global North insisted it was not trying to introduce a peace condition, merely to recognise that violent conflict is not conducive to sustainable development and that peace is a legitimate development objective.

The compromise result was Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which recognises the central importance of the achievement of both peace and development by ensuring inclusive institutions, the rule of law, the protection of human rights and access to justice.

Today there is little doubt about the interdependence between peace and sustainable development. The escalation of armed conflict in various parts of the world is one of the main factors inhibiting progress on the SDGs.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, for example, is having multiple disruptive impacts on many states, including those affected by food supply or energy repercussions. The Gaza war is causing massive upheaval in the Middle East.

More generally, the polarising effect of such crises is eroding the international consensus which gave rise to the SDGs and weakening the readiness of states to commit to multilateral cooperation and solidarity.

Reform and renewal

We are living in a world of increasing and diverse threats to international peace and security. This is a major challenge for the UN, charged under the UN Charter (as the very first of the organisation’s purposes) with “the maintenance of international peace and security”. Is the UN fit for this purpose in the 21st century? Do its institutions and resourcing enable it to play the role expected of it since 1945 in relation to conflict prevention and the safeguarding of peace? Or is the UN being rendered obsolete by big-power competition, by its own outdated rules and by gradual international neglect of the toolbox it has at its disposal?

Small wonder that these issues are among the priorities for the Summit of the Future, which meets in New York on September 22-23.

Never has it been more urgent to reinvigorate the

role of the UN in identifying space for dialogue, negotiation and compromise and helping member states resolve conflict. A key question is what needs to be done, institutionally and fiscally, to strengthen the UN’s capacities to manage increasingly complex and multifaceted crises.

The Security Council is clearly anachronistic, reflecting in its permanent membership and in the latter’s veto rights a world order which has long been out of date. For example, although two-thirds of the council’s business relates to African issues, there are no permanent African members.

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bers.

Many leading regional players, such as Brazil, India, Japan or Germany, make a case for permanent membership which might be considered stronger than that of some of the existing five.

We live in a patently multipolar world, the days of one or two superpowers long behind us. No state, however large or powerful, can solve the world’s challenges on its own.

All states need allies, whether the agenda is that of defusing direct threats to international peace and security or making progress on global public goods such as climate action, sustainable development and human rights (which make their own contributions to global security).

In the General Assembly, the interconnectedness between all such issues is clearly recognised.

The UNSC, however, is trapped in a time-warp, dominated by a veto-wielding permanent membership which is reflective of 1945 geopolitical realities rather than today’s.

The requirement for agreement among the permanent members limits the council’s ability to decide what constitutes a threat to international peace and security and how this should be responded to.

While disunity among the five has long been a feature of the UNSC’s work,

the last few years have seen an escalation in the traditional polarities. Trade disputes and strategic tensions have been intensified by bitter confrontations over Syria, Ukraine and Gaza. The growing competition between the United States and China for world hegemony is increasingly fuelling discord in the council.

It is the veto rights of the five which do most to bring the UNSC into disrepute.

Russia regularly vetoes draft resolutions which it sees as threatening its interests in Syria or Ukraine. The US does the same if it considers Israel’s interests to be threatened.

The effect is to paralyse

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this key UN organ in its ability to act.

In an effort to break the impasse, France launched an initiative several years ago under which the five would voluntarily restrict their use of the veto in the case of draft resolutions relating to mass atrocities or humanitarian crises. As the agreement of all five would be required to take this further, however, the proposal has remained more or less stillborn.

The UNSC needs to be more broadly representative of the world we live in, acknowledging, for example, the role and influence of emerging regional powers. We need a council which limits, and ideally eliminates, the veto powers conferred on the five permanent members.

Greater emphasis on collective involvement in the framing of UN-led crisis responses should help to offset the dominance of the US, Russia and China.

We also need thorough reform of the UN’s peace-building architecture and mediation capacity, reinforced protection for civilians caught in armed conflict and a range of other reforms. Above all, we need all member states to renew their commitment to the principles and mechanisms set out in the UN Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Summit of the Future will hopefully be the moment for such renewal.

Storm warning on immigration in Europe

Azouz Begag

PAS-DE-CALAIS, France, Sept. 3: Illegal immigration kills again. The umpteenth sinking of a boat in the English Channel on the way to Britain claimed the lives of 12 Eritreans, including children. Rescuers managed to save 51 others. On Sunday, eight others died in the same conditions. Forty-five people have now died attempting these crossings since January, setting a record.

In 2021, there were 30, including 27 in the same shipwreck. Since 2018, 136,000 people have made the crossing using these boats of death, on which smugglers now shamelessly transport 70 to 80 people, in comparison to 30 to 40 people previously, into a country where immigration is increasingly being condemned by the far right.

Southport, England, July 29. No one has forgotten the tragedy. In a dance hall, someone savagely attacked children with a knife, killing three girls aged 6 to 9. A 17-year-old was arrested. The police had declared that his attack was not linked to terrorism and urged people to remain calm, but false information

very quickly portrayed him on social media as an illegal migrant, an asylum seeker, a Muslim, who had arrived in the UK by boat. None of this was true.

As soon as he came to power, Prime Minister Keir Starmer reacted firmly against the far right and the assailants who had attacked Muslims, asylum seekers and police officers across the country. Following the latest shipwrecks in the English Channel, he announced that he would speed up the process regarding asylum applications, increase the deportations of illegal migrants and fight harder against smugglers.

The UK, where carrying firearms is strictly limited, is now experiencing an upsurge in knife-related violence, often involving young individuals. Since 2010, the number of incidents has increased by a third. This is similar to Germany.

Solingen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, Aug. 23. A Syrian refugee stabbed participants in a “festival of diversity,” killing three people and injuring several others. Before him, on June 2 in Mannheim, a 25-year-old

extremist from Afghanistan stabbed a 29-year-old policeman to death. Each crime shook the country. In response, the government of Olaf Scholz pledged to restrict the carrying of knives in public and to speed up the deportation of illegal refugees.

As the triple homicide in Solingen occurred only a week before important regional elections in Saxony and Thuringia, Scholz announced a stricter policy on migration and had 28 Afghans deported to Kabul. This was a first since the Taliban returned to power in 2021. However, this did not reassure the public, which was up in arms regarding the government’s handling of immigration.

The Alternative for Germany won the elections in Thuringia, the first victory of its kind for the far right in the post-Second World War period. In Saxony, the same party was hot on the heels of the Christian Democrats. Scholz’s Social Democratic Party fell back and his allies collapsed. A serious setback for the chancellor, one year before the legislative elections of September 2025. The far right is

attracting more and more German voters, thus becoming an earthquake in

The UK, where carrying firearms is strictly limited, is now experiencing an upsurge in knife-related violence, often involving young individuals. Since 2010, the number of incidents has increased by a third. This is similar to Germany. Solingen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, Aug. 23. A Syrian refugee stabbed participants in a “festival of diversity,” killing three people and injuring several others. Before him, on June 2 in Mannheim, a 25-year-old extremist from Afghanistan stabbed a 29-year-old policeman to death. Each crime shook the country.

a country that claimed to be a proud advocate for welcoming migrants back in the days of Angela Merkel.

The Alternative for Germany won despite accusations of having dabbled in neo-Nazism.

Earlier this year, 4 million citizens took to the streets following a resounding revelation: the party’s leaders had taken part in a secret meeting with neo-Nazis to discuss a plan for

millions of immigrants and Germans of foreign origin to “re-emigrate” to North

Africa. Furthermore, the party leader in Thuringia was in May convicted of publicly uttering the Hitler slogan “Alles für Deutschland” (Everything for Germany). One would think that such outbursts would curb the party’s progress, but this was not the case.

The rejection of migrants is affecting almost all of Europe, putting institutions under pressure.

Germany is reestablishing border controls and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has threatened to send migrants from Budapest to Brussels by bus.

The process of toughening up on the migration issue will begin in October at the EU summit, less than six months after the bloc’s Pact on Migration and Asylum, which aims for the better management of migration flows, came into force. However, this was without political gains for the parties in power, as demonstrated this summer by the far right’s surge in the European elections and the National Rally’s surge in legislative elections in France, as well as the Alternative for Germany’s success. Europe is in a state of retreat. The rejection of migrants is everywhere and no one really knows how to stop illegal migration.

Springfield, Ohio, US, September. A town of 60,000 inhabitants hit by deindustrialization and demographic decline. Home to 15,000 Haitian immigrants.

On Sept. 10, the name of this town made the news worldwide. With immigration at the heart of the tele-

vised debate against Kamala Harris, Donald Trump blurted out, in front of tens of millions of viewers: “In Springfield, they’re eating the dogs, the people that came in (Haitian migrants). They’re eating the cats. They’re eating the pets of the people that live there ... and it’s a shame.”

On screen, the images were striking. In her dismay, Harris bursts out laughing. Prior to the debate, gossip had spread — denied by the authorities — that, in Ohio, undocumented Haitians were killing pets, cats and dogs, but also ducks and geese, to eat them. Not without an ulterior political motive.

Two months earlier, Joe Biden had granted temporary protection to 300,000 Haitians living in the US due to the crisis in their home country.

To make matters worse, in August, a school bus was hit by a minivan driven by a Haitian immigrant with no driver’s license. The accident claimed the life of one child and injured 13 others. The far right took the opportunity to stigmatize the Democrats’ migration policy, hastily portraying Trump as the defender of (American) animals victim-

ized by hordes of illegal refugees with “barbaric morals.” His dehumanizing rhetoric toward migrants was in full force, after he had already compared them to a “snake” and claimed immigration was “poisoning the blood of our country.”

In Springfield, fear has now settled in for good. A middle school closed its doors after the town hall was evacuated because of a bomb threat. Haitian immigrants are terrorized. They feel the presence of ghosts from the past. In Springfield, 120 years ago, on March 7, 1904, to be exact, more than 1,000 white men stormed the jail to extract a prisoner — a Black man accused of killing a white policeman. He was shot and hanged from a post. Then the rioters destroyed and set fire to the Black neighborhood.

The atmosphere is poisoned by the stench of unleashed racism, reminiscent of humanity’s darkest hours. Southport, Solingen, Mannheim and Springfield are symbols of the inflammatory nature of immigration when it is manipulated by politicians who are willing to lose their souls in an attempt to win an election.



Performance and resilience of banking sector remained satisfactory, says SBP

F.P. Report

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has issued on Wednesday the Mid-Year Performance Review (The Review) of the Banking Sector for 2024. The review covers the performance and soundness of domestic banking sector for the period January to June 2024 (H1CY24). It also briefly covers the performance of financial markets as well as the results of Systemic Risk Survey (SRS), which represents views of independent experts about key current and potential risks to the financial stability.

The Review highlights that the balance sheet footing of the banking sector expanded by 11.5 percent in H1CY24, which was mainly driven by invest-

ments in government securities as the government demand for bank credit remained high. Advances, however, posted a contained growth due to the net retirements by the private sector, although long-term financing to SMEs showed some revival. Nonetheless, the decline in private sector advances was significantly lower as compared to H1CY23. On funding side, deposits increased by 11.7 percent in H1CY24 with a major impetus from saving and current deposits. The higher pace of assets growth however necessitated additional funding, which kept banks' reliance on borrowing intact.

The Review notes that the asset quality profile of the sector remained satisfactory, as gross NPLs witnessed subdued increase.

Moreover, the total provisioning coverage against NPLs further improved to 105.3 percent by end June-2024, as with the application of IFRS-9, the banks also started to provide general loan loss allowances for performing loans. Earnings, nonetheless, slowed down owing to declaration in return on advances and contraction in net interest margin. Non-interest income such as fee income and trading gains on government securities, however, supported profitability. The performance indicators such as Return on Asset (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) thus declined to 1.2 percent (1.5 percent in June-2023) and 20.4 percent (26.0 percent in June-2023), respectively. The solvency position of the banking sector

remained strong as Capital Adequacy Ratio improved to 20.0 percent (17.8 percent in June-2023) and was well above the minimum regulatory environment.

The Review reveals that in the wake of gradual improvement in macroeconomic conditions, domestic financial markets witnessed relatively lower stress during H1CY24.

As per the results of 14th wave of SRS (July-2024), top three prevailing risks highlighted by the independent participants of the survey include "energy crisis" followed by "volatility in commodity prices" and "foreign exchange risk."

The respondents, nevertheless, expressed confidence in the stability of the financial system and the oversight ability of the regulators.

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 970 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 970.20 more points, a positive change of 1.22 percent, closing at 80,461.34 points against 79,491.14 points on the last working day.

A total of 400,195,963 shares were traded during the day as compared to 536,187,271 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 15,904 billion against Rs. 8,911 billion on the last trading day. As many as 439 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 186 of them recorded gains and 199 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 54 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 32,229,775 shares at Rs 1.36 per share, TRG Pak Limited with 22,086,988 shares at Rs 59.90 per share and Pace (Pak) Limited with 19,649,769 shares at Rs 6.94 per share.

Sapphire Textile Mills Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 57.88

per share price, closing at Rs 1,148.77, whereas the runner-up was Mari Petroleum Company Limited with Rs 41.59 rise in its per share price to Rs 457.49.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 182.77 per share closing at Rs 17,367.23 followed by Sapphire Fibres Limited with Rs 121.42 decline to close at Rs 1,300.10.

Rupee gains 08 paise against dollar: Pakistani rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 08 paise against the US dollar in the inter-bank trading and closed at Rs 278.04 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.12. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.20 and Rs 280.70 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 18 paise to close at Rs 309.47 against the last day's closing of Rs 309.29, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen decreased by 03 paise and closed at Rs1.95, whereas

an increase of 39 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs366.97 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs366.58.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal decreased by 02 paise and 03 paise to close at Rs 75.70 and Rs74.07 respectively.

Gold rates dip by Rs.300 per tola to Rs.267,700: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.300 and was sold at Rs.267,700 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 268,000 on the last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.257 to Rs. 229,510 from Rs. 229,767 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.210,384 from Rs. 210,620, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,950 and Rs.2,529.14, respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$18 to \$2,569 from \$2,587, the Association reported.

Business leaders greet Expo

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's business community on Wednesday greeted the three-day, first Dushanbe International Tourism Exhibition (DITE), 2024 to be held in Tajikistan and assured full participation in it.

"Pakistan and Tajikistan have a significant role in regional economic connectivity, which will determine global trade goals and Tajikistan can be Pakistan's gateway not only to the Central Asian States but also to Europe, which can increase the volume of regional trade," President FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh told APP here.

He said that three days from September 25 to 27th, 2024, the EXPO Center in Dushanbe will host a major event for the regional tourism industry — the 1st Dushanbe International Tourism Exhibition.

The President FPCCI said that Tajikistan and Pakistan are to establish a Transit Trade Coordination Committee, under ATPPT signed on December 2022, which would be responsible for monitoring and facilitating the implementation of the agreement.



PESHAWAR: A group photo of Patron-in-Chief Sarhad Business Alliance Haji Ghulam Ali with newly joined SBA. Former District Nazim Haji Umar also present on occasion.

SBA's bouncers continued; secures 2 more major wickets

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Business Alliance (SBA) has intensified its power play, claiming several wickets from the opposition with successive bouncers. In the latest round, two major associations, the Import-Export and Medical Equipment Associations, announced their support and inclusion in the SBA. Haji Ghulam Ali stated that this is the result of SBA's manifesto and practical actions. As people become aware of the reality, they are promptly joining the alliance. He expressed confidence that on September 25, the trophy of the tournament will, God willing, be in the hands of Peshawar's business community and the SBA.

This was stated during a ceremony held to mark the inclusion of these two significant groups. The first to join was the Import-Export Group, followed by the Medical Equipment Association, both expressing their commitment to ensuring SBA's success in the Sarhad Chamber elec-

tions. Mazhar Hussain, Mumtaz Khan, Atif, and Fayyaz Hussain, along with 35 voters of the Sarhad Chamber, announced their support for the SBA. From the Medical Equipment Association, their 15-member cabinet including Patron-in-Chief Aitzhar, Chairman Rashid Minhas, Senior Vice President Khurram Shehzad, Naem ur Rehman, Tahir Khan, Vice Presidents Amjad Ali and Faisal Anwar, Information Secretary Syed Rasool, Vice President Atif Maqsood, General Secretary Syed Azhar Mehmood, Khawaja Nasir Akhtar, Naem Jan, along with 75 voters of the Sarhad Chamber, joined the SBA in the presence of former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, Malik Meher Ilahi, and former Nazim-e-Aala Muhammad Umar, assuring their full cooperation.

In their speeches at the ceremony, Rashid Minhas, Muhammad Fayyaz, Mumtaz Khan, Atif, Mazhar Ali, and other speakers expressed regret for not recognizing the SBA sooner. They

expressed happiness for becoming part of the SBA, even if belatedly, stating that under the leadership of Haji Ghulam Ali, known as the "People's Governor," this group has set examples of merit even before the election. Their selection of the most eligible candidates from every sector indicates that now merit will prevail in the Sarhad Chamber, and the business community of Peshawar will be viewed without any discrimination based on color or race, with sincere efforts being made to address their issues.

They emphasized that they have full confidence in the SBA and its candidates, as their leadership is provided by a former public governor who has always been a guiding spirit for the business community. In his address, Haji Ghulam Ali stated that the growing number of inclusions in the SBA is proof that Peshawar's business community now truly desires a positive change in the Sarhad Chamber. He added that their mission and manifesto prioritize service

over positions, aiming to help the traders, shopkeepers, and industrialists of Peshawar regain their lost status and make the Sarhad Chamber the province's prime chamber, reflecting its true effectiveness.

He further stated that if they achieve success, they will show what the Sarhad Chamber can accomplish. They plan to make it the headquarters for the business community, where everyone will be welcomed at all times, breaking the tradition of neglecting members after the elections. He clarified that they are not those who seek benefits or hold greed, as their past is a testament to public service.

Haji Ghulam Ali assured that with the continued support of the business community, they are confident that the SBA will sweep the elections on September 25, marking the beginning of a historic era of genuine service. Abdul Hameed Godwara, Mamoor Khan, Manzoor Ilahi, Aashiq Muhammad, and other candidates were also present on this occasion.

SNGPL intensifies gas theft crackdown

F.P. Report

LAHORE: In its ongoing efforts to curb gas theft, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has conducted a series of raids across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, leading to the disconnection of an additional 69 illegal gas connections. The company has also imposed fines amounting to Rs 1.15 million on those involved in gas pilferage.

In Lahore, 19 illegal connections were severed, and fines of Rs 0.12 million were imposed for gas theft cases. Faisalabad witnessed the disconnection of six illegal connections, along with fines totaling Rs 0.09 million. The Sheikhupura region reported the disconnection of two connections, with Rs 0.77 million in fines imposed. In Multan, 32 illegal connections were disconnected, while the team in Sahiwal levied Rs 0.17 million in fines. Additionally, 10 illegal connections were cut off in Bahawalpur.

Naunehal Seerat moot held under auspices of Hamdard Foundation

F.P. Report

KARACHI: A Naunehal Seerat Conference for children on the theme: "Education and discipline: In the light of Prophet Muhammad PBUH's morals" comprised of recitation of verses from holy Qur'an, Hamd, Mehfil-i-Na'at, Rasm-i-Bismillah and speeches, was held at The Arena, Bahria Town Tower under the auspices of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan.

Former interim federal minister for religious affairs, and anchor Aneeq Ahmed was invited as guest speaker in the conference. Ms. Sadia Rashid, President - Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, presided over the proceedings. Syed Muhammad Arsalan - Director HFP was also among the attendees.

Speaking on the occasion, Aneeq Ahmed said that like other bright aspects of the blessed life of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), his moral

character is also exemplary and unmatched. Prophet Muhammad PBUH said "Verily, I have only been sent to perfect righteous character."

He said: "True knowledge instills the fear of Allah. This means we should learn and teach what Allah and the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) desire from us. The Prophet's purpose in educating and training his Companions was to build a righteous society with strong moral values."

He also said that knowledge is the inheritance of a believer, highlighting that those with knowledge and those without are not equal. The scholar holds superiority over the ignorant. This underscores the significance of knowledge, which serves as light in contrast to the darkness of ignorance. Knowledge refines speech, guides word choice, and teaches the manners necessary for living with humanity.

Young speakers of dif-

ferent schools Fatima Ali (AF School), Anabiya Saleem (GCT Hilal), Samia Moeen (Hamdard Public School), Aalian Abid (Quaid-e-Azam Rangers School), and Purnoor Rashid (St. Joseph Convent School) expressed that the educational philosophy of Allah and the teachings of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) focus on the training and character building of humanity.

The divine command of Allah for us to seek knowledge and emulate the exemplary life of the Prophet (peace be upon him) remind us to strive for the betterment of society and the development of individuals. Just as acquiring knowledge is a religious duty, so too is guiding and reforming society, with education as its foundation.

Later Ms. Sadia Rashid and Aneeq Ahmed performed Rasm-e-Bismillah of two children Ishal Fatima and Maryam Fatima.

IIL powers TCF Schools with sustainable energy

F.P. Report

KARACHI: International Industries Limited (IIL) is proud to announce the successful completion of the solarization of two schools under The Citizens Foundation (TCF) network: the IIL Campus and the Chinoy Campus. This initiative underscores IIL's dedication to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7, which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

By transitioning the two

schools to solar power, IIL not only reduces their reliance on non-renewable energy sources but also lowers operational costs and contributes to a cleaner, greener environment. This step highlights the company's commitment to fostering renewable energy solutions that benefit both local communities and the environment.

In addition to its community-based solarization efforts, IIL has taken bold steps to reduce its dependence on expensive energy options. The Company has commissioned 3 MW and 1 MW solar energy systems

at its Karachi and Sheikhupura manufacturing facilities, respectively, bringing the total installed capacity to 4 MW. This initiative is a significant move toward sustainable operations, ensuring that IIL reduces its reliance on non-renewable energy sources while cutting operational costs and reducing its carbon footprint.

"At IIL, we believe that access to clean energy is fundamental to sustainable development," said Zain K. Chinoy, Director of Global Businesses at International Industries Limited. "The

solarization of the IIL and Chinoy Campuses is just one example of how we are contributing to a greener future by empowering communities and protecting the environment. We remain committed to driving renewable energy solutions as part of our long-term sustainability goals."

The solarization of the TCF schools and the company's industrial facilities is part of IIL's broader strategy to integrate sustainable energy solutions into its operations and community efforts, reinforcing its leadership in environmental responsibility.

IBA and Stanford collaborate to transform educational landscape



F.P. Report

SCOTTIS VALLEY, California: In a landmark event, the partnership between the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi and Stanford University's Life Design Lab was unveiled by Director, Alumni Communications and Corporate Relations (ACRC) IBA, Ms. Malahat Awan, and Assistant Professor, School

of Business Studies (SBS), IBA, Dr. Azam Ali, setting the stage for a transformative shift in Pakistan's educational landscape. Through the application of design thinking, this collaboration aims to tackle Pakistan's educational challenges by focusing on sustainable, context-driven solutions, fostering long-term growth and innovation.

The event featured an insightful panel discussion

led by the Chief Minister of Sindh and Patron IBA Karachi, Syed Murad Ali Shah, who was joined by the Executive Director, IBA Karachi, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, Stanford Life Design Lab, Mr. Bill Burnett and Co-Founder of Designing Your Spiritual Life, Stanford Life Design Lab, Mr. Junaid Aziz. Their conversation explored the significance of this collaboration and how

it brings globally renowned expertise to Pakistan while remaining deeply attuned to local realities.

A key takeaway from the panel discussion, emphasized by the Chief Minister, was the crucial role of IBA alumnus who now serves as a senior faculty member at Stanford's Life Design Lab, Mr. Aziz's firsthand knowledge of both IBA's context and Stanford's cutting-edge methodologies, acts as a pivotal link between the two institutions.

The Chief Minister highlighted that this unique connection ensures that the collaboration is not just an academic exchange but a meaningful, locally relevant effort to address Pakistan's educational challenges. IBA alumnus' dual understanding of Pakistan's specific needs and Stanford's innovative approaches was repeatedly underscored as a cornerstone of the partnership's success.

Throughout the dialogue, the Chief Minister stressed that this is not about implementing pre-packaged solutions but about Stanford's faculty

immersing themselves in Pakistan's challenges to co-create solutions alongside IBA. He emphasized that the presence of Stanford's experts at IBA's Karachi campus is vital to developing solutions that resonate with the local environment, driving home the importance of solving Pakistan's problems within its own borders.

Echoing these sentiments, Burnett explained that he sees this collaboration as a reciprocal learning experience. Not only will Stanford contribute its expertise, but it will also draw inspiration from Pakistan's unique challenges.

The transfer of knowledge, and this collaboration will enable IBA to serve as a hub for innovation, supporting the next generation of Pakistani leaders by equipping them with the tools to tackle complex societal issues through human-centered design.

Mr. Burnett stated, "IBA is more than an academic leader; it is a catalyst for societal transformation, with the power to shape the future of Pakistan.

Together, we must embrace this responsibility and strive for excellence."

Dr. Zaidi noted that this collaboration stands out because it is rooted in context and designed for long-term impact. By embedding this new pedagogy into the educational framework at IBA, the center will provide a space for nurturing innovation, testing ideas, and developing solutions that are both practical and sustainable.

As the panel concluded, the Chief Minister reaffirmed that this partnership, driven by the leadership of IBA alumnus now at Stanford, is a testament to the power of local insight paired with global expertise as this is a key factor ensuring the collaboration remains relevant and grounded, enabling the creation of solutions that will drive Pakistan's educational and societal progress for years to come.

This partnership represents a bold step forward for IBA and Pakistan, as it bridges the gap between local challenges and world-class innovation, marking

the start of a new era in Pakistan's educational journey.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister, accompanied by Dr. Zaidi, and Dean IBA-SBS, Dr. Abdullah Z. Sheikh, and Senior Professor, Dr. Ali made a pivotal return to his alma mater, visiting Stanford's Life Design Lab. During their visit, they engaged in a focused discussion with Mr. Burnett and Mr. Aziz to strategize the critical mechanics of knowledge transfer between Silicon Valley and Karachi.

The conversation centered on how the Life Design Lab will directly train and upskill IBA faculty in this cutting-edge approach to education, ensuring that the benefits of this collaboration flow swiftly and effectively to both faculty and students.

The dialogue highlighted concrete plans to fast-track the integration of this innovative teaching process through faculty workshops, curriculum enhancements, and hands-on involvement from Stanford experts.

The overarching goal is

to ensure that IBA students start experiencing the transformative impact of this partnership immediately, equipping them with world-class skills that will position them as future leaders and innovators in Pakistan and beyond.

During this visit, the Chief Minister was also invited to explore avenues of collaboration by Director, ViRx@Stanford, Stanford Biosecurity and Pandemic Preparedness Initiative, BioLab, Dr. Jeffrey S. Glenn. The meeting included Dr. Aijaz Ahmed MD and covered the topic of readiness for future pandemics and building a global alliance to quickly ready and develop vaccines to save lives.

The team discussed Sindh government's numerous measures to quickly control the COVID crisis and how it was able to save countless lives. The lab expressed its interest in working with regional research facilities and the Chief Minister expressed his support for making collaborations and cross-geographical projects possible.



In brief

Kids Athletics programme in Gilgit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP) has announced to hold the Kids Athletics Programme in Gilgit from Thursday. According to President, Athletics Federation of Pakistan, Brig. (R) Wajahat Hussain earlier in the first phase, programmes were held in some major cities of the country including Lahore and Karachi in May this year, but due to hot weather and summer vacations, the programme was stopped. The children from all districts of Gilgit children will participate in the Kids' Athletics programme which provides basic training to children aged 4 to 14 years.

Pak team arrives in Bhutan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan national football team has arrived in Bhutan to participate in the SAFF U-17 Championship 2024. According to the information, the team travelled via Dubai and Kathmandu on a private airline flight, arriving safely in Thimphu. After a brief rest, the squad will commence training in preparation for the tournament, scheduled to take place from September 20 to 30. The SAFF U-17 C'hip will feature top teams from the region. Pakistan will kick off their campaign against Nepal on September 21.

Watson beaten by Kostyuk

SEOUL (Agencies): Heather Watson is out of the Korea Open following a straight-sets defeat by Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk in Seoul. The 32-year-old qualifier, ranked 183rd in the world, lost 6-2 in the second round. World number 18 Kostyuk, 22, will meet Russian Diana Shnaider, 20, in the quarter-finals after sealing a straightforward victory. British number two Emma Raducanu earned a hard-fought win against American Peyton Stearns on Tuesday and will play China's Yue Yuan for a place in the last eight. Watson, who last month failed to qualify for the US open main draw, responded immediately after losing serve in her opening game - but Kostyuk won five of the next six games to take the opening set. The Briton, whose opening victory over China's Jia-Jing Lu was only her third main draw win this season, could not mount a fightback as Kostyuk raced to victory with a double break in the second set.

Candidates for WSF announced

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Squash Federation (WSF) has published the list of candidates for President and Vice President, who will stand for election at the WSF Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Hong Kong, China on December 14, 2024. A total of seven candidates are standing for election, said a press release. Incumbent President Zena Wooldridge (ENG) is standing unopposed, while six candidates are standing for two vacant Vice President positions, with Karim Darwish (EGY) not seeking a second term and Pablo Serna (COL) reaching the term limit after completing two terms. Incumbent Vice Presidents Susan Devoy (NZL) and Debendranath Sarangi (IND) will remain in post. All terms of service will begin from December 14, 2024. The full list of candidates standing for election in the 56th WSF AGM is as follows- WSF President: Zena Wooldridge (ENG) (incumbent), WSF Vice President: Rosie Barry (IRE), Nour El Tayeb (EGY), GM Qamrul Islam (BGD), David Mui (HKG), Boye Oyierinde (NGA) and Marshall Pagon (USA).

Individuals win matches, teams lift trophies: Kirsten

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan white-ball head coach Gary Kirsten has said that individual help team win matches but the teams manage to clinch titles and series as a unit. During a meeting with the mentors and head coaches of the five teams of the Champions Cup 2024 on Wednesday, he discussed various aspects of the ongoing Champions Cup in which top cricketers of the country are participating. High Performance Specialist David Reed and Director PCB's High Performance Center, Champions Cup 2024 Nadeem Khan also attend-

ed the meeting. Kirsten stressed the importance of mutual cooperation, exchange of information and learning from each other' experiences in order to take Pakistan cricket forward. Kirsten called upon the mentors and head coaches to utilise their exposure, status and cricketing acumen for improving the quality of cricket of the young cricketers in the Champions One Day 2024. Gary Kirsten said that Pakistan has capable young cricketers who need minor adjustment, fine-tuning and finesse to their game, adding that individuals win

matches while teams succeed in lifting titles and winning series. Pakistan cricket team has a busy white-ball schedule between November 2024 and April 2025 during which it will play ODIs and T20s against Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Pakistan will take part in at least 18 ODIs and nine IT20s during this period. Pakistan will host ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in February/March 2025 and host a tri-series against New Zealand and New Zealand prior to the Champions Trophy.

Retirement can make you feel 'like an alien' in tennis: Federer

BERLIN (AFP): Roger Federer said on Wednesday staying involved with tennis in retirement helped him avoid feeling "like an alien" ahead of this week's Laver Cup in Berlin. Federer, who helped create the tournament, retired at the Laver Cup in London two years ago and has since stayed involved with the competition as an ambassador. "I'm happy I went back right away to some tournaments," the 43-year-old told reporters. "I feel I ripped the Band-Aid off quite quickly and when I walk around the tennis sites I still feel I belong there. "I don't feel like an alien, which is a good thing because you can feel like that very quickly. "People (and) players ask you 'what are you doing here?' and you're like 'exactly -- if you keep talking like this, I will never come back'." "I'm happy I'm still able to feel comfortable in a set-

ting like this because it would be so much easier just to stay home, get comfortable at home and realise you don't need to be on tour anymore." The 20-time Grand Slam winner praised Janik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz looking ahead to next year's Australian Open. Federer held out hope for his remaining contemporaries Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal, who will both be absent from the Laver Cup. "With Rafa we don't know -- it remains to be seen. It's hard for me to make a prediction on Rafa because of the little tennis he has played this year. "Novak, winning the Olympics and playing somewhat let's say a full season -- he didn't bow out because of injuries, he chose to play less which is normal when you get a bit older. "I feel like he has chances moving forward. "I look forward to Australia which is the next

Slam. I think he's definitely going to be one of the favourites along with Sinner and Alcaraz. "I think the Australian Open story will be a very cool one to follow." Nadal pulled out of the Laver Cup with injury but his compatriot Alcaraz will take part as a member of Team Europe against Team World. German Alexander Zverev will also play for Team Europe and Federer said he was "so close" to winning a maiden Grand Slam, but needed to attack more in crucial moments. "I see someone who's playing much too passively, much too defensively when it matters the most. "I think (Zverev) has to remind himself to try to not be too passive and then I think honestly something really great can happen for him." Team Europe won the first four events, starting in 2017, but Team World have won the past two.

Van Dijk hails Liverpool's 'calm' response in win over AC Milan

LONDON (AFP): Virgil van Dijk saluted Liverpool's "calm" response to conceding an early goal against AC Milan as they bounced back to win 3-1 in their Champions League opener. Liverpool captain Van Dijk had admitted his side looked like they had no plan during a shock 1-0 home defeat against Nottingham Forest in the Premier League last weekend. And the Netherlands centre-back was concerned again after Christian Pulisic gave Milan the lead after just three minutes in the San Siro. To the defender's relief, Liverpool stuck to boss Arne Slot's game-plan and equalised through Ibrahima Konate before Van Dijk and Dominik Szoboszlai scored to wrap up the victory. Asked if it was the perfect response to the Forest game, Van Dijk said: "No, not after three minutes. But after three minutes I think it was very good in so many ways. "We stayed

calm, played how we wanted to play rather than running around looking like we have absolutely no plan like we did, especially in the last 20 to 30 minutes in the second half of the last game, when you can play for another hour and you won't score." Van Dijk, 33, insisted he was never worried about the criticism that accompanied the Forest defeat, which came after Liverpool had won the first three games of the Slot era without conceding a goal. "For who it is a disaster? What can you do about the outside?" he said. "You can't do anything about the outside. The only influence we have is what we do on the pitch and you saw it. "It is about delivering today and tomorrow and if you don't then the pressure comes from the outside but we have to stay calm. "I have a big role in that, the manager himself has a role in that but at the end of the day we, as players, have to show it

on the pitch." Slot's persistence with a virtually unchanged team for the first four matches of the season had come under scrutiny, but he maintained that stance with just two changes against Milan. Cody Gakpo, one of Slot's alterations, was a revelation on his first start of the campaign, producing a dynamic performance reminiscent of his form for Netherlands at Euro 2024. "I think last year he played very good games as well. I don't think you should forget that," Van Dijk said. "I've seen what he can produce but when you play one game a week and players -- in this case Lucho (Luis Diaz) -- did very well then you have to be patient. "We need everyone to be at their best and you saw he could make a difference with crosses and an assist as well. We need everyone and this was a good example of that."

ICC announces equal prize money for men, women

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 will be the first ICC event where women will receive the same prize money as their male counterparts, marking a significant milestone in the sport's history. The decision was taken at the ICC Annual Conference in July 2023, when the ICC Board took the step of reaching its prize money equity target seven years ahead of its schedule of 2030, making cricket the only major team sport to have equal prize money for its men's and women's World Cup events, said a press release. The winners of the tournament, which will now be staged in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), will receive US\$2.34million, a massive, 134 per cent increase on the \$1 million awarded to Australia when they clinched the title in South Africa in 2023. The runners-up will receive \$1.17 million, an increase of 134 per cent in comparison to the \$500,000 South Africa received for reaching

the final on home soil at Newlands Cricket Ground. The two losing semi-finalists will earn \$675,000 (up from \$210 000 in 2023), with the overall prize pot totalling \$7.958,080, a massive increase of 225 per cent from last year's total fund of \$2.45 million. This move is in line with the ICC's strategy to prioritise the women's game and accelerate its growth by 2032. Teams will now receive equal prize money for the equivalent finishing position at comparable events as well as the same amount for winning a match at those events. The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 event prize money is only higher on account of 10 additional teams participating and 32 more matches played. Each win during the group stages will see teams take home \$31,154, while the six teams who fail to reach the semi-finals will share a pool of \$1.35 million depending on their finishing positions. In comparison, the equivalent

pool for the six teams in 2023 was \$180,000, shared equally. Teams who finish third or fourth in their group will take \$270,000 each while the teams who finish fifth in their group will both receive \$135,000. All 10 participating teams are assured of \$112,500. The increase in prize money for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 comes in line with the prize pot for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 also increasing to \$3.5 million in total. The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 will open on October 3 with Bangladesh taking on Scotland at Sharjah Cricket Stadium. There has been a minor change to the match order for the double header on Saturday October 5 in Sharjah, with Australia now facing Sri Lanka in the afternoon at 14h00, followed by the Bangladesh versus England match taking the evening slot at 1800 local time. Ten teams will play 23 matches in Dubai and Sharjah to decide the 2024 champions.



FAISALABAD: Cricket match playing between UMT Markhors and Dolphins teams during one-day Champions' Cup 2024 at Iqbal Stadium. —APP Photo

Asjad Iqbal grabs bronze medal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani cueist Asjad Iqbal bagged a bronze medal in the Mongolia Snooker World Cup 2024 at Ulaanbaatar. Michael Georgiou of Cyprus outplayed Asjad in the semifinals of the championship by 5-4 (85(85)-0, 80(74)-0, 35-64, 15-62, 24-78, 73-36, 11-74, 76-65(65), 51-08). Earlier in the quarterfinals Asjad beat Gao Yang of China by 4-3 (76-0, 25-64, 0-135(135), 81(76)-34, 65-64, 50(50)-69(69), 69-50) while Ali Gharahgozlou of Iran defeated Pakistan's Awais Muneer by 4-2 (68-60, 66(58)-64(55), 8-78, 37-65, 66(53)-23, 111(65)-09). The final of the mega event will be played between Ali Gharahgozlou of Iran and Michael Georgiou of Cyprus.

PSB releases Rs 23m to help PHF

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has released an amount of Rs 23 million to Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) to help meet its financial obligations for the national team's participation in the recently-held Asian Champions Trophy in China. According to a PSB press release, the financial assistance comes as a crucial support to ensure the team's performance and competitiveness at the international level. Before the national outfit's departure to China, the PHF top brass had revealed that the federation was suffering from scarcity of funds and had to rely on loan to arrange team's participation in the coveted event. The federation, however was assured that the Board would reimburse the said amount. The Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) and PSB also released a special grant of Rs. 96.65 million to the PHF in the last six months for participating in different international tournaments, reinforcing its commitment to the development of hockey in Pakistan. This financial support is yet another sign of commitment of PSB in promoting hockey and fostering a competitive environment for Pakistan's athletes on the international stage.

Kamran, Salman set up Markhors' third successive win

FAISALABAD (Monitoring Desk): A brilliant century from Kamran Ghulam, all-round heroics by Salman Ali Agha and a vital half-century by skipper Mohammad Rizwan helped the UMT Markhors beat Engro Dolphins by 92 runs in the sixth match of the Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup here at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad on Wednesday. Markhors have now won three out of three matches they have played and are sitting at the top of the points table while Dolphins are winless after two games, occupying the bottom of the table. Dolphins will face Allied Bank Stallions in their next match tomorrow which is set to begin at 3pm. Chasing a total of 285 runs the Dolphins succumbed to 192 all out in 43.5 overs. Salman Ali Agha, after contributing 49 runs with the bat in the first innings returned to take 3-34 in his 10 overs. Earlier, Kamran Ghulam, who currently leads batting chart with 239 runs, hit his second century of the tournament

accumulating 113 runs after walking into bat in the first over. He also shared a 122-run third-wicket partnership with skipper Rizwan (51, 67b, 3x4s, 1x6). Kamran hit 12 fours and three sixes in the 110 balls he faced while Salman chipped in with three fours and one six in his 47-ball outing. The duo also shared a 71-run fourth-wicket partnership after Rizwan's departure in 27th over. Muhammad Imran's 27 off 25 balls with the help of two massive sixes helped Markhors cross the 250-run mark. Zahid Mehmood remained unbeaten for 15 runs off 14 balls hitting one four. Faheem Ashraf took 4-50 while Mir Hamza returned with two wickets. Usman Qadir and Sameen Gul dismissed one batter each. Dolphins, who opted to chase earlier in the day, found themselves reeling throughout the pursuit of 285-run target as they were reduced to 13-2 and then 99-5 when Saud Shakeel (41, 56b, 3x4s) top edged Salman to short fine leg. Asif Ali fought back with a

half-century but it was not enough as he fell for 50 off 43 balls hitting three four and three sixes. Apart from Salman's tight bowling, Muhammad Imran's three wicket burst (3-28) also helped Markhors to reduce Dolphins from 135-5 to 161-8 effectively ending all their chances to win as they finished 192 all out. Scores in brief: Match 6 – UMT Markhors beat Engro Dolphins by 92 runs. UMT Markhors 284-9, 50 overs (Kamran Ghulam 113, Mohammad Rizwan 51, Salman Ali Agha 49, Muhammad Imran 27; Faheem Ashraf 4-50, Mir Hamza 2-26). Engro Dolphins 192 all out, 43.5 overs (Asif Ali 50, Saud Shakeel 41, Sahibzada Farhan 24; Muhammad Imran 3-28, Salman Ali Agha 3-34). Player of the match: Kamran Ghulam (UMT Markhors). Tomorrow's fixture: Allied Bank Stallions vs Engro Dolphins, Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad at 3pm (local time).

Kamindu Mendis century rescues Sri Lanka against New Zealand



GALLE (AFP): Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis scored a courageous century against New Zealand Wednesday as the hosts wrestled back the initiative to reach 302 for seven at stumps on the first day of the first Test. Sri Lanka had slumped to 106 for four just after lunch but Kamindu -- player of the series for Sri Lanka during their recent tour of England - provided a confident and calm performance that steadied the team. Kamindu said the Sri Lankans were aiming to "get close to the 350 mark" on Thursday to make them "on top of the game." The all-rounder's innings came to an end on 114 in the penultimate over of the day when Ajaz Patel turned the ball sharply and it popped off the glove for an easy catch at first slip. "It's a special hundred this one, as this came in my hometown," Kamindu said. "I should have gone on to get a big one, but I couldn't do much about that ball." Kamindu, known for his ability to bat and bowl with both hands, is playing in his seventh Test match. He has already notched up four centuries and four half-centuries in scoring more than 800 runs. Sri Lanka were in a little trouble going into tea at 178 for five but a 103-run stand

between Kusal Mendis and Kamindu rescued them and provided a reasonable first innings total. Kusal posted a half-century but fell soon afterwards to an unusual dismissal when the ball struck Tom Latham at short leg, with skipper Tim Southee snapping up the catch. "Knock them over" Rookie New Zealand fast bowler William O'Rourke had earlier rattled Sri Lanka's top order, taking two wickets as the hosts reached 88 at lunch. The Kiwis took a gamble by leaving out veteran pace bowler Matt Henry but 23-year-old O'Rourke soon justified his inclusion. He surprised Dimuth Karunaratne with extra bounce in the fourth over and the left-hander nicked the ball to wicketkeeper Tom Blundell, departing for two. Fellow opener Pathum Nissanka, fresh from a match-winning performance against England last week, was cleaned up by a yorker that swung in late after posting 27. Dinesh Chandimal clipped Southee's fourth ball after lunch to mid-wicket, where Michael Bracewell took a diving catch. Sri Lankan skipper Dhananjaya de Silva was then bowled through the

gate to give part-time spin bowler Glenn Phillips success in his first over. Angelo Mathews, who was forced off by a blow to his thumb, returned to bat before being dismissed on 36 in the last over before tea, nicking O'Rourke to the wicketkeeper. O'Rourke said that "honours are pretty even" at the end of day one, giving "credit to the Sri Lankan batters to get themselves back into the game". But he said New Zealand were eager to begin their innings early on Thursday. "We are looking forward to knock them over soon," he said. Sri Lanka last won a Test series against New Zealand in 2009. The Black Caps have since won four series and drawn two against the hosts. World Test Championship points are on the line, with New Zealand third on the table behind India and Australia. Sri Lanka are fifth. The first Test, on the imposing grounds beneath the walls of the 17th-century Galle Fort, will have a rest day on Saturday when Sri Lanka votes in a presidential election. The second Test will also be played in Galle, from September 26.



In brief

IESCO issues power shutdown programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Wednesday issued a power suspension programme for Thursday for various areas of its circles due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesperson, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Islamabad Circle, Anguri, Kirpa, Frash Town, Tufaili Shaheed, Jhang Syedan Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Gangal, Airport, Gulzar Quaid, Khanna Road, Tamsamaabad, Dhok Hakmdad, Service Road, Azharabad, Zeeshan Colony, Noon Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, MES, PAF, Gracie Line, VVIP, Pindi Board, Park View, Fuji Foundation, Mehboob Shaheed, Mohra Nagyal, Wilayat Complex, X-Liar, AOWHS, Morgah, Dhanyal-I, Lalkarti, UC Lakhani, Shah Jeevan, Gulshan Saeed Feeders, Attock Circle, Chubb Feeder, Chakwal Circle, Rawal, Sagarpur, Dhoda Feeders, Jhelum Circle, Islam Pura, Kangar, Qazian, Scheme-I, Captain Nisar Shaheed, Mangala Express, Madu Kalas feeders and surrounding areas.

ICT cracks down on begging

ISLAMABAD (APP): The district administration has launched a crackdown on professional beggars across Islamabad, resulting in the arrest of 23 individuals. The arrests were made as part of efforts to curb begging activities in the Federal Capital, said the spokesman of ICT administration. In a recent move to address the growing issue of begging in Islamabad, the district administration, under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner (Rural), has arrested 23 professional beggars. The arrests were carried out in the jurisdictions of Lohibher, Sihala, Koral, and Humak police stations. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon urged the citizens to discourage professional beggars. He emphasized that such activities could create an undesirable environment and could often be linked to organized groups. The administration has taken this step to not only clear public spaces but also to ensure that vulnerable people, who may be exploited through begging networks, were not harmed. Memon called on the public to avoid giving money to individuals begging in public places, as it could inadvertently support these networks. Instead, he encouraged people to support recognized charitable organizations that work to address poverty and provide assistance to those in need. The district administration has also requested the cooperation of citizens in reporting professional beggars.

608 PSVs impounded

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have ramped up inspections of Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) following the orders of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani and 608 unfit vehicles were impounded during 24 days. A police spokesman said the ongoing checks focus on vehicle fitness, route permits, and driver licenses. So far, 4657 vehicles have been issued challan tickets, with fines exceeding Rs. 05 million for various violations. The legal action has been taken against 406 drivers, while the licenses of 27 negligent drivers have been canceled. Additionally, 39 cases have been registered against drivers and owners of PSVs.

Gillani urges unity to overcome challenges in Muslim world

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani on Wednesday said that the Islamic world had been facing numerous challenges, including injustices, oppression, and genocide being inflicted on the Muslims in Palestine, Kashmir, Myanmar and other conflict-ridden areas.

Addressing a conference in connection with the Eid-e-Milad un Nabi (SAW), he stressed the need to unite, set aside petty differences, and work together for peace and social and economic growth.

The conference, themed "The Prophet (PBUH) Brings Us Together Under the Banner of Hussain," was hosted by the Embassy of Iraq. The Senate chairman highlighted that the teachings of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Hussain's (AS) sacrifice "call upon the Muslims to stand united against injustice and uphold truth and justice".

He said that the theme of the conference was highly relevant, timely and resonant, "reminding us of the enduring legacy of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and his grandson, Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS)."

"Together, their lives and sacrifices continue to inspire and unite the Muslim Ummah," Gillani recounted how the Arabian Peninsula, once a backward society mired in ignorance and idolatry, was transformed by the light of Islam, which brought a message of Tauheed (Oneness of Allah), equality, and human dignity.

He praised the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions in the plains of Karbala as a beacon of righteousness, standing against tyranny, oppres-

sion, and the corruption of Islamic values. He added that Imam Hussain's (AS) martyrdom united the Ummah in its struggle against injustice, echoing the trials faced by the Prophet (PBUH) in spreading the message of Allah during a dark age.

"Today, as we reflect on the lives of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), we find their messages more relevant than ever," Gillani observed. "Imam Hussain's (AS) martyrdom exemplifies the willingness to sacrifice personal interests and even live for the protection of Islam, the defence of the innocent, and the upholding of moral values."

Gillani urged the Muslims to recall the loyalty and unity among Imam Hussain's (AS) companions, and instil solidarity and moral conviction within the ranks of the Ummah to overcome adversity.

He emphasized the need to draw inspiration from Imam Hussain's (AS) courage and steadfastness, and work towards building a world where justice, peace, and compassion prevail.

The Senate chairman called for collective efforts to alleviate the suffering of fellow Muslims and to uphold Islamic principles in daily life.

The conference was attended by ambassadors, religious scholars, experts, and individuals from various walks of life.

Gillani expressed his pleasure at attending the event, commemorating the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), and thanked the organizers for hosting such a significant and meaningful conference.

Govt committed to resolve industry's issues: Mashhood

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that the economic indicators show positive results and the country is moving in the right direction.

Addressing the Oath-taking ceremony of the All Pakistan Marble Industries Association here on Wednesday, he said that foreign investments showed remarkable confidence in the country's economy due to the tireless work of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and 2025 will be the year of Pakistan's rise.

Rana said that the government was committed to resolving the industry's issues and was taking effective measures to address the industry's challenges, adding the transformation of the industry to technology-driven initiatives would positively impact the growth of the economy.

He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had set up a Gems and Stone Committee which would form a growth-oriented policy with the consultation of all stakeholders.

The Chairman PMYP said that the government was paying attention to each sector and industry and had

successfully reduced the inflation rate, surged remittances and increased information technology, textiles and agricultural exports in a short period.

Mashhood said that govt had saved the country from bankruptcy, restored law and order situation and would soon be successful in making the financial policy without the International Monetary Fund.

He also affirmed his continued support for the prosperity and development of the marble sector, underscoring their significance in driving economic progress and enhancing national resilience.

ANF seizes 539 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover 539 kg drugs worth Rs 30 million and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday.

He informed that 200 grams hashish was recovered from a motorcyclecyclist rounded up near a university in Bosan Road, Multan.

The accused namely Osama Rehman Khan, a resident of Khanewal, confessed to selling drugs to students of educational institutions in Multan.

The arrested accused used to supply drugs to the

students of various universities and colleges through the canteen and hostel staff.

In another operation, 500 grams opium was recovered from an accused arrested near a university in Rawalpindi.

500 grams hashish was recovered from a house near Sadiqabad, Rawalpindi and an accused was arrested.

100 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused netted near a university in Sector H-11, Islamabad.

300 grams hashish was recovered from a car intercepted near a hotel in Mansehra and an accused was arrested. The arrested accused confessed to sup-

plying drugs to the students of educational institutions.

In an operation, 2.4 kg opium was recovered from a parcel booked for Sheikhupura at a courier office on Ring Road Peshawar.

14 kg hashish and 1 kg ice were recovered from a vehicle on Pasni Coastal Highway, Gwadar and an accused was arrested during the operation.

In another operation conducted in Pishin, Balochistan, 520 kg hashish was recovered.

Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.

Shaza commits to advancing space technologies for national growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja Wednesday reaffirmed the government's commitment towards leveraging cutting-edge space technologies for national growth.

She was addressing the 'PAKSAT-MM1 Satellite Application Conference' held here to celebrate the operationalization of the PAKSAT-MM1 satellite. She stated that the success of PAKSAT-MM1 would revolutionize communication infrastructure, bringing significant benefits to all sectors of the society. The satellite will help expand outreach of internet connectivity to the far flung areas of the country which, she said, is a vital step towards digitally connected Pakistan.

The digitalization and technology development are the gateways towards socio-economic prosperity in the country, she emphasized. The minister also highlighted that Pakistan's ranking in the UN's e-governance development index has improved by fourteen points.

She mentioned that Pakistan is one of two countries in Asia that have moved from the middle tier of digital e-governance to the high tier, describing this as a significant achievement. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman SUPARCO, Muhammad Yousuf Khan expressed his pride in the dedication and efforts of the team involved in the successful launch of PAKSAT-MM1.

He said that Pakistan has taken a significant step towards realizing its digital ambitions with the successful launch of PAKSAT-MM1. He emphasized the satel-

lite's critical role in socio-economic development and its contribution to Pakistan's presence in the global space industry.

The chairman expressed that PAKSAT-MM1 is rightly placed to serve a number of unserved and unattended remote areas in Pakistan, where applications of communication satellites such as DTH, community internet, tele-education, tele-medicine, assets tracking are yet to be provided.

The chairman invited local industry to join hands in developing eco systems for space-related activities including design and development of satellite systems and its applications. The speakers at the conference highlighted the role of PAKSAT-MM1 in advancing Pakistan's digital Pakistan vision by enabling greater connectivity, economic growth, and digital inclusion across the country.

They underscored the satellite's potential to bridge the digital divide and promote the development of underserved regions. The conference concluded with stakeholders committing to harness the full potential of space technology for a digitally empowered Pakistan and new opportunities for national development.

Expected to remain operational for over 15 years, PAKSAT-MM1 provides high-speed broadband, VSAT connectivity, and other essential services, showcasing Pakistan's technological advancements and commitment to a Digital Pakistan. The event attended by dignitaries, industrial leaders, government officials, and experts marked a significant milestone in Pakistan's space and digital transformation journey.



ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam called on Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

Pakistan to showcase climate actions, solutions at COP29: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), Romina Khurshid Alam emphasized the significance of COP29 as a platform for Pakistan to present its climate actions, challenges, and potential solutions.

The PM's Aide was addressing a meeting of development partners regarding preparation for 29th COP of UNFCCC here on Wednesday.

Speaking at a meeting with development partners, she highlighted the need for collaboration to achieve climate diplomacy goals, promote gender equality, and advance smart agriculture initiatives through private sector engagement. Alam underscored the urgency of addressing climate change in Pakistan, which ranks among the most vulnerable countries globally.

She pointed out that despite contributing less than 1% to global carbon emissions, Pakistan faces severe consequences from climate disasters, including floods and droughts that have devastated infrastructure and livelihoods. The floods in 2022 alone caused over 24

billion PKR in damages.

She called for input from development partners to enhance Pakistan's participation in COP29, aiming to secure increased climate finance for adaptation projects as well.

Alam also stressed the importance of gender equality in climate action, referencing a successful recent regional parliamentarians meeting held in Islamabad focused on empowering women in the green economy. Through these efforts, she aims to position Pakistan as a proactive player in global climate discussions and advocate for justice regarding loss and damage caused by climate change.

Prime Minister's Aide said that she is actively seeking collaboration with Business 20 (B20) countries to develop regional solutions for climate and environmental challenges. Romina highlighted the importance of inclusive growth strategies that align with the B20's overarching theme for 2024, "Inclusive Growth for a Sustainable Future." This theme encompasses various pillars aimed at addressing pressing global issues, including climate change and resource efficiency.

She also emphasized the importance of engaging provincial governments in climate solutions, particularly highlighting the proactive measures taken by Chief Minister of Punjab. Under her leadership, Punjab has finalized its "Climate Change Policy & Action Plan 2024," which aims to address critical climate issues such as smog and environmental degradation.

Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Aisha Humera Ch addressing the meeting shared her valuable insights to ensure Pakistan's preparedness and success at the upcoming COP 29 summit and emphasized the need for a concrete plan to tackle climate change challenges.

The development partners from different international institutions also shared their ideas, initiatives, to make Pakistan's participation in COP29 more effective. Representatives of development partners including international institutions, diplomatic missions and officials of climate change ministry attended the meeting.

NUML organizes seminar on Seerat-un-Nabi PBUH

ISLAMABAD (APP): A seminar on Seerat-un-Nabi SAWW was organized at the National University of Modern Languages NUML (NUML) on Wednesday. Prof. Dr. Habib ur Rehman Asim was the chief guest on the occasion, while Director General NUML Brig Shahzad Munir presided over the session.

Pro Rectors, Deans, Directors, heads of departments and a large number of students also attended the seminar. Chief guest Dr. Habib ur Rehman highlighted the various aspects of the Seerat of Hazrat Muhammad SAWW and stressed that acting upon the Seerat is the key to success for the Ummat.

He was of the view that mere describing the Seerat with tongue is not enough we must act on it and tells the world through our actions that we are the followers of Holy Prophet SAWW. At the end DG NUML Brig Shahzad Munir thanked all the honourable guest and expressed his views to adopt some aspects of Seerat in our lives.

He said that along with compulsory Ibadat, we must adopt the Sunnah of our beloved Prophet SAWW who taught us about every aspect of life. He further said that we must learn from the seerah that how to behave with the people around. DG NUML presented a shield to the worthy guest.

12 held for carrying illegal arms, liquor

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested 12 illegal armsholders and bootleggers and recovered arms, ammunition and liquor from their possession during a crackdown.

According to police spokesman, City, Saddar Wah, Jatli, Kalar Syedan, and Chakri police held nine illegal arms holders namely Asad, Tahir, Ishaq, Zahid, Ishtiaq, Akash, Amir, Shakeel and Usman Bilal and recovered six 30 bore pistols, a 12 bore rifle, two 9mm pistols and ammunition.

In other raids, Waris Khan, Rawat and Gunjmandi police arrested Suleman, Umar, and Amjad and recovered 20 liters liquor from their possession.

Leaked chat exposes PTI's anti-state narrative: Daniyal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Daniyal Chaudhry on Wednesday said that leaked messages between Rauf Hasan and Jibran Ilyas confirmed that the events of May 9 were a

planned conspiracy by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Talking to a private news channel, he said that these messages show May 9 was not a spontaneous incident, but rather a pre-meditated action aimed at undermining the army and

state institutions.

He said that despite PTI's anti-state agenda, their efforts will fail, and under the leadership of the Prime Minister and Army Chief, the country will overcome its security and economic challenges.

RWMC conducts anti-smog awareness drive

RAWALPINDI (APP): The communication teams of Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC), carried out its cleanliness and anti-smog awareness campaign in the area of Union Council-23 Dhoke Kashmiria area here on Wednesday.

According to the RWMC spokesman, the teams asked the shopkeepers and residents of the area to play their part in educating the people about the importance of cleanliness.

He said the objective of the activity was to reach out to a maximum number of people, to educate the general public about the pre-

cautionary measures to avoid smog. The teams also distributed waste bags and leaflets among the people to educate them about the importance of cleanliness.

The teams also asked the residents to ensure the spraying of water to prevent dust and to use masks and glasses. He said that the promotion of tree plantation was vital for avoiding smog and checking environmental pollution.

He said a grand cleaning operation had been started in Rawalpindi to prevent the looming threat of smog this year under the title "Smog Safe Punjab", adding to keep the city

away from dust roadside scraping, and mechanical sweeping were underway on city roads including Murree Road, Liaquat Road, Rawal Road, Sixth Road, Jamia Masjid Road, Iran Road, Iqbal Road, Said Pur Road, Eidgah Road, Asghar Mal Road, Peer Vadhai Road and others.

In a message, RWMC has appealed to the people to not burn waste and chemicals in the open as they were the major cause of smog, adding burning garbage was a legal offence as smoke and dust contributed to smog which was harmful to the environment and human health.

Authorities directed to remove encroachments from roads

RAWALPINDI (APP): Members of National Assembly, Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry, Hanif Abbasi and Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak chairing a meeting held here on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to remove encroachments from all the city roads.

Reviewing progress of anti-encroachment operation, they said that anti-encroachment operations are top priority of the government.

Member Provincial Assembly, Ziaullah Shah, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi, City Traffic Officer and other relevant officers attended the meeting.

Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry said that continuity of the operation would be ensured to make the campaign more effective. This operation should be conducted phase wise and all the main roads

should be cleared in the first phase, Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry added.

In the second phase, the footpaths would be cleared and after that the rest of the operation would be completed, he informed.

Before launching anti-encroachment operation in any bazaar, the trade union representatives should be taken on board first, Hanif Abbasi said adding, the administrative officers with the help of the representatives of the traders should ensure lane marking on the roads. No one would be allowed to go beyond the lane marking, he added.

The Commissioner on the occasion said that vehicle Jumma bazaar would be banned on Murree Road and action in accordance with the law would be taken against the violators. Jumma Bazaar not only creates traffic problem on Murree Road but, it's also a security risk, Engineer

Aamir Khattak said.

The traffic problem across the city is a very old one and administration is making efforts to resolve the issue, he added.

The Commissioner directed the authorities concerned that an assessment report should be prepared and submitted immediately regarding third floor of 'Fawara Chowk' parking plaza and parking in the Metropolitan Plaza.

He further said that encroachments aggravate the problems of traffic jams on the roads which create problems for the common man. Encroachment also affects the business of the traders, Engineer Aamir Khattak added.

The Commissioner said that the traders should support the administration to eradicate the encroachments in their markets.

Separate spaces would be allotted for the hand cart bazaars, he added.

First export of potatoes

KABUL (BNA): Local officials in Balkh Province have announced the inaugural export of 250 tons of potatoes from Balkh to the joint market between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. Qari Amir Mohammad Muttaqi, Head of the Department of Industry and Commerce in Balkh, reported that the potatoes were transported to the joint market without phytosanitary treatment to streamline trade and facilitate the entry of Afghan products into international markets.

The Frontier Post

Rabi ul Awal 14 1446 — Thursday, September 19, 2024

Special forces got training

KABUL (BNA): A total of 947 personnel from the Special Forces Division of the Ministry of National Defense have successfully completed a four-month training program in Sharia Sciences at the division's advanced academy. According to the Ministry of National Defense, the graduation ceremony featured remarks from scholars and instructors who highlighted the critical role of Sharia education for military personnel.

Low-quality fuel tankers send returned

NIMROZ (TOLOnews): Local officials in Nimroz say they have returned 1,200 low-quality fuel tankers to Iran over the past six months.

They add that during this period, around 15,000 fuel tankers have entered Nimroz through the Pul-e Abrisham border crossing.

Hamed Ebrahim, the head of the Nimroz Governor's Office, said: "In the past six months, out of 15,000 fuel tankers, we have prevented 1,200 low-quality fuel tankers from entering Nimroz from Iran.

We have constantly strived to prevent the entry of sub-standard fuel."

Meanwhile, residents of Nimroz have expressed concerns about the low quality of fuel in the markets of this province.

They say the use of low-quality fuel has caused technical problems in their vehicles, and they call on the government to prevent the entry of such fuel into the country.

Mohammad Ebrahim Naroui, a resident of Nimroz, said: "The presence of low-quality fuel in

Nimroz markets has caused our vehicles to face technical problems. I urge the government to stop the entry of substandard fuel into the country."

Waseq, another resident of Nimroz, said: "We are pleased that the government has returned many tankers carrying low-quality fuel to Iran, but there should be more oversight on fuel stations."

Previously, local officials had repeatedly reported the return of low-quality fuel from Nimroz to Iran.

Girls' education: International community fails to act on IEA's ban

KABUL (Khaama Press): As the third anniversary of the ban on girls above sixth grade approaches, Human Rights Watch (HRW) states that the international community has failed to take meaningful action to lift Afghanistan's restrictions on girls' education.

The organization has urged the global community to apply more pressure on the Taliban to lift the ban on girls' education.

On September 17, 2021, a month after the Taliban took power, the Ministry of Education announced the reopening of schools, but only for boys and male teachers.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban government spokesperson, said the closure of schools for girls above sixth grade was "temporary" and would end once conditions were suitable.

However, nearly 1,096 days have passed, and girls above sixth grade have yet to return to school.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) stated on September 17 that the Taliban, as during their first regime, are now depriving girls of education, wasting crucial years of their growth and development, with lifelong and intergenerational consequences for those affected.

Despite widespread global debates on the ban, HRW emphasized that governments and international institutions still need to take significant steps to lift the restrictions on girls' education.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called on the Taliban to provide safe and quality education for all girls. The organization also urged donor countries to support communities advocating for girls' right to education and fund online and underground education programs led by women.

MoU signed for mine clearance

KABUL (BNA): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed for the demining of over 580,000 square meters of land in Logar Province.

According to a report from the National Disaster Management Authority, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, the Acting Head of the Authority, held a meeting with Elhamullah Mustafa, Head of External Relations at HALO Trust. The discussion focused on the implementation of the organization's mine clearance project in Logar.

Mullah Turabi expressed his appreciation for the HALO Trust delegation and affirmed the Authority's commitment to supporting and facilitating the execution of such projects. He emphasized the Authority's role in promoting and backing these initiatives through formal agreements.

Elhamullah reported that HALO Trust is expediting its project activities. The organization plans to clear 586,372 square meters of mine-affected land in Logar within five months, with an allocated budget of \$50,000.

IE meeting covers political and security developments



KABUL (TOLOnews): The meeting of the Political Commission of the Islamic Emirate was held under the chairmanship of Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, the Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs.

Hamidullah Fitrat, the Deputy Spokesman of the Islamic Emirate, stated that in this meeting, discussions were held on the latest developments in the country and the region, as well as on political and security progress.

According to Fitrat, the members of the Political Commission also discussed

addressing the challenges faced by Afghans living abroad and preparing the necessary arrangements for Afghan refugees.

The Deputy Spokesman of the Islamic Emirate said: "Discussions were held on the recent developments in the country and the region, political and security issues, and progress made. In this meeting, solutions for the challenges of Afghan refugees abroad, preparations for Afghan migrants, and other issues were also discussed."

A number of political analysts consider the meet-

ings of the Political Commission of the caretaker government important for political progress and other areas.

Gul Mohammaddin Mohammadi, a political analyst, said: "They must engage with foreign countries to expedite the process of interaction and recognition and also reach out to some opponents abroad to invite them to Afghanistan."

Idris Mohammadi Zazi, another political analyst, stated: "The Political Commission should analyze every decree and order

that is shared with the people of Afghanistan and the international community to understand its impact domestically and abroad."

Meanwhile, in the previous meeting of the Political Commission of the Islamic Emirate, there was a discussion about expanding relations with several countries and implementing regional projects. It was emphasized that the caretaker government of Afghanistan seeks good relations with all neighboring countries, based on the principles of mutual respect and good neighborliness.

Polio teams urge continuation of vaccination campaign in Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): As the polio vaccination campaign continues in Afghanistan, the Afghanistan Polio-Free organization has called for the ongoing implementation of the polio vaccine campaign, emphasizing that children under the age of 5 are at higher risk of contracting polio.

The organization posted a message on X, Wednesday, September 18, stating that children under 5 are more vulnerable to polio due to their lower

immunity levels.

While Polio eradication efforts in Afghanistan have faced a major setback as the Taliban suspended vaccination campaigns, the UN reported on Sept 16, Afghanistan, along with Pakistan, remains one of two countries where polio continues to spread.

Afghanistan Polio-Free stressed the importance of administering the vaccine and added that children should be vaccinated during all campaigns and while

traveling from one location to another by border transit teams.

This call for continued vaccination comes shortly after the Associated Press, citing the United Nations, reported that the Taliban administration had halted the polio vaccination campaign. However, the Taliban's Ministry of Public Health denied reports of stopping the campaign hours later.

Sharafat Zaman, the Ministry of Public Health

spokesperson, said in a statement that some media outlets were spreading "false" news on this matter.

Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only countries in the world that have not yet succeeded in preventing the spread of polio.

It is worth noting that the World Health Organization previously reported 18 cases of polio in Afghanistan since the beginning of this year.

The ongoing efforts to combat polio in Afghanistan are crucial, especially for children under 5, who are at higher risk. Continued vaccination campaigns are vital to eradicate this disease.

Omari calls for support to address challenges

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Deputy Minister of Interior, speaking at a gathering held in Khost to commemorate the Jihadi figure Jalaluddin Haqqani, said that there are challenges within the current system, but emphasized that addressing these issues requires consultation with the people.

Mohammad Nabi Omari, Deputy Minister of Interior, said: "Youth! For God's sake, don't go after those who have no value, based on the experience we have, and you do not. It will ruin both your worldly life and the hereafter. For God's sake, accept your Emirate, support and defend it. We also have problems; we are neither saints nor prophets. We need people's opinions and consultations, as long as they do not conflict with religion."



In another part of his speech, Mohammad Nabi Omari called on the people to support the Islamic Emirate and continue to adhere to the current principles and regulations.

Omari added: "Do not go beyond the laws, instructions, and regulations of the Emirate, and do not follow foreigners. If

you see that we are being subservient to foreigners, then you have the right to call us spies, traitors, and slaves of foreigners."

The participants of this meeting called on the Islamic Emirate to utilize the experiences of the people, especially the capacities of the youth within the government structure.

Operations resume at Afghan Embassy

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that diplomats representing the Islamic Emirate began their work at the Afghan Embassy in Oman this past Sunday.

Hafiz Zia Ahmad Takal, the Deputy Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that the reopening of the Islamic Emirate's embassy in Oman is expected to play a significant role in strengthening political, economic, social, and religious ties between Kabul and Muscat.

"Since that day, the embassy has resumed its activities and services as usual. With the cooperation of the host country and the commencement of the embassy's operations, this embassy will play a constructive role in strengthening the political, economic, social, and religious relations between Kabul and Muscat," Zia Ahmad Takal said.

At the same time, some political analysts believe that establishing relations with Islamic countries could positively impact the engagement between the Islamic Emirate and other nations.

Salim Paigir, a political analyst, told TOLOnews: "Oman is one of the countries close to the West. This country can play a major and fundamental role in improving relations between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and Western countries, especially US."

UN reports rising security incidents in Afghanistan



KABUL (TOLOnews): António Guterres, the UN Secretary General, has addressed issues such as security, politics, human rights, and humanitarian cooperation in his quarterly report on the situation in Afghanistan.

In this report, titled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security" it is claimed that security incidents in Afghanistan have increased by 53% compared to 2023.

According to the findings of the report, 2,127 security incidents were recorded in Afghanistan from May 14, 2023, to July 31, 2023.

The report reads: "Between 14 May and 31 July, the United Nations recorded 2,127 security-related incidents, a 53 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2023. There were 35 incidents of disputes over land, an increase from 28 reported during the same period in 2023. Land disputes were most frequent in the southern (19 incidents) and south-eastern (7 incidents) regions."

In this report, the UN

Secretary-General also highlighted the travels of the Islamic Emirate officials outside Afghanistan for participation in regional cooperation, the law of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue, public punishments, casualties caused by landmines, and clashes between Islamic Emirate forces and Pakistani forces in Khost and Paktia.

"After the return of the Islamic Emirate to power in our country Afghanistan, we all witness that war has ended and overall security has been established. However, it is clear that political engagement between the current government and the international community has not occurred, and the Islamic Emirate government has not been recognized by the world countries," said Ahmad Khan Andar, a political analyst.

"The travels of the Islamic Emirate outside the borders are essential for the benefit of the people and to solve the problems of the Afghan people, in order to establish interaction and relations," said Aziz Maarej, another political analyst.

So far, the Islamic Emirate has not commented on this matter.

The Security Council, in Resolution 2727, requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to report to the council on the situation in Afghanistan every three months.

UN Report: Current Fiscal Year Sees Growth in Afghanistan's Revenue

The United Nations Secretary-General, in his quarterly report on the situation in Afghanistan, said that the country's revenue reached one billion dollars in the first four months of the current fiscal year, reflecting an 11% increase compared to the previous year.

The report also mentions that, as of August 30, 2024, only 24.9% of the \$2.9 billion needed for humanitarian aid to Afghanistan has been secured.

Additionally, the report notes that Afghanistan's customs revenue experienced a 2% decrease during this period compared to the previous year. UN Secretary-General António Guterres also stated: "State revenue for the first four months of the current fiscal year, beginning in March 2024, reached around \$1 billion (69.7 billion afghani), reflecting year-on-year growth of 11 per cent and exceeding the target by 3 per cent. This is driven primarily by a 30 per cent year-on-year increase in the revenue derived from the Revenue Department, while the Customs Department experienced a 2 per cent year."

Khairullah emphasizes national progress, unity

KABUL (BNA): Mullah Khairullah Khairkhwa, Acting Minister of Information and Culture, met with Afghan nationals residing in Moscow following his participation in the international United Cultures Forum held in Saint Petersburg, Russia. The meeting took place at the Embassy of Afghanistan in Moscow.

According to Bakhtar News Agency. During the gathering, Mullah Khairkhwa spoke on Afghanistan's progress, stating, "After enduring five decades of conflict, Afghanistan is now governed by a strong central administration, providing a solid foundation for securi-

ty, stability, national unity, and brotherhood."

Additionally, Mullah Khairkhwa commended the current state of diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and Russia, calling for further strengthening of friendly ties with neighboring countries. He also underscored the achievements of the Islamic Emirate over the past three years, particularly in the areas of anti-corruption efforts and combating narcotics.

The Acting Minister emphasized the importance of unity among Afghans in Moscow and encouraged Afghan professionals abroad to return home and contribute to the nation's

rebuilding and development.

In his closing remarks, Minister Khairkhwa described the current administration as inclusive, representing all ethnic groups, and free from any form of bias or ethnic discrimination.

During the meeting, Afghan cultural representatives in Russia shared their proposals for enhancing governance and promoting Afghan culture. They also requested the establishment of a cultural center in Russia, for which Mullah Khairkhwa pledged comprehensive support and cooperation from the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Ministry launches journalist support fund

KABUL (TOLOnews): During a pro-



gram outlining its achievements over the past year, officials from the Ministry of Information and Culture announced that the mass media law has been sent to the leader of the Islamic Emirate for the second time but it has yet to be finalized.

Hayatullah Muhajir Farahi, Deputy Minister for Publications, stated that a plan to establish a support fund for journalists has been finalized. Moving forward, all forms of assistance to journalists will be channeled through this fund. "Anyone who wants to support journalists, whether individuals, organizations, or governments, can do so through this fund, which includes many members and representatives from the media," he explained.

Additional accomplishments highlighted by the ministry include preventing the smuggling of antiquities, developing a plan to protect ancient artifacts at the Mes Aynak site, establishing a

Supreme Language Council to prevent the extinction of various languages and dialects, and reinforcing the surroundings of the Minaret of Jam.

Atiqullah Azizi, Deputy Minister of Culture and Arts, emphasized the vital role of media in the country and the ongoing efforts to improve access to information.

"We need cooperation with the media, which is essential for us. Without it, both the public and the global community will remain uninformed. If cooperation is lacking, we pledge to provide timely information and remind provincial directors to do the same," Azizi stated.

Officials also reported that nearly 9,000 foreign tourists visited Afghanistan's historical sites last year, generating 48 million afghani in revenue.

Qudratullah Jamal, Deputy Minister

of Finance and Administration, noted that a curriculum for a Tourism and Hospitality Institute has been approved to train professionals in the sector.

"The institute was launched last year, and its educational program, which grants graduates a post-baccalaureate certificate, has been approved," he added.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Younus Rashid, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, mentioned that memorandums of understanding have been signed with hundreds of private universities, institutes, and educational centers, resulting in 1,581 individuals receiving free education and 17,787 receiving discounts.

The Ministry of Information and Culture currently employs nearly 4,000 people, with over 1,700 working in the provinces and more than 2,200 serving as cultural attachés in the center and other countries.

President rejects IIOJK Legislative Assembly polls

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has categorically rejected the elections for the Legislative Assembly of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), asserting that these polls are no substitute for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination. He emphasised that such elections are unacceptable to the people of Kashmir and called upon the international community to hold the Modi government accountable for ongoing human rights violations in IIOJK. He further urged the need to take concrete steps toward conducting a plebiscite in line with relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

The President expressed these views while talking to a delegation of migrants from IIOJK, residing in Pakistan since 1989, led by Mr Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Wednesday.

Welcoming the delegation, the President condemned the Legislative Assembly elections in IIOJK, terming them as part of India's broader strat-

egy to consolidate its illegal occupation of the region. He highlighted that such measures could neither legitimize India's occupation nor suppress the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people. He stated that India was trying to alter the demographic structure of IIOJK by turning the Kashmiri Muslims into a minority and transforming them into a disempowered community in their own land.

The President said that Pakistan greatly valued the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people for their rights and would continue to stand in solidarity with them. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to provide moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people till the realization of their right to self-determination.

The delegation apprised the President about the atrocities being committed by the Modi regime in IIOJK. It was highlighted that the entire Kashmiri leadership had been imprisoned to suppress the voice of the Kashmiri people. The delegation also apprised the President about the issues of the refugees in Azad

Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

The President underscored that a protest should be lodged over the illegal steps and atrocities being committed by the Indian Occupation Forces in IIOJK. He said that Pakistan was committed to the socio-economic uplift of refugees and resolving their issues. He assured the delegation that the Government of AJK would be asked to enhance subsistence allowance as well as provide other relief measures to Kashmiri refugees. He further assured that Pakistan's social safety net would be extended to include 8000 migrant families through the Benazir Income Support Programme.

The delegation thanked the President for Pakistan's continued moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people. The delegation also commended the efforts and role of the Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, Mr Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who strongly advocated the cause of the people of IIOJK at various fora during his tenure as the Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

KP govt approves setup of Debt Management Fund

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday took another historic lead when its government not only approved the establishment of a Debt Management Fund but formulated and approved Rules for it too.

The Provincial Cabinet which met here on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur also approved the filing of a constitutional petition in the Supreme Court of Pakistan against the proposed Constitutional amendment by the Federal Government.

In view of the fact that surging debt servicing costs and the adverse impact of depreciation of Pak Rupee, this fund is essential to manage the province's debt obligations effectively and ensure the financial sustainability. Invoking Section 36 (1) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Financial Management Act, 2022, finance department has devised the creation of the Debt Management Fund which is long-term economic stability. The approval of this initiative will be instrumental in safeguarding our province's

financial future. The Debt Management Fund will invest unutilized balance from the Government Treasury into low-risk instruments. The Fund Shall not only create a revenue source that offsets growing debt obligations, but also result in optimal cash management, ensuring the province can better manage its financial obligations and ensure that substantial fiscal space is available to prioritize expenditure on service delivery. The draft KP Debt Management Fund Rules, 2024 for governing the control, management, utilization and oversight of the proposed Debt Management Fund too were approved during the meeting.

Meanwhile the provincial cabinet formally expressed its regret over the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety Pakistan's offer/decision to obtain a US \$118.4 million loan from the Islamic Development Bank for the "Poverty Graduation of Extremely Poor & Flood Affected Households Project" in KP. This decision was made in light of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's current debt burden and the availability of alternative funding sources that offer lower costs and

more favorable terms.

With regard to their filing of constitutional petition against the proposed constitutional amendment in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the cabinet held that the parliament i.e. both the national assembly and the Senate were incomplete at the moment because the PTI has not been given its reserved seats, so no constitutional of such important implications could be enacted.

The Provincial cabinet also approved policy guidelines for KP's participation in the carbon market. Key points of agreement include: 5% Deduction at Source for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); Correspondent Adjustment Fund (CAF): 12% of net revenues generated from carbon credit sales will be allocated to CAF. Of this, 50% will be transferred to the province where the project is based, and the remaining 50% will go to the Pakistan Climate Change Fund or other climate initiatives across the country in consultation with the province and; 1% administrative cost to be charged by the Ministry of Climate Change, subject to endorsement by other provinces.

PNS Shamsheer join operation

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship SHAMSHEER participated in Surge Ops TALON GRIP ONE while operating in support of Pakistan Navy led Multinational Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150). The ship is currently deployed in Gulf of Oman (GOO) to undertake Regional Maritime Security Patrol.

During the deployment, PNS SHAMSHEER also undertook Passage Exercise with Royal Navy Ship HMS LANCASTER. The exercise was aimed to improve synergy and mutual understanding between the two Navies while demonstrating interoperability to undertake combined operations in the region.

Pakistan Navy is maintaining presence in the Indian Ocean to keep the national and international sea lines of communications under surveillance. Pakistan Navy actively collaborates with regional and international partners deployed in Indian Ocean Region (IOR), fostering a collective effort for counter-piracy and anti-narcotics operations in support of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

Extortion cases surged in KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has witnessed a surge in extortion cases, with Peshawar topping the list, according to a report by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).

The report revealed that most extortion calls originated from Afghanistan, with 98 cases registered in 17 districts of the province this year. A total of 242 suspects have been identified, with 99 arrested so far. Peshawar recorded the highest number of cases at 50, followed by Khyber District with 11 cases. In Khyber District, six suspects were killed in encounters with law enforcement.

Other districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have also seen significant numbers of extortion cases. Dera Ismail Khan reported six cases, with 41 accused identified and 18 arrested. Upper Dir had 15 suspects in custody. Khyber District had 26 suspects identified, with nine arrested, while Mardan District had 10 suspects identified, resulting in four arrests. In Kohat District, 12 suspects were identified, with three arrested.

Law enforcement officials lamented that most victims fail to report extortion calls, hindering investigations. The CTD report highlights the growing concern of extortion in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with authorities urging citizens to report such incidents to help curb the menace.

Trump calls India 'very big abuser' on trade

WASHINGTON (AFP): Former US president Donald Trump said that he plans to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi next week during the latter's visit of the United States for several official events.

During a campaign event in Michigan, Trump slammed India as a "very big abuser" on trade, but said Modi was "fantastic." "He happens to be coming to meet me next week," Trump told the crowd without providing further details.

Modi will be travelling this weekend to Wilmington, Delaware — President Joe Biden's hometown — as part of the "Quad Leaders" summit alongside Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio. The four-way Quad grouping dates back to 2007, but Biden has strongly pushed the alliance as part of an emphasis on international alliances to rein in adversaries — especially China.

The upcoming summit marks Biden's last with the group as US president, having abandoned his bid for another White House term, with Vice President Kamala Harris replacing him at the top of the Democratic ticket. After the summit, Modi will attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York, as well as a meeting with Indian community members.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of migrants from Indian illegally occupied Kashmir, led by Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Afghan envoy summoned

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Foreign Office has registered protest with Afghanistan government and their Embassy in Pakistan against disrespectful act of Consul General of Afghanistan and termed it reprehensible.

Meanwhile, Foreign Office has summoned Afghan charge de affaires and recorded a strong protest over their Consul General's violation of diplomatic etiquettes, said the Foreign Office spokesperson. The Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the disrespect of national anthem by the Consul General of Afghanistan at an event in Peshawar is irresponsible act. The Spokesperson said, "the disrespect of host country's national anthem is against diplomatic norms".

This act of Acting Consul General of Afghanistan is reprehensible. "We are conveying our strong protest to the Afghan authorities both in Islamabad and Kabul." Afghan Consulate General, who was invited by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to attend Rahmatul Alamin conference in Peshawar, has committed serious diplomatic violations. Afghan Consul General Muihullah Shakir remained seated during Pakistan's national anthem which is against diplomatic protocol. Muihullah Shakir gave impression he has no respect for country's national anthem.

Meanwhile, sources confirmed that the documents of Afghan official who disrespected the national anthem today are not complete. Muihullah Shakir does not have an Afghan passport or any other document. On the POR card, he and his family returned to Afghanistan in 2015 with dollars and rations from UNHCR. The POR cards have expired as after September 1 2024, all Afghan refugees are staying illegally. According to security and diplomatic protocol experts, by not respecting the national anthem, Afghan Council General Muihullah Shakir gave the

Afghan Consulate officials shatters diplomatic norms

Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR: In a brazen display of contempt for diplomatic norms, officials from the Afghan Consulate today openly disregarded protocol at the Rehmat-ul-Alameen Conference held in Peshawar. The event, hosted by the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, saw an appalling act of disrespect when Afghan Consul General, Mohibullah Shakir, blatantly remained seated during Pakistan's national anthem.

This blatant disregard for the anthem not only violated standard diplomatic decorum but also sent a clear and disturbing message of disrespect toward Pakistan and its people. While the entire assembly rose in respect, Consul General Shakir shamelessly stayed seated, as if to proclaim that the national pride of Pakistan held no significance for him or his delegation.

The incident has sparked outrage across political and diplomatic circles, with experts calling it a severe breach of international diplomatic protocols. In any civilized society, such a display of arrogance would be condemned in the strongest terms. "This is an extraordinary incident that flies in the face of diplomatic etiquette," remarked political analysts. "It is not just a violation of protocol but an insult to the nation. This individual has made it clear that he holds no respect for Pakistan or its people."

Experts are urging the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take swift action, calling for a formal demarche to be issued to the Afghan government and demanding that Mohibullah Shakir be declared "persona non grata" and expelled from the country immediately. Anything less, they argue, would be seen as Pakistan tolerating a grave diplomatic insult. The Foreign Office must not only address this disgraceful violation but also ensure that future breaches of such nature are dealt with harshly, safeguarding Pakistan's dignity and diplomatic standing. The people of Pakistan deserve nothing less than full respect, especially from foreign representatives on their soil. This incident, if left unchecked, sets a dangerous precedent where diplomatic guests can flout Pakistan's national symbols with impunity. A strong, immediate response is the only acceptable course of action.

impression that he has no respect for Pakistan and the Pakistani nation.

The experts say this is unusual and completely contrary to diplomatic etiquettes, adding that in a civilized society such incivility is not allowed. The experts have demanded of the government to declared him persona non grata and sent back home. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, which invited the Afghan Consul General, should also be questioned why it invited such diplomats in a ceremony if he does not care about Pakistan's honor and diplomatic etiquettes.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of Afghan consulate in Peshawar has

clarified that Afghan Consul General has not disrespected national anthem intentionally. He clarified that there was no question of insulting Pakistan or her national anthem. Spokesman claimed that since there was music in Pakistan's national anthem therefore the Consul General did not stand up.

Consulate said "if this anthem was played without music or performed by children, the Consul General would have stood up and put his hand on his chest. There was no intention to desecrate and disrespect the Pakistani national anthem, spokesman of Afghan Consulate in Peshawar concluded.

US-Pakistan relations amid calls for justice for journalists

F.P. Report

WASHINGTON: In a recent press briefing, US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller addressed a range of topics, including US-Pakistan relations, following the visit of Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

The discussions, while primarily centered on security and economic issues, also covered the pressing matter of Afghan nationals under repatriation to the United States—a point highlighted by Miller in response to a question from The Frontier Post.

However, despite these comprehensive talks, notable omissions have sparked a conversation about broader concerns, such as the state of democracy and the safety of journalists in Pakistan. Among the myriad issues in Pakistan, the unresolved murder of journalist Arshad Sharif stands out as a stark reminder of the dangers faced by media professionals in the country. Sharif's death has become emblematic of the broader struggle for justice and accountability within the nation's media landscape.

The Frontier Post has made calls for international recognition of his legacy, similar to how Washington, D.C., named a street after Jamal Khashoggi. These gestures are not merely symbolic; they underscore a demand for justice and acknowledgment of the risks journalists endure in their pursuit of truth.

The plight of Pakistani journalists reflects a larger systemic issue of

impunity, where the killers of media professionals often go unpunished. This environment of unchecked power has been criticized for enabling abuses by individuals across various sectors, including media owners, military officials, and political leaders.

The calls for accountability extend beyond individual cases, pushing for a structural change that ensures no one—regardless of their position—has the right to harm innocent lives without consequence. The complexity of Pakistan's geopolitical environment further complicates the quest for press freedom. The country finds itself navigating the influences of major powers like China, which has been accused of spreading disinformation and exerting economic control over Pakistan. These dynamics place independent journalists at the center of a difficult landscape, where reporting on sensitive issues can lead to severe personal risk.

The ongoing influence of corrupt governance only exacerbates these challenges, making the role of journalism both crucial and hazardous. The recent visit of Under Secretary Bass to Pakistan provided an opportunity for discussions on critical bilateral issues, including security, economic stability, and the handling of Afghan nationals seeking repatriation to the United States.

However, the absence of a more robust dialogue on the state of democracy in Pakistan and the implications of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's situation raises questions

about the broader priorities of US foreign policy in the region. While security and economic concerns are undoubtedly important, the lack of focus on democratic values and press freedom has not gone unnoticed by observers and stakeholders.

Calls for justice for Arshad Sharif and other journalists serve as a poignant reminder of the importance of international advocacy. Independent journalism is a cornerstone of democratic societies, and protecting journalists is crucial for maintaining the integrity of information and accountability. The international community, including influential bodies like the US State Department, is urged to not only acknowledge these challenges but to take a proactive stance in advocating for the safety and rights of journalists.

Efforts such as naming streets after fallen journalists are symbolic gestures that carry significant weight in the fight against impunity. As Pakistan continues to grapple with complex geopolitical pressures and internal challenges, the voices calling for justice, accountability, and press freedom must not be ignored. The US and other international actors have a role to play in supporting these efforts, ensuring that the struggles of journalists are recognized and addressed on a global stage. In a world where independent journalism is under threat, every act of solidarity counts, reminding us that the pursuit of truth and justice transcends borders and politics.

Germany has stopped approving war weapons exports to Israel

BERLIN (Reuters): Germany has put a hold on new exports of weapons of war to Israel while it deals with legal challenges, according to a Reuters analysis of data and a source close to the Economy Ministry.

Last year, Germany approved arms exports to Israel worth 326.5 million euros (\$363.5 million), including military equipment and war weapons, a 10-fold increase from 2022, according to data from the Economy Ministry, which approves export licenses. However, approvals have dropped this year, with

only 14.5 million euros' worth granted from January to Aug. 21, according to data provided by the Economy Ministry in response to a parliamentary question. Of this, the "weapons of war" category accounted for only 32,449 euros.

A source close to the ministry cited a senior government official as saying it had stopped work on approving export licenses for arms to Israel pending a resolution of legal cases arguing that such exports from Germany breached humanitarian law. The ministry did not respond to requests for

comment. In its defense of two cases, one before the International Court of Justice and one in Berlin brought by the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), the government has said no weapons of war have been exported under any license issued since the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel, apart from spares for long-term contracts, the source added. Israel's assault on Gaza has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians since Oct. 7, according to the local Hamas-controlled health ministry.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf delegation called on JUI-F Ameer, Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

PHC seeks response against denial of travelling to Swati

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has issued a notice to the federal government seeking a response regarding the denial of permission to former Senator Azam Swati to travel to Afghanistan along with his wife on diplomatic grounds, on Wednesday.

A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice Peshawar High Court Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmad dispose of a case against enlisting Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly in Provisional National Identification List (PNIL) after removal of his name, on Wednesday.

The counsel informed that the Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, wanted to travel abroad but was unable to do to his name being on PNIL. He argued that the petitioner name was incorrectly included in the PNIL, hindering his ability to travel abroad. Additional Attorney General informed the court that Babar Salim

be halted. He claimed that stopping the verbal note is illegal, as the Constitution of Pakistan grants every citizen freedom to travel, which is a fundamental right. Therefore, Swati should be allowed to visit Afghanistan on diplomatic grounds.

Meanwhile, a divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmad dispose of a case against enlisting Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly in Provisional National Identification List (PNIL) after removal of his name, on Wednesday.

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Swati's name had been removed from the PNIL and now he is allowed to travel freely.

PHC grants protective bail Imran Riaz till Oct 7: Peshawar High Court has granted protective bail application of journalist Imran Riaz and directing him to appear in the relevant courts by 7th October, on Wednesday.

PHC single-member bench comprising Justice Shakeel Ahmed heard the protective bail application. The counsel informed the court that the petitioner is a senior journalist and multiple cases have been registered against him. He wants to appear in the relevant courts but fears arrest before appearing in court. The lawyer requested the court to grant transit bail to enable Imran Riaz to appear in the relevant court. PHC approved Imran Riaz's protective bail application and ordered him to appear in court by 7th October.