

Campaigners released
ISLAMABAD (INP): All the volunteers, including former Senator Mushtaq Ahmad, leader of the Save Gaza campaign, and his wife Humaira Tayyaba, have been released after being arrested for violating Section 144. The group was detained Saturday at Express Chowk for participating in a protest despite the imposed Section 144, which prohibits gatherings.

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

Ruet body meeting
ISLAMABAD (APP): Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad will preside over a meeting to sight the moon of Rabi-ul-Awwal at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Wednesday. Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad will announce the decision regarding the sighting of moon for Rabi-ul-Awwal.

Vol. XXXIXI No. 219 Regd. No. 241 SAFAR 27 1446 -- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 02 2024 PESHAWAR EDITION 12 PAGES PRICE. 30

PM expresses satisfaction over inflation rate drop

Reaffirms Pakistan's support to Kashmiri people

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his satisfaction over the nosediving of inflation rate in the country and the indicators of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, showing a decline in the inflation rate. The prime minister said that 'Consumer Price Index' fell to record low in July 2024, bringing inflation to 11 percent and welcomed the economists' forecast of further decline in inflation in the current month of September. "After Fitch, the global rating agency, Moody's recently upgraded Pakistan's credit rating, which is an acknowledgement of country's positive economic indicators by the international financial institutions," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime

minister as saying. The prime minister further said that the government was pursuing a policy of economic reforms and the implementation work was rapidly in progress over the right-sizing policy of the government which he himself was monitoring. He expressed the confidence that its positive impact on the economy would be visible soon. The prime minister also acknowledged that the federal and Punjab governments had provided a big relief to the electricity consumers in respect of monthly bills, adding the prices of petroleum products were further reduced from today. The prime minister said that the government believed in passing on all the benefits of such policies to the common man. The economy was moving towards stability owing

to the hard work of the government's economic and financial team, he added. He said the government was cognizant of the issues of the people and was striving day and night to resolve them. **PM reaffirms Pakistan's moral, diplomatic, political support to Kashmiri people** Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday while paying tribute to late iconic Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Geelani, reiterated Pakistan's continuing moral, diplomatic and political support to Kashmiri people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). In a message on the third death anniversary of late veteran Kashmiri leader, the prime minister said that his name would always be

remembered and respected in the movement for freedom of IIOJK. Geelani had been a great Kashmiri leader who had a firm faith in the Kashmiris' people in their right to self-determination. Late Geelani had devoted his entire life for the achievement of the same objective, PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying. The prime minister further said that Syed Ali Shah Geelani's contributions for the freedom of Kashmiri people and in the struggle for the right to self-determination, would always be remembered, adding sufferings in imprisonment could not deter Geelani's strong resolve. Geelani's sacrifices would not go in vain, the prime minister said, adding that the struggle for the right to self-determination would continue.



MURIDKE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offers feteiha for late Rana Afzal Hussain, brother of Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Helicopter of Raisi crashed due to weather

DUBAI (Reuters): The helicopter crash in which Iran's late President Ebrahim Raisi was killed was primarily caused by weather conditions that included thick fog, Iran's state TV said on Sunday, citing the final investigation report on the incident. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, a hardliner who was seen as a potential successor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, died when his helicopter crashed in May in a mountainous region near the Azerbaijan border. "The main reason of the helicopter crash was complicated weather conditions in the region," the final report concluded, according to Iran's state TV.

PM condoles Rana Afzaal's death

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visited the residence of Federal Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain, here at Muridke on Sunday. He offered condolences to the minister on the sad demise of his brother Rana Afzaal Hussain, a Member of Provincial Assembly. Shehbaz Sharif prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the loss with patience. The PM appreciated the political services of Rana Afzaal Hussain and said that his services for welfare of people would always be remembered.

Pakistan rejects India's claims on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Sunday categorically rejected India's claims on Jammu and Kashmir, terming them "misleading" and "dangerously delusional". In response to media queries regarding the recent statement made on Jammu and Kashmir by India's Minister for External Affairs, the Foreign Office Spokesperson emphasized that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is an internationally recognized issue that must be resolved through United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. The Spokesperson reiterated Pakistan's commitment to diplomacy and dialogue but warned that any hostile actions would be met with "unyielding resolve". The statement urged India to abandon its "provocative rhetoric" about IIOJK, and to instead engage in a meaningful dialogue for a just and lasting resolution to the dispute.

"India's unilateral actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) cannot and will not change this reality," the statement added. Pakistan stressed that true peace and stability in South Asia can only be achieved through a settlement in accordance with UNSC resolutions and the inalienable rights of the Kashmiri people.

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FBR collects Rs.1,588 bn in gross revenue

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has collected gross revenues of Rs 1,588 billion for the months of July & August 2024. Against a target of Rs. 1,554 billion, FBR has collected Rs.1,456 billion in net revenue and refunds of Rs. 132 billion (44% more than last year) were issued to the exporters to resolve their liquidity problems. The FBR collected Rs. 593 billion under the head of domestic income tax as compared to Rs. 437 billion in July & August 2023, thereby showing a growth of 36%. A healthy year-on-year growth of 40% was achieved in the domestic sales tax with collection of almost Rs.314 billion. Around Rs.86 billion were collected as Federal Excise Duty (FED) showing a year-on-year increase of 13%. As a result a cumulative growth of almost 35% has

been achieved in the collection of domestic taxes. However, on the import side the same momentum could not be maintained due to continued compression in imports. In US\$ terms, imports in the country have declined by 2.2% in August 2024 as compared to August 2023. Similarly, the imports during August 2024 in PKR value also showed a decline of 7% as compared to August last year. Moreover, the import of high duty items such as vehicles, home appliances, as well as miscellaneous consumer goods such as garments, fabrics, footwear etc have reduced significantly, changing the import mix. This trend has impacted collection of Customs duties as well as other taxes collected at import stage. Despite a modest increase of 4% in collection of Customs duties, FBR's overall growth in net collection registered a 21% increase on collection of

previous year. FBR is likely to achieve the revenue targets of the first quarter as both the economic activity and imports are expected to show a healthy turnaround in the month of September due to lower policy rate and other interventions being made by the Government in recent months. The growth is also likely to show a significant increase as a result of digitisation and other FBR's reforms which are currently being very keenly supervised by the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister. These reforms include end to end monitoring of supply chains, automated production monitoring, POS, AI based data integration, import scanning and strict integrity management of FBR workforce. FBR is also doing a revamp of it's business processes to facilitate business growth and ease.

Pakistan reports fourth case of Monkeypox

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Health on Sunday confirmed that a fourth case of Monkeypox has been reported from Peshawar. According to the spokesperson of the ministry, the affected person belongs to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The spokesperson said the 47-year-old citizen was isolated on August 29 by Border Health Services staff based on symptoms. The affected person has come from the Gulf countries. National Coordinator for Health Dr Mukhtar Bharath said that an effective screening system is working at all airports.

He said that Pakistan has taken effective measures to prevent Mpox and federal capital and provinces are in close coordination. He said that the government is ensuring that all the necessary steps are taken on time. Dr Mukhtar said that the Ministry of Health is regularly monitoring the situation. He said that the Ministry of Health and provincial governments are engaged in ensuring advance measures. Amid the rising case of the Mpox virus, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued an urgent advisory concerning an unprecedented outbreak of Monkeypox, affecting

multiple countries. This advisory aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the current global and national Monkeypox outbreak situation and offer guidance to all relevant stakeholders on prevention, detection, and response strategies. In the advisory, health authorities, healthcare providers, and public health organizations are urged to intensify surveillance, enhance diagnostic capabilities, and implement robust preventive measures to curb the spread of Mpox. The public is advised to stay informed, practice good hygiene, and seek medical attention if symptoms develop.

What is Monkeypox virus? It is pertinent to mention that Mpox is a viral disease caused by the Mpox virus. Although the natural reservoir of the virus remains unidentified, African rodents and non-human primates (such as monkeys) are suspected to harbor the virus and transmit it to humans. The disease typically manifests with a rash that appears 1 to 3 days following the onset of fever, starting on the face and then spreading to other areas of the body. The rash progresses through several stages: macules, papules, vesicles, pustules, and scabs.

Dialogue possible after PTI apologizes for May 9: Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Minister for Defense, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, said on Monday that for any meaningful dialogue to take place, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) must seek an unconditional apology for orchestrating the events of May 9.

Talking to a private news channel, he pointed towards Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, and stated that it was impossible to negotiate with a party engaged in activities that undermine the political process. He said that the Prime

Minister had repeatedly called for discussions and even proposed a Charter of Economy to address the country's challenges. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had consistently emphasized the importance of dialogue for the restoration of politics, he added.

When asked about recent talks with the Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (F) chief and the ongoing reconciliation efforts, Khawaja said that reconciliation has always been an important part of PML-N's politics.

Israel's recovery of six hostage bodies in Gaza puts pressure on Netanyahu

JERUSALEM (Reuters): Israel said it recovered the bodies of six hostages from a tunnel in Gaza where they were apparently killed shortly before its troops reached them, triggering Israeli protests on Sunday and planned strikes over the failure to save them. The Israeli military announced the recovery of the bodies from underground in the southern city of Rafah, as a polio vaccination campaign began in the war-shattered territory and violence flared in the occupied West Bank. The bodies of Carmel Gat, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Eden Yerushalmi, Alexander Lobanov, Almog Sarusi and Ori Danino have been returned to Israel, military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari told reporters in a briefing. "According to our initial estimation, they were brutally murdered by Hamas terrorists a short time before we reached them," he said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who faces growing calls to end nearly 11 months of war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza with a deal that includes a ceasefire and the release of remaining hostages, said Israel would

not rest until it caught those responsible. "Whoever murders hostages - does not want a deal," he said. Senior Hamas officials said that Israel, in its refusal to sign a ceasefire agreement, was to blame for the deaths. "Netanyahu is responsible for the killing of Israeli prisoners," senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters. "The Israelis should choose between Netanyahu and the deal." The recovered bodies were from about 250 hostages captured during the Hamas-led shock incursion into southern Israel that sparked the war in Gaza on Oct. 7 last year. Their deaths leave 101 Israeli and foreign captives still in Gaza, but around a third of these are known to have died, with the fate of others unknown. Thousands of Israelis joined protests in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv as pressure mounted on Netanyahu to do more to bring the remaining hostages home. The head of Israel's trades union federation, Arnon Bar-David, called for a general strike on Monday to pressure the government into signing a deal, and said Ben Gurion



airport, Israel's main air transport hub, would be closed from 8 a.m. (0500 GMT). "A deal is more important than anything else," he said. Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, who has clashed frequently with Netanyahu, also called for a deal and opposition leader and former prime minister Yair Lapid had urged people to join the demonstration in Tel Aviv. In Jerusalem, protestors blocked roads and demonstrated outside the prime minister's residence. Some lined roads, waving Israeli

flags in honour of the six hostages. Municipal services in Tel Aviv and other sites across Israel planned a half-day strike on Monday in solidarity with hostages and their families. The Hostage Families Forum called on Netanyahu to take responsibility and explain what was holding up an agreement. "They were all murdered in the last few days, after surviving almost 11 months of abuse, torture, and starvation in Hamas captivity. The delay in signing the deal has led to their deaths

and those of many other hostages," it said. Netanyahu's office said he had spoken to the family of Alexander Lobanov, whose body was among those recovered, apologising and expressing "deep sorrow". U.S. President Joe Biden, who has closely followed the fate of the hostages, said he was "devastated and outraged" at the news of the death of 23-year-old Israeli American Goldberg-Polin and the other hostages. "Hamas leaders will pay for these crimes. And we

will keep working around the clock for a deal to secure the release of the remaining hostages," he said in a statement. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he was "completely shocked" by the deaths. Biden, speaking to reporters in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, earlier, said he was "still optimistic" about a ceasefire deal to stop the conflict. Months of stop-start negotiations mediated by the United States, Qatar and Egypt have so far failed to secure a deal, despite

increased U.S. pressure and repeated trips by top officials to the region. The two sides have agreed to pause fighting in areas of Gaza for at least eight-hours daily from Sunday to Tuesday to allow a complex operation to vaccinate 640,000 children to begin. The campaign comes after the confirmation last month that a baby was partially paralysed by the type 2 polio virus, the first such case in the territory in 25 years. About 1,200 people were killed in the Hamas assault, according to Israeli tallies. Since then, at least 40,738 Palestinians have been killed and 94,154 injured in Israel's military offensive in Gaza, the enclave's health ministry says. Israeli forces continued to battle Hamas-led militants in several parts of Gaza, with the Israeli military targeting what it said was a Hamas command centre in a former school in Gaza City. Palestinian medics said they had so far recovered four dead from the strike and that many others were wounded. In Khan Younis, an Israeli air strike killed two

Palestinians and wounded 10 others, according to medics. The war has created a major humanitarian crisis in Gaza, as well as fuelling tensions across the region and in the occupied West Bank, where Israeli officials said on Sunday that three Israeli police officers had been killed when their vehicle came under fire near the city of Hebron. Hundreds of Israeli troops have been carrying out raids across the West Bank since Wednesday in one of their largest actions in the area in months, which Israel says is aimed at rooting out Islamist militants. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, a hardline member of Israel's security cabinet, called for tougher action against Palestinian militants in comments from the scene of the attack. Hamas praised the attack, but did not claim responsibility for it, saying it was a "natural response to the massacres and genocide in the Gaza Strip". Palestinian armed factions said their fighters were confronting Israeli forces in the flashpoint West Bank city of Jenin with machine-guns and explosive devices.



Pak always raises Kashmiri voice at all global forums: Amir Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engr Amir Muqam has said that considering its national duty, Pakistan has always raised its voice for Kashmiris right to self-determination at every international forum and continue to raise its voice till realisation of the Kashmiris goal of freedom.

Addressing Kashmiri Diaspora in Toronto, Canada, Engr Amir Muqam said that Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif effectively advocated Kashmir dispute in his address at UN General Assembly forum and all international forums, said a press release.

The participants given standing ovation to Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam on arrival to stage.

They also chanted slogans Pakistan Zindabsd and PML N leadership Zindabad. He said that Pakistan and particularly present government will continue to lend its unstinted moral, political and diplomatic support to the rightful and just cause of the freedom struggle of Kashmiris.

The Indian actions of 5th August 2019 a blatant violation of the UN Charter, the 4th Geneva

Convention and international laws. For the last three years India had tried every tactic of oppression against the Kashmiris but their resolve and passion for freedom could not be weakened.

The barbaric and brutal occupation of IIOJK by India not only violates international law, but also makes a mockery of the globally accepted norms of fundamental rights and freedoms. The international community can no longer remain silent while India continues to perpetrate its oppression in Kashmir. Despite more than seven decades of Indian occupation, including four painful years of continuous military siege and media blackout, India has failed to silence the voices of the brave Kashmiri people, whose just freedom struggle has further intensified. Three successive generations of innocent Kashmiris have sacrificed their lives and liberties, but courageously continued to defy the increasing coercion of the Indian occupation forces. Pakistan salutes these brave Kashmiri men and women and assures them of its continued resolute support in their cause for freedom from Indian subjugation. India's failure to honour its commitments to the Kashmiri people

and to the international community as well as to the United Nations, brings into question its standing as a responsible member state

The people of Pakistan stand firmly behind their brothers and sisters in Kashmir and Pakistan's moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiris shall continue until India ends its gross and systematic violations of human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir revokes its illegal actions of August 5, 2019 and grants the Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination.

Time has not diminished our resolve and support for Kashmiri brothers and sisters who are facing extreme atrocities at the hands of Indian occupation forces".

India's refusal to grant the Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination has serious implications for South Asia and beyond. Pakistan will continue to lend its unstinted moral, political and diplomatic support to the rightful and just cause of the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people.

Federal Minister also paid glowing tributes to the life and struggle of prominent Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Gilani on his death anniversary. Engr Amir Muqam said that the

government is actively working to bring an end to the economic crisis in the country.

He said the government took difficult decisions to stabilize the economic condition of the country by reducing expenses.

He said that process of development has been resumed with renewed spirit and devotion under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

On this occasion, Raja Shafiq, Chairman Kashmir Committee Canada, Community Leader Murtaza Joya, High Commissioner of Pakistan in Canada Shah Faisal Kakar, Raja Muhammad Shafiq, Member of Parliament Canada Shafqat Ali, Pir Adnan Boudla, President Muslim League-N Canada Sohail Waraich, Dr. Regional Councilor Sami Ijaz, Council General Khalil Ahmed Bajwa and other Kashmiri leaders were also present. The hosts of the program, Raja Muhammad Shafiq and Murtaza Joya gathered the gathering in a short time and lit the flag of Pakistan and Kashmir. Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam thanked both the hosts and highly praised overseas Pakistanis for contributing to Pakistan economy.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressing a press conference. —APP Photo

Bugti visits Capt Ali Shaheed's residence

LAHORE (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Quetta Corps Commander Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem visited the residence of Shaheed Captain Muhammad Ali Qureshi here in Naseerabad area on Sunday and offered condolences to the family members.

They met parents of the Shaheed and prayed to Allah

Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family members to bear the loss with fortitude.

Special tribute was paid to Shaheed Captain Ali Qureshi. Naqvi said the Shaheed Captain bravely fought with terrorists and foiled their nefarious designs. Bugti said, "Shaheed Captain Ali Qureshi was a brave son of soil and we pay tribute to

his courage."

Lt-Gen Rahat Naseem said sacrifice of the Shaheed was a symbol of unflinching resolve of Pak Army and people of Pakistan against terrorism.

Later, all three visitors went to the grave of Shaheed Captain, laid wreath and offered Fateha. Captain Ali Qureshi embraced martyrdom on August 26 while fighting with terrorists in Balochistan.

CM promises realising low-income people's dream of own house

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has said she will fulfill the dream of low-income people to have their own house, across the province.

She was talking to Dr. Amjad Saqib, the founder and chairman of Akhut, here on Sunday. Dr. Amjad thanked the CM for her initiative of public relief in electricity bills and carrying out other important public welfare projects.

The Punjab chief minister said the low-cost housing programme had been started

in Punjab, and every year the scope of the project would be expanded. 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' [Own roof, own house] is the biggest programme in the history of Pakistan, she added. It would be a cheap residential project, she told Dr. Amjad.

The chief minister said the main goal of the project was to provide housing to the financially weak classes. The government would give subsidies and set the easiest monthly installments, under the sustainable project, she promised.

The CM said that with the implementation of the revolutionary housing project, millions of people would get a job and millions of families would be able to live a better life. She said under the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme, three plans were being launched; the owners of 10-marla plots in villages and 5-marla plots in cities could borrow Rs 15 lakh, under the scheme with approx. Rs 14,000 in monthly installments, without any interest. The CM said that in big

cities, the government would construct four-storey flats, that would be provided to people through easy installments through draw. Likewise, ten-to-five marla houses would be built in the housing schemes.

Maryam Nawaz also said that in the private housing project, the government would give a single subsidy of Rs 10 lakh for each house. Dr. Amjad Saqib said that Maryam Nawaz's passion for solving common people's problems was admirable.

Mushayra organized at KPT

F.P. Report

KARACHI: A Mushayra Dabistan-e-Karachi organised on Saturday, 31st August 2024, at KPT STAFF COLLEGE. The Minister of Maritime Affairs, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh graced the occasion as the chief guest along with Chairman KPT, Syed Syedain Raza Zaidi. Other distinguished guests Dr. Nafees Qureshi and Mr. Pervez Haider were in attendance.

The renowned poets included Dr. Jawed Manzoor, Mr. Zahid Johary, Mr. Farrukh Izhar, Mr. Khalil Ullah Farooqi, Ms. Naheed Uzmi, Mr. Shaoukar Kamal Cheema, Ms. Yasmeen Yaas, Ms. Uzma Ismail, Mr. Shehzad Niaz, Mr. Kamran Mughal, Ms. Shazia Aalam Shazi, Mr. Ali Ashraf, Ms. Parveen Makhdomi and Mr. Aashiq Shogi.

Dr. Zaigham Zaman presided over the Mushayra with Dr. Javed Manzoor also in attendance. Additionally, Dr. Zaigham served as the master of ceremony for the event. The event was a resounding success, celebrating the spirit of independence through the beautiful expressions of poetry.

Minister Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, who thoroughly enjoyed the literary event, emphasized the importance of holding such gatherings to revive and preserve the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan.

Ramesh lays foundation stone of new building

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs and President of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora Sunday laid the foundation stone of a new building in Nankana Sahib to facilitate Sikh pilgrims.

This building will include construction of 100 rooms, dedicated to accommodating and providing comfort to pilgrims visiting from around the world. The minister stated that providing better facilities for Sikh pilgrims remains a top priority, ensuring that they could perform their religious duties in a comfortable environment.

Earlier, the provincial minister also visited various Gurdwaras, including Gurdwara Lila Ram and Gurdwara Bhatti Sahib. During the visit, Sardar Ramesh Arora inaugurated the Langar Halls in these Gurdwaras. The purpose of these Langar Halls is to provide free meals to the pilgrims, which is a tradition of the Sikh religion.

During his visit, the minister instructed the representatives of the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) to ensure transparency and timely completion of all development projects. He emphasised that these projects would play a crucial role in promoting religious tourism and strengthening the national economy. He assured that the Punjab government prioritises the facilitation of pilgrims and respects their religious freedom. He directed all relevant institutions to utilize all available resources to achieve this goal.

The ETPB chairman, members of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, and other related individuals were also present.

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Gilani calls health a fundamental right

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Sunday highlighted the importance of health as a fundamental right of every citizen, stressing the collective responsibility to ensure that everyone has

access to the knowledge and resources needed to lead a healthy life.

While addressing a celebration ceremony and health awareness seminar organized by TIENS International he extended heartfelt congratulations to

TIENS International for their remarkable achievements and unwavering commitment to health and wellness. "Today's seminar is a testament to their ongoing efforts to raise health awareness and promote well-being," he said.

800,000 fine imposes on 144 profiteers

LAHORE (APP): The district administration, during an ongoing crackdown on profiteers and hoarders, registered four cases and inspected 983 locations in the past 24 hours. Fine of Rs 800,000 was also imposed on 144 violations during the move.

Under the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Lahore Syed Musa Raza, assistant commissioners have been actively monitoring the situation in the field. AC Raivind Zainab Tahir inspected various tandoors to review the prices of bread and naan, imposing fines on two tandoor owners for failing to prominently display the official price list.

The DC emphasized that administrative officers are working diligently to stabilize the prices of essential food items and ensure strict adherence to the approved rates. He reiterated that stringent actions are being taken against those involved in profiteering, hoarding, and adulteration, with fines levied on businesses that do not prominently display official rate lists. He added that efforts are ongoing to provide relief to citizens at the grassroots level, in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

Hina promises justice

LAHORE (APP): Following instructions from Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, Hina Pervaiz Butt, chairperson of the Punjab Women Protection Authority, visited the Khidmat Markaz in Faisalabad to meet 27-year-old Saadia, a victim of a chemical attack.

During the visit, SSP Operations Abdul Wahab, SP Madina Division Saad Arshad, and ASP Mohsin briefed the chairperson on the progress made in the case of the injured woman, said a handout issued here on Sunday. According to details, an unidentified person threw chemical on Saadia the other day, resulting in severe injuries.

Hina Pervaiz Butt stated that in line with the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, legislation is being enacted to prevent incidents like acid attacks, and all possible measures will be taken to ensure justice for the victim.

Sir Syed Express train restored

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Railways has restored the service of Sir Syed Express under public-private partnership. According to PR spokesperson, the first train comprising 16 coaches left for Rawalpindi from Karachi via Faisalabad on Sunday.

The train offers a variety of classes to passengers, including one AC sleeper coach, three AC business

class coaches, one AC standard coach, a dining car and eight economy class coaches.

Special measures have been implemented to ensure continuous water supply and cleanliness on board, enhancing passenger comfort. Free Wi-Fi access is available throughout the journey, allowing passengers to stay connected.

Tickets for Sir Syed Express could be purchased through mobile applications, allowing passengers to book their travel from the comfort of their homes.

Railway CEO Amir Baloch expressed optimism about the venture, projecting an annual revenue of approximately Rs 3 billion from the Sir Syed Express.

25 factories demolished over violation of laws

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Secretary Ifikhar Ali Sahu has said that all possible resources and means would be used to prevent burning of crops residue and violation of environmental laws in the province.

He said that in this connection, 25 factories were demolished and 23 other units were sealed over violation of environmental laws. Likewise, the violators were fined Rs 92 lakh during the last one-and-a-half months. The secretary said that the field formations of the department would play an active role in this campaign as a crackdown on environmental pollution had also been started.

Meanwhile, according to a recent environmental study, toxic emissions generated by crop burning prolong smog is detrimental to health. Recently, in a statement Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said the second phase of an anti-smog campaign would be launched over the next three months. In this phase, the environmental protection laws and regulations would be rigorously enforced in industries, agriculture, traffic and other sectors.

She noted that the first phase, which spanned three months, had focused on providing relevant facilities, technical assistance, equipment and technology across all sectors and formations.

The senior minister has warned that violations of environmental laws will result in penalties, fines and arrests. She also affirmed the commitment to impose a complete ban on plastic,

adding Chief Minister was personally overseeing Maryam Nawaz personally its implementation.

” ہم پاکستانی ہیں
پاکستان ہمارا ہے “

The founder of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

29th September 1929 to 1st September 2021

SALUTING THE STRUGGLE OF

SYED ALI SHAH GEELANI

whose lifelong sacrifices and unwavering commitment for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) will be owned always.

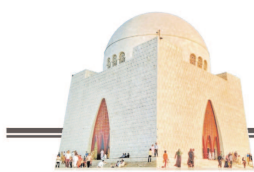
He continues to live in the hearts of Kashmiris and the Pakistani Nation.

#KashmiriLivesMatter
#HumPakistanIHamaraPak

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GovernmentofPakistan
www.moi.gov.pk

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

#KashmirBanaygaPakistan
#StandForKashmir



Diplomats showed keen interest

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR) organized a vibrant exhibition on last night to promote the rich heritage of Sindhi handicrafts and celebrate the unique culture of Sindh. The event, held at Hotel, was inaugurated by Mr. Saeed Ghani, Minister for Planning and Development, Government of Sindh.

The exhibition attracted a diverse and distinguished audience, including diplomats, business leaders, and cultural enthusiasts from various countries such as Japan, Turkey, the United States, Iran, Bangladesh, and Russia. Their presence underscored the international interest in Sindh's cultural heritage and the global relevance of its artisanal traditions.

In his inaugural speech, Saeed Ghani highlighted the significance of preserving and promoting Sindh's culture through such initiatives.

Road construction work to be started

KARACHI (PPI): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said on Sunday that road repair and construction work is being commenced after the end of the current spell of rains.

He mentioned that it is not unusual for roads to suffer damage due to rainwater, and the Engineering Department has been instructed to start repair work immediately. The KMC parks should see the initiation of modern projects to provide citizens with enhanced facilities and recreational opportunities.

He expressed these views while addressing officials from these departments at the KMC head office.

Municipal Commissioner Afzal Zaidi, Director General of the Engineering Department Azhar Ali Shah, Director General Parks Junaid Ullah

Khan, Financial Advisor Nayab Saeed, Chief Engineers of all districts, and other relevant officials were also present.

Murtaza Wahab reviewed the progress of both departments and directed that all development projects be completed by December 31.

He stressed that the pace of work on incomplete projects under the Annual Development Program should be accelerated and completed within the stipulated time.

The mayor instructed the Director General of Parks to allocate space in parks for urban forestry to facilitate large-scale tree plantation, emphasizing that increasing tree cover is crucial for Karachi's climate future. Trees play a vital role in maintaining a moderate climate.

Mayor Karachi further

stated that achieving the set goals requires hard work and dedication, and citizens expect the municipal institutions to play their part in making Karachi better. He noted that 106 roads under KMC are currently clear, and traffic is flowing smoothly through all underpasses. KMC, Water Corporation, and other municipal institutions have worked tirelessly to drain rainwater, and the results this year are better than in previous years.

He pointed out that internal roads and streets in various areas are the responsibility of the respective towns, and they are also responsible for water drainage.

He urged all town chairmen to expedite the drainage of water from internal roads and streets and clear areas where rainwater is still present.

Increase in monthly stipend okayed

KARACHI (INP): A high-level meeting held here on Sunday with Governor Sindh and Patron-in-Chief of Legends Trust, Kamran Khan Tessori gave principal approval of increase in monthly stipend to the families of national legends.

During a meeting held at Governor House, a scrutiny committee was also constituted to present its recommendations in the next meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Kamran Khan Tessori emphasized that every possible step would be taken for the welfare of these families. He stated that these legends were the pride of the nation and their contributions in their respective fields would always be remembered.

The meeting was also attended by the Managing Trustee of the Trust, Suhail Wajahat Siddiqui, along with Trustees Sultana Siddiqui and Qaiser Nizamani.



KARACHI: Labourers busy in digging for laying pipeline at Liaquatabad.

German CG visits MALC Healthcare Center

KARACHI (APP): Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Karachi, Dr. Rudiger Lotz and CEO of the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre (MALC), Mervyn Lobo embarked on a mission to support flood-affected communities in Sindh,

with a mission to provide aid and renew commitments to those impacted by the catastrophic floods of 2022.

Two years prior, during the devastating floods, Dr. Lotz had praised MALC's efforts at their healthcare centre in Tando Jan

Mohammed, highlighting the critical medical support they provided to an already vulnerable population. "We have been supporting MALC for over 60 years, a tradition that connects many Pakistani communities with Germany," Dr. Lotz remarked.



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DP AIR C/O PAF BASE NUR KHAN RAWALPINDI

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Contact Person / Ph No for Detail: For S. No 1 to 7 ADP-41 (051-9281361), For S. No 8 ADP-45 (051-9281365), For S. No 9 ADP-42 (051-9281362)

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PAF PRESS MASROOR (LOG)

021-99527669

NO 105 AED PAF BASE MALIR

TEL EXT 7323

Alivater Plate Cleaner LR As Req, Bag Polythene 23"x36" KG As Req, Binding Cloth Special MR As Req, Bleach Card 23"x36" (250GSM) PK As Req, Board Straw 26"x34" 240Z SH As Req, Carton Box 24"x22"x10" EA As Req, Cotton Wool KG As Req, Glue White KG As Req, Glue White KG As Req, Hanger 20" (2MM) EA As Req, Hanger 20" (3MM) EA As Req, Ink Cyan Colour KG As Req, Ink Magenta Colour KG As Req, Ink Yellow Colour KG As Req, Ink Black Colour KG As Req, Paper (W) Offset 23"x36" (80GSM) RM As Req, Paper (W) Offset 25"x35 1/2" (80GSM) RM As Req, Past Rollo KG As Req, Plate For SORMZ 745x605x0.30MM EA As Req, Plate For SORD 915x715x0.30MM EA As Req, Poly Propylene Sheet 50" MR As Req, Real Art Card 20"x30" (260GSM), Real Art Card 23"x36" (300GSM), Real Art Card 25"x36" (210GSM), PK As Req, Rubber Blanket SORD 36"x30"x1.9MM, Rubber Blanket SORMZ 31"x23" EA As Req, Tape Packing 2 1/2", Viro Spiral 10MM (14,333 inches), Viro Spiral 8MM (20,000 inches), Viro Spiral 12MM (8,000 inches) RL As Req, Real Art Card 23"x36" (210GSM), Real Art Card 20"x30" (300GSM), Real Art Card 25x35 1/2" (210GSM), Real Art Card 20"x30" (210GSM), Real Art Card 23"x36" (260GSM) PK As Req, Alcohol 99.9% Pure LR As Req, Real Art Card 28"x44" (270GSM), Real Art Card 20"x30" (170GSM), Real Art Card 23"x36" (190GSM), Real Art Card 23"x36" (250GSM), Real Art Card 23"x36" (310GSM), Real Art Card 31"x43" (260GSM), Real Art Card 31"x43" (210GSM), Real Art Card 18"x23" (210GSM), Real Art Card 22"x28" (210GSM) PK As Req, Carton Box 24"x22"x8", Carton Box 24"x22"x10", Carton Box 20"x16"x12" EA As Req. For further information please contact on Phone Nos. 021-99527669 and 021-99527653

NO 108 AED PAF BASE NUR KHAN (LOG)

051-9527266

89D831P004 Shottky Detector, 1339575 SMD Rework Station, 16100009027 PSTS, 47B336P001 DC Power Supply, 16100003865 C2 Micro Rack, 16100004205 Server FCC Node, NA12V0089AA Elevation Servo Amplifier, NA1200146AA Switch Ethernet-1 (Spada Shop As Req), 1420-NL-20323620 Cylinder Fire Extinguisher (Pasban As Req), Note:- Firms Security Clearance letter and undertaking certificate should be attached along with quotations. Detail specifications can be obtained from Log Sqn of No 108 AED, PAF Base, Nur Khan or contact on (051-9527268) during working hours. Technical and Commercial quotations should be given in two separate envelopes. Single item should be quoted on each quotation otherwise quotation will not be considered in tender

PAF BASE MINHAS (LOG)

057-9533887

Local Purchase of Humidity Temperature P/record, Peak power sensor, Emergency Locator Beacon, Antenna GPS (1575.42MHZ) and Hiring of civil Transport from PAF Base Minhas to all Cities of Pakistan and all Cities of Pakistan to PAF Base Minhas (As Req), Note Specs/Scope of work may be obtained from Log Sqn Minhas, Tel: 057-9533887 / Mobile: 0323-9414715

Civil Trailers 40 feet (30 Ton) with container, Civil Trailers 40 feet (30 Ton) without container, Civil Trailers 40 feet (20 Ton) with container, Civil Trailers 20 feet (20 Ton) without container, Civil Trailers 20 feet (20 Ton) without container (As required), Destination: From Malir Cantt to Mirpur Khas, From Malir Cantt to Rajan Pur, From Malir Cantt to Hafizabad, From Malir Cantt to Nawab Shah, From Malir Cantt to Sargodha, From Malir Cantt to Chakwal, From Malir Cantt to Vehari, From Malir Cantt to Multan, From Malir Cantt to Faisalabad, From Malir Cantt to Peshawar, From Malir Cantt to Shorkot, From Malir Cantt to Nowshera, From Malir Cantt to Jacobabad, From Malir Cantt to Sukkur, From KPT to Malir Cantt, From Malir Cantt to KPT (Depositing for Empty containers), From Malir Cantt to Bholar, From Malir Cantt to Taxila/Wah Cantt, Electric Heating Element (As Req) Note : Quotations must be inclusive of all taxes, Tel ext. 7323

PAF BASE, MM ALAM (LOG)

0459-232051

Sealed tenders are invited for Supply of Light Bridge Transmitter for NAHL (Specification: Max transmission distance up to 5 Km, Dim without antenna 68 x 48 x 21 mm, Operating Frequency: 2.4 Ghz to 2.483 Ghz) and 6S12P Battery for NAHL (Specification: Cell type, 18650 combination 6S12P, Capacity 40800mah, minimum voltage 15.6, Max voltage 25.2, Max Draw current 60 Amp) Note: Detailed specifications may be obtained from Officer-in-charge Log Sqn PAF Base MM Alam Tel: 03223145052, Validity of rates minimum up to 90 days are to be ensured: Quotation, having validity less than 90 days, will be rejected. EDD & Warranty period should be clearly mentioned on quotation. All terms and conditions for Defence purchases are applicable (detailed specification may be obtained from Log Sqn during working hours). For any query, please contact: Tel 0459-232051 (Ext 2273/5677), Mobile: 0322-3145052

PAF HOSPITAL LAHORE (LOG)

042-99505281

Local Purchase of Batteries for X-Ray Detector Machine (As Req), Note: Details for specifications may please be obtained from O i/c Log Flt PAF Hospital Lahore, Mobile: 0320-4499182, Tel No: 042-99505281

PAF HOSPITAL MUSHAF

048-950-5231

Quotations are required for supply of PVMS NA Medicines (NA Items FY 2024-25). For further details, terms and conditions please contact 2nd in Command PAF Hospital Mushaf on Tel Ext:- 048-950-5233, 048-950-5231 (OC PAF Hospital Mushaf is liable to partially of fully accept or reject any of the quotation)

PAF COLLEGE LOWER TOPA

051-9547142

Requirement of 02 Staff Wash Room near Pre-Cadets Mess at PAF College Lower Topa. Detailed specification can be collected from College Admin Officer PAF College Lower Topa Murree, Tel: 051-9547142 Mob No 0323- 5544726 (02 Wash Room)

PAF ARMEN ACADEMY KORANGI CREEK (LOG)

021-99553863

PACKING / PRESERVATION & MISC ITEMS: Bubble Sheet, Carton Box (Different Sizes), DDVP, Elphy, Foam 1/2, Nail Steel, Paint (All Colors), Ply Wood Lasani, Polythene Bags (All Sizes), Polythene Sheet, Polythene Green, Rubber Sheet, Screw Wood, Sheet Lasani, Steel Putty, Strip Nylon, Tapes (Masking, Insulation, Transparent, Adhesive, Packing), Thermopore, Thinner, Wood Kail. GASES: GAS FREON 410, GAS F-22, TONNERS: PPC (12A, 17A, 19A, 26A, 35A, 48A, 49A, 53A, 59A, 76A, 79A, 80A, 85A, 107A), POL: Gear Oil, Grease GP, Oil Brake Dot-3, Oil ENG (SAE 20W-50, SAE 20W-30, SAE 10W-40, SAE 5W-30, SAE 15W-40, SAE-30, SAE-40, SAE-50) , OIL GEAR / STR Dexron-111, Oil Gear / STR GL-4, Oil, Hydraulic, Telleus Oil-46, CLEANING MATERIAL: Bleaching Powder, Cloth Muslin White 36, Cloth Polishing 18x18, Crosol Liquid, Gint Glass Cleaner, Metal Polish, Oil Kerosin Grade A, Plastic Polish, Polish Black, Floor Polish, Phenyl Liquid, Polish Car 40z, Powder Cleaning 2lbs Vim, Rags Coloured, Soap Toilet, Soap Yellow 160z Bar, STATIONARY ITEMS: Correcting Fluid White, D 0 Paper A-4 80gsm, PPC Paper A-4 Size, Envelopes (Se-5, Se-6, Se-8a, Se-7, Se-7a, Se-8, Se-8a), Erasser Soft, File Binder 10x15 Cotton Tp, File Clip Plastic, Graph Paper 2c40 80gsm, Gum Liquid, Note Sheet Green, Paper Drawing Cartridge White, Register Ruled (1 Qrs, 2 Qrs, 3 Qrs, 4 Qrs), Stamp Pad (Black, Blue), Tag Cotton W N 5 Small, Thread Ball White, Stapple Pin 24/6, Paper 2 Ply (132 Colum & 80 Colum (PC), Paper 3 Ply (132 Colum 55 Gsm, 80 Colum (PC), BATTERIES AND FILTERS: BATTERY 12V (2.5AMP, 35AMP, 40AMP, 45AMP, 50AMP, 55AMP, 60AMP, 70AMP, 80AMP, 100AMP, 105AMP, 110 AMP, 120AMP, 135AMP & 140AMP), 12 V (7AH, 5AH), CELL DRY 1.5V (Rechargeable, Non-Rechargeable), Oil and Air Filter All Range (As Req), Note 1: As Per PPRA rules, 2004 (revised 2021) Quotations are required for closed framework agreement (1 year upto 30th June, 2025). Quotations should be valid for one year as per PPRA rule one stage two envelopes (Technical and Commercial) separately, Mobile: 0321-9147887

NO 102 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG)

021-99547235/7242

Vacuum Furnace (SE As Req), Ultra-Sonic Cleaner 24 X 22 X 16 (PC As Req), High Temperature Box (EA As Req), Filter Hepa 285 X 285 X 295mm (EA As Req), 9MC 201 Potentio Meter (EA As Req), Muffler Air Exhaust 4 (EA As Req), Portable X-Ray Machine (EA As Req), Film Processor (EA As Req), Mobile Working Bench (EA As Req), Welding Machine Arc (EA As Req), High Temp Box Furnace (EA As Req), Rocker Arm Welders (Spot Welding Machine) L/R (EA As Req), Plasma Flame Spray System (9mc) L/R (EA As Req), Shot Peening Machine L/R (SE As Req), X-Ray Machine Indust L/R (EA As Req), Double Frequency Vertex Flow (Eddy Current Tester) L/R (EA As Req), Tripod Jack Load Tester (EA As Req), Rivet Tublar (UPA = 20) (EA As Req), Ring Half Insulating (EA As Req), Cloth Nylon Duck Orange 60" (MR As Req), Cloth Nylon Duck Laminated 60", (MR As Req), Steel Tank L/R (EA As Req), Note: - For further Information or any technical assistance, please contact on Phone No 021-99547242, Mobile No 0307- 3267493, (For specifications consultant) Ext 7242, 7286, 7235

AHQs (U) ISLAMABAD (LOG)

051-9505556

Hardness Tester, All Types Of Tyres (Tyre Sizes With Aspect Ratio, Brand, Pattern, Construction, Load Index, Speed Rating, Temperature And Year Of Manufacturing) (NOTE:- Separate Quotation (Technical And Financial) For Each Line Item Is Required) (As Req), For details / specifications / scope of work please contact Log Sqn on Phone No: 0323-9408714, 051-9505556 Email : Lsaq05@Paf.gov.Pk

PAF BASE, RISPALUR (LOG)

0324-3189565

Dry Battery (for Electric Cart) 6V-225 AMP, Floor Polisher Machine, Local Purchase / Manufacturing of Passenger Boarding Ladder (Air Bus A 139 Aircraft) (As Req), For specifications/ scope of work any other query please contact No. Ext-3885, Mobile No. 0324-3189565

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- General terms and conditions are mentioned in tender form (F-528A). Forms and tender notices complete details can be downloaded from PAF website "www.paf.gov.pk" or can be obtained from respective Bases/ Log Sqns on working days.
- The firm must be GST and professional Tax registered having NTN.
- Last date of submission of tenders: **17 SEPTEMBER, 2024 (1000 hrs)**.
- Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1100 hours.
- No advance payment will be made and payment will be subject to acceptance of the items by user activity.
- Officers Commanding of the mentioned Bases/ Units reserve the right to reject any part or the entire tender on technical grounds.
- Quotations must be valid for 90 days.
- Sales Tax as applicable must be mentioned separately.
- Guarantee / Warranty term / period should also be mentioned.
- The agreement will be governed by official secret act. 1923.



Martyrdom anniversary observed

LAHORE (INP): The third martyrdom anniversary of veteran Hurriyat leader and the icon of Kashmir resistance movement Syed Ali Gilani was observed on Sunday. Syed Ali Gilani passed away on September 1, 2021, while under house arrest at his Hyderpora residence.

The APHC has appealed to the Kashmiri Diaspora to hold peaceful demonstrations worldwide to highlight Indian brutalities in the territory.

In his message from New Delhi's Tihar Jail, incarcerated APHC Chairman Masarat Aalam Butt said that India will never succeed in extinguishing the Kashmiri people's desire for freedom.

Posters have again appeared across various areas of IIOJK, calling people to honour Syed Ali Gilani's memory and reinforcing that the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs will not be forgotten.

Eid Miladun-Nabi: CCPO orders security measures

LAHORE (INP): Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Bilal Siddique Kamyana presided over an important meeting at his office here on Sunday to review overall law and order situation and other important professional matters. He issued instructions for preparing a coordinated security plan for processions, rallies and gatherings to be held on 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal, the Eid Miladun-Nabi.

The CCPO ordered for formation of a committee under DIG Investigation Zeeshan Asghar to review the reasons behind acquittal of suspects in drug-related cases. The committee would also include SSP Investigation and SSP Operations as its members. The committee is tasked with examining the reasons for acquittals in cases

involving large quantities of seized drugs.

The CCPO emphasised that disciplinary action will be taken against investigating officers or other staff found guilty of negligence, incompetence or wrong intentions. He instructed the enforcement of strict checks on suspicious vehicles at entry and exit points of the city using Safe City Authority's CCTV cameras. He also mandated action against stolen, tampered and fake number plate vehicles through the e-police app.

He directed divisional SPs to enhance their command and ensure timely completion of case investigations. He emphasized the importance of public service through open court sessions and encouraged SPs and SDPOs to adopt an

open-door policy and maintain continuous liaison with the public.

Bilal Kamyana underscored the need for timely resolution of cases related to murder, robbery and kidnapping for ransom. He stated that crimes involving women and children will not be tolerated and will be dealt with severely. He concluded that police work is not just a job but a lifestyle based on public service.

DIG (Investigations) Zeeshan Asghar, DIG (OCU) Imran Kishwar, DIG (Operations) Faisal Kamran, CTO Lahore Ammara Athar, SSP (Admin) Atif Nazir, SSP (Investigations) Anosh Masood Chaudhry, SSP (Operations) Tassawar Iqbal, SP (Security) Abdul Wahab, divisional SPs and other officers attended the meeting.

Three killed, five hurt in road mishaps

LAHORE (INP): At least three people were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents in different localities of the provincial capital, police and rescue sources said.

According to details, an over motorcycle carrying two friends lost during due to over speeding and hit a tree. As a result of accident, both motorcyclists including Husnain 16, and Suleman 27, were killed on the spot.

A teenager motorcycle rider was crushed to death by a speedy bus near Ashiana Housing Scheme at Ferozepur road. The 16-year-old youth was identified as Meer s/o Nadeem Umer.

A couple was injured when a reckless driven car knocked down a motorcycle in Civil Lines area.

Three including Abdul Rehman, his two nephews Ali and Zain were injured when a rickshaw a motorcycle in Kahna area. Rickshaw driver fled the scene.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressing a press conference.

Rs 800,000 fine imposed

LAHORE (INP): The district administration, during an ongoing crackdown on profiteers and hoarders, registered four cases and inspected 983 locations in the past 24 hours. Fine of Rs 800,000 was also imposed on 144 violations during the move.

Under the directives of DC Lahore Syed Musa Raza, assistant commissioners have been actively monitoring the situation in the field. AC Raiwind Zainab Tahir inspected various tandoors to review the prices of bread and naan, imposing fines on two tan-

door owners for failing to prominently display the official price list.

The DC emphasized that administrative officers are working diligently to stabilize the prices of essential food items and ensure strict adherence to the approved rates.



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NO 108 AED PAF BASE NUR KHAN (LOG)

051-9527266

89D831P004 Shottky Detector, 1339575 SMD Rework Station, 16100009027 PSTS, 47B336P001 DC Power Supply, 16100003865 C2 Micro Rack, 16100004205 Server FCC Node, NA12V0089AA Elevation Servo Amplifier, NA1200146AA Switch Ethernet-1 (Spada Shop As Req), 1420-NL-20323620 Cylinder Fire Extinguisher (Pasban As Req), Note:- Firms Security Clearance letter and undertaking certificate should be attached along with quotations. Detail specifications can be obtained from Log Sqn of No 108 AED, PAF Base, Nur Khan or contact on (051-9527268) during working hours. Technical and Commercial quotations should be given in two separate envelopes. Single item should be quoted on each quotation otherwise quotation will not be considered in tender

PAF BASE MINHAS (LOG)

057-9533887

Local Purchase of Humidity Temperature P/record, Peak power sensor, Emergency Locator Beacon, Antenna GPS (1575.42MHZ) and Hiring of civil Transport from PAF Base Minhas to all Cities of Pakistan and all Cities of Pakistan to PAF Base Minhas (As Req), Note Specs/Scope of work may be obtained from Log Sqn Minhas, Tel: 057-9533887 / Mobile: 0323-9414715

Civil Trailers 40 feet (30 Ton) with container, Civil Trailers 40 feet (30 Ton) without container, Civil Trailers 40 feet (20 Ton) with container, Civil Trailers 40 feet (20 Ton) without container, Civil Trailers 20 feet (20 Ton) with container, Civil Trailers 20 feet (20 Ton) without container (As required), Destination: From Malir Cantt to Mirpur Khas, From Malir Cantt to Rajan Pur, From Malir Cantt to Hafizabad, From Malir Cantt to Nawab Shah, From Malir Cantt to Sargodha, From Malir Cantt to Chakwal, From Malir Cantt to Vehari, From Malir Cantt to Multan, From Malir Cantt to Faisalabad, From Malir Cantt to Peshawar, From Malir Cantt to Shorkot, From Malir Cantt to Nowshera, From Malir Cantt to Jacobabad, From Malir Cantt to Sukkur, From KPT to Malir Cantt, From Malir Cantt to KPT (Depositing for Empty containers), From Malir Cantt to Bholar, From Malir Cantt to Taxila/Wah Cantt, Electric Heating Element (As Req) Note : Quotations must be inclusive of all taxes, Tel ext. 7323

PAF BASE, MM ALAM (LOG)

0459-232051

Sealed tenders are invited for Supply of Light Bridge Transmitter for NAHL (Specification: Max transmission distance up to 5 Km, Dim without antenna 68 x 48 x 21 mm, Operating Frequency: 2.4 Ghz to 2.483 Ghz) and 6S12P Battery for NAHL (Specification: Cell type, 18650 combination 6S12P, Capacity 40800mah, minimum voltage 15.6, Max voltage 25.2, Max Draw current 60 Amp) Note: Detailed specifications may be obtained from Officer-in-charge Log Sqn PAF Base MM Alam Tel: 03223145052, Validity of rates minimum up to 90 days are to be ensured: Quotation, having validity less than 90 days, will be rejected. EDD & Warranty period should be clearly mentioned on quotation. All terms and conditions for Defence purchases are applicable (detailed specification may be obtained from Log Sqn during working hours). For any query, please contact: Tel 0459-232051 (Ext 2273/5677), Mobile: 0322-3145052

PAF HOSPITAL LAHORE (LOG)

042-99505281

Local Purchase of Batteries for X-Ray Detector Machine (As Req), Note: Details for specifications may please be obtained from O i/c Log Flt PAF Hospital Lahore, Mobile: 0320-4499182, Tel No: 042-99505281

PAF HOSPITAL MUSHAF

048-950-5231

Quotations are required for supply of PVMS NA Medicines (NA Items FY 2024-25). For further details, terms and conditions please contact 2nd in Command PAF Hospital Mushaf on Tel Ext:- 048-950-5233, 048-950-5231 (OC PAF Hospital Mushaf is liable to partially of fully accept or reject any of the quotation)

PAF COLLEGE LOWER TOPA

051-9547142

Requirement of 02 Staff Wash Room near Pre-Cadets Mess at PAF College Lower Topa. Detailed specification can be collected from College Admin Officer PAF College Lower Topa Murree, Tel: 051-9547142 Mob No 0323- 5544726 (02 Wash Room)

PAF ARMEN ACADEMY KORANGI CREEK (LOG)

021-99553863

PACKING / PRESERVATION & MISC ITEMS: Bubble Sheet, Carton Box (Different Sizes), DDVP, Elphy, Foam 1/2, Nail Steel, Paint (All Colors), Ply Wood Lasani, Polythene Bags (All Sizes), Polythene Sheet, Polythene Green, Rubber Sheet, Screw Wood, Sheet Lasani, Steel Putty, Strip Nylon, Tapes (Masking, Insulation, Transparent, Adhesive, Packing), Thermopore, Thinner, Wood Kail, GASES: GAS FREON 410, GAS F-22, TONNERS: PPC (12A, 17A, 19A, 26A, 35A, 48A, 49A, 53A, 59A, 76A, 79A, 80A, 85A, 107A), POL: Gear Oil, Grease GP, Oil Brake Dot-3, Oil ENG (SAE 20W-50, SAE 20W-30, SAE 10W-40, SAE 5W-30, SAE 15W-40, SAE-30, SAE-40, SAE-50) , OIL GEAR / STR Dexron-111, Oil Gear / STR GL-4, Oil, Hydraulic, Telleus Oil-46, CLEANING MATERIAL: Bleaching Powder, Cloth Muslin White 36, Cloth Polishing 18x18, Crosol Liquid, Glint Glass Cleaner, Metal Polish, Oil Kerosin Grade A, Plastic Polish, Polish Black, Floor Polish, Phenyl Liquid, Polish Car 40z, Powder Cleaning 2lbs Vim, Rags Coloured, Soap Toilet, Soap Yellow 160z Bar, STATIONARY ITEMS: Correcting Fluid White, D 0 Paper A-4 80gsm, PPC Paper A-4 Size, Envelopes (Se-5,Se-6, Se-6a, Se-7, Se-7a, Se-8, Se-8a), Erasser Soft, File Binder 10x15 Cotton Tap, File Clip Plastic, Graph Paper 2c40 80gsm, Gum Liquid, Note Sheet Green, Paper Drawing Cartridge White, Register Ruled (1 Qrs, 2 Qrs, 3 Qrs, 4 Qrs), Stamp Pad (Black, Blue), Tag Cotton W N 5 Small, Thread Ball White, Stapple Pin 24/6, Paper 2 Ply (132 Volume & 80 Volume (PC), Paper 3 Ply (132 Volume 55 Gsm, 80 Column (PC), BATTERIES AND FILTERS: BATTERY 12V (2.5AMP, 35AMP, 40AMP, 45AMP, 50AMP, 55AMP, 60AMP, 70AMP, 80AMP, 100AMP, 105AMP, 110 AMP, 120AMP, 135AMP & 140AMP), 12 V (7AH, 5AH), CELL DRY 1.5V (Rechargeable, Non-Rechargeable), Oil and Air Filter All Range (As Req), Note 1: As Per PPRA rules, 2004 (revised 2021) Quotations are required for closed framework agreement (1 year upto 30th June, 2025). Quotations should be valid for one year as per PPRA rule one stage two envelopes (Technical and Commercial) separately, Mobile: 0321-9147887

NO 102 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG)

021-99547235/7242

Vacuum Furnace (SE As Req), Ultra-Sonic Cleaner 24 X 22 X 16 (PC As Req), High Temperature Box (EA As Req), Filter Hepa 285 X 285 X 295mm (EA As Req), 9MC 201 Potentio Meter (EA As Req), Muffler Air Exhaust 4 (EA As Req), Portable X-Ray Machine (EA As Req), Film Processor (EA As Req), Mobile Working Bench (EA As Req), Welding Machine Arc (EA As Req), High Temp Box Furnace (EA As Req), Rocker Arm Welders (Spot Welding Machine) L/R (EA As Req), Plasma Flame Spray System (9mc) L/R (EA As Req), Shot Peening Machine L/R (SE As Req), X-Ray Machine Indust L/R (EA As Req), Double Frequency Vertex Flow (Eddy Current Tester) L/R (EA As Req), Tripod Jack Load Tester (EA As Req), Rivet Tublar (UPA = 20) (EA As Req), Ring Half Insulating (EA As Req), Cloth Nylon Duck Orange 60" (MR As Req), Cloth Nylon Duck Laminated 60", (MR As Req), Steel Tank L/R (EA As Req), Note: - For further Information or any technical assistance, please contact on Phone No 021-99547242, Mobile No 0307- 3267493, (For specifications consultant) Ext 7242, 7286, 7235

AHQs (U) ISLAMABAD (LOG)

051-9505556

Hardness Tester, All Types Of Tyres (Tyre Sizes With Aspect Ratio, Brand, Pattern, Construction, Load Index, Speed Rating, Temperature And Year Of Manufacturing) (NOTE:- Separate Quotation (Technical And Financial) For Each Line Item Is Required) (As Req), For details / specifications / scope of work please contact Log Sqn on Phone No: 0323-9408714, 051-9505556 Email : Lsaq05@Paf.gov.Pk

PAF BASE, RISALPUR (LOG)

0324-3189565

Dry Battery (for Electric Cart) 6V-225 AMP, Floor Polisher Machine, Local Purchase / Manufacturing of Passenger Boarding Ladder (Air Bus A 139 Aircraft) (As Req), For specifications/ scope of work any other query please contact No. Ext-3885, Mobile No. 0324-3189565

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- General terms and conditions are mentioned in tender form (F-528A). Forms and tender notices complete details can be downloaded from PAF website "www.paf.gov.pk" or can be obtained from respective Bases/ Log Sqns on working days.
- The firm must be GST and professional Tax registered having NTN.
- Last date of submission of tenders: **17 SEPTEMBER, 2024 (1000 hrs)**.
- Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1100 hours.
- No advance payment will be made and payment will be subject to acceptance of the items by user activity.
- Officers Commanding of the mentioned Bases/ Units reserve the right to reject any part or the entire tender on technical grounds.
- Quotations must be valid for 90 days.
- Sales Tax as applicable must be mentioned separately.
- Guarantee / Warranty term / period should also be mentioned.
- The agreement will be governed by official secret act. 1923.



FDE evaluates damages rendered to schools

ISLAMABAD (INP): Headed by Director General of the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), a team of senior officials the directorate on Sunday visited six schools in rural areas of Islamabad to evaluate the damages rendered by recent heavy rains and to reinforce ongoing government initiatives to enhance educational facilities.

The visiting team included the Area Education Officer (AEO) Bhara Kahu, Director (Planning & Development), Director (Coordination), and the Project Director of the Project Management Unit (PMU).

The Director General FDE on the occasion announced a comprehensive plan for urgent repairs, committing to complete the restoration work within 10 days.

This plan includes white-washing all institutions, electrification, washroom repairs, and the repair of window panes.

These efforts are in line with earlier inspections by Parliamentarians, reflecting the

government's focused approach to uplifting rural educational institutions.

Specific tasks were assigned to the Project Director, including, the establishment of a computer lab with 40 computers at Islamabad Model College for Boys (IMCB) Maira Begwal, the construction of a boundary wall at Islamabad Model School for Boys (IMSB) Phulgran and the establishment of a library at Islamabad Model School for Girls (MSG) Phulgran.

The Director General emphasized the importance of enhancing enrolment in rural schools and highlighted key initiatives by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MOFEPT).

These initiatives include the recruitment of additional teachers, the launch of a school meal program, the establishment of Mother and Child Health Centers, and the introduction of IT labs to improve digital literacy.

To ensure accountability and sustained progress, the Director General mandated that Area Education Officer (AEO)s conduct regular weekly visits to schools within their jurisdiction. He also announced that incentive programs for rural teachers are under consideration, aiming to improve teacher retention and motivation in these areas.

The Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) officials will be stationed at the six visited schools to oversee the repair work.

The Director General also stressed the importance of community engagement in supporting the development of local schools and urged school staff to ensure full attendance and active participation in these initiatives.

This visit underscores the government's commitment to providing quality education in Islamabad's rural areas, ensuring that students have access to safe, well-equipped, and equitable learning environments.

NHA, FWO must rigorously implement rules

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Privatization and Investment Board and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan chaired a joint departmental meeting between the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) and the National Highway Authority (NHA) that took key decisions aimed at enhancing the efficiency and safety of Pakistan's road infrastructure.

During the meeting, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized the need for coordinated mutual policies between FWO and NHA.

Abdul Aleem Khan instructed the enforcement of a ban on excessive axle loads on Grant Trunk GT Roads, similar to regulations on motorways across the country. Weighing stations are to be established on GT Roads for heavy vehicles to ensure compliance.

The minister called for the use of "e-challan" systems to penalize traffic violations such as speeding, seat belt non-compliance, and mobile phone use. He also stressed the importance of installing surveillance cameras on national highways to prevent accidents.

Khan emphasized that NHA and FWO must rigorously implement traffic rules and regulations, asserting that no external pressures or recommendations should influence the axle load ban.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Kashmir Committee Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon talking to media persons.

Pak-Vietnam trade volume witnesses 28% increased

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Trade volume between Pakistan and Vietnam has witnessed an increase of twenty-eight percent during first sixth month of the current year as compared to the same period last year.

Addressing a function in

connection with the celebration of the 79th anniversary of Vietnam National Day in Islamabad, Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan Pham Anh Tuan said bilateral trade relations between the two countries have emerged as one of the

most outstanding fields of the cooperation. He said the number of delegation exchanges for business and visits has been increasing year by year and the two countries have signed a number of treaties and agreements.



PAKISTAN AIR FORCE

OPEN TENDER NOTICES

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED BY THE FOLLOWING BASES / UNITS FOR THE SUPPLY / PURCHASE / REPAIR / OVERHAULING OF MENTIONED ITEMS.

| DP AIR C/O PAF BASE NUR KHAN RAWALPINDI | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|-----------|------------|--------|--------------|--|------------------------|--|
| S. NO | IT No. | NSN / PT No / Noun | Line Item | U/I Qty | CAT | Opening Date | Time Period for Performance of Contract | Closing + Opening Time | |
| 01 | 415201/P-41 | Procurement of UPAZ Hoses for IL-78 AAR | 01 | EA-10 | FE | 01-10-2024 | Within 06 Months after signing of the contract | 1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs | |
| 02 | 415203/P-41 | Procurement of Tyres for IL-78 AAR | 02 | EA Various | FE | 01-10-2024 | Within 06 Months after signing of the contract | 1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs | |
| 03 | 415204/P-41 | Procurement of Nose and Main Tyres for MI-171 Helicopter | 02 | EA Various | FE | 01-10-2024 | Within 06 Months after signing of the contract | 1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs | |
| 04 | 415206/P-41 | Procurement of Main and Nose Tyres for T-37 Aircraft | 02 | EA Various | FE | 02-10-2024 | Within 06 Months after signing of the contract | 1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs | |
| 05 | 415208/P-41 | Procurement of LINS Calibration Equipment for WL-II UAS | 01 | SE-01 | FE | 02-10-2024 | Within 06 Months after signing of the contract | 1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs | |
| 06 | 415209/P-41 | Procurement of Tyres and Tubes for SMK Aircraft | 02 | EA Various | FE | 02-10-2024 | Within 06 Months after signing of the contract | 1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs | |
| 07 | 415210/P-41 | Procurement of Main and Nose Tyres for K-8 Aircraft | 02 | EA Various | FE | 02-10-2024 | Within 06 Months after signing of the contract | 1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs | |
| 08 | 459748/P-45 | X-Ray Generator | 01 | EA-07 | FE | 02-10-2024 | Within 18 Months after signing of the contract | 1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs | |
| 09 | 424501/P-42 (Re-Tender) | Refurbishment of AC Plants (3.5 Ton & 12 Ton) | 02 | EA-06 | Pak Rs | 17-09-2024 | Within 06 Months after signing of the contract | 1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs | |
| Contact Person / Ph No for Detail: For S. No 1 to 7 ADP-41 (051-9281361), For S. No 8 ADP-45 (051-9281365), For S. No 9 ADP-42 (051-9281362) | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Instructions / Guidelines for participating in Tenders and complete specifications can be downloaded from PAF website i.e. www.paf.gov.pk under the heading "Media" "PAF Ads" "General Instructions DP (Air) Suppliers" (for guidelines to participate in tenders) and "Latest Advertisements" (for Tender Invitation documents). | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. ITs documents can be obtained in soft copy via request letter through e-mail address to (pa05@paf.gov.pk) | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Tender Notice is also available on PPRA website i.e. www.ppra.org.pk . | | | | | | | | | |

| PAF PRESS MASROOR (LOG) | 021-99527669 | NO 105 AED PAF BASE MALIR | TEL EXT 7323 |
|---|--------------|--|--------------|
| Alivater Plate Cleaner LR As Req, Bag Polythene 23"x36" KG As Req, Binding Cloth Special MR As Req, Bleach Card 23"x36" (250GSM) PK As Req, Board Straw 26"x34" 24OZ SH As Req, Carton Box 24"x22"x10" EA As Req, Cotton Wool KG As Req, Glue White KG As Req, Glue White KG As Req, Hanger 20" (2MM) EA As Req, Hanger 20" (3MM) EA As Req, Ink Cyan Colour KG As Req, Ink Magenta Colour KG As Req, Ink Yellow Colour KG As Req, Ink Black Colour KG As Req, Paper (W) Offset 23"x36" (80GSM) RM As Req, Paper (W) Offset 25"x35 1/2" (80GSM) RM As Req, Past Rollo KG As Req, Plate For SORMZ 745x605x0.30MM EA As Req, Plate For SORD 915x715x0.30MM EA As Req, Poly Propylene Sheet 50" MR As Req, Real Art Card 20"x30" (260GSM), Real Art Card 23"x36" (300GSM), Real Art Card 25"x36" (210GSM), PK As Req, Rubber Blanket SORD 36"x30"x1.9MM, Rubber Blanket SORMZ 31"x23" EA As Req, Tape Packing 2 1/2", Viro Spiral 10MM (14,333 inches), Viro Spiral 8MM (20,000 inches), Viro Spiral 12MM (8,000 inches) RL As Req, Real Art Card 23"x36" (210GSM), Real Art Card 20"x30" (300GSM), Real Art Card 25x35 1/2" (210GSM), Real Art Card 20"x30" (210GSM), Real Art Card 23"x36" (260GSM) PK As Req, Alcohol 99.9% Pure LR As Req, Real Art Card 28"x44" (270GSM), Real Art Card 20"x30" (170GSM), Real Art Card 23"x36" (190GSM), Real Art Card 23"x36" (250GSM), Real Art Card 23"x36" (310GSM), Real Art Card 31"x43" (260GSM), Real Art Card 31"x43" (210GSM), Real Art Card 18"x23" (210GSM), Real Art Card 22"x28" (210GSM) PK As Req, Carton Box 24"x22"x8", Carton Box 24"x22"x10", Carton Box 20"x16"x12" EA As Req. For further information please contact on Phone Nos. 021-99527669 and 021-99527653 | | Civil Trailers 40 feet (30 Ton) with container, Civil Trailers 40 feet (30 Ton) without container, Civil Trailers 40 feet (20 Ton) with container, Civil Trailers 40 feet (20 Ton) without container, Civil Trailers 20 feet (20 Ton) with container, Civil Trailers 20 feet (20 Ton) without container (As required), Destination: From Malir Cantt to Mirpur Khas ,From Malir Cantt to Rajan Pur, From Malir Cantt to Hafizabad, From Malir Cantt to Nawab Shah, From Malir Cantt to Sargodha, From Malir Cantt to Chakwal, From Malir Cantt to Vehari, From Malir Cantt to Multan, From Malir Cantt to Faisalabad, From Malir Cantt to Peshawar, From Malir Cantt to Shorkot, From Malir Cantt to Nowshera, From Malir Cantt to Jacobabad, From Malir Cantt to Sukkur, From KPT to Malir Cantt, From Malir Cantt to KPT (Depositing for Empty containers), From Malir Cantt to Bholari, From Malir Cantt to Taxila/Wah Cantt, Electric Heating Element (As Req) Note : Quotations must be inclusive of all taxes, Tel ext. 7323 | |

| PAF BASE, MM ALAM (LOG) | 0459-232051 |
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| Sealed tenders are invited for Supply of Light Bridge Transmitter for NAHL (Specification: Max transmission distance up to 5 Km, Dim without antenna 68 x 48 x 21 mm, Operating Frequency: 2.4 Ghz to 2.483 Ghz) and 6S12P Battery for NAHL (Specification: Cell type, 18650 combination 6S12P, Capacity 40800mah, minimum voltage 15.6, Max voltage 25.2, Max Draw current 60 Amp) Note: Detailed specifications may be obtained from Officer-in-charge Log Sqn PAF Base MM Alam Tel: 03223145052, Validity of rates minimum up to 90 days are to be ensured: Quotation, having validity less than 90 days, will be rejected. EDD & Warranty period should be clearly mentioned on quotation. All terms and conditions for Defence purchases are applicable (detailed specification may be obtained from Log Sqn during working hours). For any query, please contact: Tel 0459-232051 (Ext 2273/5677), Mobile: 0322-3145052 | |

| PAF HOSPITAL LAHORE (LOG) | 042-99505281 |
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| Local Purchase of Batteries for X-Ray Detector Machine (As Req), Note: Details for specifications may please be obtained from O i/c Log Flt PAF Hospital Lahore, Mobile: 0320-4499182, Tel No: 042-99505281 | |

| PAF HOSPITAL MUSHAF | 048-950-5231 |
|---|--------------|
| Quotations are required for supply of PYMS NA Medicines (NA Items FY 2024-25). For further details, terms and conditions please contact 2nd in Command PAF Hospital Mushaf on Tel Ext:- 048-950-5233, 048-950-5231 (OC PAF Hospital Mushaf is liable to partially of fully accept or reject any of the quotation) | |

| PAF COLLEGE LOWER TOPA | 051-9547142 |
|--|-------------|
| Requirement of 02 Staff Wash Room near Pre-Cadets Mess at PAF College Lower Topa. Detailed specification can be collected from College Admin Officer PAF College Lower Topa Murree, Tel: 051-9547142 Mob No 0323- 5544726 (02 Wash Room) | |

| PAF AIRMEN ACADEMY KORANGI CREEK (LOG) | 021-99553863 |
|--|--------------|
| PACKING / PRESERVATION & MISC ITEMS: Bubble Sheet, Carton Box (Different Sizes), DDVP, Elphy, Foam 1/2, Nail Steel, Paint (All Colors), Ply Wood Lasani, Polythene Bags (All Sizes), Polythene Sheet, Polythine Green, Rubber Sheet, Screw Wood, Sheet Lasani, Steel Putty, Strip Nylon, Tapes (Masking, Insulation, Transparent, Adhesive, Packing), Thermopore, Thinner, Wood Kail. GASES: GAS FREON 410, GAS F-22, TONNERS: PPC (12A, 17A, 19A, 26A, 35A, 48A, 49A, 53A, 59A, 76A, 79A, 80A, 85A, 107A), POL: Gear Oil, Grease GP, Oil Brake Dot-3, Oil ENG (SAE 20W-50, SAE 20W-30, SAE 10W-40, SAE 5W-30, SAE 15W-40, SAE-30, SAE-40, SAE-50) , OIL GEAR / STR Dexron-111, Oil Gear / STR GL-4, Oil, Hydraulic, Telleus Oil-46, CLEANING MATERIAL: Bleaching Powder, Cloth Muslin White 36, Cloth Polishing 18x18, Crosol Liquid, Gint Glass Cleaner, Metal Polish, Oil Kerosin Grade A, Plastic Polish, Polish Black, Floor Polish, Phenyl Liquid, Polish Car 40z, Powder Cleaning 2lbs Vim, Rags Coloured, Soap Toilet, Soap Yellow 160z Bar, STATIONARY ITEMS: Correcting Fluid White, D 0 Paper A-4 80gsm, PPC Paper A-4 Size, Envelopes (Se-5,Se-6, Se-6a, Se-7, Se-7a, Se-8, Se-8a), Erasser Soft, File Binder 10x15 Cotton Tp, File Clip Plastic, Graph Paper 2c40 80gsm, Gum Liquid, Note Sheet Green, Paper Drawing Cartridge White, Register Ruled (1 Qrs, 2 Qrs, 3 Qrs, 4 Qrs), Stamp Pad (Black, Blue), Tag Cotton W N 5 Small, Thread Ball White, Stapple Pin 24/6, Paper 2 Ply (132 Colume & 80 Colume (PC), Paper 3 Ply (132 Colume 55 Gsm, 80 Columm (PC), BATTERIES AND FILTERS: BATTERY 12V (2.5AMP, 35AMP, 40AMP, 45AMP, 50AMP, 55AMP, 60AMP, 70AMP, 80AMP, 100AMP, 105AMP, 110 AMP, 120AMP, 135AMP & 140AMP), 12 V (7AH, 5AH), CELL DRY 1.5V (Rechargeable, Non-Rechargeable), Oil and Air Filter All Range (As Req), Note 1: As Per PPRA rules, 2004 (revised 2021) Quotations are required for closed framework agreement (1 year upto 30th June, 2025). Quotations should be valid for one year as per PPRA rule one stage two envelopes (Technical and Commercial) separately, Mobile: 0321-9147887 | |

| NO 102 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG) | 021-99547235/7242 |
|---|-------------------|
| Vacuum Furnace (SE As Req), Ultra-Sonic Cleaner 24 X 22 X 16 (PC As Req), High Temperature Box (EA As Req), Filter Hepa 285 X 285 X 295mm (EA As Req), 9MC 201 Potentio Meter (EA As Req), Muffler Air Exhaust 4 (EA As Req), Portable X-Ray Machine (EA As Req), Film Processor (EA As Req), Mobile Working Bench (EA As Req), Welding Machine Arc (EA As Req), High Temp Box Furnace (EA As Req), Rocker Arm Welders (Spot Welding Machine) L/R (EA As Req), Plasma Flame Spray System (9mc) L/R (EA As Req), Shot Peening Machine L/R (SE As Req), X-Ray Machine Indust L/R (EA As Req), Double Frequency Vertex Flow (Eddy Current Tester) L/R (EA As Req), Tripod Jack Load Tester (EA As Req), Rivet Tublar (UPA = 20) (EA As Req), Ring Half Insulating (EA As Req), Cloth Nylon Duck Orange 60" (MR As Req), Cloth Nylon Duck Laminated 60", (MR As Req), Steel Tank L/R (EA As Req), Note: - For further Information or any technical assistance, please contact on Phone No 021-99547242, Mobile No 0307- 3267493, (For specifications consultant) Ext 7242, 7286, 7235 | |

| AHQs (U) ISLAMABAD (LOG) | 051-9505556 |
|--|-------------|
| Hardness Tester, All Types Of Tyres (Tyre Sizes With Aspect Ratio, Brand, Pattern, Construction, Load Index, Speed Rating, Temperature And Year Of Manufacturing) (NOTE:- Separate Quotation (Technical And Financial) For Each Line Item Is Required) (As Req), For details / specifications / scope of work please contact Log Sqn on Phone No: 0323-9408714, 051-9505556 Email : Lsaq05@Paf.gov.Pk | |

| PAF BASE, RISALPUR (LOG) | 0324-3189565 |
|---|--------------|
| Dry Battery (for Electric Cart) 6V-225 AMP, Floor Polisher Machine, Local Purchase / Manufacturing of Passenger Boarding Ladder (Air Bus A 139 Aircraft) (As Req), For specifications/ scope of work any other query please contact No. Ext-3885, Mobile No. 0324-3189565 | |

| PAF BASE KALLAR KAHAR (LOG) | 0543-588308-2271 |
|---|------------------|
| BOOT COMBAT, SPORT VEST FULL SLEEVE, JERSEY PULL OVER COMBAT, JOGGER SHOES & CARPET SAFF FOR MASJID. Details / specifications / samples may please be checked from Log Sqn, PAF Base Kallar Kahar. 0543-588308-2281 Official Cell No 0323-9419713 Technical & Commercial quotation must be submitted separately (Single stage two envelope) (As Req), Items will be accepted after inspection, Quotation must be valid for 90 days, Sealed tenders are invited from IT/GST, professional tax registered firms on prescribed forms for the Purchase/ Repair of under mentioned items under "CLOSE FRAME WORK AGREEMENT" on credit basis, CLEANING MATERIAL: Black Polish, Bleaching Powder, Cloth Polish, Chamois Leather, Car Polish, Cloth Muslin, Dettol, Floor Polish, Gint, Metal Polish, Plastic Polish, Rag Coloured (1" X 1"), Rag Coloured, Soap Toilet, Soap Yellow (Mini Pack), Soda Ash, Liquid White, Powder Cleaning, K-2 Oil, STATIONERY: Stapple Pin, Register Ruled 4 Qrs, Register Ruled 3 Qrs, Gum Liquid Picked (Bottle), Tag Cotton 5 Small, Paper Wrapping, Paper Drawing Cartridge White, File Clip Plastic, Carbon Paper 8 1/2x13 1/2, Correcting Fluid White, Eraser Soft, Envelopes SE-7A , Envelopes SE-6, Envelopes SE-8A, D 0 Paper A-4, Ppc Paper A-4, Note Sheet Green, Ink For Rubber Stamp Pad, Stamp Pad Blue, Gum Stick Medium, STORAGE PRESERVATION: Shipping Box (36"x36" X30"), Shipping Box (24"x18"x18"), Tape Transparent, Tape Adhesive, Tape Masking, Foam 1/2", Bubble Sheet, Sheet Thermopore 39"x39"x1", Polythene Sheet 0.06mm, Polythene Bag Lock (Diff Size), MISC IEMS: Batteries, 12 VOLT (09Amp,12Amp, 35 Amp, 80Amp, 120Amp,) 3.6 Lithium, dry 12v, UPS BATT 12V 7-12AMP, Alkaline 9V, 12 V 7 Ah, Rechargeable Batt cell 1.2 V, 10.8 Lithium Battery), TONNERS (85A, 48A, 26A, 17A, 35A,) FILTERS (OIL FILTER, GDO-401, 345, 198, 133, 171, 135, 348 GDA-916, 2002, 2024, 508, 952, 875, 2003, 449 GDF-461, 206, 456, 213, 214, 441, 223, 222 QFC 252, HYDRAULIC FILTER (As Req), Items will be accepted after inspection, Details / specifications / samples may please be checked from Log Sqn, PAF Base Kallar Kahar. 0543-588308-2281 Official Cell No 0323-9419713 Technical & Commercial quotation must be submitted separately (Single stage two envelope), Quotation must be valid for 365 days | |

| NO 107 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG) | 021-99547321 |
|--|--------------|
| 6515PK0017718 Flow Sensor, 5962PK0019414 Single Board Computer 2.0 GHZ, 5962PK0019418 Board PCI Universal, 5962PK0019404 PICMGBP 14 Slot, 5961NL-EL415-2044 Latching Relay, KW-ML-4-214S 7 Segment Display, 5962PK0019350 QFP 28 Pin, 5962-9308501MXC EE PLD Programmable Logic D, 44A12-P4 Ultra Volt Power Supply, 15A12-P4 Ultra volt power supply, 44A12-P4 Ultra volt power supply 4K, 4NIC-DC10 DC-DC Converter, U-94A/U Audio Jack U-94, VG95328M-6PN Plug TB Lead, DR-25-3/8-0 Raychem Sleeve, DR-25-3/16-0 Shrinkable Sleeve, M27500-22TG2T14 22 AWG STP Wire, TY-4TT-2008-04418 Chinese Plug 4 Pin, For further technical information, specification and company make, model please contact on Telephone No 021-99547321, 99547379 | |

| PAF BASE BHOLARI (LOG) | 03239431714 |
|--|-------------|
| Promixer CMS-1000, Oil Eng 15W-40, Oil Eng 20W-50, Sealant (PR14222B2), Transmission Oil ATF 220, All types of MT Tyres, Power Supply Unit AC/DC Pt No BMLM1510051/1 Input: 230 VAC 50/60 HZ, Output: 0-40 VDC 0-10A (As Req), Add: (Officer In charge, Logistics Squadron, PAF Base Bholari Hyderabad (Send Via Leopard Courier Service or Pakistan Post Only Preferably 'Single Stage Two Envelope' procedure vide PPRA Rule 36(b)) For details / specifications please contact on Tel 022-9501 500 Ext 2287 and Cell No 03239431714 | |

| AHQ (U) PESHAWAR (LOG) | 091-952-6890 |
|---|--------------|
| Coaxial High Power Amplifier (As Req), Detail Specifications may be obtained from Log Sqn AHQ (U), Peshawar, Tel: 091-9506895, Mobile: 0323-9403226 | |

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- General terms and conditions are mentioned in tender form (F-528A). Forms and tender notices complete details can be downloaded from PAF website "www.paf.gov.pk" or can be obtained from respective Bases/ Log Sqns on working days.
- The firm must be GST and professional Tax registered having NTN.
- Last date of submission of tenders: **17 SEPTEMBER, 2024 (1000 hrs)**.
- Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1100 hours.
- No advance payment will be made and payment will be subject to acceptance of the items by user activity.
- Officers Commanding of the mentioned Bases/ Units reserve the right to reject any part or the entire tender on technical grounds.
- Quotations must be valid for 90 days.
- Sales Tax as applicable must be mentioned separately.
- Guarantee / Warranty term / period should also be mentioned.
- The agreement will be governed by official secret act. 1923.

Peshawar: The ancestral abode of cinema legends

PESHAWAR (APP): With a documented history spanning approximately 2400 years, Peshawar carried a unique legacy as a birth-place of both national and international film stars, who left an indelible mark on the subcontinent's cinema industry through their exceptional performances.

Often referred to as the "City of Artists," Peshawar is the ancestral home of cinema and TV icons such as Yousaf Khan, known as Dilip Kumar, Prithvi Raj and Raj Kapoor who ruled over subcontinent film industry for many decades, with their names often seen as a guarantee of success on box office

The ancestral homes of these Bollywood luminaries are still located near the historic Qisakhwani Bazaar Peshawar, where they spent significant portions of early lives before their families migrated to British India in search of better opportunities.

Raj Kapoor's father, Prithvi Raj was the first self-confessed Hindu Pathan belonged to Peshawar, who moved to Mumbai in 1930 where he prevailed over South Asian's film industry as an actor, director and producer, thereby laying the firstever Bollywood dynasty spanned about four generations.

Similarly, all time great Shah Rukh Khan (SRK) - a king of romance and action-has strong roots in Peshawar. His father, Taj Muhammad Khan was born and raised at Qissakhwani Pesawar where his celebrated son had spent a good time with his family members during his teenage before becoming a superstar of Bollywood.

In a 10 minutes distance from Kapoor's Haveli and Shah Rukh Khan's residence, there is a four-marla house of another Bollywood legend, Dilip Kumar who ruled over Indian cinema for nearly six decades with over 65 successful films on his credit.

Born at the residence of Lala Ghulam Sarwar Khan at Mohallah Khudadad near Qissa Khawani on December 11, 1922, Yousaf Khan's film name Dilip Kumar had spent his childhood and adulthood in Peshawar for 13 years before migrated to Mumbai in 1935 with his father, who established fresh fruit business there.

"Dilip uncle was an inborn film star. He walked and talked like a superstar when he was a child in Peshawar. Yousaf Khan Lala was very loving and his dialogue delivery has impressed me along with relatives, friends and neighbours immensely," said Faud Ishaq, the nephew of Dilip Kumar and President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) while talking to APP.

"Yousaf Khan Lala had loved performing art and visited Cinemas for watching films at Peshawar's during his childhood before finding an opportunity to materialize his cherished dreams of becoming a superstar in Mumbai where he was given a staged film name Dilip Kumar and has soon earned a prominent place in the competitive Bollywood," said Faud Ishaq.

"Dilip Kumar's casting was considered success of Indians' movies especially in romantic and tragic movies during his six-decade long rule on Bollywood where he acted in over 65 popular films and earned the title of "King of Romance and Tragedy."

Showed dynamic acting skills in popular movies including Naya Door (1957), Gang Jamna (1961), Deodas (1955), Kohinoor (1960), Leader (1946), Babul (1949), Andaz (1949), Paigam (1959), Foothpath (1953), Mashall (1984), Karma (1986), Dilip Kumar had made lasting imprints on the Indian cinamas and almost ever producer/director cast him as a hero.

"The history of subcontinent cinema is incomplete without Dilip Kumar," said film and TV actor Javed Babar, pride of performance while talking to APP.

Bollywood's films history would be written before and after Dilip Kumar as he left an indelible mark on Indian silver screen before leaving the mortal world on July 7, 2021 at Mumbai hospital.

In his autobiography "Dilip Kumar - The Substance And The Shadow", he recounted "We were living in undivided India at the time and there was a sizeable Hindu population and the men folk as well as women mingled freely with Muslims in market square, wishing each other and exchanging pleasantries ever so cheerfully.

Faud Ishaq said that Dilip Kumar was perhaps the only actor, who had received highest civil awards both by Pakistan and Indian Govt referring to Pakistan's Civil Award "Nishan e Imtiaz" for bringing people of both the countries closer.

"Peshawar and Dilip Kumar is inseparable," Faud Ishaq said, adding the latter his special love for Peshawar that can be judged from his power of attorney in which he desired to use his ancestral house for welfare of Peshawarties.

"I can still recall that when Yousaf Khan Lala came to Peshawar in 1988 and later in 1998 was welcomed by thousands of his fans gathered at Qissa Khawani to see few glimpses of the Mughal Azam's hero," he said. "Dilip sahib wished to see his house in 1998 at Peshawar. So we select to visit his house between 1:30am to 2:00am (midnight) but could not enter due to jampacked Qissa Khwani and we returned back," Faud Ishaq recalled.

Later, Dilip Kumar visited historic Balahisar Fort and taken a birds' eyes view of Peshawar City from its rooftop before enjoying the mouthwatering Chappli Kabab, Paiye and Bakkarkhani rooti (bread) brought for him from historic Ghanta Ghar, Peshawar City," he said, adding he also liked traditional Peshawar's Bhoski Qameez with white Shalwar, Teli Chappal and Karakoor cap (Jinnah Cap) and "whenever he came here used it with pride of being the son of Peshawar."

Bakhtazada Khan, Assistant Director Archeology said that the possession of four-marla house of Dilip Kumar and six marla Haveli of Raj Kapoor had been taken over by KP Government in 2020 that would be converted into museums to pay tributes to the Peshawar's great sons, adding both houses were declared as Protected Monument under Antiquity Act of 1997.

Prithviraj Kapoor, who is considered a pioneer of Indian film and theatres world and whose family has continued to entertain global audiences through cinema for many decades, was also born at Peshawar. Prithviraj's son Raj Kapoor, who went on to become of India's youngest and most successful actor-director was also born at Peshawar.

Shah Rukh Khan (SRK)'s paternal family also belonged to Peshawar and their house was located closed at Dilip Kumar's house at Shahi Katal near Qissa Khwani. SRK came here in 16/17 years age to meet his family including cousin Noor Jehan.

"SRK's father Taj Mohammad Mir was born and brought up in Peshawar, and they had a business in Qissa Khwani Bazaar, before migrated to Delhi" said Javed Babar.

Another legendary film superstar of Bollywood, Vinod Khanna has also deep roots in Peshawar. Late Vinod Khanna was the son of Mehr Chand Khanna, a prominent businessman and former minister in Congress party who was born in Peshawar on October 6, 1946 in the limits of cantonment, Muhammad Ibrahim Zia, a known film historian from Peshawar said.

He said Mehr Chand Khanna, was belonged to a well-off family of Peshawar and had migrated to India in 1947.

At the time of migration, Vinod Khanna was an infant, but he had love for his birth city.

Peshawar is also proud of producing film and TV legend, Muhammad Qavi Khan who ruled over Pakistan silver screen after his famous Andara Ojala drama telecasted by PTV.

Besides many other stars, Firdus Jamal, Najeebullah Anjum, Ghazal maestro Khayal Muhammad were also born at Peshawar and their inclusion in dramas and films were prime choice of every producer to achieve maximum capital on the box office.



PESHAWAR: An old man waiting for the customers as he sells prayer beads at Ashraf Road.

Tordher visits Lemuna Hotel Swat

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Industries Commerce and Technical Education Abdul Karim Tordher, accompanied by Director of Business Facilitation, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BOIT) Iqbal Sarwar and his team, conducted visit to the Lemuna Hotel in Qandeel, Swat.

This prominent hospitality project, developed as per international standards, has been facilitated by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BOIT).

Upon arrival to the project site, the delegation was welcomed by Nawab Siraj GM Lemuna Hotel and Shaukat Khan Durrani, owner of Lemuna Hotel. On this occasion the SACM Abdul Karim Tordher congratulated Shaukat Khan Durrani, Fazal Azeem, and their team for the progress made on the Lemuna Hotel. He also appreciated the KP-BOIT team for their dedicated efforts and highlighted the significance of overseas Pakistanis in the economic development of the province, describing them as invaluable assets.

He stated that today, the "Lemuna Project" stands as evidence of overseas investment. Mr. Karim encouraged the Pakistani diaspora to invest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, contributing to its economic growth.

During the visit, the SACM offered insightful suggestions and assured full support of his department and KP-BOIT for the continued success of the Lemuna Hotel.

On this occasion the Director Business Facilitation Iqbal Sarwar emphasized the importance of the Lemuna Project, describing it as a groundbreaking hospitality initiative in the area, supported by KP-BOIT since its inception.

"Facilitating investors is central to KP-BOIT mission, as their contributions are vital to the province's development," Iqbal Sardar reaffirmed KP-BOIT's continued support for the Lemuna Hotel".

The owner of hospitality project Shaukat Khan Durrani, expressed his sincere gratitude for KP-BOIT's unwavering support throughout the project's development.

He further highlighted that Lemuna Hotel 52 crore Investment Project has been materialized upon the invaluable support from KP-BOIT.

He also invited the SACM to inaugurate the project upon its completion, marking a significant milestone for the region. Later on the SACM visited Kalakot and laid the foundation stone of another hotel K K. Mall which will be completed in upcoming 15 months. The same project will be a state of the art hotel which will be completed at an estimated cost of 800 million rupees.

Training for transgender empowerment

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Experts Centre for Market and Policy Research (ECMPR) has successfully completed its project, "Opening Doors for Transgender Individuals to Entrepreneurship in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa." This initiative empowers transgender individuals by providing essential skills for economic independence. In collaboration with the REST Vocational Center in Peshawar, ECMPR conducted a 6-week training program covering Amazon selling, digital marketing, and social media marketing. Fifteen transgender individuals completed the program, gaining the skills needed for online freelancing and digital entrepreneurship. ECMPR also offered personalized support through home visits, addressing the unique needs of participants to ensure their success. Committed to fostering inclusivity, ECMPR continues to support the transgender community in achieving economic empowerment.

Syndicate, senate in universities Kundi issues directives to ensure women representation

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, has issued directives regarding women's empowerment to ensure women representation in syndicate and senate in universities through out the province.

In line with the Governor's instructions, the Principal Secretary has sent a letter to all universities in the province on Sunday.

The letter highlights the Governor's concern about the lack of women representation in the syndicate and senate of these universities, as mandated by the Universities Act of 2012 sections 19(7) and 22(3A) of the Act stipulate that each university must include three women in both its syndicate and senate.

However, this provision has been ignored in several universities, which a violation of the law and contrary to the efforts towards women's empowerment.

It was directed the administration universities to immediately ensure the inclusion of three women in both their syndicate and senate to guarantee equal representation and promote women's empowerment in society.

Universities have been given a deadline of 15 days to comply with these directives and issue the necessary notifications.

Meanwhile, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, has paid tribute highlighting Syed Ali Geelani's significant role in the Kashmir liberation movement.

Governor Kundi highlighted Syed Ali Geelani's struggle as an indelible chapter in the history of Kashmir. He commended Geelani's relentless efforts and affirmed that democratic forces in the self-determination movement salute Geelani's contributions.

The Governor said that the atrocities committed by Indian forces could not deter Syed Ali Geelani from his path of righteousness.

He emphasized that Geelani's services towards the freedom of Kashmir are unforgettable.

Governor Kundi expressed confidence that the mission initiated by Syed Ali Geelani will continue until its completion. He concluded his message with a prayer that Allah grants Geelani's grave a place in paradise.

The Governor also visited the residence of Dawn

News Bureau Chief Ali Akber and offered Fatiha over demise of his father.

The Governor also visited the residence of Utmankhel Chief Dr Fasihuddin and condoled with him over the death of his brother.

Governor attends Oxford Alumni Community Pakistan event, expresses support for national dialogue sessions

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Sunday attended an event hosted by the Oxford Alumni Community Pakistan at the Governor House Peshawar and expressed his support for the national dialogue sessions.

The event featured discussions by education experts and speakers from the Oxford Alumni Community, who engaged in national dialogue sessions addressing various sectoral crises in Pakistan.

The speakers presented a range of suggestions and opinions aimed at fostering development, prosperity, and empowerment across the country's diverse sectors.

Governor Kundi welcomed the Oxford Alumni Community members to the Governor House and

expressed his support for the national dialogue sessions, highlighting their potential for positive outcomes in sectoral development.

He said that this was the first time that various seminars and conferences were being held at the Governor House and emphasized his commitment to presenting actionable recommendations for provincial and national progress.

Governor Kundi addressed the ongoing construction work at Arbab Niaz Cricket Stadium Peshawar, which has been ongoing since 2017 but remains incomplete. He criticized the lack of proper sports facilities, asserting that high-quality sports competitions cannot occur without suitable venues.

Governor Kundi also highlighted the absence of a cricket academy in the province and stressed the need for advanced technology in agriculture and other sectors to generate revenue and drive development. He lamented the tendency to address issues only at the last moment and called for serious measures to advance multiple sectors to build a developed nation.

Toru vows to provide relief to masses

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Food, Zahir Shah Toru, has vowed to continue efforts to provide relief to the people by addressing their problems as quickly as possible.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is focused on improving the living standards of the common man, and all possible measures will be taken in this regard.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Water and Sanitation Services Company Mardan (WSSCM).

The Chairman of the BoD, Engineer Adil Nawaz, along with Directors Haroon Rashid and Javed Hussain, briefed the Provincial Minister on the company's performance, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project and the challenges faced by the company.

Zahir Shah Toru

expressed satisfaction over the company's performance and assured that the issues faced by the company would be addressed on a priority basis.

Under the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's "Awami Agenda," there has been a significant improvement in service delivery, and citizens' issues are being resolved with just one click, the most minister added.

The Chairman of the WSSCM BoD, Engineer Adil Nawaz, thanked

Provincial Minister Zahir Shah Toru for his support and stated that providing funds to the company will help resolve the citizens' problems.

He emphasized that providing the best services with limited resources is their top priority and urged the citizens to cooperate with WSSCM staff to keep Mardan city clean.

He also appealed to defaulters to pay their bills on time to ensure uninterrupted service delivery.

Glowing tributes to Syed Ali Geelani for standing firm for IIOJK's independence despite Indian forces' endless oppression

PESHAWAR (APP): Growing tributes were paid the iconic Kashmiris leader Syed Ali Geelani, who stood firm for freedom of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) despite an endless oppression of Indian occupational forces, on his third death anniversary observed with great respect and admiration on Sunday.

Syed Ali Shah Geelani was one of the iconic leader of IIOJK, who stood up against the Indian occupation forces' over seven-decades long repressions as well as systematic state terrorism, human rights abuses and foght for Kashmir Cause till his last breath.

Ali Shah Geelani's famous saying "We are Kashmiris and Pakistan is our country" has inspired the people of the held valley to continue his rich legacy and peaceful struggle for

right of self determination as promised to them by the UN Security Council through several passed resolutions.

Inspite of severe threats to his life, he stayed at the held valley most of time and faced all challenges with bravery and steadfastness.

The Kashmiris living in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Kashmir held condolences references and highlighted his great services. Quran Khwani were also held.

"Ali Geelani's had fought the case of Kashmir with bravery in all forums and his life-long commitment and peaceful struggle to the Kashmir Cause was unprecedented in the modern era," Prof Dr Ejaz Khan, former Chairman International Relations Department, University of Peshawar while talking to APP.

Ali Geelani has left an inspired legacy for Kashmiris and his unparalleled courage and sacrifices during the freedom movement had left lasting imprints on the hearts and minds of people of Indian Occupied Kashmir who kept alive the indigenous freedom independence since India had illegally invaded the held valley on October 27, 1947.

"Late Geelani shahib had received widespread admiration due to his strong commitment for justice, equality, human rights and freedom while facing Indian persecution and oppression and never escaped from danger," he said.

"Geelani Sahib has deep love with people of IIOJK and died among them during a long-drawn house arrest on September 1, 2021," he said.

He said the Indian occupation forces' oppression, war crimes and disregards for

human rights were further exposed after they snatched Geelani dead body from his family, and hurriedly buried in a graveyard in the absence of his relatives and friends at night.

He said the family, relatives and friends of the great Kashmiri leader were not allowed to pay their final respects, funeral or bury him in a graveyard of choice.

Hussain Khateeb, member All Parties Hurriyat Conference (Gillani Group) said late Ali Shah Geelani being champion of humans rights had exposed Indian occupation forces' organized state terrorism and war crimes.

Referring to the September 2021's Pakistani dossier, he said about 8,652 unmarked graves were identified in 89 villages of six districts in the held valley while bodies of 37 Kashmiris Indian forces

were beyond recognition.

Over 96,000 cases of extra judicial killings, around 162,000 cases of arbitrary arrests and torture, over 25,000 pellet guns injuries, 11,250 women raped, 23,000 women widowed and over 108,000 children orphaned by the Indian army since 1989 were reported, he claimed.

Syed Ali Geelani had also raised strong voices against excessive use of pellet guns against peaceful Kashmiris and cluster ammunitions by India to target civilians population along the Line of Control.

The children and women was being used as human shields during encounters at IIOJK where they were forced to sleep at military camps to dig out minefields besides tying youth on military jeeps testified the Modi fascist government's direct involvement in war

crimes and genocide of Kashmiris.

The killing of freedom fighter Burhan Wani in fake encounter and putting hurried leader Yasin Malik in jail in a fake case, has further exposed the nefarious designs of the indian apartheid regime that converted IIOJK into the world biggest jail.

Dr Ejaz Khan said that Syed Ali Geelani was a true face and strong voice of the Kashmiris' struggle for their right of freedom.

He said Geelani's unflinching commitment and support to the Kashmiris' right to self-determination, in the face of persistent persecution, cruelties and tremendous hardship, had inspired generations of Kashmiris in resisting the occupation and tyranny of the Hinduvata regime.

Ejaz Khan said late Geelani had been a steadfast advocate for the inalienable right to self-determination and became a role model of Kashmiris for his exemplified fearlessness, bravery and unflinching commitment to championing the rights of the Kashmiris.

He said that his legacy transcended the constraints of time and would continue to kindle the fervor of succeeding Kashmiri generations, inciting them to relentlessly strive for their birthright of freedom.

The experts said road to peace in South Asia was passing through Kashmir and another war on this lingering dispute would destabilize the entire region.

They urged UN bodies including its security council to implement its resolutions on Kashmir and press India to give right of self determination to the oppressed Kashmiris.



In brief

Rs10m cheques distributed F.P. Report

BUNER: Deputy Commissioner Kashif Qayyum and DPO Shah Hassan have paid Rs:10 Million cheque to each police martyr's legal heirs here in Daggar the other day. The Police Constable Nasir Khan of Nawagai Buner and Sher Wali Khan of Jangdara Buner were died in the attack on Swat district Matta tehsel Kabal CTD Police Station years ago. The DC and DPO, after fulfilling the legal requirements of family members shares in the package, gave the cheques to all the legal heirs according to their specified for them as per Sharia and law of the land. On the occasion of handing over the cheques, DC and DPO said that after the completion of the prevailing procedure for obtaining names and shares of legal heirs and completion Succession and Guardian Certificates, separate cheques were given to the heirs and also assured that other benefits will continue to be given as per the martyrs Package. They added the district administration and district police would always value the sacrifices of police martyrs as they were embraced martyrdom for the sake of maintaining peace and stability of motherland adding their sacrifices will always be remembered by whole the nation.

Eight injured as van overturns

JACOBABAD (INP): At least eight people including women and children were injured when a passenger van overturned due to bursting of tyre here on Sunday. According to details, a speedy passenger heading to Kandhkot from Jacobabad got out of control of driver after its tyre burst and turned turtle at Gorshani Mor. As a result of accident, eight people including women and children sustained injuries. The injured were shifted to Civil Hospital where their condition was stated to be stable.

Wild monkeys terrorise people

NAROWAL (INP): Monkeys roam freely on roads in city, stealing food from homes; Wildlife Department unresponsive despite calls; Rescue 1122 fails to capture wild animals. In Narowal, wild monkeys have created chaos, making life difficult for residents, the 24NewsHD TV channel reported on Sunday. According to the report, women and children, terrified by the monkey menace, have confined themselves to their homes. The channel reported that despite numerous phone calls, the Wildlife Department remains absent from the scene, while Rescue 1122 personnel attempted but failed to capture the monkeys. The wild monkeys have been roaming freely in the streets, neighbourhoods, and even on the rooftops of homes, often stealing food and other items. The channel reported that the presence of wild monkeys has caused panic among the residents, with women and children screaming in fear whenever they spot the monkeys. So far, the district administration has been completely unsuccessful in capturing or controlling the monkeys, leaving the community distressed and uncertain about when the situation will be resolved.



QUETTA: An injured of explosion near security forces check post at Chaman Phatak being treated at Civil Hospital. — INP Photo

PTI asks workers to fully participate in rally

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The Insaf Youth Wing (IYW) divisional president Rahat Farooqi has claimed that thousands of the party workers would participate in the proposed protest rally on Sep. 8.

Speaking at a news conference at the Timergara press club here on Sunday, Mr Farooqi said the party had sped up its struggle to free the PTI founder Imran Khan and other party leaders. The IYW divisional general secretary Mian Sajjad, Asif Iqbal, Syed Ubaid Jan and Suhaib Ahmad were also in attendance.

He said the PTI founder had been jailed for the last 15 months in baseless and

false cases. He alleged the rulers had made the constitution a toy and played with it. He said that several of the party leaders and activists were living in exile to avoid unconstitutional imprisonment.

The PTI activists said the country had no law and no constitution. They asked party workers to break the chains of slavery and come forward to get justice for the party founder and other leaders.

SCHOLAR DEFENSE: Mr. Ashfaq Ur Rahman, an MPhil scholar in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Malakand (UoM), has successfully defended his M.Phil thesis titled 'Dynamical behavior with cost-effective control

strategies of COVID-19' at the UoM here the other day. His thesis was supervised by Dr. Gul Zaman, Dean of Sciences and Professor of the said department. The external examiner was Dr. Faiz Ullah, Associate Professor at NUST, Islamabad, who appreciated the hard work of the scholar.

The Chairman of Mathematics, Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad, and all the teachers congratulated the scholar on achieving this milestone and encouraged him to further explore the same area. The scholar, Ashfaq Ur Rahman, wholeheartedly thanked all his teachers, friends, and well-wishers for their support on his significant achievements.

MPA Amir Shah falls victim to online scam

BAHAWALPUR (INP): In a recent incident in Bahawalpur, MPA Syed Amir Ali Shah became a victim of online fraud.

According to the details, the MPA from PP-250 Bahawalpur received a bogus call in which he was falsely informed about the approval of development schemes and was asked to deposit funds immediately.

Believing the call to be genuine, MPA Amir Shah transferred over Rs631,000 online as per the instruction of the caller.

The fraudulent activity was soon reported, and a case was registered at the Uch Sharif police station.

This incident highlights the ongoing issue of online scams targeting individuals, even public officials, with sophisticated tactics.

Hub dam overflows

HUB (INP): The Hub Dam, one of Pakistan's largest reservoirs, has reached its full capacity, prompting the release of water through its spillways. The dam administration has reported that water is being released into the Hub River at a rate of 6,000 cusecs, a necessary measure to manage the overflow and prevent any potential damage.

As the water is released into the Hub River, the administration has taken precautions to ensure the safety of nearby communities. The release of 6,000 cusecs of water is being carefully monitored to manage the flow and prevent flooding downstream.

The full capacity of the Hub Dam is a welcome sight for the region, especially for the agricultural sector, which relies heavily on this water source. The spillway release will not only help manage the water levels but also contribute to recharging the water table in the downstream areas, benefiting agriculture and local ecosystems.

Rains expected in several partsamid cyclone impact

QUETTA (PPI): Pakistan Meteorological Department said on Sunday that the cyclonic storm ASNA over north-west Arabian Sea continued to move west-southwest-ward during past 12 hours and now lies at around a latitude 22.8 N & longitude 62.5 E at a distance of about 500km southwest of Karachi, 350km southwest of Ormara, 260km south of Gwadar and 430km east-southeast of Musqat (Oman).

The system is likely to track further southwestwards and weaken gradually. Under the influence of its circulation: Rain-thundershowers with a few heavy falls and accompanied with squally winds (60-70Km/hour) is likely in Ormara, Pasni, Gwadar, Jiواني and Turbat till this evening.

Heavy rains may create localized water logging in

low lying areas of Makran coast. Sea conditions are likely to remain rough or very rough with squally winds of 60-70 Km/hour gusting 80Km/hour till tonight. Fishermen of Balochistan have been advised not to venture in open sea till tonight while those of Sindh can resume their activities from today.

Sunday: Mainly hot and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country. However, rain-wind or thundershower is likely at isolated places in south Balochistan, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan, Kashmir and adjoining hilly areas. Rain windstorm or thundershowers with heavy falls are likely in Makran during the period.

Monday: Mainly hot and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country. However, rain-wind or thundershower is likely in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, northern Balochistan, Gilgit Baltistan, Kashmir and upper Punjab. Isolated heavy falls may occur in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Potohar region during the evening or night.

Past 24 Hours Weather: Rain-wind or thundershower occurred at isolated places in southern Sindh, southern Balochistan and upper Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

Rainfall (mm):Sindh: Thatta 20, Jacobabad 03, Karachi (Korangi 07, Faisal Base 04, Masroor Base, Kemari 03, DHA 02, M.O.S, Nazimabad, Surjani Town, Saddar 01), Balochistan: Ormara 12, Pasni 06, Gwadar 03, Quetta (Samungli 01), Jiواني 01, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Kalam 03.

Yesterday's Highest Maximum Temperature (°C): Turbat 40, Peshawar and Nokundi 39.

Commissioner inspects technical college administration

F.P. Report

KALAYA: Commissioner Kohat, Mutassimullah Shah visited Orakzai Technical College to review various activities. During the visit, the Commissioner inspected different parts of the college and checked the records, on Sunday.

The college administration gave a detailed briefing to the Commissioner. District administration officers were also accompanying the Commissioner Kohat.

During the college visit, it was observed that the provincial government has appointed all the teaching

staff in the college and also provided necessary machinery and equipment for all departments. After inspecting the college's cleanliness and various departments, a lengthy meeting was held with the Principal and teaching staff.

Commissioner Kohat gave necessary instructions to the college staff, saying that efforts should be made to attract as many students as possible for technical skills and training in the college. In this regard, he directed the district administration to continuously monitor the college and also issued orders to the

Principal to immediately contact the heads of all government and private schools.

It is worth mentioning that the Commissioner Kohat's visit was part of the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's program "Public Agenda".

Finally, Commissioner Kohat, Mutassimullah Shah, also gave a plan to raise awareness among people about the various technical departments of the college and emphasized on giving special attention to improving the performance of government technical institutions in tribal districts.

NP demands removal of BSO-B leaders' names from Fourth Schedule

QUETTA (PPI) National Party on Sunday demanded of the authorities to immediately remove the names of Baloch Students Organization-Bijar leaders, including chairman, from the Fourth Schedule.

In a statement, National Party spokesman strongly opposed the enlisting the names of BSO-Bijar leaders in the Fourth Schedule and a condemnable act.

He said that such tactics were being used to harass and intimidate political workers of Balochistan, adding that such tactics had not even been used during the worst dictatorships. The National Party spokesman said that point of view of National Party at any forum remained the same that problems of Balochistan should be addressed through negotiations and table talks instead of operations and bloodshed.

Over 2.8m consumers avail relief

MULTAN (APP): Chief Engineer Customer Services Multan Electric Power Company (Mepeco) Syed Jawad Mansoor Shah said on Sunday that 2.86 million electricity consumers in the Mepeco region were benefiting from the Punjab government's relief package, which had offered a reduction of Rs 14 per unit.

The package resulted in a total savings of Rs 11.93 billion being passed on to consumers in their electricity bills the region.

During August 2024, around 1.61 million con-

sumers across 13 districts in South Punjab, who consumed between 201 and 500 units of electricity and received a relief of Rs 6.52 billion. Similarly, in September 2024, 1.26 million consumers are being provided with a discount of Rs 5.40 billion in their electricity bills, he maintained.

Under the supervision of Mepeco CEO Engineer Jam Gul Muhammad Zahid, the company canceled official holidays on Saturday and Sunday to expedite the printing and distribution of the discounted electricity bills. Efforts are being

made to ensure the remaining bills are printed and delivered to consumers promptly.

Chief Engineer Syed Jawad Mansoor Shah also issued strict instructions to Superintending Engineers, Deputy Commercial Managers, Executive Engineers, Revenue Officers, and Sub-Divisional Officers to monitor the distribution of the relief package bills and ensure all eligible consumers receive their revised bills at their doorstep without any delay.

Probe demanded into Quetta college fire

QUETTA (PPI): Provincial Zonal Organizer, Pushtunkhwa Students Organization, Saifullah on Sunday called on the authorities to conduct inquiry as to how fire broke out at Government Science College Quetta, why administration did not reach at the site and why

immediate steps were not taken to extinguish the fire.

It was stated by him while addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club with other zonal leaders of PSO. He said that residents of the areas were witnessing plumes of smoke the whole night but

neither the college administration nor the district administration bothered to take steps for extinguishing the fire. He added that fire brigade station was located adjacent to the college, but firefighters did not reach. He said that fire destroyed the whole structure of the college.

Kiln workers – Braving tougher times

FAISALABAD (APP): Amidst challenges of economic slowdown and price hike, the poor in anywhere in the world had to toil hard for survival and earn living for their families.

In an environment where capitalists take it as their just right to exploit them, these workers had to go extra miles for keeping their families go as they are paid a meager share out of millions and billions earned by their employers.

Brick kiln workers are also not an exception to this exploitation who despite flourishing business, seldom enjoy basic amenities and are forced to work in the most vulnerable situation along with their families.

Categorized in six types, they are Munshis (accountant), Jalai Wala (fire man), Bharai Wala (brick setter), Nakasi Wala (brick excavator), Jamadar (sweeper) and

Patheras (brick molder). But, Patheras are the most vulnerable segment like Jalaiwala and Nakasiwala.

"Patheras have to live at sight along with their families with minimum facilities. They have to work for long hours to fulfill demand of owners," stated Akbar Ali, worker at a kiln house. "Not they alone, but their families also have to work till odd hours because they are often bound in debt bondage."

"Same is the situation of a fire worker or a brick excavator. Although their work duration is lesser than brick maker yet their task is the most dangerous as they even risk their lives as their job is like playing with fire," Akbar said. "Even then, these workers are paid less than minimum wages occasionally announced by the government. The job of Munshi is somehow

comfortable for only being a bit literate while all other segments are either illiterate or lesser qualified."

Workers or laborers are generally registered with Punjab Employees Social Security Institution (PESSI), Employees' Old-age Benefits Institution (EOBI) and Workers' Welfare Fund and are eligible to get marriage and death grants, talent scholarships and other incentives.

But most of kiln workers are ignorant of these facilities while the kiln owners are also hesitant to pay their mandatory contribution on one pretext or the other. For this, they do not even hesitate to offer bribes to officials who ask them to get their employees registered.

Kiln workers are also forced to work without health cover. Their children cannot get education and their families

unable to benefit from social cover like death, health and other grants sanctioned by the workers welfare fund due to their non-registration.

Amidst all this, Ghulam Shabbir Kalyar Director Labor West Faisalabad claims, there are 478 brick kilns across the district with a number of 21632 registered kiln workers. "After brick kilns were declared an industry, their workers are entitled to all incentives and facilities admissible to industrial workers."

He said the Punjab government is fully cognizant to its duties. The kiln workers are registered with PESSI or EOBI and can avail a marriage grant of Rs.400,000 while the government pays Rs.800,000 as death grant to worker's family if he dies while performing his duties. "Similarly, educational scholarships

were also admissible for their children if they wanted to get higher education at colleges or universities."

Kalyar informed that Labor and Human Resource Department had chalked a strategy to implement minimum wages notification. "Therefore, the teams of Labor Department visit industries including brick kilns and force kiln owners to pay minimum wages announced by the government."

Rana Muhammad Azam Khan, a social activist said he observed lives of kiln workers very closely as he remained teacher at a private school run by an NGO to educate children of kiln workers.

"Their lives are miserable and major reason behind this is their illiteracy and ignorance of their basic rights.

Hence they cannot raise their voice if some-

one exploits them and usurp their rights," he said.

Azam said it is very common that kiln workers borrow money from kiln owners to run their families but spend this money on frivolous activities like taking drugs, gambling, pigeon flying etc. So when under debt, the owners force them to work as per their desires and pay lesser amount.

"Consequently, they approach another kiln owner, borrow money from him to retire the previous debt and are further trapped and this vicious cycle goes on throughout their lives," Azam regretted.

He said some kiln philanthropists have launched special education for children of kiln workers and facilitate them on religious and other occasions but all are not covered.

Some of NGOs also

exploit this situation and grab grants from donors for kiln workers welfare but spend a nominal amount keeping remaining with them in the name of other expenditures.

No doubt that the government has repeatedly assured and directed the PESSI to issue social security cards to kiln workers but it is not fully implemented apparently due to kiln owners' refusal to submit their contribution.

Therefore, in the prevailing situation, the government must take strict measures and introduce revolutionary reforms for this unorganized sector to extend all facilities to kiln workers admissible under the relevant laws.

It should also force kiln owners to pay their contribution so these workers could get their due share from concerned departments.



A German far-right party leads exit polls in one state election

BERLIN (AP): The far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, was on track to become the strongest party in a state election for the first time Sunday in the country's east, and was roughly level with mainstream conservatives in a second vote, exit polls showed.

A new party founded by a prominent leftist was also making an immediate impact, while the parties in Chancellor Olaf Scholz's unpopular national government were set for weak results.

The exit polls for ARD and ZDF public television put support for Alternative for Germany, or AfD, at 30.5-33.5% in Thuringia and 31.5% in Saxony. They put the center-right Christian Democratic Union, the

main opposition party at national level, at 24.5% in Thuringia and 31.5-32% in Saxony.

It's extremely unlikely that any other party will agree to put AfD in power by joining it in a coalition. Even so, its strength is likely to make forming new state governments extremely difficult. The strength of the new Sahara Wagenknecht Alliance, or BSW, which was seen taking up to 16% of the vote in Thuringia and 12% in Saxony, adds another level of complication. "This is a historic success for us," Alice Weidel, a national co-leader of AfD, told ARD. She described the result as a "requiem" for Scholz's coalition.

The CDU's national general secretary, Carsten

Linnemann, said his party will stick to its longstanding refusal to work with AfD. Weidel denounced that as "pure ignorance" and said that "voters want AfD to participate in a government."

Deep discontent with a national government notorious for infighting, anti-immigration sentiment and skepticism toward German military aid for Ukraine are among the factors that have contributed to support for populist parties in the region.

AfD is at its strongest in the formerly communist east, and the domestic intelligence agency has the party's branches in both Saxony and Thuringia under official surveillance as "proven right-wing extremist"

groups. Its leader in Thuringia, Björn Höcke, has been convicted of knowingly using a Nazi slogan at political events, but is appealing.

Scholz's center-left Social Democrats at least appeared set to remain in the two state legislatures, despite some election fears that they wouldn't. But the environmentalist Greens appeared set to lose their seats in Thuringia. The two parties were the junior coalition partners in both outgoing state governments.

A third state election follows Sept. 22 in another eastern state, Brandenburg, currently led by Scholz's center-left Social Democrats. Germany's next national election is due in a little over a year.



TORONTO: The military aerobatics flight demonstration team of the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Snowbirds, showcase their skills at the 75th Canadian International Air Show in Toronto.

Brazil's Amazon rainforest fires in August reach 14-year high

SAO PAULO (Reuters): The number of fires in Brazil's Amazon rainforest region for the month of August surged to the highest level since 2010, government data showed on Sunday, after a record drought that has been plaguing the biome.

Last year's rains came late and were weaker than usual because a weather pattern, known as El Nino, was supercharged by climate change, leaving the rainforest especially vulnerable to this year's fires.

Satellites detected 38,266 fire hotspots in the

Amazon in August, more than double compared to the previous year and the largest number for that month since 2010, data from Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (Inpe) showed.

The August data reaching a 14-year high comes after last month's fire hotspots in the region surged to a two-decade high.

While the data is the fastest indicator of the state of fires in the region, which often peak between August and September, it does not indicate the intensity.

Fires in the naturally wet and humid biome often start on cattle ranches where locals are converting the jungle into pastures for cattle ranching.

Warmer air and drier vegetation have created conditions where fires can spread more rapidly as well as burn more intensely and for longer. Deforestation has also reduced the rainforest's ability to produce rain and humidity.

Helga Correa, a conservation specialist at WWF-Brazil, said in an initial assessment of the August

data last week that the fires were driven by a combination of weather, climate change and human actions.

"The region where we detected concentrated smoke in August coincides with the so-called Arch of Deforestation, which includes the north of Rondonia, the south of Amazonas and the southwest of Para," she said.

"This indicates that, in addition to climate change and El Nino, changes in land use produced by humans play a central role in the increase in fires," she said.

Shanshan, downgraded from typhoon, leaves 7 dead, damage in Japan

TOKYO (Reuters): Tropical cyclone Shanshan, downgraded from a typhoon, left seven people dead and widespread damage as it churned off the Pacific coast of central Japan on Sunday.

The Japan Meteorological Agency continued to warn of landslides, floods and rising water levels in

rivers in western and eastern Japan, citing increased risks due to ground loosening from record-breaking rainfall since the storm hit the southern coast on Thursday.

On the Pacific side of eastern Japan, unstable atmospheric conditions caused by rain clouds around the tropical cyclone and the inflow of

warm, moist air from a Pacific high-pressure system were causing heavy rain and thunderstorms, the agency said.

Some Shinkansen "bullet train" services remained disrupted, but Tokyo-Osaka service, suspended in some sections, will resume on Sunday evening. Central Japan Railway, opens new tab said.

The seventh death from Shanshan was reported in Fukuoka in southwestern Japan on Sunday, Kyodo news agency said.

Before that, the typhoon had crept eastward, drenching large areas with torrential rain, triggering landslide and flood warnings hundreds of kilometres from the storm's centre.

On the first day without X, Brazilians say they feel disconnected

SAO PAULO (AP): The blocking of social media platform X in Brazil divided users and politicians over the legitimacy of the ban, and many Brazilians on Saturday had difficulty and doubts over navigating other social media in its absence.

The shutdown of Elon Musk's platform started early Saturday, making it largely inaccessible on both the web and through mobile apps after the billionaire refused to name a legal representative to the country, missing a deadline imposed by Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes. The blockade marks an escalation in a months-long feud between Musk and de Moraes over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation.

Brazil is one of the biggest markets for X, with tens of millions of users.

"I've got the feeling that I have no idea what's happening in the world right now. Bizarre," entertainment writer and heavy X user Chico Barney wrote on Threads. Threads is a text-based app developed by Instagram that Barney was using as an alternative. "This Threads algorithm is like an all-you-can-eat restaurant where the waiter keeps serving things I would never order."

Bluesky, a social media platform that was launched last year as an alternative to X and other more established sites, has seen a large influx of Brazilians in the past couple of days. The company said Friday it has seen about 200,000 new users from Brazil sign up during that time, and the number "continues to grow by the minute." Brazilian users are also setting records for activities such as follows and likes, Bluesky said.

Previous users of other platforms welcomed Brazilians to their ranks. "Hello literally everyone in Brazil," a user wrote on Threads. "We're a lot nicer than Twitter here," said another.

Platform migration isn't new for Brazilians. They were huge adopters of Orkut and, when Orkut went kaput, they very gladly moved to other platforms.

X is not as popular in Brazil as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or TikTok. However, it remains an important platform on which Brazilians engage in political debates and is highly influential among politicians, journalists and other opinion makers.

It's also where they share their sense of humor. Many of the country's most

famous memes originate from posts on X before spreading to other social networks. Last week, for instance, Brazilians collaboratively crafted an absurd storyline for a fictional telenovela, complete with a theme song created using artificial intelligence tools.

Pop stars and their fanbases were also hit by Brazilians being left off the platform.

"Wait a lot of my fan pages are Brazilian!!! Come back hold up!!," Cardi B said Friday on X. A fan page dedicated to Timothée Chalamet, known by the handle TimotheeUpdates, said it would temporarily cease updating as all of its administrators are Brazilian.

De Moraes said X will stay suspended until it complies with his orders, and he also set a daily fine of 50,000 reais (\$8,900) for people or companies using virtual private networks, or VPNs, to access it. Some legal experts questioned the grounds for that decision and how it would be enforced. Others suggested the move was authoritarian.

The Brazilian Bar Association said Friday in a statement that it would request the Supreme Court review the fines imposed on all citizens using VPNs or other means to access X without due process. Brazil's bar association argued that sanctions should never be imposed summarily before ensuring an adversarial process and the right to full defense.

"I've used VPNs a lot in authoritarian countries like China to continue accessing news sites and social networks," Mauricio Santoro, a political science professor at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, said on the platform before its shutdown. "It never occurred to me that this type of tool would be banned in Brazil. It's dystopian."

A search Friday on X showed hundreds of Brazilian users inquiring about VPNs that could potentially enable them to continue using the platform by making it appear they are logging on from outside the country.

"Tyrants want to turn Brazil into another commie dictatorship but we won't back down. I repeat: do not vote on those who don't respect free speech. Orwell was right," right-wing congressman Nikolas Ferreira, one of former President Jair Bolsonaro's closest allies, published before X went off. Musk replied with an emoji suggesting

Pope to visit Jakarta's Istiqlal mosque in push for interfaith harmony

JAKARTA (Reuters): When Pope Francis visits Indonesia next week, he will stop by a mosque in Southeast Asia, and to visit the tunnel, which features windows to let in light and inscribed art on the walls but is not yet open to the public.

"It's extraordinary that the Catholics' number one figure is coming," said Nasaruddin Umar, the grand imam of the Istiqlal, whose vast parking lot is often open to churchgoers during major events. "Whatever your religion is, let's respect our guest."

Only about 3% of Indonesia's population of 280 million are Catholic, while nearly 90% are Muslim.

The pope is scheduled to meet outgoing President Joko Widodo and hold a mass service at a Jakarta stadium, which is expected to be attended by more than 80,000 people, said Rev. Thomas Ulun Ismoyo, an Indonesian church official. The visit has excited Indonesian Catholics, who have not experienced a papal visit in more than

three decades.

"If I could meet him, I could only bow before him. I couldn't even bring myself to hold his hand," said Maria Regina Widayastuti Sasongko, a 77-year-old Catholic woman who sells items such as statues and t-shirts bearing the pope's face.

Indonesia has been visited by two popes before - the first, Pope Paul VI in a 1970 trip to Jakarta and in 1989, Pope John Paul II, who visited Jakarta and four other cities.

Yaqut Cholil Qoumas, Indonesia's religious affairs minister, said the pope's visit was a symbol of friendship among people of all religions in Indonesia.

"The pope's visit makes Indonesia the barometer of peace and a pillar of tolerance," he told Reuters.

Still Indonesia has had a chequered history with religious harmony.

Catholicism came to the country by way of Portuguese missionaries in its eastern area in the 16th century, but histori-

ans say it was banned during Dutch colonial rule for about two centuries in favour of Protestantism.

The Vatican officially named a diplomatic representative in Indonesia in the 1940s.

And in modern Indonesia, officially a secular state, minority religions can still face discrimination.

The U.S. religious freedom watchdog has said, opens new tab that "Indonesia's religious freedom conditions remained poor" in 2023, citing several regulations including ones that led to closures of places of worship, including churches.

Andreas Harsono, the Indonesia researcher for Human Rights Watch, said the roots of religious intolerance, and church closures, were the laws that facilitate them.

But for Sasongko, the Catholic woman selling papal merchandise, the arrival of the pope signifies hope for unity.

"His visit can transform people to love one another," she said.

At Solingen attack memorial, German president urges curb on migration

BERLIN (DPA): Germany should continue to value the right of asylum but must take steps to limit irregular migration, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said on Sunday at a memorial service for victims of a suspected Islamist attack last week in Solingen.

Germany "for good reason" has offered a refuge and safety to those fleeing warfare and oppression, as many Germans only managed to survive the Nazi regime because other countries opened their doors, Steinmeier said.

"We want to remain that country. And we can only remain so in the end if we are not overwhelmed by the number of those who (come) without the right to this special protection," Steinmeier told roughly 450 gathered mourners.

A 26-year-old Syrian man who was living in a nearby refugee residence was arrested in the wake of the stabbing rampage, which killed three people and injured eight others at a local festival in the western German city.

He is being held on suspicion of murder, suspected membership in the Islamic State terrorist group and other charges.

The Islamic State is claiming responsibility for the attack, but German authorities are still investigating the claim.

The suspected attacker is believed to have evaded a deportation order in Germany, something that has helped fuel a bitter debate in the country over asylum and migration policy.

"And we will only remain this country if those seeking protection abide by the laws of our country. Only then will we be able to maintain acceptance among the population," Steinmeier said on Sunday.

The president called for the government and the political opposition to work together to achieve the "huge task" of enforcing immigration laws and creating workable rules to manage migration and asylum claims.

Attack hit 'core of our national identity'

Steinmeier said that the act of bloodshed strikes at the heart of "a friendly, open and diverse country," he said.

"It strikes us at the core of our national identity in which people live together peacefully despite all differences and want to live together

- people who have lived here for generations as well as those who have arrived later," Steinmeier said at the service in the city's performing arts theatre.

In his eulogy, the German president said the perpetrator was targeting, with his hatred, just as others have before him, this way of life.

In his eulogy, Steinmeier acknowledged that the German state had failed to keep "its promise of protection and security" in Solingen, and that any mistakes or shortcomings that failed to prevent the attack must be dealt with comprehensively.

Steinmeier, who had spoken privately to the relatives of those killed and injured, said he could hardly imagine what the families and friends "are going through, what you must be suffering, what hell you are going through."

He charged that "fanatical Islamists want to destroy what we love" including an open society. While he acknowledged that people "feel fear and uncertainty," residents must not allow themselves to be paralysed with fear.

Scholz: Germany must 'learn lessons'

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who also took part in the memorial service, said in a post on X afterwards that the crime "hits us in the heart, it makes us angry."

"We owe it to them [the victims] and their families to learn lessons from this," Scholz wrote. "We mourn the dead of Solingen. We mourn with their families, with everyone in this city, with everyone in Germany."

Scholz's government proposed stricter rules on weapons, tight new limits on benefits for some asylum seekers and greater police powers to address suspected Islamist threats in the wake of the attack.

On Friday - for the first time since the Taliban retook power - a deportation flight to Afghanistan took off from Germany's Leipzig/Halle Airport with 28 convicted Afghan criminals on board.

Also attending the memorial services were the president of Germany's parliament, the Bundestag, Bärbel Bas; the state premier of North Rhine Westphalia, Hendrik Wüst; and the state's Interior Minister Herbert Reul.



The Frontier Post

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

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Harris sticks to ‘vacuous’ generalities

DEMOCRATIC presidential nominee Kamala Harris’ first sit-in interview with CNN’s Dana Bush – Harris had been avoiding one-to-one interviews and it was interpreted that her aides are protecting her from the ordeal because they are not sure whether she can handle them – came as a relief to her supporters, though the note of dissatisfaction was quite pronounced.

And there is also unanimity that she held herself without committing any faux pas, or she did not tie herself up in knots because of the many contradictions in her position. She gave evasive, generalised answers and refused to be pinned down. There was a bit of unhappiness with the CNN interviewer, Bush, that she did not press on with the hard questions which she asked anyway, but that she was much too soft and polite.

But the critics again agreed that Bush did not do a bad job, and that she asked all the questions that needed to be asked. With the commentators in the liberal The New York Times and the conservative National Review, the verdict about the interview was that Harris was ‘vacuous’. It would have been a damning comment if not for the unravelling of the Republican presidential nominee, Donald Trump.

He was quite focused and aggressive in his campaign against President Joe Biden, but he seems to have lost the sting when faced with Harris, who is a political novice compared to Biden. Trump did assume that Harris was a weaker candidate and that it would be much easier for him to beat her in the November election than it was to beat Biden.

But the Trump calculation has gone wrong. There is an unexpected enthusiasm for Harris in the Democratic Party and its supporters. The party was in emotional dumps as it were when Biden was the candidate until he decided to step aside at the end of June. There has been a burst of energy in the Democratic Party ever since Harris stepped in. People saw a sudden sense of hope in her even as they despaired at Trump’s relentless aggression.

There is a recognition now that Harris has really revived the spirits of the Democrats but there are now the hard questions whether she can state her policy stand on many of the burning issues apart from reiterating the position adopted by Biden, whether it is Ukraine or Israel, whether it is Medicare or revival of the housing sector. Harris has not revealed what her own political convictions are the way Biden was when he spoke out with passion against Russian President Vladimir Putin as posing a danger to democratic values of the Western world.

It appears that Harris is not capable of expressing strong convictions because she does not seem to have them. For her, policy positions are more about pragmatism than that of deeply-held beliefs. But she is deft and clever in getting into a trap about her beliefs.

She was quite emphatic in the CNN interview that she was not fighting for the presidency of the United States on the basis of her gender or race. She said that she was the best qualified person at the moment to be the president, and she would be the president of all Americans.

It might appear too much of a generality, but given Harris, it is the strongest conviction that she can express. And she is likely to hold this thin line which would enable to navigate the campaign shoals between now and November. The fact that Trump is completely at a loss on how to attack Harris, and his criticism has now become a shallow and weak litany of her limitations, gives Harris the elbow room to edge past Trump.

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Gaza has shown European universities are no longer places of free inquiry

Tasnim Uddin and A H Misbach

Jamaican-British academic Stuart Hall once said “the university is a critical institution or it is nothing”. Indeed, universities have an important role to play in upholding the imperatives of academic freedom and critical inquiry, especially today, amid the growing debate and protests over Israel’s war on Gaza.

However, despite their ethical and legal commitments to scholarly freedom, many Western institutions of higher education have failed to protect or even suppressed faculty and students who have expressed their solidarity with the Palestinian people. In the United Kingdom, we have observed a worrying pattern in which universities have ended up doing the bidding of a British government fully supportive of a war that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has ruled could be plausibly genocidal and that has potentially left 186,000 Palestinians dead.

Under the guise of upholding “institutional neutrality” or protecting the welfare of Jewish students and staff – which has led to a paternalism that has dangerously homogenised the opinions and commitments of Jewish academics, as the UK Jewish Academic Network writes – universities across the country have cracked down on pro-Palestinian solidarity on their premises.

An open letter released in August by leading Middle East studies organisation BRISMES has documented the types of repression that have been taking place against those expressing solidarity with Palestinians on UK campuses. These range from the cancellation or bureaucratic obstruction of certain speaking events to subjecting staff and students to investigations. According to the human rights charity Liberty, universities have also shared information with the police about their own students’ social media posts and protest activities.

At Queen Mary, University of London (QMUL), where one of the authors works, several incidents have demonstrated its administration’s lack of commitment to upholding freedom of inquiry and speech.

A freedom of information (FOI) request filed earlier this year by a QMUL staff member, for example, revealed that the management requested the local council remove a Palestinian flag near their Mile End campus put up by the local community to “support peoples’ rights and freedoms”.

In February, the university also instructed their estate personnel to break into the offices of the local university union branch to remove two posters expressing support for Palestine out of “free speech concerns”.

While trying to suppress expression of solidarity with the Palestinian people, the administration has also shown remarkable disinterest towards the plight of academics who have been persecuted for their pro-Palestinian views.

In April, Professor Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, a leading Palestinian scholar at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ) and global

chair in law at Queen Mary, was arrested by the Israeli authorities for criticising Israel over its actions in Gaza. She was subjected to inhumane treatment in prison and harassed by her colleagues at HUJ and the Israeli media.

Yet Queen Mary did not issue a public condemnation of Shalhoub-Kevorkian’s mistreatment even after more than 250 academics at the university signed an open letter calling on its president to do so.

Unfortunately, some university administrations have gone even further in their pursuit to suppress pro-Palestinian solidarity on campuses.

The European Legal Support Centre (ELSC), a leading independent advocacy group that seeks to defend those expressing support for Palestinians, where one of the authors works, has documented scores of disciplinary and punitive responses by British universities since

lawyers, retired senior judges and the definition’s author.

These ministerial castigations crept into the ivory towers of higher education leadership and shaped how universities handled issues of free speech and protest. This is reflected in three ongoing cases ELSC is supporting.

Twenty-two-year-old Hanin Barghouthi, a student at the University of Sussex and co-president of its Feminist Society, was arrested under counterterrorism laws in October after delivering a speech at a pro-Palestine protest for allegedly expressing support “for a proscribed organisation”. The university also initiated an investigation.

Shortly after, Amira Abdelhamid at the University of Portsmouth was suspended from her work pending an investigation over tweets related to October 7 and criticising the UK’s anti-terror laws.

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On October 8, the day Israel began its military assault on Gaza, Home Secretary Suella Braverman called for the police to crack down on any support for Hamas. Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick directed officials to explore revoking visas to foreign nationals accused of anti-Semitic acts or praising Hamas. These government actions came at a time when support for the Palestinian cause was often equated with support for Hamas, while accusations of anti-Semitism were readily made against people expressing criticism of Israel or pro-Palestinian sentiments.
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October 7. Its findings – which will be arranged in a “database of repression” and will be released early next year – paint a worrying tableau of crackdowns on Palestine advocacy across British universities.

The precursor to this crackdown was an environment of vilifying Palestine supporters fostered by the previous British government. On October 8, the day Israel began its military assault on Gaza, Home Secretary

Suella Braverman called for the police to crack down on any support for Hamas. Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick directed officials to explore revoking visas to foreign nationals accused of anti-Semitic acts or praising Hamas.

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The conflation between legitimate criticism of Israel with claims of anti-Semitism has been a long-standing issue in UK higher education, with former Education Secretary Gavin Williamson demanding universities adopt the controversial International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism which has been condemned by civil society groups, leading

She was accused of bringing the university’s name into disrepute and supporting a “proscribed group”.

She was then referred by her employer to the controversial PREVENT programme – a counterterrorism education programme heavily criticised by human rights organisations and the UN for its abuses.

Abdelhamid then found herself the target of the same counterterrorism laws which she had criticised on X, as police arrested her and searched her home. The case against her was eventually dropped.

Dana Abu Qamar, a student of Palestinian descent at the University of Manchester, faced expulsion from the UK after expressing her support for Palestinians engaging in lawful resistance in a brief interview with Sky News on October 8.

She was mourning the loss of members of her family killed by an Israeli air strike in Gaza when the Home Office served her a notice of intention to cancel her T4 student visa on the basis that her presence in the UK was “not conducive to the public good”.

After Abu Qamar submitted a human rights claim and written representations, the Home Office wrote back, rejecting her human rights claim and informing her that her visa would be cancelled. The government then instructed the University of Manchester to expel her, which it obliged only to reinstate

shortly after.

ELSC’s work suggests that these are not isolated cases but point towards a pattern of repression across UK campuses, and a convergence between university leaders and the British state, ranging from direct instruction to ideological alignment.

The deployment of counterterrorism laws against academic staff and students is also a serious cause for concern. Not only are they repressive in their disproportionality, but they will likely have a chilling effect on pro-Palestine speech while presaging the normalisation of the use of such legislation to suppress protest and free speech.

But the use of these laws also says something about how the state perceives those it targets. In the case of Barghouthi, Abdelhamid and Abu Qamar – these are three racialised women who are presented as fifth columns and national security threats. The views they express – including criticism of Israel’s genocidal actions – are defined as threatening to academic institutions as well.

The irony is that Israel – which the British government readily supplies with weapons despite the ICJ ruling – has obliterated in whole or in part, every single university in Gaza, killing scores of Palestinian academics and students.

ELSC has also observed similar patterns of repression across Europe. In France, universities have caved to the pressure to silence demonstrations of solidarity with Palestine, while the French authorities have launched investigations against students and academics, accusing them of promoting terrorism.

In Germany, the police, in coordination with university administrations, have also cracked down heavily on student protests. To suppress pro-Palestinian speech, the German Ministry of Education has gone as far as drawing up lists of pro-Palestinian academics in a bid to deprive them of future funding in academia.

In the United States, armed police were also deployed to clear protest encampments on campuses across the country. Thousands were arrested. Over the summer, universities prepared for a new wave of student demonstrations by changing campus rules and free speech policies, with one university deciding to effectively ban the use of the word “Zionist” in the context of criticism of Israel.

Many in Europe might think that academic repression takes place elsewhere in the world. The past 10 months have proven that university administrations in the UK, France, Germany and other European countries do not want to protect pro-Palestinian speech under their obligations of upholding academic freedom, and in fact aim to criminalise it (or worse, support the use of counterterrorism law).

The difference in repression compared to undemocratic settings may be only of degree, not of kind. In other words, our universities – like academic institutions elsewhere in the world – are no longer spaces of critical inquiry; they have become repressive arms of the state.

Europe and the post-America Middle East

Hafed Al-Ghwell

In the days following Biden’s decision to abandon his reelection campaign, a wave of hope surged among American policy influencers and key decision-makers anxious about Washington’s waning commitment to its global security responsibilities.

Current polls suggest the race for the Oval Office this November remains tight between Vice President Kamala Harris and Donald Trump – tempering expectations for the success of the electoral challenge to the latter’s isolationist “America First” ideology. But a palpable shift has reignited discourse among those convinced that only US leadership can navigate the world’s geopolitical crises, especially in the Middle East and North Africa.

Yet, despite Washington’s elites repeatedly asserting the primacy of American leadership in a restless world, the failures of the administrations’ handling of threats to global stability clearly signals an irreversible erosion of US influence. For the world weary roaming the halls of power in Washington, the US still faces tough questions about the coming post-America order for the Middle East, regardless of who wins in November.

However, Brussels cannot simply ignore or sideline the Arab region, a volatile neighborhood merely a stone’s throw from its own shores. In a world where US influence is increasingly diluted, Europe finds itself at a crossroads. Long relegated to playing second fiddle in a region once dominated by post-First World War European powers, the continent must now confront its limitations, while recognizing its core interests in the Middle East.

The stakes are high; from the threat of nuclear proliferation to proxy conflicts and the implosion of entire Arab states, the region’s instability has direct and severe repercussions for Europe. As America’s retreat looms, Europe cannot afford passivity. Instead, it must carve out a strategic role that promotes stability and preempts the disastrous cycles of conflict and impoverishment threatening to spill over into European territory.

Gone are the heydays, long before the current administration, where the US had sufficient breadth to grapple with a unique bipolar ability to shape outcomes in sprawling crises and critical conflicts, counting on unrestrained support from a Europe preoccupied with complex institution-building. With the tenor of US engagement slowly shifting toward absenteeism in favor of a vaunted “pivot” to the Indo-Pacific, Europe must now grapple with a new Middle East “reality.” It will demand a permanent detachment from colonial pasts and patronizing post-Second World War era policies for new forms of diplomatic engagement among equals.

Unfortunately, recent efforts have left much to be desired.

Contradictory, highly self-interested policies of France and Italy in Libya failed to achieve reunification under an effective government. Tunisia’s much-praised democratic ascent has since collapsed under a Kais Saied “hyper-presidency,” emboldened by Brussels’ unwillingness to check the attacks on political pluralism. Similarly, France’s inability to mediate in Lebanon has highlighted its dwindling influence, capped off by rising anti-French sentiment in parts of North Africa and the adjacent Sahel. Worse yet, myopic border externalization policies have inadvertently led to Europe bankrolling aspiring despots and turning a blind eye to serious human rights violations and the kleptocratic networks that thrive on trafficking in desperate migrants.

If Europe is to have a role to play in a fast-changing Arab region, it must do more than acknowledge its limitations, unforced errors, and grave miscalculations. On the contrary, Europe’s economic clout, diplomatic

experience, and strategic interest provide it with unique tools to affect the region. One area of critical engagement is Iran and its nuclear ambitions.

As Washington recalibrates its foreign policy and distances itself from the dizzying geopolitics of the Middle East, Europe confronts an unavoidable reality: stepping up to fill the void. The E-3 – Britain, Germany, and France – must galvanize efforts not merely to chastise Iran for its nuclear ambitions but also to enact concrete measures, such as reintroducing sanction “snapbacks,” which could decisively curb Tehran’s regional machinations or, at the least, heighten the cost of Iranian adventurism.

Europe’s proximity also necessitates a proactive stance on issues such as Iran’s influence through its proxies in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. The region, rife with proxy wars and political instability, carries enormous repercussions for European security and economic interests. A united European front, coupled with strategic collaboration with a US eager to hand over the reins, could deter escalating threats. While US engagements in the region wane, Europe’s leadership, assertive diplomacy, and economic sanctions, could forge a path to more stable and less volatile dynamics on its doorstep.

For instance, in Iraq, Europe can counter Tehran’s growing influence by bolstering local political forces that resist Iranian meddling through strategic economic aid and an enduring security presence. Drawing parallels from the bloc’s relatively successful economic diplomacy in the Balkans, the application of targeted financial incentives could fortify Iraq’s political factions against Iran’s hegemonic aspirations. Concurrently, a coordinated European-American approach could thwart Iran’s ambitions of transforming Iraq into a proxy state and impede its strategic objective of establishing land corridors stretching to the Mediterranean.

Lebanon, on the other hand, has proven a more formidable challenge given Hezbollah’s entrenched influence that renders its swift disengagement virtually impossible. Realistically, any involvement in Lebanon, while fraught with complexity, is not without precedent and serves as a crucial test of Europe’s ability to act as a stabilizing force. By backing anti-Iranian political factions through economic and military aid, Europe can proactively lay the groundwork for long-term stability. Europe’s conditional financial support for political reforms in Eastern Europe teases the relative efficacy of such an approach. Concurrently, enhancing the UN Interim Force in Lebanon could help dislodge Hezbollah’s stranglehold on Lebanon and disrupt its operational capabilities.

Ultimately, in a post-America Middle East, Europe must reshape its role to align with the region’s evolving realities. The era of futile, ad-hoc initiatives must end. Whether it is Iran’s nuclear brinkmanship, Iraq’s struggles with reasserting its sovereignty, the messy aftermath of Syria’s civil war, Lebanon’s fragmentation, the shattered prospects of Palestinian statehood, or even North Africa’s peculiar dynamics, Europe must develop a cohesive, proactive approach. This shift requires a fundamental rethinking and restructuring of Europe’s engagements in the Arab region.

The future Middle East, less shaped by American influence, will demand a Europe that is not just a partner but a leader. As America’s footprint recedes, Europe must fill the vacuum with determined diplomacy, strategic foresight, robust action, and ensuring historical mistakes are not repeated but, instead, lessons are learned and applied. What unfolds over the next decade will define not just the Middle East’s trajectory, but also Europe’s role in the global order.

The danger of ‘pro-EU’ Euroscepticism in Western Balkans

Over the past few years, attitudes towards accession to the European Union in Western Balkan candidate states have been increasingly negative. In countries like Serbia, the desire to join the union has slumped to 40 percent from 57 percent in 2014; in North Macedonia – to 68 percent from 84 percent in 2012.

While frustration over the slow pace of the process and various challenges along the way may be one of the main drivers of this trend, there is another, largely overlooked one: parts of the civil society in these countries, which largely identifies as pro-EU, have started to espouse what really are anti-EU stances.

Indeed, there has been an inexplicable alignment of views between proponents of democracy and European values and their ideological opponents – those who support the authoritarian tendencies of Serbia’s Aleksandar Vucic, North Macedonia’s Hristijan Mickovski and Albania’s Edi Rama.

This has taken place gradually and through the promotion of seemingly neutral ideas, such as regional projects of EU-like integration, the need for stability and respect for national sovereignty, and criticism of anti-democratic forces within the EU.

Over the past decade, various ideas about how to approach regional integration have circulated among civil society actors in the Western Balkans. While there is nothing wrong with proposing and endorsing such initiatives, some of them have been pushed as a priority over EU accession. Some have argued that regional integration needs to take place first to “pre-

pare” Western Balkan membership candidates to join the Union.

The problem with this argument is that regional integration becomes a justification for indefinitely delaying serious action on EU accession. A case in point is the “Open Balkan” initiative launched in 2019 and championed by Vucic and Rama. Its declared aim was the economic integration of Serbia, Albania and North Macedonia, through increased trade, mobility of citizens, improved access to

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Finally, there has been the assertion that EU accession is driven by or empowers anti-democratic forces. This may appear confusing to some, so let me illustrate. At a 2023 event held in Skopje which I attended, a think tank researcher presented a study which emphasised that autocrats like Hungary’s Viktor Orbán want Western Balkan countries to join the EU. The takeaway from this presentation was that since bogeyman Orbán wants us in – irrespective of the fact that someone like Germany’s Olaf Scholz wants us in too – we should be careful about pursuing EU membership.
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labour markets, and others.

Despite the hefty goals of “Open Balkans” and inspirational declarations made by the leaders involved, little progress has been made on its implementation. While some civil society actors have criticised the initiative, others have continued to push the regional integration mantra, failing to see the danger it poses to delaying indefinitely EU accession and promoting Eurosceptism among the general population.

Another idea that has crept into civil society in the Western Balkans is that the EU accession has led to internal divisions and instability and has infringed on

Katerina Kolozova

the national sovereignty of candidate countries. This idea has been especially popular in North Macedonia where the negotiating framework for accession has been perceived to hurt the national interest due to special conditions imposed by Bulgaria, regarding the Bulgarian minority in the country.

This has led some public supporters of EU membership to call for “pausing” the accession process until

this presentation was that since bogeyman Orbán wants us in – irrespective of the fact that someone like Germany’s Olaf Scholz wants us in too – we should be careful about pursuing EU membership.

Others have argued in papers and at conferences I have attended that aspects of the EU enlargement process itself encourages autocratic and anti-democratic tendencies. The implication is that accession should be delayed indefinitely supposedly in

autocratic tendencies in Serbia, North Macedonia and Albania.

The EU is not a perfect organisation and there are legitimate concerns and reasons for criticism of its track record. However, by espousing Eurosceptic rhetoric, calling for a “pause” in accession efforts, and spreading mistrust within the general public towards the EU, self-declared EU-philies are helping forces that would like to see the Western Balkan enlargement sabotaged.

We must be realistic about the current geopolitical environment. The idea of absolute sovereignty – which excludes geopolitical alignment with the major regional powers – is a political unicorn. The idea of nonalignment collapsed with the dissolution of Yugoslavia, and its resurrection in the present circumstances is unlikely.

Countries like North Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Albania face a geopolitical choice. The EU may have its problems, but with its structures and organisation, it offers geopolitical stability – something that alignment with Russia and China does not. This has become even clearer after the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Going down the Eurosceptic path at this time is dangerous. Pulling out of the accession process would set a precedent that would be destabilising to the regional and continental geopolitical equilibrium. No wonder Turkey is still at least formally an EU candidate country. Civil society actors would do well to consider the dangers of spreading “alternatives” to EU accession and undermining the public’s belief that this is the right path.

Egypt, Turkiye pin hopes on a new era of cooperation

Dr. Abdellatif El-Menawy

The relationship between Egypt and Turkiye has experienced significant and varied developments over the past decade, transitioning from a state of disagreement and tension that almost escalated into open conflict to a new phase of rapprochement and constructive dialogue. This relationship, shaped by multiple geopolitical and regional factors, reflects deep changes in the position of both countries toward each other, and on regional and international issues.

To understand the current shift in Egypt-Turkiye relations, it is necessary to review the background of the tensions that arose between the two following the so-called Arab Spring in 2011, a time when the region witnessed drastic political changes.

Turkiye, under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, was one of the countries that supported the Arab uprisings, especially those that brought Islamist groups to power, such as the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. The uprisings led to the removal of former President Hosni Mubarak after 30 years in power, which paved the way for the Muslim Brotherhood to take control. Consequently, Mohammed Morsi, a member of the Brotherhood, assumed the presidency of Egypt in 2012. At that time, Egyptian-Turkish relations were at their peak, marked by close cooperation between the two countries’ leaders.

Turkiye, under Erdogan’s leadership, viewed Morsi’s rise as a positive development, in line with its broader support for Islamist movements in the region. However, Morsi’s presidency did not last long. In 2013, Egyptians ousted the Brotherhood-affiliated leader following widespread popular protests, supported by the Egyptian military led by Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the defense minister at the time.

Ankara strongly condemned Morsi’s ousting, supported him, and denounced his removal in international forums, leading to clear tension in relations with Cairo. This was accompanied by frequent Turkish criticism of the new Egyptian authority, and a refusal to recognize the new government, resulting in a severe deterioration in relations and almost a decade of diplomatic estrangement. During this period, mutual trust was absent, and conflicting positions emerged on several regional issues. The discord was further exacerbated by the two countries’ opposing stances on various regional conflicts, especially in Libya, where Turkiye supported the Government of National Accord, while Egypt backed the Libyan National Army led by Khalifa Haftar.

As relations deteriorated, Egypt and Turkiye moved into a phase of political and diplomatic escalation, halting official visits, withdrawing ambassadors, and filing speeches with mutual criticism. The tension also extended to other areas, such as the media and economy, with both countries seeking to limit the other’s influence. For instance, Turkiye supported media channels opposing the Egyptian regime.

The real shift in Egyptian-Turkish relations began in 2021, when the two countries began

“exploratory talks” aimed at rebuilding ties. This step came after both realized the need to move beyond old disputes, and adapt to regional and global changes. The geopolitical landscape in the Middle East and the world had undergone significant alteration since the peak of the conflict between Egypt and Turkiye. Several factors contributed to the move toward reconciliation.

The region began what could be called a realignment of regional alliances. The Middle East witnessed a wave of diplomatic realignments driven by changing power dynamics and a desire for stability.

Economic considerations cannot be overlooked. Both Turkiye and Egypt have faced significant economic challenges in recent years. Turkiye has been struggling with a severe economic crisis characterized by high inflation and a depreciating currency, while Egypt has been working to stabilize its economy through reforms and international aid.

Both countries realized that it was necessary to enhance cooperation rather than confrontation in order to open new avenues for economic partnership that would benefit both parties.

Regional security was also an important factor, as both Cairo and Ankara understood that regional stability depended on coordination between major regional powers. In Libya and Syria, there were emerging understandings on how to end conflicts and reach political solutions, with the realization that political settlement is the only viable path to stability.

Moreover, both countries faced pressure from international actors to ease tensions, particularly as the US shifted its focus from the Middle East to Asia. With declining direct interest in the region from Washington, regional powers such as Egypt and Turkiye needed to strengthen their relations to protect their interests.

This shift prompted both countries to reposition themselves in the new global order. Clearly, a cooperative and coordinated relationship could enhance their ability to negotiate with global powers and give them a degree of decision-making independence, even if within certain limits.

Regarding the restoration of relations, the turning point in the relationship occurred in February 2024, when Erdogan made a historic visit to Cairo at the invitation of El-Sisi. This visit marked a significant milestone in the reconciliation process, being the first official trip by a Turkish leader to Egypt since the ousting of the Muslim Brotherhood regime in 2013.

The visit was characterized by a warm reception and high-level discussions on various issues, including trade, investment, regional security, and cultural exchange.

The February visit sent a strong message to the international community that both countries were serious about mending their relations and exploring opportunities for cooperation. It also emphasized the importance of direct dialogue in resolving long-standing disputes. Joint statements issued during the visit reaffirmed a commitment to building a “new chapter” in bilateral relations based on mutual respect and shared interests.

Now, the upcoming visit of El-Sisi to Ankara raises the question: What can we expect?

There are high expectations, with several key issues likely to be on the agenda that could shape the future of Egypt-Turkiye relations as they enter a new phase.

Several areas could see fruitful cooperation, with economic cooperation being one of the most important, particularly in the fields of energy, infrastructure, and trade. Turkish investments in Egypt constitute a significant part of the foreign direct investments, and political understandings could enhance these investments and increase the volume of trade exchange.

The Middle East conflicts, particularly those in Libya and Syria, may also be on the agenda, as both sides recognize that a continuation of the troubling situation is not in their favor. The visit could lead to progress in cooperation between the two countries on the issues of Libya and Syria, as Egypt and Turkiye have shared interests in regional stability, and their coordination could contribute to achieving lasting political solutions.

It is true that the Egyptian president’s visit to Turkiye carries many opportunities, but politics and history always teach us lessons, the most important of which is that there are no opportunities without challenges.

Despite the significant opportunities for cooperation, challenges remain. Among these are ideological differences that still exist, particularly regarding support for Islamist groups. These differences could hinder reaching agreements on some sensitive issues if there is no trust in the parties’ commitment to what they promise.

Turkiye has taken concrete steps in this regard, but there is still anticipation regarding the seriousness and sustainability of this new Turkish approach. Additionally, Turkiye and Egypt may find themselves in conflicting positions in the future over other regional issues. Overcoming this requires sufficient clarity in managing the relationship between the two countries in its new phase.

Furthermore, the impact of international pressures on this relationship cannot be ignored. Pressures from actors such as the US, Russia, or China could influence the trajectory of relations between the two countries if they find that this rapprochement affects their interests. Again, the way the relationship between the two countries is managed will play a significant role in dealing with these pressures if they arise.

Recent progress in bilateral relations between Egypt and Turkiye suggests that both sides are ready to overcome these challenges in pursuit of common goals.

The key to the success of this reconciliation will be sustained political will, pragmatic diplomacy, and a focus on areas of shared interest. By building on the momentum of recent high-level visits and translating political goodwill into tangible actions, Egypt and Turkiye have the opportunity not only to strengthen their relations but also to establish a strategic partnership that could contribute to the stability and prosperity of the region.

Do Israel and Hamas really want to end the conflict?

In principle, negotiations are aimed at bridging differences with the ultimate objective of resolving a conflict. But then there is the Israel-Hamas negotiating approach, one that increasingly leaves the impression that they engage, albeit indirectly, in ceasefire talks more for the sake of them, while failing to convince anyone that reaching a deal is their top priority.

All the evidence shows that they are more invested in continuing the conflict than ending it, or are at least incapable of internalizing that neither side has anything to gain in prolonging the war, and that it is only by agreeing on the necessary compromises that this horrific bloodshed will end. For both the Israeli and Palestinian people a ceasefire is an urgent necessity, one that will also ensure that the hostages who are wasting away in captivity will be freed. But the same sense of urgency is not shared by their respective leaderships.

The longer that this most violent episode in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since 1948 continues, the more it becomes evident that there are no political achievements possible for either side to gain from it. Moreover, the war from its outset has been internationalized, at some points leaving the entire region on the very brink of a regional war and providing the Iranian-led so-called “Axis of Resistance” an opportunity, more accurately an excuse,

to dangerously draw the battle lines between themselves, the rest of the region, and the Western powers, in the name of defending the Palestinian cause.

The route to defusing bilateral and regional tensions, even if not immediately resolving their underlying causes, goes through a ceasefire in Gaza. Hence the constant derailing and delaying tactics of the Israeli government, and especially of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, that are being employed to save his political skin rather than for any viable strategic reason, have become detrimental to the future of Israelis, Palestinians, and regional stability.

There is a credible argument that at least until last week, when Israel preempted a massive Hezbollah missile and drone attack and consequently limited its scope and damage, enough had been done to satisfy both sides that all scores had been settled, at least for now. Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar was also uninterested in a ceasefire, in the hope that Israel’s recent spate of assassinations carried out in Beirut and Tehran would lead to a powerful military retaliation against Israel, leaving the latter weakened and thus improving his position with or without negotiations.

Now that this danger has, at least temporarily, been averted and ceasefire negotiations have resumed

Yossi Mekelberg

in Cairo and Doha, comes the real test of both sides’ desire for a ceasefire, and of the determination of the mediators and other elements in the international community to use their power to convince both protagonists that it is in their interests first to reach a ceasefire deal, but only as a first step toward a comprehensive agreement that will peacefully resolve the entire Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Yet, on the Israeli side, and not only on this issue, it is the presence of Netanyahu and his disturbing reliance on the far right that is perpetuating a political-diplomatic bottleneck. I have long been a critic of Netanyahu’s politics, his unquenched hunger for power and his lack of morality. However, the current Netanyahu model that has emerged since he was charged with corruption, and the subsequent formation of his sixth administration in December 2022, is in a different league altogether and is totally self-serving. His responsibility for the misperceptions and miscalculations that for years built up Hamas’ military power; the lack of preparedness on Oct. 7; the weakening of Israeli society as a whole by forming a coalition with the most damaging, extreme right-wing elements who see Armageddon as desirable rather than as a cataclysm to be avoided; in addition to his and his family’s sheer

hedonism in the midst of a war when so many people are dying every day – all of these failures are bound to be officially and thoroughly investigated when the war ends. But prolonging the war has become a means for Netanyahu to indefinitely delay such an investigation that would bring the curtain down on his time in Israeli politics.

Time to expect that Netanyahu would show any sympathy for all the Palestinians who have been killed, maimed or lost everything in the war and who are in desperate need of humanitarian aid would be reasonable, but also a big ask of someone with a psychological profile such as his, one that also dictates his policies. Yet, for a right-wing nationalist who fashioned himself as the defender of Israel and its people, his callous attitude toward the hostages and their families while it becomes increasingly evident that more dead hostages than live ones are returning home while those still held in Gaza have been going through hell for almost a year and soldiers are dying almost every day, is truly shocking.

Delaying a deal, one that his defense minister and the chiefs of the different branches of the security forces are encouraging him to reach, is evidence of someone who has lost all sense of judgment and morality. Netanyahu sends representatives of the Israeli Defense Forces, Mossad, and Shin Bet to

negotiate in Cairo and Doha, seems to give them some leeway to make progress, and then presents new conditions that pull the carpet from under the feet of the negotiators, condemning many more people to immense suffering.

Israel’s demands for security and ensuring that Oct. 7 will never happen again are an understandable priority, as should be the security of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, but holding onto the Philadelphi Corridor or even the Netzarim/Salah Al-Din Road Corridor will not result in long-term security, but merely perpetuate the occupation and the conflict, as Netanyahu and his government have been advised by so many current and past senior security chiefs.

What hurts and divides Israeli society is the hostages issue, one that is breaking the bond between the people and a state that is failing in its basic responsibility to protect them from danger, something it failed to do on Oct. 7 and ever since by abandoning the hostages in the tunnels of Gaza. What makes it even worse is that it is being done for Netanyahu’s self-preservation and under duress from his coalition partners with their messianic ambitions to occupy and settle the Gaza Strip. It makes both the prime minister and his Cabinet culprits in prolonging this horrific war that should have long ago been concluded in a ceasefire.

Andrew Hammond

Donald Trump presidency.

A Harris leadership is most likely to broadly continue the Biden administration’s policy — avoiding escalation, and providing military assistance only in small amounts to try to avoid direct confrontation with Russia — meaning the war may become more protracted.

However, a big Republican win could see Trump try to make good on his wholly unrealistic pledge to “end the war in 24 hours.” This could result in him seeking to cut off support for Kyiv, a fear that has only grown since the selection of Sen. J.D. Vance as his running mate, with his comments that “I don’t really care what happens to Ukraine one way or another.”

Ukraine’s daring move will do little to alter a war of attrition

Kyiv’s dramatic incursion into Russia in early August is widely seen as a spectacular attempt to reframe the narrative of the Ukraine conflict. However, about 900 days after the Russians launched their invasion, the most likely outcome remains a continued war of attrition, at least until the November US presidential election, which could prove to be a “game-changer.”

The surprise Kursk offensive has resulted in the greatest loss of western Russian territory since the Second World War. Ukraine claimed this week that it had captured more than 100 small-sized settlements, taken about 600 Russian military personnel prisoner, and seized over 1,000 sq. km of territory, forcing tens of thousands of Russians

from their homes. Kyiv has targeted this border area, around 200 km northwest of the closest front line in Kharkiv, and 350 km from the main front, because it was weakly defended.

To put the territorial gains into perspective, the amount of land seized is similar to that occupied by Russia in Ukraine so far this year. However, it is much smaller than the 100,000 sq. km — around 20 percent of Ukraine’s total homeland — taken by Russia in recent years.

Ukraine’s daring move may not ultimately turn out to be a decisive factor in the war, but it has changed, at least temporarily, the story so far in 2024 of steady Russian gains in Ukraine.

The offensive deep into the Kursk region adds to the challenges facing

Moscow. After a troubled two-and-a-half-year campaign, unverified estimates this month from the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces indicate Moscow has lost about 600,000 troops.

Ukraine also asserts that Russia has also lost about 8,500 tanks, 16,500 armored fighting vehicles, 23,000 vehicles and fuel tanks, 17,000 artillery systems, 1,150 multiple-launch rocket systems, 300 air defense systems, 960 aircraft, 330 helicopters, almost 30 warships and boats, and one submarine. This underlines how the war has not gone to plan despite Moscow hoping for a victory within days.

Yet, many military experts are skeptical that Kyiv’s latest bold move will fundamentally change

the course of the war, with Russian forces still on the offensive in Ukraine. Russia is estimated to have hundreds of thousands of troops on the front line, so diverting a few thousand may not have a large impact. This means Ukraine may be unable to hold its new Russian territory in the long term as a potential bargaining chip in any future peace negotiations.

In this context, the most likely scenario remains a continued war of attrition, at least until the US presidential election. At that point it will be clear if US support for Kyiv will probably remain steadfast, under a Kamala Harris administration, or potentially open to complete reversal under a second

er,” and “the American people will not tolerate another endless war, and neither will I.”

It remains unclear what a Trump policy toward Ukraine would exactly look like. However, there is no question that it could be hugely different to that of team Biden. That is why there is so much Ukraine policy uncertainty emanating from the US presidential election. Hence, why Kyiv and its allies are undertaking much planning of scenarios for 2025 and beyond.

Even in the event of a Harris presidency, there is every possibility that Ukraine would fail to achieve all of its strategic war objectives. If Republicans control one or more chambers of Congress, for instance, there could be significant attempts to frustrate Harris’ full policy ambitions.

A growing number of Western experts share the view of Lord Ricketts, a former UK national security adviser, who highlights the possibility of a Korea-style scenario. This would result in Russia keeping control of perhaps around a fifth of pre-war Ukraine, the amount of territory it controls today, and the remainder moving in pro-Western direction in the years to come.

However, even this scenario might appear unrealistic under a Trump presidency. What Washington’s allies, especially those in Europe, particularly want to avoid is any result that is perceived as a big Russian victory, which it is feared would only embolden

Moscow and its allies across the world.

This is why US allies are thinking through how they might be able to “buy Ukraine time” in 2025 under a potential second Trump presidency. What the Brussels-based club has done, already, is move forward with around half the previously promised aid to Ukraine — 50 billion (\$55 million) over the next four years — in order to offer Kyiv more predictability with its strained budget.

Ukraine’s offensive is changing the narrative about the war, but is unlikely to fundamentally affect the course of the conflict. More important, potentially, could be the result of the US election in November, with possibly huge differences between a Trump and a Harris administration.



FPCCI, Zimbabwean Embassy join hands for increasing economic ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and the Embassy of Zimbabwe in Islamabad joined hands for increasing the economic and trade ties between Pakistan and Zimbabwe and also reiterated for increasing the connections between the business community if both sides.

The Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Pakistan, Titus M.J. Abu Basutu and President Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh were addressing the dinner reception as chief guests hosted by the Convenor FPCCI, Central Standing Committee on Industry-Academia Linkages, Liaqat Ali Sultan here Sunday.

On the occasion, the Ambassador of Zimbabwe said that Zimbabwe and Pakistan had huge potential for increasing bilateral economic and trade ties and there was need to enhance the connection between the private sector of both sides.

The Ambassador said that the existing bilateral trade between Pakistan and Zimbabwe was standing at \$ 30 million in FY 2023 less than its potential, which needed increase up to \$100 million in the coming years.

He said the role of the private sector and especially the Federation Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry is significant to increase bilateral eco-

nomical relations and the Zimbabwean Embassy in Islamabad will provide full support to the exporters and traders in this regard.

The Zimbabwean envoy said that Pakistan's current export volume to Zimbabwe was \$20 million and Pakistan's imports from Zimbabwe were \$10 million, which was less than the bilateral economic and trade potential, which can be increased over time to strengthen economic ties.

He said that Zimbabwe imports from Pakistan mainly were agricultural goods including rice, tractors and other sectors like light engineering, electronics, medical equipment, sports equipment, safety tools and machinery. While Pakistan imports from Zimbabwe include chemicals, tanning dying tobacco and cotton, he said.

The Ambassador said that at this time, Zimbabwe prioritized promoting economic and trade relations with Pakistan and increased bilateral trade volume on priority, for which, "We encourage the business communities of both sides to exchange mutual business delegations."

The Ambassador said that Zimbabwe was having a "Trade Expo" in April 2025, where industrialists and traders from all over the world will participate and he invited the Pakistani business community to participate in it.

He said that there was a

lot of potential in the pharmaceutical sector and medical equipment in Zimbabwe and in both potential sectors; Pakistan's industrialists needed to work with Zimbabwean relevant sectors.

He said that Zimbabwe was a member of a significant African regional economic block, where a regional Free Trade Agreement (FTA) applicable for Pakistan and any other could obtain economic benefits. He said that Pakistan's Look Africa drive can open new avenues of cooperation between Zimbabwe and Pakistan.

Titus M.J. said that Zimbabwe could be a gateway for Pakistan in the African region, which would increase Pakistan's economic penetration in the African region.

He said that there are vast opportunities for Pakistani investors in tourism, infrastructure and agriculture in Zimbabwe to enhance the economic activities between both of the countries.

Meanwhile, the Ambassador of Zimbabwe asked the President FPCCI, Atif Ikram to play his due role to increase the trade between Pakistan and Zimbabwe.

On the occasion, president FPCCI, Atif Ikram Sheikh said that there is a lot of potential for bilateral economic and trade cooperation between Zimbabwe and Pakistan and FPCCI and Zimbabwe Embassy

will adopt a joint plan to increase the role of the business community to execute this trade potential.

The President FPCCI said that Zimbabwe is an important country in the African region, which has always had economic and trade relations with Pakistan.

Atif said that the Pakistani Diaspora in Zimbabwe was mostly active in business and trade, whose role had always been outstanding in the relations between the two countries.

The President FPCCI invited the Ambassador of Zimbabwe to visit FPCCI capital office to address the business community. He also proposed the establishment of the Zimbabwe Pakistan Business Forum under the leadership of FPCCI Convenor, Liaqat Ali Sultan which was unanimously accepted by the business community.

In concluding remarks, Convenor FPCCI Acadia Industry linkage committee, Liaqat Ali Sultan thanked the chief guests Atif Ikram, Ambassador of Zimbabwe and said that the role of the business community was very important in increasing the economic and trade relations between the two countries.

At the end, President FPCCI, Atif Ikram presented commemorative shields and mementos to the Zimbabwean Ambassador and the participants.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor displaying bananas to attract customers at his stall in Sunday Bazaar.

Farooque for bolster Pakistan's border trade

HYDERABAD (APP): President, Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry, Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani has emphasized the need to bolster Pakistan's border trade to enhance economic stability and growth. He stressed for increased trade with neighbouring countries Iran, India, and Afghanistan. By facilitating exchanges in local currencies, Shaikhani believed that trade costs would decrease significantly and Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves would benefit positively. This strategic move aims to strengthen economic ties and streamline cross-border trade operations, he said.

In a statement on Sunday, Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani highlighted the vast trade potential for Pakistan with neighbouring countries Iran, India and Afghanistan. He believed that enhancing border trade with these nations could significantly boost the economies of all four countries.

Farooq noted that importing affordable gas and electricity from Iran could address Pakistan's energy needs, while Pakistan could export valuable agricultural products like rice, wheat and fruits to Iran.

Furthermore, he said trade with India presents opportunities for Pakistan to export cement, cotton and agricultural goods, while importing machinery, medicine and technology. Similarly, trade with Afghanistan offers promising prospects and Pakistani products such as medicines, textiles and foodstuffs can be exported and dry fruits and minerals imported from Afghanistan, he said and added that this strategic approach could foster economic growth and strengthen regional trade relationships.

He called upon the government to implement practical measures to enhance trade relations with Iran, India and Afghanistan. He emphasized the need to improve facilities at border check posts and to organize and strengthen the border trade system to promote legal commerce.

Shaikhani drew a parallel with the European Union, where the adoption of a common currency (Euro) has not only facilitated trade but also contributed to economic stability.

SNGPL intensifies gas theft crackdown:

51 more illegal connections severed accross country

F.P. Report

LAHORE: In an ongoing effort to curb gas theft, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has continued its raids across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, resulting in the disconnection of an additional 51 illegal connections. The company has also imposed fines totaling Rs 0.7 million.

In Lahore, the SNGPL team disconnected 5 connections due to illegal gas

usage and another 14 for the use of compressors, imposing fines of Rs 0.25 million for these violations. In Bahawalpur, the regional team severed 5 connections for illegal gas use and 2 more for compressor use. The Faisalabad team connected 1 illegal connection and imposed a fine of Rs 0.02 million. The Sheikhupura regional team levied a fine of Rs 0.02 million for gas theft. In Multan, 11 connections were cut off for illegal gas

use, and 2 more were disconnected due to compressor use. The Sahiwal team disconnected 1 connection for compressor use and imposed a fine of Rs 0.23 million for gas theft.

In Rawalpindi, 4 connections were severed for compressor use, while 2 more were disconnected for illegal gas usage. In Peshawar and Karak, the team disconnected 4 connections for illegal gas use, imposing fines totaling Rs 0.276 million.

APBF for raising country's tax base to strengthen tax-to-GDP ratio

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Raising grave concern over the poor performance of the exports the All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) advocated the need for raising the country's tax base so that tax-to-GDP ratio improves from current poor level. He urged the trade officers to explore opportunities to diversify exports of goods and services in their respective areas, asking them to meet the challenges faced by Pakistan in European markets.

The APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said that country's major export markets did not see any significant growth in importing goods from Pakistan in the financial year ended on June 30 this year. He also suggested the ministry to devise strategies for promotion of Pakistani products, calling upon trade officers to take advantage of opportunities offered by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The APBF President, quoting the latest figures, stated that the exports to the US largely remain dissatisfied while those to China registered a slight decline. Exports to the UK posted marginal growth during the fiscal under review, according to the country-wise export data released by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.

The US remained the top export market for Pakistani goods in the financial year

ended on June 30, 2024, with exports totaling \$5.286 billion compared to \$5.239 billion last year, showing a slight growth of 0.9 per cent.

China followed with imports of \$2.559 billion, compared to \$2.614 billion, recording a negative growth of 2.1 per cent. While the United Kingdom fell to third place with imports of \$2.015 billion from Pakistan during the fiscal against \$1.943 billion, showing a growth of 3.7 per cent.

The APBF chairman Ibrahim Qureshi pointed out that administrative measures to curb imports, leading to raw material shortage for the industry and resultantly lower production, were the main reason for the plunge while the slowdown in global demand amid monetary tightening was another reason, he said.

Ibrahim Qureshi said that Pakistan has remained a potential market for foreign investors, who still have plans to make fresh investment in the country, but they have continued to wait for the return of economic stability. He highlighted uncertainty in the rupee-dollar parity as one of the major concerns of foreign investors.

Syed Maaz Mahmood said a slowdown in the economy had badly impacted business confidence. It is must for the authorities concerned to first create an enabling environment for

the local businessmen desiring to make new investment. Data shows that textile exports came in at \$1.2 billion in February, down 11 percent month-on-month (MoM); however, in rupee terms, exports came in at Rs315 billion, up by 2 percent MoM. Value-added textile exports decreased by 13 percent MoM to \$812 million mainly due to lower shipments of readymade garments and knitwear, which declined by 13 percent and 18 percent MoM, respectively, he said.

The APBF President said textile exports declined mainly due to import restrictions, resulting in unavailability of raw material, coupled with global recession which kept textile demand subdued, he said. Besides domestic issues, there are global reasons as well for the decline in exports that have also impacted other countries. In the first eight months of current financial year (8MFY24), Pakistan recorded textile exports of \$11.22 billion, down by 11 percent YoY, while in rupee terms, they were up by 19 percent YoY, while exports of basic and value-added textile declined by 21 percent and 9 percent YoY, respectively.

Demand from major markets, such as the US and Europe, was the key concern among textile exporters, he said. Furthermore, the recent hike in electricity tariffs will pose a challenge to the sector.

Pakistan races towards 60% energy generation from clean sources by 2030

F.P. Report

LAHORE: As Pakistan races towards its goal of generating 60% of its energy from clean and renewable sources by 2030, the landscape of the country's energy sector is undergoing significant changes.

Solar energy has become an increasingly popular choice across Pakistan, with solar panels becoming a common sight on rooftops. However, a lesser-known aspect is the importance of panel size in achieving optimal energy output.

Clean energy experts say that 210mm wafers, which have seen a visible rise in

production, have been a game changer in the global solar market. According to research firm Trendforce, the production capacity for these wafers has reached 457GW, accounting for nearly 40% of global production.

In Pakistan, among several stakeholders, Trinasolar leads the market with an impressive 120GW of module shipments, highlighting the growing adoption of these larger-sized wafers.

The researchers have found that the modules, based on the 210mm technology platform, offer numerous benefits over the smaller 182mm cells.

These benefits include higher efficiency, better logistics, and increased value across a range of applications, from utility-scale power plants to residential installations.

The slight increase in size allows for more surface area, translating into higher power outputs per panel. In practical terms, Trinasolar's 210mm modules can deliver up to 625W of power with an efficiency rate of over 23%, significantly outperforming the older models.

According to experts, the shift towards 210mm modules is not just a trend but a significant leap in

solar technology. In Pakistan, this shift is already yielding impressive results. For instance, at SAK Steel, Trinasolar's Vertex 665W modules are being used to run an electric steel furnace on solar power. The use of bifacial ground-mounted modules, raised slightly from the ground, has led to a notable increase in production. Similarly, Shalimar Filter Industries has been able to power its entire factory using solar energy, resulting in estimated annual savings of \$24,000 on electricity costs and a return on investment within 14 to 16 months.

BF to sweep in SCCI' election on its performance basis: Ilyas Bilour

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Businessman Forum leader former senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour is highly optimistic over prospects of the upcoming election of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and stated the BF who had been serving the business community selflessly for several decades will clean sweep the election.

Talking to a group of senior leaders of the Businessman Forum on Sunday, the BF leader Ilyas Ahmad Bilour said they believe in selfless services to the business community which will continue in future.

He said victory is the destiny of the Businessman Forum because it had rendered indiscriminate serv-



ices to the business community for the last 24 years.

He said BF will clean sweep in the election on its performance basis.

A large number of business leaders and trading unions announced their association and joining, is a

testimony and manifestation of trust on the Businessman Forum, and expression of full satisfaction on its performance, Bilour said.

The BF leader said the business community had realized that it is the only

forum which can fully resolve their issues by taking up with authorities in an efficient manner.

In the meanwhile, leaders of Businessman Forum have received rozy welcome during a visit to Shoba Bazar Peshawar in connection with the ongoing canvassing campaign ahead of SCCI elections.

Office bearers of the Muttahid Markazi Tajran Peshawar Shoba Bazar Khalid Pakhtunyar, Ejaz Rahi, Niaz Muhammad, Ghulam Nabi, Raza Khan, Farhan Ahmad, Salaudinn, Khalilur Rehman Swati, along with traders and shopkeepers announced full trust on leadership of the Businessman Forum and assured support for the SCCI elections.

Rs 960 billion for the current fiscal year 2024-25.

He said that at a time when country's GDP ratio was further stretched owing to slow exports growth amidst high cost of doing business, the trade and industry need maximum relief.

He said that Pakistan's economy is going through a challenging phase. With a view to improve the cash flow of businesses at this crucial time, the government will have to facilitate the business community through reduction in tax ratio on all items including the oil products, besides deferring the interest payments of the businesses for at least one year.

He called upon the government to address the key

issues of trade and industry, facilitate the economic growth along with improving tax revenue of the government. He said that the impact of unrest has badly affected business and industrial sector, stressing the government to bring down GST in order to ease the difficulties of businesses.

Mian Anjum Nisar said that the move would reduce the cost of doing business, attract new investment, promote industrialization and create new jobs.

The BMP leader said that the government has made unprecedented increase in the ratio of tax, duty and Petroleum Levi ostensibly to earn billion of rupees in revenue. By jacking up the ratio of taxes,

duties and PLs, the government has deprived the consumers of relief from the plunge in global oil prices.

He said that instead of hiking the power tariffs, the government should focus on controlling the transmission and distribution losses and power theft besides improving the performance of power companies to save the consumers from further burden.

He was of the view that the government could mobilize the required resources through increasing the number of taxpayers, reducing line losses and power theft, and ending exemptions to narrow the fiscal deficit instead of increasing the power tariff.

He said the last increase in power tariff left the

industrial sector, particularly the export industry like textile, uncompetitive in comparison to regional competitors. This may lead to the loss of more export orders and render many more people jobless.

Despite the tariff surge, he said, power companies would not be able to recover the targeted revenue loss of around 28-30%. At the same time, it will force many consumers to stop paying their bills, which have become unbearable. He asked the government to undertake fundamental reforms in the power sector to make electricity affordable.

Besides, the government should launch a crackdown on the habitual power bill defaulters like putting them

behind bars. He said that the prices of petroleum products on the Platts index have dropped drastically and also the rupee has strengthened versus the dollar.

He said that petrol is mainly used in motorbikes and cars and is an alternative to compressed natural gas (CNG), especially in Punjab, where locally produced gas is not available at CNG filling stations.

HSD is primarily used in agriculture and transport sectors and any reduction in its price may have a positive impact on inflation.

Kerosene oil is used for cooking purpose in remote areas like northern parts of the country. Pakistan Army is a major consumer of kerosene oil.

BMP seeks cut in tax ratio on oil to facilitate trade, industry

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel has sought reduction in tax ratio on petroleum products to facilitate the trade and industry, as the government has been charging petroleum levy and several other taxes on oil products to the record high level.

FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that government is unable to pass on full benefit of oil prices drop in the global market to the local consumers because of high taxation, as maximum petroleum levy on petroleum products has now reached Rs80 per liter

which is not justified.

Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the government has already increased the general sales tax on all petroleum products to a standard rate across the board to generate additional revenues.

He said that the Brent crude rates, during last six months period dropped to the lowest level, but the authorities, instead of providing full relief of massive fall in oil rates to the public further escalated the prices of petroleum levy on petrol by another 26% to the highest level along with the GST. Besides the sales tax, the government lifted the rate of petroleum levy on HSD and petrol by around 400%, during last almost one and half years.

He called for passing on the full relief of cut in petroleum products in the international market to the local consumers for the month of Sept, instead of taking any kind of adjustment in taxes, as the inflation is going up due to continuous jump in oil prices.

He observed that business-friendly policies should be adopted as other neighboring countries of the region are giving to trade and industry. He said that sizeable cut in oil rates would certainly bring down the cost of doing business and our products would get their due share in the global market.

He said that this target represents a significant increase of Rs 321 billion from the revised estimate of



In brief

PU win karate c'ship

LAHORE (APP): The students of Punjab University (PU) Hailey College of Commerce HCC) karate club have won the team trophy at the Independence Day Karate Championship 2024, held at Shebbaz Sharif Indoor Sports Complex. The team clinched an impressive haul of seven gold medals, three silver medals, and five bronze medals. Earlier, HCC's student Zarqa Khan secured two gold medals at the Asian Indoor Rowing Championship, held in Malaysia. PU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood and HCC Principal Prof Dr. Hafiz Zafar Ahmad congratulated the winning players over their achievements. The contributions of individuals behind these successes were also recognised. President of Sports Atiqur Rahman, coach of the Hailey Karate Club Nimra Dastgeer Khan, Coordinator of Societies Arzam Hussain, Sports Director PU Zubair Butt, Estate Officer Sardar Shakeel and Sports Director HCC Nadeem Munir were all lauded for their unwavering support and dedication in guiding HCC to these prestigious victories. This celebration marks a significant chapter in HCC's sports history, with both the rowing and karate teams setting new benchmarks for excellence.

Giles breaks men's record

DUSSELDORF (Agencies): Britain's Elliot Giles set a new road mile world record of three minutes 51.3 seconds as he won the New Balance KO Meile in Dusseldorf. The Olympic 800m semi-finalist held off a strong challenge from US middle-distance runner Yared Nuguse, who took bronze in the men's 1500m at the Paris Games. Nuguse's time of 3:51.9 was also well within the record of 3:56.13 set by his fellow American Hobbs Kessler at the 2023 World Road Running Championships in Riga. Both men also eclipsed the mark of 3:54.6 which is pending ratification – recorded this year by Kenya's Emmanuel Wanyonyi. The men's one mile track world record is 3:43.13, set by Morocco's Hicham el Guerrouj in July 1999, with Giles' best time on the track standing at 3:51.63. The distance on the road was only recognised as an official world record event 12 months ago, however the event has a long and rich history. Sydney Maree has held the men's Fifth Avenue mile record in New York since 1981 with 3:47.6. At the same US race, which is ineligible for record purposes, Josh Kerr ran 3:47.9 last year, while Britain's Laura Muir, winner in 2022, hold the women's record with 4:14.8.

Medvedev beats Cobolli

NEW YORK (AFP): Former champion Daniil Medvedev survived a determined effort from 22-year-old Flavio Cobolli to reach the fourth round of the US Open on Saturday for the sixth straight year. Russia's Medvedev, seeded fifth, went down a break twice in the third set but recovered each time to triumph 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. The Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd threw its support behind the 22-year-old Italian as he pushed Medvedev through a series of entertaining rallies. But the experienced Medvedev with his uncanny defensive skills proved too much for the number 31 seed, lifting his level when it mattered most to deny Cobolli a first Grand Slam fourth round berth.



RAWALPINDI: Bangladeshi batsman Mehidy Hasan Miraz playing shot during the 3rd day of the 2nd Test match between Pakistan and Bangladesh at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. —APP Photo

PCB announces free entry for fans in Champions Cup

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday announced free entry for fans in the upcoming Champions One-Day Cup matches in Faisalabad. After a meeting held to discuss the arrangements for hosting the Champions Cup, Naqvi told the media that fans could watch all the matches except the playoffs for free at the Iqbal Stadium. The meeting was attended by Chief Operating Officer PCB Salman Naseer, Chief Financial Officer Javed Murtaza, Advisor Bilal Afzal, Director Domestic Abdullah Khurram Niazi, Director Commercial, Director High Performance, Senior General Manager Domestic Junaid Zia, and

other relevant officials.

“The residents of Faisalabad love the game of cricket. After a long time, Pakistan's top players will be in action in a major tournament in Faisalabad,” said Naqvi. “Not only will talent emerge from the Champions Cup, but domestic cricket will also strengthen. For the success of the Champions Cup, the entire team must work responsibly.”

The Best of the best cricketers from the country will feature in the single-league competition that will also serve as the homecoming of men's seniors' competitive cricket in Faisalabad after nearly two years.

The last domestic men's 50-over match played at the Iqbal Stadium was in

March 2022 between Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Champions One-Day Cup Schedule
12 Sep – Wolves v Panthers
13 Sep – Stallions v Lions
14 Sep – Dolphins v Panthers
15 Sep – Wolves v Stallions
16 Sep – Lions v Panthers
17 Sep – Dolphins v Wolves
19 Sep – Stallions v Dolphins
20 Sep – Lions v Wolves
21 Sep – Panthers v Stallions
22 Sep – Dolphins v Lions
24 Sep – Qualifier (Team No.1 v Team No. 2)
25 Sep – Eliminator 1 (Team No.3 v Team No.4)
27 Sep – Eliminator 2 (Losing Qualifier v Winning Eliminator 2)
29 Sep – Final.

Ko Jin-young grabs lead at LPGA FM C'ship

WASHINGTON (AFP): South Korea's Ko Jin-young shot a 5-under 67 to grab a two shot lead at the LPGA Tour's FM Championship after the third round at TPC Boston on Saturday.

Ko's compatriot Ryu Hae-ran, whose stunning 10-under 62 on Friday had earned her a six-stroke lead, had a nightmare round, shooting a six-over 78 and fell to four shots off the lead. Ko made four birdies before the turn and although she suffered a setback with a bogey at the par-4 15th, she bounced back with birdies on the last two holes. The 29-year-old Ko, a two-time major champion, has 15 career wins on the LPGA Tour and was the LPGA's Player of the Year in 2019 and 2021.

She is looking for her first win of 2024, however, with her most recent victo-



ry coming at the Cognizant Founders Cup in May last year. On the 12 occasions when Ko has led going into the final round of an LPGA event she has emerged as the winner nine times. “I'm trying to be a very competitive person; that's why if I get in the lead, I think it's good motivation for me,” said Ko. “This golf course is not easy, so I think I need to focus myself and just repeat to myself, ‘You can do it, you got this.’ I'm looking forward for tomorrow,” she added.

In-form American Lauren Coughlin shot a 3-under 69, making her the only player to shoot in the 60's in all three rounds, and sits just two shots behind Ko heading into the final round.

Coughlin, who made four birdies and a bogey, wasn't happy with her performance but after picking up her first two wins on the tour this year, with her second coming this month at the Scottish Open, she has a chance of making it three.

“But I'm not going to worry about that too much tomorrow. I'm definitely feeling a little tired, and so just trying to preserve as much energy as I have, which is all I can do. Focus on what I can control, which is me,” she said. A trio of players are three shots off the lead — Spain's Carlota Ciganda, American Allizen Corpuz and Thailand's Aththaya Thitikul.

Swiatek credits Williams chat for third-round win

NEW YORK (Agencies): Iga Swiatek said a chat with tennis great Serena Williams gave her a "positive kick" for her dominant third-round victory over Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova.

Poland's Swiatek, who triumphed in New York in 2022, did not face a single break point as she defeated the Russian 6-4 6-2 in the night session on Arthur Ashe Stadium. The top seed was seen talking with 23-time Grand Slam champion Williams in the the players' gym before the match.

"It was nice that she approached me, because I wouldn't, for sure, find courage to do that," Swiatek said. "Even though we met before and for like a couple of years we have been on the same sides and on tour together, she's still like star-striking for me."

She added that the encounter with Williams, a six-time winner at Flushing Meadows, "inspired me and it gave me, like, a positive kick." Despite a near-

flawless display against Pavlyuchenkova, Swiatek believes there is still room for improvement.

"It's not like my tennis is perfect," the five-time Grand Slam winner said. "It is weird because I have been number one and winning tournaments, I feel I need to work on some stuff." Pavlyuchenkova, stung by a 6-0 6-0 loss to Swiatek in their previous meeting, dug deep in the opening set but was unable to recover from dropping serve in the first game.

The 25th seed couldn't compete with Swiatek as the world number one upped her level in the second set, making just one unforced error as she broke twice before serving out the victory. She will meet Liudmila Samsonova in the fourth round after the Russian 16th seed had breezed past American Ashlyn Krueger in 62 minutes, winning 6-1 6-1.

Home hope Pegula underlines US Open credentials

Jessica Pegula underlined her title credentials with a dominant 6-3 6-3 victory against Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro.

The sixth seed has yet to drop a set in New York and the strength of her service game has been illustrated by the home hope winning 89% of her first-serve points. Pegula, who is through to the fourth round of a Grand Slam for the first time this year, will next face rising star Diana Shnaider.

The 20-year-old Russian, seeded 18th, breezed past Italy's Sara Errani in a 6-2 6-2 victory where she landed 31 winners. Shnaider has surged up the world rankings this year after winning her first three WTA Tour titles and reaching the third round of Wimbledon. Earlier on Saturday, Italian fifth seed Jasmine Paolini beat Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva 6-3 6-4. French Open and Wimbledon runner-up Paolini, 28, has now made the second week of all four majors in 2024.

Usama Mir joins Melbourne Stars

SYDNEY (Agencies): Melbourne Stars picked leg-spinner Usama Mir during the annual draft for Australia's Big Bash League (BBL) 2024, making him the only player from Pakistan to be selected for the upcoming season.

A total of 69 male cricketers and 11 female cricketers were put forward as nominees in the drafts for the Big Bash League (BBL) and the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL). Despite the high number of nominees, except Usama, none of the Pakistan players were considered for selection.

Haris Rauf, Shadab Khan, Imad Wasim, Zaman Khan, Naseem Shah, Fakhar Zaman, Shan Masood, Saim Ayub, Usman Qadir, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Umar Akmal, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Nawaz, Faheem Ashraf, Haider Ali and Mohammad Hasnain were among the Pakistani nominees for BBL draft.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's women players Fatima Sana, Nida Dar, Diana Baig, Aliya Riaz, and Nashrah Sandhu as well as rising stars Tuba Hasan and Arooba Shah participated in the WBBL draft.

Notably, Usama Mir has previously represented Melbourne Stars in last season, where he claimed five wickets in as many games.

The Big Bash League (BBL) is scheduled to kick off on December 15, with Perth Scorchers clashing against Melbourne Stars in the tournament opener in Perth. The tournament will culminate with the final on January 27, 2025.

Meanwhile, the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) will run from October 27 to December 1, with the opening game seeing Adelaide Strikers take on Brisbane Heat at the Adelaide Oval.

Pakistan lose two wickets after bundling Bangladesh for 262

Rawalpindi (Monitoring Desk): Ton-up Litton Das overshadowed Khurram Shahzad's six-fer as Bangladesh left Pakistan shell-shocked with one of the greatest fightbacks to leave the second cricket Test delicately poised at the draw of stumps on the third day's play at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Pakistan fully exploited early moisture in the surface to reduce Bangladesh to 26 for six inside nine overs of the day, before Litton Das and Mehidy Hasan Miraz put on 165 runs for the seventh wicket to take the score to 191. Bangladesh's tail continued to wag following Mehidy's departure as the last three wickets added another 71 runs in just over 26 overs, before the innings folded 32 minutes before close at 262 in reply to Pakistan's 274.

Bangladesh had earlier started the day at 10 for no wicket in two overs. When play ended, Pakistan were in a spot of bother at nine for two with Hasan Mahmud sending Abdullah Shafique (three) and nightwatchman Khurram Shahzad (zero) back in the hut. Pakistan are 21 runs ahead with eight second innings wickets in hand.

Litton overcame cramps and was the ninth batter out after scoring a gallant 138, falling to Salman Ali Agha who, two balls later, accounted for last-man Nahid Rana to finish with figures of 3.4-0-13-2. Abrar Ahmed, who was the only specialist spinner in the side and bowled his first over with Bangladesh reeling at 43 for six in 15 overs, returned with figures of 31-5-83-0.

Apart from adding 165 runs for the seventh wicket with Mehidy, who gave Khurram Shahzad his maiden five-wicket haul in third Test, Litton also put on 69 runs for the ninth wicket with No.10 batter Hasan Mahmud, who finished as the third most successful Bangladesh batter with 13 not out after occupying the crease for nearly two hours. Litton reached his fourth

Test century from 171 balls with 11 fours and two sixes, before being caught at long-on after a 228-ball knock that contained 13 fours and four sixes. In contrast, Mehidy, followed his five-fer with a 124-ball 78 with 12 fours and a six.

Trailing 0-1 in the two-Test series and scoring 274 in the first innings, Khurram had provided a dream start to Pakistan by knocking off Zakir Hasan (1), Shadman Islam (10), Najmul Hossain Shanto (4) and Shakib Al Hasan (2). Mir Hamza lent excellent support to Khurram from the other end, accounting for Mominul Haque (1) and Mushfiqur Rahim (3) to leave Bangladesh wobbling at 26 for six.

However, Pakistan had to wait for another 199 minutes before securing their seventh success, which produced another wicket of Taskin Ahmed shortly before tea. Khurram masterminded both the wickets to finish the day with impressive figures of 21-3-90-6, including first spell of 7-0-15-4. Khurram could have potentially added another wicket to his cap, had Shan Masood held on to a straightforward catch at short-cover of Hasan Mahmud.

Nonetheless, Khurram's six for 90 made him the first Pakistan fast bowler to take a six-fer in a home series since 2010 when Tanvir Ahmed recorded figures of six for 120 against South Africa in Abu Dhabi. Mir Hamza also bowled his heart out, finishing with figures of 16-1-50-2.

Scores in brief (day 3 of 5)

Pakistan 274 all-out, 85.1 overs (Saim Ayub 58, Shan Masood 57, Salman Ali Agha 54, Babar Azam 31, Mohammad Rizwan 29; Mehidy Hasan Miraz 5-61, Taskin Ahmed 3-57) and 9-2

Bangladesh 262 all-out, 78.4 overs (Litton Das 138, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 78, Hasan Mahmud 13 not out; Khurram Shahzad 6-90, Salman Ali Agha 2-13, Mir Hamza 2-50).

Ferrari's Leclerc wins Italian Grand Prix as Verstappen falters again



MONZA (AFP): Charles Leclerc won the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday to delight Ferrari's massed ranks of fans as Lando Norris again chipped away at struggling champion Max Verstappen's lead in the Formula One drivers' standings.

Monegasque Leclerc claimed victory at Monza for the second time after winning in 2019, holding off McLaren pair Oscar Piastri and Norris in a thrilling race in which Verstappen finished nearly 38 seconds off the pace in sixth.

Huge roars engulfed the stands as Leclerc took the

chequered flag after holding out on a set of hard tyres he had changed in his one and only pit stop on the 16th lap.

All of his major rivals, apart from teammate Carlos Sainz who ended up finishing fourth, pitted twice and McLaren were hoping that the Ferrari pair would do the same.

But instead Leclerc managed to keep his tyres in good enough condition to stay ahead and in the end finish the race comfortably in front of Piastri, who had taken the race lead early on after a daring overtake manoeuvre on Norris.

Briton Norris -- who

clocked the fastest lap right at the end -- will be disappointed by his finish after starting on pole but he managed to chop Verstappen's championship lead to 62 points with eight races remaining as his Dutch rival's barren run continued.

Verstappen has now failed to win any of the last six GPs after claiming the honours in seven of the first 10, and his and Red Bull's dominance of F1 looks increasingly in question.

A fourth straight world title looked a near certainty when Verstappen won in Spain back in June, but since then he has only finished on the podium twice.

Luis Suarez scores twice as Inter Miami crush Chicago



MIAMI (AFP): Luis Suarez struck twice to take his season tally to 16 goals in 20 Major League Soccer games as Inter Miami cruised to a 4-1 win over Chicago Fire on Saturday.

Miami, once again without Lionel Messi who continues to be sidelined by an ankle injury, have already secured their place in the playoffs and remain in top place for the regular season 'Supporters' Shield'.

But there was no sign of Gerardo Martinez's side easing off as Uruguay's Suarez continued his impressive scoring form.

The 37-year-old former Barcelona striker made Miami's opener in the 25th minute when his shot was parried by Chicago keeper Chris Brady only to fly into the net off the helpless defender Tobias Salquist.

Suarez was on target a minute into the second half when he beat Brady with a low left-foot shot at the near post after a smart exchange with Diego Gomez.

The veteran striker made it 3-0 with a close-range finish after a low ball into the box from his former Barcelona teammate Jordi Alba.

Giorgios Koutsias pulled a goal back for Chicago in the 82nd minute but Miami completed a convincing win when Leonardo Campana broke down the right and slipped the ball to substitute Robert Taylor with the Finnish winger making no mistake.

Defending champions Columbus Crew, fresh from their Leagues Cup triumph, look well placed to join Miami in the Eastern Conference post-season after two stoppage-time goals earned them a 4-2 win over New York City.

Algerian Mounsef Bakrar looked to have earned New York a point when he finished off a swift counter-attack to make it 2-2 in the 86th minute.

But in the third minute of stoppage time DeJuan Jones took advantage of some hesitant New York defending to poke home and then Jacen Russell-Rowe made it 4-2 for the Crew, who are third in the East.

FC Cincinnati, without suspended Argentine Luciano Acosta, remain a spot ahead of the Crew after a 4-1 win over Montreal with another

Argentine, Luca Orellano, scoring twice.

Orellano's second goal, in the 57th minute, to make it 3-0, was a spectacular strike from inside his own half.

In the Western Conference, second-placed Los Angeles FC suffered a surprise 2-0 home defeat to seventh-placed Houston Dynamo.

Ezequiel Ponce put the visitors ahead in the 28th minute, turning home from inside the six-yard box after LAFC failed to clear their lines.

Substitute Lawrence Ennalli made it 2-0, two minutes after coming on as a 70th-minute substitute. Ennalli showed electric pace as he burst down the left, cut inside and rounded Hugo Lloris to slot into an empty net.

Colombian Juan Mosquera's 54th-minute strike won the Pacific North West derby for Portland Timbers against Seattle Sounders.

Portland, Houston and Seattle are all on 40 points in the tight battle for the top seven spots and automatic qualification to the playoffs with the Sounders currently eighth on goal difference.



In brief

282,700 cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 282,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 327,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550.00 feet (maximum conservation level) and was 152.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 184,100 cusecs and 183,600 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1222.05 feet, which was 174.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 52,600 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 202,100, 192,300, 197,400 and 170,700 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 32,100 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 29,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

AIOU exams begin

ISLAMABAD (APP): Final exams for Matric, FA, and ICom programs offered in the Spring 2024 semester by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) are set to begin today (Monday, September 2) across the country. According to the University, the roll number slips have been uploaded to the students' CMS portals, and the date sheet is available on the university's website at www.aiou.edu.pk. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has instructed to ensure the provision of basic facilities for students at the examination centers. On the special instructions of the Vice-Chancellor, the roll number slips for Matric and Intermediate exams have also been uploaded to the AIOU Mobile Application, which is available on the Google Play Store.

RIUJ lauds Punjab Govt

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary General of the Rawalpindi Islamabad Union of Journalist (RIUJ) Workers, Syed Bilal Izzat Naqvi on Sunday lauded Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for her bold leadership in tackling the rampant land-grabbing activities that have threatened the investments and properties of many law-abiding citizens in Murree. He noted the significant changes in the police command, initiated under her directive, have already begun to restore confidence among the residents and members of various cooperative housing societies, said a press release. Bilal Naqvi extended gratitude to Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, for her action against the land grabbers in Murree. He said, "We are incredibly grateful to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for taking such brave actions against those who seek to undermine the rights of the people. Her decisive steps in replacing key police officials involved in collusion with these criminal elements have sent a strong message that lawlessness will not be tolerated." Bilal Naqvi highlighted the importance of cooperative housing societies, which are formed by members who invest their hard-earned money in securing plots for their families. He said that the business community was thankful to the Government of Pakistan for standing firm against the land mafia and their supporters within the departments.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Kashmir Parliamentary Committee Rana Qasim Non addressing a seminar on the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Gilani. —APP Photo

Ayaz Sadiq pays tribute to Syed Ali

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Sunday paid tribute to the heroic struggle of iconic Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, acknowledging his relentless and courageous struggle that gave new momentum to the Kashmir freedom movement.

In his statement, on his third death anniversary, the Speaker highlighted Geelani's enduring spirit, noting that despite enduring long and harsh imprisonments under Indian custody, his commitment to the cause of Kashmir's freedom

never wavered.

He said that the sacrifices made by Syed Ali Shah Geelani would be remembered in history with golden words, praising his powerful voice that breathed new life into the Kashmir freedom struggle. "Syed Ali Shah Geelani stood firm against Indian oppression and brutality, becoming an unyielding wall against state tyranny," the Speaker said.

Recalling Geelani's famous slogan, "We are Pakistanis, and Pakistan is ours," He noted that it continues to resonate deeply in the hearts of Kashmiris.

He expressed confidence

that the sacrifices of the martyrs, including Syed Ali Shah Geelani, would not go in vain, and that the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) would one day achieve the great blessing of freedom.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination, promising continued political, moral, and diplomatic backing for their cause.

He concluded by praying for the elevation of the ranks of Syed Ali Shah Geelani and other martyrs of Kashmir.

QAU alumni plants 10,000 trees nationwide

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a remarkable display of environmental stewardship and patriotism, the alumni of Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad successfully planted approximately ten thousand trees across Pakistan from August 10-30.

According to the QAU alumni, this extensive plantation drive, part of the 77th Independence Day celebrations, was conducted in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, particularly higher education institutions.

The tree plantation campaign, an annual tradition initiated by QAU Alumni in 2017, saw active participation in various regions of Pakistan, including Murree, Swat, Peshawar, Faisalabad, Lahore, Abbottabad, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Quetta, Wah, Multan Division, Gujjar Khan, and Islamabad. Notably, trees were also planted in federal colleges affiliated with QAU and in four newly established fruit orchards at the university.

This year's drive was made possible through collaborations with key partners, including the Capital Development Authority (CDA) in Islamabad, the University of Lahore, Ibadat International University Islamabad, Chaon, Edvoy Pakistan, Sidra Foundation, and other partner institutions.

The QAU Alumni also announced the next phase of the plantation drive to plant an additional twenty-five thousand trees in various cities across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, South Punjab, northern Sindh, and Balochistan, reinforcing the QAU Alumni's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and the greening of Pakistan.

This collective effort not only marks a significant contribution to the nation's environmental goals but also strengthens the bonds between QAU Alumni and the wider community, fostering a spirit of unity and shared responsibility towards a greener future for Pakistan.

Mushaal to carry forward shaheed Gilani's struggle

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the 3rd martyrdom anniversary of the iconic Kashmiri leader Shaheed Syed Ali Shah Gilani, Hurriyat leader Mushaal Malik paid heartfelt tributes to his unwavering dedication and reaffirmed that Gilani's powerful slogans will continue to illuminate the path to freedom, serving as a beacon of hope and inspiration for the Kashmiri people in their ongoing quest for self-determination.

In his special message on the PTV News, she praised Shaheed Syed Ali Shah Gilani as a courageous leader who devoted his entire life to the Kashmir struggle. She emphasised that Gilani was more than just a leader; he embodied the spirit of a thinker, a visionary, a revolutionary, and a symbol of sacrifice and victory.

Mushaal Malik noted that Gilani's name became synonymous with resist-

ance, inspiring generations of Kashmiris to stand up for their rights and freedom. His unwavering commitment to the Kashmir cause left an indelible mark on the movement, she said.

Mushaal Malik highlighted Gilani's remarkable vision, which continues to guide the Kashmiri people in their struggle for self-determination. She also emphasised the significance of his sacrifices, which have become a beacon of hope for those fighting for their rights.

Mushaal Malik remembered Shaheed Syed Ali Shah Gilani's two iconic slogans, which continue to resonate with the Kashmiri people.

The first slogan, "Pakistan Humara hai, hum Pakistani hain" ("Pakistan is ours, we are Pakistanis"), reflected Gilani's unwavering commitment to the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination and their

affinity with Pakistan.

The second slogan, "Na biknay walay hain, na jhuknay walay hain" ("We will neither sell out nor surrender"), epitomized Gilani's unshakeable resolve and the Kashmiri people's determination to resist oppression and fight for their rights.

She emphasised that these slogans continue to inspire and motivate the Kashmiri people in their ongoing struggle. Malik assured that the sacrifices of the Kashmiri people will not go in vain, and their blood will not be wasted.

She expressed her conviction that the sacrifices will yield results, and the Kashmiri people will soon achieve their goals.

She emphasized that Gilani's sacrifices will continue to fuel the movement until this goal is achieved, and the Kashmiri people can live with dignity and autonomy.

DG hails 'Kissan Card' as a game changer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General (Agricultural Information) Punjab, Naveed Asmat Kahloon Sunday announced an intensified awareness campaign to boost registration for the Kissan Card, a revolutionary initiative poised to transform the agriculture sector and improve farmers' lives.

In an exclusive talk with PTV News, he described the Kissan Card as a game-changer for Punjab's farmers, highlighting its potential to bring about a paradigm shift in agricultural practices.

In a bid to make the Kissan Card initiative a resounding success, the authorities have set up registration offices in approxi-

mately 140 districts, he added.

This massive exercise aims to cover a large number of farmers, enabling them to register for the Kissan Card and reap its benefits, he said, adding that by doing so, the Punjab government is ensuring that no farmer is left behind in this revolutionary initiative.

To ensure a hassle-free experience for farmers, the authorities have implemented a smooth registration procedure for the Kissan Card, he mentioned.

Moreover, ongoing awareness drives are being conducted to inform farmers about the project's benefits and registration process, he said, adding

that by simplifying the registration process and creating awareness, the government aims to maximize the reach and impact of the Kissan Card initiative.

The Kissan Card offers a range of subsidies that will empower farmers to increase agricultural production, leading to a significant growth in the sector, he highlighted and said that by providing financial support, the card aims to enhance crop yields, improve farming practices, and ultimately, boost the overall agricultural output.

This increase in production will have a ripple effect, contributing to the sector's growth and development, he concluded.

FFC taking concrete steps

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Ahmed Kamal announced Sunday that the Federal Flood Commission (FFC) was taking concrete steps to introduce modern ways to control floods.

"In line with Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's special focus on this area, FFC is collaborating with international experts to launch new small projects to enhance Pakistan's flood management capabilities and reduce the impact of future flood events," Ahmed Kamal added.

In an exclusive interview with PTV News, he shared details of the Federal Flood Commission's (FFC) comprehensive plans to mitigate flood risks in Pakistan and highlighted several key projects, including expansion of green structures like forests and wetlands to absorb excess water and prevent soil erosion, constructing flood channels in remote areas to divert water away from populated regions, building water diversion structures to utilize excess water for agriculture, and installing small radars to

enhance weather forecasting and early warning systems.

He said, "These initiatives aim to reduce flood risk, minimize damage to infrastructure, and provide sustainable solutions for water management, ultimately protecting the lives and livelihoods of Pakistani citizens." Chairman Kamal announced the installation of small radars to enhance weather forecasting and early warning systems. "These radars will provide real-time data to help authorities make informed decisions during flood events."

The FFC is working on water diversion structures that will utilize excess water for agricultural purposes. This innovative approach will not only reduce flood risk but also provide a sustainable source of water for farmers," he added. He said, "With the coordination efforts of irrigation and forest departments, FFC aims to expand green structures, such as forests and wetlands, which play a crucial role in absorbing excess water and preventing soil erosion. This initiative will help

reduce flood risk in vulnerable areas."

"The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has drafted a Flood Management Act, which has been sent to the Ministry of Law and Order for review, Chairman Ahmed Kamal announced. The ministry has suggested that the act be shared with all provinces, including Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), for collaboration and input, he added.

"Once all provinces have provided their feedback and consensus is reached, the FFC will implement the act, marking a significant step towards a unified and effective flood management strategy across Pakistan," he mentioned. "This collaborative approach will ensure a cohesive and coordinated effort to mitigate flood risks and protect the nation's resources," he added. Chairman Ahmed Kamal also highlighted the success of the two major weather radars installed in Islamabad and Karachi after the 2022 floods.

Islamabad's green initiatives model for other cities: Romina Khurshid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC & EC), Romina Khurshid Alam has lauded the initiatives launched by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration for transitioning to renewable energy and vulnerability of the capital city to climate change impacts.

In a statement on Sunday, PM Coordinator said MoCC & EC had proposed to ICT administration a unique AI based solution to improve air quality of the city to make it model environmentally-sustainable and climate-smart city of the world.

"Currently, the air quality of Islamabad is higher than interim WHO permissible limits, and the problem is getting worse because various reasons including increasing levels of emissions from gasoline and diesel-fueled vehicles," she highlighted. The PM's climate aide Ms Alam said the proposed solution under the transition to green energy involving promotion and adoption of electric vehicles and promotion of urban forestry would not

only enhance air quality in the capital city but also reduces the associated health risks and attracts more international tourists as well.

She said various policies and initiatives such as the electric bus service, climate change fund (CCF), Margalla Hills Fund (MHF) and Carbon Credit Programme (CCP) have been already introduced for ICT to enhance climate resilience and environmental sustainability of Islamabad and its periphery areas. Appreciating these initiatives, Romina Khurshid emphasised the importance of collective efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change being faced by the capital city.

"These measures are setting a pioneering example in climate action, promising a greener and more sustainable future for the residents of the capital city and the adjoining areas," Ms Alam highlighted. She acknowledged that the recently launched electric bus service in ICT is a significant step towards addressing environmental concerns, adding: "These buses emit no pollutants, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and noise pollution compared

to traditional diesel-powered buses".

Referring to different studies, she noted electric buses can be 2.5 times cleaner in terms of lifecycle emissions than diesel buses.

She said the CCF, the first of its kind project, will contribute to address environmental concerns in ICT region. Referring to CCP as part of the climate change initiative, the Prime Minister's aide Romina Khurshid said under this project 4 to 5 million trees would be planted over 2000-10,000 kanals all over the capital city. Romina said allocation of 1.5 per cent of revenue generated from recreational spots in margalla hills under MHF would be ensured to protect and conserve natural resources of the Margalla Hills National Park.

The PM's aide urged the administration of other cities to follow Islamabad's model for climate action in the cities, prioritising use of renewable energy, adoption of electric vehicles, promotion of urban forestry and climate-resilient construction for achieving environmental-sustainability goals in the cities across the country.

AI deploy with Afghan border

KABUL (Khaama Press): Iranian security officials responsible for implementing the plan to block the country's eastern borders state that they are utilizing surveillance technologies and artificial intelligence in this initiative. Brigadier General Kiumars Heidari, commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Forces, recently stated that they have implemented "intelligent blockades" using artificial intelligence in the border blocking plan with Afghanistan.

Sweden provides aid

KABUL (Khaama Press): The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has announced that Sweden has contributed \$6.8 million to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund for 2024. OCHA stated in a message on its official page that Sweden is the fourth largest contributor to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund. Sweden's assistance to Afghanistan from 2014 to date amounts to over 874 million Swedish Krona.

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

IE leader calls for implementation of Vice and Virtue law

KABUL (TOLONews): Sheikh Hibatullah Akhundzada, the leader of the Islamic Emirate, during a visit to Faryab, stressed the implementation of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue law across the country. The leader of the Islamic Emirate also said that the country should avoid division, discrimination, tribalism, and linguistic bias. The statement from the department of Information and Culture of Faryab reads: "The leader of the Islamic Emirate, in his remarks, highlighted to all officials of the Emirate's departments, both civil and military, that serious efforts should be made in the implementation of divine limits [Punishment], ensuring the safety of people's lives and property, providing healthy education for religious students, school students, and university students, and applying the law of promoting virtue in society. Do not forget the families of martyrs, the wounded, the disabled, those individuals, and comrades who stood shoulder to shoulder with you yesterday under difficult circumstances on the battlefields."

"We want changes to be made that are compatible with the nation, respect the people's demands," and stand by the nation," said Fazela Surosh, a women's rights activist. According to Faryab local officials, the leader of the Islamic Emirate also added that the 24th of Asad (solar calendar) will be named "Yawm al-Fath" (Day of Victory). "If this day is named Yawm al-Fath at the national level, I think it will remain strong in the future and will be inclusive and unified," said Edris Mohammadi Zazai, a political affairs expert. Meanwhile, some residents of Faryab, while expressing their satisfaction with the leader of the Islamic Emirate's visit to the province, also have some demands.

"Our request is that more attention be given to the people of Faryab. The people need the water dams in this province to be activated to become self-sufficient. Also, the roads in Faryab province, which have been damaged in recent floods, need to be reconstructed," said Alaudin, a resident of Faryab.

"As a citizen of Faryab, I request Amir al-Mu'minin to build roads, construct water dams, and initiate projects," said Shujaud, another resident of Faryab.

Earlier, the leader of the Islamic Emirate had also visited Badghis and met with local officials, tribal elders, and religious scholars in this province, discussing various issues.

Ministry reinforces commitment



KABUL (BNA): The Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, during a meeting with carpet exporters, emphasized the Islamic Emirate's commitment to facilitating and fully cooperating with the private sector. According to a press release from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the 11th board meeting of the Union of Carpet Producers and Exporters was chaired by Mawlawi Ahmadullah Zahid, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, with the participation of board members both in person and online. During the meeting, participants shared their reports with the Deputy Minister. Furthermore, discussions were held on the allocation of 1,000 acres of land, the carpet washing factory in Herat, and the land between two blocks of the Carpet Producers and Exporters Union. The decisions and resolutions of the 10th board meeting were also reviewed.

Mawlawi Ahmadullah Zahid stated that Afghan carpets, due to their high quality, have become a unique brand worldwide. He reaffirmed that the Islamic Emirate is committed to facilitating and fully supporting the private sector, particularly those sectors that create employment opportunities for fellow citizens, with the carpet sector being one of the most active.

Regarding the union's proposals and challenges, Mawlawi Zahid assured that the Ministry leadership will continue its comprehensive support for the carpet sector, urging the union to submit the discussed matters in writing to the Ministry.

Additionally, a three-member committee from the board was assigned to audit the union's revenues and expenditures, while a joint committee from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Carpet Union was appointed to review the union's lands and properties.

Kankor:

NEXA plans specialization of exam

KABUL (TOLONews): Officials of the National Examination Authority (NEXA) announced the specialization of the Kankor exam for the upcoming year, during a program on Saturday where they presented the authority's achievements over the past year. They said that discussions are ongoing to implement this process so that the Kankor exam will be specialized in three areas: medical, social, and scientific. Erfanullah Ebad, head of the Question Bank Regulation of the National Examination Authority, said during this program: "We intend to specialize the Kankor exam into three categories: medical, social, and natural sciences. Meetings have been held with the Ministries of Education and Higher Education, and discussions are ongoing. The specialization will be such that, for example, if a person wants to take the medical exam, more medical-related questions will appear."

The acting head of the National Examination Authority, Abdul Baqi Haqqani, said that they are also striving to strengthen



the new system for administering the exam and eliminate existing challenges. The acting head of the National Examination Authority said: "The examination systems of Afghanistan and Türkiye have similarities, but their final system is more advanced. Therefore, we have had meetings with Turkish representatives on this matter, and their technical team also visited here."

Furthermore, the acting head of the authority added that in the past year, they administered the exam to nearly 180,000 candidates in 58 stages and introduced more than 87,000 successful individuals. Additionally, in the past year, ten procedures and two regulations in various fields were enforced by this authority. Abdul Baqi Haqqani added: "Overall, 177,020 people have taken the exam, of which 87,103 individuals have been admitted to government institutions."

The National Examination Authority, in its presentation of achievements, reported that in the past year, they have collected over one hundred million Afghanis in revenue. The head of this authority also pledged that there is no interference from any party in the examination process, and the exams are conducted with complete transparency.

Afghanistan sign MoUs with Turkmenistan



KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum announced the signing of a number of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for the implementation of joint projects between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. The spokesman for the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, Homayoun Afghan, said that these MoUs were signed in a meeting between officials of the two countries to carry out major projects such as the TAPI gas pipeline project, the 500-kilovolt electricity transmission line from Turkmenistan to Pakistan, the development of the Torghundi railway terminal, and the implementation of the Herat-Sanobar railway.

He added that during the meeting, titled "Turkmen-Afghan Joint Meeting: Good Neighborly Relations," hosted by the Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan in Ashgabat, discussions were also held on enhancing bilateral cooperation and the strategic position of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan in regional connectivity. The spokesperson for the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum said: "At the end of these meetings, MoUs were signed between the

two sides regarding the TAPI project, the implementation of the Herat-Sanobar railway, and the development of the Torghundi railway terminal."

A number of economic experts believe the signing of these MoUs an important step in strengthening relations between Kabul and Ashgabat. "The TAPI project could bring Afghanistan \$400 million dollars annually in transit fees," said Abdul Zuhur Mudaber, an economic expert. "The TAPI project could contribute to Afghanistan's economic growth in a short period of three to five years," said Shams Rahman Ahmadi, another economic expert. On Wednesday afternoon of last week, a delegation from the Ministries of Finance, Public Works, and Breshna Company, led by Hedayatullah Badri, the acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum, traveled to Ashgabat to commence the practical work of joint projects between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan.

Poets in Paktia commemorate resistance against foreign forces

PAKTIA (TOLONews): A poetry gathering (Mushaira) was held in the Shah-i-Kot Valley, Rohani Baba district of Paktia province, attended by officials of the Islamic Emirate, poets, and cultural figures. Officials of the Islamic Emirate at this event said that the Shah-i-Kot Valley was the first stronghold for the beginning of the struggle against the former Soviet forces and NATO. Hamdullah Fitrat, Deputy Spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, said: "There was a difference between the army of the disbelievers, who believed in materialism and technology, and the army equipped with the weapon of faith and truth. Our forces strengthened their position against that mighty power and astonished arrogant America."

Aziz Rahman Mansoor, Deputy Minister of Hajj and Islamic Affairs, said:

"When, under the leadership of America, 52 or 58 countries attacked our dear country again, the first step recorded in history began right here from Shah-i-Kot."

Several poets at this gathering recited their epic poems about the beginning of the struggle against foreign forces from Shah-i-Kot Valley. "When ignorance prevails, power and wealth speak, trust disappears, and

people sell their silence," said Ekramuddin Maftoon, a poet. "The arrival of NATO after the Russians was an insult, but now this insult has ended in Afghanistan," said Israrullah Hassanzai, another poet. This poetry gathering is being held in the Shah-i-Kot Valley in the Rohani Baba district of Paktia province, three years after the last American soldier left Afghanistan on this day.

Retirees protest unpaid pensions, urge IEA to take action

KABUL (TOLONews): A number of retirees have once again protested due to the non-payment of their pensions and are calling on the Islamic Emirate to pay their dues immediately. They said they are tired of coming to the pension office every day. "I don't have a house; I live in a rented house. Every day, I come here with an empty stomach; my family is hungry. I come and go; it is our right; they should give it to us," Obaidullah, a retiree, told TOLONews. "They promise us that it will be this month, then the next month. If he is truly the Emir of the Faithful, he should follow in the footsteps of Caliph Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) so that his rule remains strong by the grace of God," said Nasrullah, another retiree. Meanwhile, other retirees said they have spent their lives serving the government and, after years of hard work, hoped that their retirement would be accompanied by peace and financial support. But contrary to their expectations, their pensions are not being paid, and many of them are left in an uncertain situation. "It has been three years since we have been coming here, and there is a lot of propaganda; people keep telling



us different things every day, but it has been three years now. Zabihullah Mujahid and other leaders of the Islamic Emirate promised us, but our pensions have not been paid," said Gulab Gul, a retiree. "If they don't have the money, they should sell our properties and give us our money. We have sold everything we had at home," said Mohammad Qasim, another retiree. In the past, retirees have repeatedly held gatherings in front of various offices, including the Ministry of Finance, UNAMA, and the Pension Fund, to draw attention to their demands and get their pensions paid, but it is still unclear when their dues will be paid. Although the Islamic Emirate has recently not commented on the matter, it previously said that the issue of retirees has been resolved by the leader of the Islamic Emirate and will be implemented under a certain mechanism.

ADF offers Islamic financial products



KABUL (Ariana News): The Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock on Sunday introduced two new Islamic financial products, namely Mudarabah and Musharakah, with an aim to develop the agriculture and livestock sector. Officials of the ministry said that farmers, livestock owners and businessmen can invest in the agriculture

said Abdul Ghafoor Ghafari, the head of ADF. Officials of the ministry reported that last year, more than 1.3 billion Afghanis was distributed to farmers and livestock owners from the ADF, and this year, more than 2 billion Afghanis is expected to be used from this fund to finance and help farmers and livestock owners. Meanwhile, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Sadri Azam Osmani highlighted efforts to standardize the agriculture and livestock sector in Afghanistan, and called on the private sector and international organizations to cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture in this regard. An estimated 80 percent of the Afghan population work in the fields of agriculture and farming.

IEA shuts down five charity foundations

KABUL (Ariana News): Afghanistan's Ministry of Justice announced on Sunday in a statement that the offices of five charitable foundations, unions and councils were closed due to illegal activities. According to the statement, the supervisory board of the Directorate of Communities and Social Institutions of the Ministry of Justice investigated 34 organizations, including

charitable foundations and unions, in the city of Kabul during the last two months. As a result, the offices of the five communities were closed due to "illegal activities". The announcement added that the investigation was carried out in the last 42 days into 18 unions, 15 charity foundations and one council were monitored and evaluated by the board. In addition, three charity foundations, one union and

one council did not have valid licenses. "The board advised the administrators of the aforementioned unions and charitable foundations to work according to the principles and policies of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and also asked them to submit the report of their activities on time to the head of the affairs of communities and social institutions," read the statement.

Work begins on three key projects worth \$1 million USD in Paktika

PAKTIKA (BNA): Paktika provincial authorities have announced the launch of three major public welfare projects in Wazikhwa district, valued at \$1.3 million, aimed at enhancing local infrastructure and services in the region. A representative from the Jalal Trading Foundation reported to BNA that the construction of a commercial market, a healthcare center, and a central mosque has begun in Wazikhwa district and is expected to be completed in the near future. He added that the commercial market will be a single floor structure with 200 shops. He further mentioned that the implementation of these projects will address the health and other various needs of the residents of Wazikhwa district, while also creating job opportunities for the local people. Meanwhile, the deputy governor



of Paktika, Mawlawi Makhdoom Saadat, expressed gratitude to the Jalal Trading Foundation and stated: "Several projects are currently being implemented in this province, and we aim to execute various other projects across Paktika in the future." It is worth noting that under the rule of the Islamic Emirate, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts are progressing rapidly throughout the country.

Ukraine launches mass drone attack on Russia, loses more ground in east

KYIV (Reuters): Kyiv launched one of the biggest drone attacks on Russia since the full-scale war began, targeting power plants and an oil refinery overnight, while Moscow's forces made further advances toward a key town in eastern Ukraine, officials said on Sunday.

Russian missile strikes on Kharkiv injured more than 40 people, including five children, prompting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to renew calls on allies to allow Kyiv to fire Western-supplied missiles deeper into enemy territory and reduce the threat of attack.

The fighting comes at a critical juncture in the two-and-a-half year conflict, with Russia pressing an offensive in eastern Ukraine while trying to expel Ukrainian forces that broke through its western border in a surprise incursion on Aug. 6.

Russia last week pounded Ukraine with its heaviest air strikes of the war, hitting energy facilities, part of a campaign of drone and missile barrages that have killed thousands of civilians and troops since the conflict began in February 2022.

Ukraine, with a rapidly expanding domestic drone industry, has stepped up its own attacks on Russian energy, military and transport infrastructure.

It is also pressing the United States and other allies for permission to use

more powerful Western-supplied weapons to inflict greater damage inside Russia and impair Moscow's abilities to attack Ukraine.

"All necessary forces for the rescue operation have been brought in," Zelensky said on his Telegram channel, in response to the Kharkiv attack that officials said involved at least 10 missiles and struck locations including a shopping mall.

"And all the necessary forces of the world must be brought in to stop this terror. This does not require extraordinary forces, but enough courage on the part of the leaders — courage to give Ukraine what it needs to defend itself."

In Kharkiv, rescue workers and volunteers carried injured civilians to ambulances after missiles struck the mall and an events hall. Shattered glass and debris were strewn across the ground and people fled to a metro station for safety.

Earlier, Russian officials said air defense units had destroyed 158 drones launched by Ukraine overnight, and that debris caused fires at the Moscow Oil Refinery and at the Konakovo Power Station in the neighboring Tver region.

Reuters could not independently verify the reports of drone attacks against Russia or from the battlefield in Ukraine, and Kyiv has yet to comment. Russia rarely discloses the full

extent of damage inflicted by Ukraine's air attacks.

Russia's nuclear doctrine Zelensky said that last week alone Russia had used 160 missiles, 780 guided aerial bombs and 400 attack drones against cities and troops across Ukraine.

He called on Telegram for "a decision on long-range strikes on missile launch sites from Russia, destruction of Russian military logistics, joint shooting down of missiles and drones."

Kyiv's allies are wary of how Russian President Vladimir Putin would respond should their weapons be used against targets far inside Russian territory.

Russia's TASS state news cited Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying that Moscow would change its nuclear doctrine in response to the West's actions over the conflict in Ukraine. He did not specify what the changes would entail. Russia's existing nuclear doctrine, set out in a decree by Putin in 2020, says it may use nuclear weapons in the event of a nuclear attack by an enemy or a conventional attack that threatens the existence of the state.

Russia, which accuses the West of using Ukraine as a proxy to wage war against it, has said before that it is considering changes.

"The work is at an advanced stage, and there is a clear intent to make cor-

rections," TASS cited Ryabkov as saying.

Some hawks among Russia's military analysts have urged Putin to lower the threshold for nuclear use in order to "sober up" Russia's enemies in the West.

In eastern Ukraine, where the heaviest fighting of the war is concentrated, Russian forces continued to advance toward Pokrovsk, which is a vital military hub and transport link to towns and cities further north.

Ukraine had hoped that its surprise incursion into Russia's Kursk region launched last month would force Russia to re-deploy troops and take the pressure off besieged forces in the east, but so far it does not appear to have had the desired effect.

Russia's defense ministry said on Sunday its forces had captured two more settlements in Donetsk region and were "continuing to advance deep into the enemy defenses." One of them, Ptyche, is just 21 km (13 miles) southeast of Pokrovsk.

At least three people were killed and nine wounded in Russian shelling of Kurakhove, a town around 35 km south of Pokrovsk, Ukrainian officials said.

Ukraine's top commander Oleksandr Syrskyi said the situation was "difficult" around Russia's main line of attack in eastern Ukraine.



GAZA: A child is being administered with polio vaccination in central Gaza Strip on Sunday during the UN-led campaign. — Reuters photo

First children receive polio vaccinations in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A first group of children received polio vaccinations in besieged Gaza ahead of the official start of a much-anticipated United Nations-led campaign on Sunday.

Children at the Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, central Gaza, were among the first to receive the vital vaccines on Saturday, according to footage shown on American television.

UN official said that success of the vaccination operation depends on the "humanitarian pause" in the bombardments of the enclave agreed by Israel.

After beginning in central Gaza, vaccines are set to be administered in southern Gaza and then in northern Gaza.

The campaign, which involves two doses, aims to cover more than 640,000 children under 10.

Michael Ryan, WHO deputy director-general, told the UN Security Council this week that 1.26 million doses of the oral vaccine had been delivered in Gaza, with another 400,000 still to arrive.

The Ramallah-based Palestinian health ministry said earlier this month that tests in Jordan had confirmed polio in an unvaccinated 10-month-old baby from central Gaza.

Poliovirus is highly infectious, and most often spread through sewage and contaminated water — an increasingly common problem in Gaza as the Israel-Hamas war drags

on.

The disease mainly affects children under the age of five. It can cause deformities and paralysis and is potentially fatal.

Israel's military campaign has killed at least 40,691 people in Gaza, according to the territory's health ministry. The UN rights office says most of the dead are women and children.

Relentless Israeli bombardment has also caused a major humanitarian crisis and devastated the health system.

Reuters add: The United Nations, in collaboration with Palestinian health authorities, began to vaccinate 640,000 children in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, with Israel and Hamas agreeing to brief pauses in their 11-month war to allow the campaign to go ahead.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) confirmed last month that a baby was partially paralysed by the type 2 polio virus, the first such case in the territory in 25 years.

The campaign began on Sunday in areas of central Gaza, and will move to other areas in coming days. Fighting will pause for at least eight hours on three consecutive days.

The WHO said the pauses will likely need to extend to a fourth day and the first round of vaccinations will take just under two weeks.

Children, escorted by members of their families, crowded a UN-run clinic in the central Gaza city of

Deir Al-Balah, where around one million people were sheltering, according to Palestinian officials. Medical staffers marked children who got the drops with a pen on their fingers. "I came to the UNRWA clinic today to vaccinate my daughters against polio and God willing we won't see any more diseases other than the diseases we are already experiencing. I hope we will go back to our homes safe and sound," said Gaza mother Afnan Al-Muqayyad.

Polio was just one of many of Al-Muqayyad's concerns.

"Skin diseases are widespread, there are no detergents, detergents are very expensive and we can't afford them. Also, the food is very expensive, everything is expensive, and the children's weight is dropping, they were fine before but now they're becoming very thin. I hope God will set things straight," she said. Juliette Touma, communications director of UNRWA, the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency, said the vaccination campaign was massive and "one of the most complex in the world."

"Today is test time for parties to the conflict to respect these area pauses to allow the UNRWA teams and other medical workers to reach children with these very precious two drops. It's a race against time," Touma told Reuters.

Israel and Hamas, who have so far failed to conclude a deal that would

end the war, said they would cooperate to allow the campaign to succeed.

WHO officials say at least 90% of the children need to be vaccinated twice with four weeks between doses for the campaign to succeed, but it faces huge challenges in Gaza, which has been largely destroyed by the war.

"Children continue to be exposed, it knows no borders, checkpoints or lines of fighting. Every child must be vaccinated in Gaza and Israel to curb the risks of this vicious disease spreading," said Touma.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces continued to battle Hamas-led militants in several areas across the Palestinian enclave. Residents said Israeli army troops blew up several houses in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, while tanks continued to operate in the northern Gaza City suburb of Zeitoun.

On Sunday, Israel recovered the bodies of six hostages from a tunnel in southern Gaza where they were apparently killed not long before Israeli troops reached them, the military said. The war was triggered after Hamas militants on Oct. 7 stormed into southern Israel killing 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostages by Israeli tallies.

Since then, at least 40,691 Palestinians have been killed and 94,060 injured in Gaza, the enclave's health ministry says.

Detroit Mayor putting political pull behind Harris

DETROIT (AP): Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan is deep in campaign mode. But not his own.

The three-term mayor, whose name is being floated as a possible Democratic candidate for Michigan governor, knows the value of his and his majority Black city's support for Vice President Kamala Harris in November's presidential election.

Duggan, like some other major city mayors across the country, is using his political pull to help mobilize voters in his city as Harris is set to visit Monday in a Labor Day slate of events by the Democrat and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

Mayors tend to be elected along partisan lines with policies reflecting the views of the majority of voters in their cities. Of the largest 20 cities in the United States based on population, only Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, have Republican mayors.

Mayors "know what's at stake," said Columbus, Ohio, Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, a Democrat who adds that he's "all in for the vice president." For Duggan, it's all about getting Harris and Walz elected. Michigan is among the top swing state prizes Harris and Republican nominee former President Donald Trump are vying for this fall, ever aware that Trump won the state by fewer than 11,000 votes in 2016 before losing it to President Joe Biden in 2020 by about 150,000 votes.

Detroit, Michigan's largest city, is one of the top

Democratic strongholds in the country, with turnout expected to top 50% of registered voters for the general election, according to its city clerk.

Soon after Biden bowed out of this year's presidential race, Duggan endorsed Harris. An August rally in the Detroit area drew 15,000 people, according to Harris' campaign. Trump later would falsely claim an image of thousands of people waiting at airport for the rally was fabricated with the help of artificial intelligence.

City Clerk Janice Winfrey said 55% or more of Detroit's registered voters could cast ballots in November. About 51% of registered voters cast ballots for Barack Obama when he first ran for president, Winfrey said.

"Everybody wants to be involved," said Winfrey, adding that Duggan's involvement in voter outreach extended to his support for a 40% increase in her budget.

But it's more than popularity driving mayors to cozy up to current and future presidents. Communities rely on millions in federal dollars for anything from infrastructure projects to hiring more police officers.

"We need to get things done," said Ginther, who also serves as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. "There's not a Republican or Democrat way to pick up trash, plow the streets or keep people safe. One of the major platforms is housing. By far it's the No. 1 issue facing mayors around this country,

whether Donald Trump is elected or the vice president is elected president."

Over the past five years, Detroit has invested about \$1 billion to create more than 4,600 affordable housing units in the city. Federal, state and city funds helped pay for those projects.

"Every mayor makes their own decision," Duggan said. "The cities have done enormously well under Biden/Harris."

Detroit was awarded about \$706.5 million in federal grant funding under the Trump White House. Biden's administration has awarded and committed more than \$2 billion to the city, according to Duggan's office.

The American Rescue Plan, a 2021 federal coronavirus relief measure signed by Biden that included funds for state, city and tribal governments, "probably accelerated Detroit's recovery by 10 years," Duggan said.

The city, deeply in debt and with annual budget deficits in the millions of dollars, was steered into and out of the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history by a manager appointed by Michigan's then-Republican governor a decade ago. Under Duggan, the city's finances have stabilized and budget surpluses now are the norm.

"What the American Rescue Plan did was give us the ability to rebuild our cities faster," Duggan said. "When Donald Trump ran for president he promised big infrastructure but never delivered on any of it."

1 killed, 2 injured in blast

BAJAUR (APP): A man was killed and two others sustained injuries when a blast occurred at Gabar Cheena area of Tehsil Salarzai here on Sunday.

According to police, the teams of Rescue1122 reached the site and provided first aid to the victims.

The injured were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital Khar where one of them identified as Rahimullah of Bhai Cheena succumbed to his injuries.

The two others injured were identified as Fazal Hadi and Mohibullah residents of Bhai Cheena.

Police were investigating the incident.

No survivors in crash of Russian helicopter

MOSCOW (Reuters): Searchers found no survivors among the wreckage of a Russian helicopter that crashed in the far eastern peninsula of Kamchatka with 22 people on board, state news agency TASS said on Sunday.

The Mi-8T helicopter had taken off from a base near the Vachkazhets volcano.

The Kamchatka peninsula, some 7,100 km (4,400 miles) east of Moscow, was hit by a cyclone over the weekend, with heavy winds and rain, but it was not clear if that was the cause of the crash.

MBS discusses developments in Palestinian territories with Erdogan

RIYADH (Arab News): Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman called Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday, Saudi Press Agency reported.

During the call, the crown prince stressed the Kingdom's keenness to unify the efforts of Arab and Muslim countries to support the Palestinian

people in the face of brutal aggression carried out by Israeli forces.

They also discussed the need to intensify efforts to stop ongoing Israeli attacks and violations against the Palestinian people.

In a post on X, Erdogan's office said that the two leaders discussed Gaza as well as regional

and global developments.

Saudi crown prince discusses developments in Palestinian territories with Egyptian president

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman also discussed developments in the Palestinian territories with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on Sunday, Saudi

Press Agency reported.

During a phone call with the president, the crown prince stressed the need to exert all efforts to stop the escalation in Gaza and ongoing Israeli violations against the Palestinian people.

Prince Mohammed also called Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday.



QUETTA: Security personnel standing guard at the site of the explosion near security forces check post at Chaman Phatak. — INP photo

WASHINGTON (Reuters): U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris criticized Republican presidential rival Donald Trump on Saturday over a visit he made to soldiers' graves at Arlington National Cemetery that was later used in campaign video footage.

"It is a solemn place; a place where we come together to honor American heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service of this nation. It is not a place for politics," Harris wrote in an X post.

The vice president weighed in five days after Trump took part in a wreath-laying ceremony on Monday honoring the 13 servicemembers killed during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021.

He also visited Section 60 of the Virginia cemetery, which the military considers hallowed ground. Federal law and Pentagon policies do not allow political activities in that section, but Trump's campaign posted a TikTok video with footage from the cemetery

as he battles Democrat Harris in a close race for the White House.

Trump's visit drew criticism from some veterans and soldiers' relatives. The U.S. Army on Friday defended a cemetery employee who was pushed aside at Section 60, saying she acted professionally and was being unfairly attacked.

"Let me be clear: the former president disrespected sacred ground, all for the sake of a political stunt," Harris wrote.

During a speech in Pennsylvania on Friday, Trump said families of service members who died in Afghanistan had asked him to go to Arlington National Cemetery.

"I got there and we had a ceremony," Trump said. The families asked if he could come to the graves, Trump said, and then they sought a photo. "I said, 'Absolutely.' So I was taking pictures at the grave," he said.

Trump launched a concerted pushback on Saturday posting videos on

his Truth Social account, showing relatives of at least seven of the 13 killed in the Afghanistan pullout defending his actions at the cemetery. Many of them addressed Harris directly and disputed her stated support for military families.

"Vice President Harris, why will you not express your condolences yourself? Why have we never heard from you?" asks Christy Shamblin, mother-in-law of Sergeant Nicole Gee, who was among those who died in the 2021 withdrawal, in one video.

Trump vice presidential pick JD Vance and press secretary Karoline Leavitt each responded to Harris' post on Saturday with one that referenced the Afghanistan pullout and accused Harris of being insensitive to the servicemembers who died there.

Trump used the third anniversary on Monday of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan to try to pin the chaotic pullout under President Joe Biden on his vice president.

Harris, 59, became the

Democratic nominee in the Nov. 5 presidential election after Biden, 81, pulled out of the race in July.

The vice president's response to the Trump cemetery visit may give a clue to how she would handle the topic in their Sept. 10 debate. She referred to Trump's history of insulting military veterans.

"This is nothing new from Donald Trump. This is a man who has called our fallen service members 'suckers' and 'losers' and disparaged Medal of Honor recipients," she wrote.

Trump once said the late Senator John McCain, a former Republican presidential candidate, was not a war hero even though he spent years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam after being shot down while a Navy pilot.

Trump referred to fallen World War One veterans as "suckers" and "losers," according to his former White House chief of staff, John Kelly, a retired Marine Corps general. Trump continues to dispute that report.