

**FIR of Swat blast lodged  
F.P. Report**

MINGORA: Divisional Police Officer Swat Monday lodged an FIR of a blast that occurred on Malam Jabba Road and registered at Police Station Counter Terrorism Department, Swat. DPO said the FIR contains provisions for terrorism, murder, and premeditated murder. A policeman embrace martyrdom in the blast that occurred on Sunday.



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BEIRUT: People carrying belongings at a beach as they flee in Tyre, southern Lebanon.

## PM to land in New York to address 79th UNGA session

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to arrive in New York tonight on a five-day visit mainly to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar, Federal Education and Professional Training Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, and Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatemi are accompanying the prime minister, according to a PM Office press release. Prime Minister Shehbaz will address several high-level meetings on the sidelines of the UNGA session including the "High-Level Meeting on Existential Threat posed by Sea-level Rise," "SDG Moment 2024", and the UN Security Council's Open Debate on "Leadership for Peace".

He will interact with the members of the US-Pakistan Business Council and Pakistani bankers to apprise them of his government's pro-business and investment policies. The meetings with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, UN General Assembly President Philemon Yang, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Founder Bill Gates, World Bank President Ajay Banga, and International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva are also on his agenda.

In a scheduled meeting with Palestinian President Mehmood Abbas, the prime minister will hold consultation on the ways to persuade the international community to accel-

erate its efforts to end Israel's oppression in Palestine. Prime Minister Shehbaz will also attend a luncheon reception by Sultan of Brunei Darussalam Hassanah Bolkiah on the completion of 40 years of his country's UN membership, and also a dinner reception by Chief Advisor of Bangladesh Dr Muhammad Yunus to mark 50 years of his country's UN membership. During his US visit, the prime minister will highlight before the world leaders the impacts of climate change on the countries, Pakistan's sacrifices in its fight against terrorism, challenges faced by the debt-burdened countries, Indian illegal occupation of Indian Illegal Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and ongoing genocide of innocent Palestinian people by Israeli occupation forces.

**Xi sends birthday wishes to PM:** Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, extending his warm birthday wishes and reaffirming the promotion of China-Pakistan strategic cooperation and the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The letter received by Prime Minister Shehbaz on his 73rd birthday from President Xi is an extraordinary development in solidifying the diplomatic relationship between both countries, according to a PM Office press release. Conveying his good wishes to the prime minister, Xi said that Pakistan and China had been enjoying a strategic partnership through thick and thin marked by mutual trust and support which remained unaffected by any changing

international scenario. The Chinese president recalled Prime Minister Shehbaz's "successful" visit to China in June this year wherein two sides reached agreements on various matters and said that the strengthening of China-Pakistan ties was of great significance to him.

He said that he desired to work together with Prime Minister Shehbaz for the promotion of China-Pakistan strategic cooperation and the construction of CPEC. Expressing his best wishes for the good health and success of PM Shehbaz, President Xi also reaffirmed his commitment to enhance China-Pakistan cooperation in various fields and work for building the China-Pakistan community of shared destiny in the new era.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for extending the warm wishes on his 73rd birthday. "I am grateful for this gracious gesture that reflects the iron brotherhood and All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and the People's Republic of China," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline in response to a congratulatory letter he received from President Xi.

In his letter, President Xi had extended his warm birthday wishes and reaffirmed the promotion of China-Pakistan strategic cooperation and the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "Together, we will continue to work assiduously to build a prosperous Pakistan-China community with a Shared Future," the prime minister remarked.

## Constitution, law not safe in country: Fazl

F.P. Report

KARACHI: JUI-F head Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that "neither the constitution nor the law has been safe in Pakistan. Addressing a gathering in Karachi, JUI leader said that the Parliament and other institutions have also not been safe.

He said Pakistan's friendly nations are also worried, how to save the country? "We are not prepared for compliance of the constitution," Fazlur Rehman said. "Bringing changes (in constitution), but those changes that should not reflect your specific political interests," JUI leader said. "We have talked with the People's Party, they will give us their draft (of amendments) and we will give ours," Fazl said. "We will pick mutually agreed points from these drafts," the JUI leader said while referring the constitutional legislation under consideration.

## Kurram clashes claim 12 lives in three days

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Clashes between the rival tribes in different areas of Kurram district have so far claimed at least a dozen lives and injured 22 others, said a police report on Monday.

Heavy and light arms were used by the tribesmen involved in the ongoing conflict that started after construction of trenches by the rival tribes in villages Boshehra and Ahmadzai. Police informed that the firing took place over construction on a disputed land, which intensified in exchange of heavy fire in the Balishkhel area. The clashes resulted in losses from both sides. The rival tribes engaged in heavy firing and shelling in Balashkhel, Khaar Kali, Trimanal, Baghki, Maqbal and Kanj Alizai.

Meanwhile, a bazaar in Sadda market, Kurram that

belonged to one of the tribes involved in the conflict was blown up and fortunately, no casualty happened in this incident. Residents of the Bhagan tribe reportedly blocked the main Parachinar-Peshawar artery, creating troubles for commuters. Elders of Turi-Bangash tribes urged the authorities to take quick action to resolve the issue amicably. They urged the government to take action against the violence mongers and restore law and order in the district.

Meanwhile, member of the National Assembly (MNA) Engineer Hamid Hussain and parliamentary leader of the Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) staged a protest sit-in outside the Parachinar Press Club. He said that the sit-in was meant to draw attention of the high-ups towards the repeated outbreaks of violence in Kurram district. He

demanding swift action against those responsible for the clashes and the deteriorating law and order situation in the region.

The clashes over land disputes have been a longstanding issue in the region, often resulting in loss of lives and disruptions to daily life. Local elders and political figures have also urged for a peaceful resolution to the conflicts and stressed the need for restoration of lasting peace in the region.

Moreover, former federal minister Sajid Hussain Turi called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and asked him to play a part in resolving the volatile situation in Kurram district. They expressed serious concern over the rising violence and instability in the area and called for urgent and coordinated efforts to restore lasting peace.

## Lt Gen Asim appointed new ISI DG



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik has been appointed as the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General and will take charge on September 30. The announcement was made by the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) in a press release issued on Monday.

Gen Malik is currently serving as an adjutant general at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, the ISPR said. He will be replacing Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum, who was appointed in 2021 by then-prime minister Imran Khan. Gen Anjum, who was commissioned in service in September 1988, earlier headed Corps V in Karachi. He commanded a brigade in Kurram Agency, led Frontier Corps (North) in Balochistan and remained commandant of Command and Staff College Quetta before becoming Karachi corps commander in December 2020.

In October 2021, then-Major General Asim Malik had been promoted to the rank of lieutenant general, as well as appointed the army's adjutant general. During the course of his military career, Gen Malik has served in the Balochistan infantry division and commanded the infantry brigade in Waziristan, the ISPR statement said. It highlighted that the new DG ISI had been awarded an "honorary sword in his course".

Other than that, Gen Malik had also served as the chief instructor at the National Defence University and as an instructor at the Command and Staff College Quetta. The military officer is a graduate of Fort Leavenworth in the United States and Royal College of Defence Studies in London.

## Qaiser asks PM to quit

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Former National Assembly speaker and PTI leader Asad Qaiser has said that the government will not last till December, it is better that Shehbaz Sharif resigns himself.

He said the nation has been reeling under inflation and unrest. There are no representatives of the people in the current assembly, he added. "The government is trying to take away our reserved seats," the former speaker said and added that the PTI was playing its role as opposition in the assembly.

Talking about the Lahore rally, he dared parties to "organise a rally under the circumstances we held the jalsa. "The Lahore rally was a historic rally." He said raids were conducted before the rally to arrest PTI workers and leaders, he continued. Asad challenged "Mian Sahib to hold a rally having half of our rally's participation."

## PTI eligible for reserved seats

Election authorities denying major political party recognition infringes electorate's rights: SC issues detailed verdict

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday released its detailed verdict on the July 12 order in the reserved seats case, which had declared the PTI a parliamentary party. The 8-5 majority July order had declared ex-premier Imran Khan's PTI eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities, dealing a major setback to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's ruling coalition.

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah had announced the majority verdict, which was supported by seven other judges: Justices Munib Akhtar, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha A Malik, Athar Minallah, Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Shahid Waheed and Irfan Saadat Khan.

The case had been heard by a 13-member bench — Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail had penned a minority judgment; Justices Aminuddin Khan and Naeem Akhtar Afghan in their ruling had rejected the pleas for reserved seats; and Justice Yahya Afridi had also dismissed the Sunni Ittehad Council's petitions. Despite the 8-5 split, all 13 judges had declared the PTI a parliamentary party as they ruled that out of a list of 80 MNAs, 39 belonged to the PTI while 41 were given the chance to resubmit their party affiliation.

The 70-page judgement released today, available on the SC's website, was authored by Justice Shah, who is set to succeed incumbent CJP Isa as the top judge in October. The verdict states: "When election authorities engage in actions [...] such as unlawfully denying the recognition of a major political party and treating its nominated candidates as independents, they not only compromise the rights of these candidates but also significantly infringe upon the rights of the electorate and corrode their own institutional legitimacy."

"The importance of free and fair elections in a democracy cannot be overstated. The judiciary's role in ensuring electoral integrity and upholding the will of the people is essential for sustaining public trust in the democratic process," the order

read. The SC asserted that the "court's power to do 'complete justice' is a critical tool in preventing democratic backsliding and protecting democracy effectively".

The eight-judge order also expressed "some doubts about whether the Commission has the power to reject the certificate of intra-party elections submitted by a political party under Section 209, and whether the Commission exercised its discretion under Section 215(5) justly, fairly and reasonably in PTI's case, adding "fundamental right of citizens to vote for the political party of their choice was at stake". "Similarly, we have certain reservations about how the matter of intraparty elections — a matter of internal governance of party — can trump the fundamental rights of citizens to vote and of political parties to effectively participate in and contest elections through obtaining a common symbol for their candidates, guaranteed under Articles 17(2) and 19 of the Constitution.

"However, since these questions are sub judice in the review petition filed by PTI against this Court's judgment dated 13 January 2024, we abstain from examining and expressing our definitive view on them," the verdict said, referring to the SC ruling denying the PTI its party symbol. The verdict stated that Justice Mazhar wished to "make clear that nothing in this paragraph is intended to or will impact upon the hearing of the review petition".

In its majority verdict, the SC also observed that the returning officers (ROs) and the ECP's numerous "unlawful acts and omissions" had "caused confusion and prejudice to PTI, its candidates and the electorate who voted for PTI". "PTI's nominated candidates were wrongly shown independent candidates in the list of contesting candidates (Form 33) by the returning officers and were also wrongly notified as independent returned candidates in the Section-98 notification by the Commission," the judgment read. It noted that "after the intra-party elections (which were not later accepted by the Commission), Gohar Ali Khan had assumed at least de facto charge of PTI's functions and affairs as its chairman".

## Lot of questions still unanswered: Tarar

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday said that a lot of questions were still answerable in the detailed judgement announced by the Supreme Court in the reserved seats case. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said, had not been a party in the reserved seats case at any forum, including the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Peshawar High Court (PHC) or the SC.

He said courts were used to give decisions on principles that who had filed the case and what relief was prayed by the petitioner. Such questions were not answered in the reserved seats case as the apex court seemed to have not examined those aspects, the law minister said while addressing a press conference.

Azam Tarar said that independent candidates had joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) willfully and that their move was irreversible as per the law. He said that the ECP was an independent institution working under constitutional oath and it had to

render its responsibility under the law. Similarly, he said, that the legislation was the sole prerogative of the Parliament. The judgment had not commented on the amendments in the election law, he added.

The minister said that the review petition had not become ineffective after the announcement of detailed judgment in the reserved seats case. The question that the instant decision had not been taken as per the petitioner's prayer, was required to be addressed, he added. The minister said that the Peshawar High Court had given judgment as per the law.

He said that strict words had been used against two judges who had given dissenting notes, but it would not dilute their opinion. The difference of opinion was grace of any verdict, he adding citing that a number of dissenting notes had been written in various cases in the past. Azam Tarar said that the question that how the relevant sections of the law would be overruled to allocate the reserved seats to the PTI, was also not answered.

The independent candidates, he said, had them-



selves closed their case after joining the SIC. There had never been a debate on the allocation of reserved seats to the PTI during the whole proceedings of the case, he added.

He said that only one question was to be adjudged in the case that whether the SIC was entitled to the reserved seats or not. Independent candidates also never claimed that they belonged to the PTI, he added. The law minister said that the full court of the SC had viewed the Practice and Procedure Act, and accepted that legislation was the sole prerogative of the Parliament. The full court also did not declare that the Parliament could not amend laws, he added.

## 274 dead, over 1,000 wounded in Israeli strikes in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP): Lebanese Health Minister Firass Abiad said the death toll in Israeli strikes Monday rose to 274, including 21 children, the bloodiest daily toll in nearly a year of cross-border clashes. The toll stood at "274 dead, including 21 children and 39 women — that's who we know about until now", Abiad told reporters, adding "thousands of families from the targeted areas have been displaced".

The dead also included two rescuers, with 16 other emergency workers wounded, he said, adding that "two ambulances, a fire truck and a medical centre were targeted". The attacks wounded 1,024 people who were treated in 27 hospitals, Abiad said. About 5,000 people had been wounded "in less than a week" of Israeli attacks, he said, after Hezbollah paggers and walkie-talkies exploded and an Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs.

That number accounts for about half of the overall wounded toll of "10,000

to 11,000", he said, referring to nearly one year of cross-border clashes between the Iran-backed Hezbollah group and Israel after the eruption of the Gaza conflict. The conflict began when Hamas attacked Israel, with Hezbollah and other Iran-backed groups around the region drawn into the violence. The Israeli military said it had struck around 800 Hezbollah targets on Monday.

"Since this morning, the IDF [military] has conducted proactive and extensive aerial strikes against Hezbollah terrorist targets in Lebanon," a statement said, adding that the strikes hit "approximately 800 Hezbollah terror targets in southern Lebanon and in the area of Bekaa deep inside Lebanese territory". World powers have implored Israel and Hezbollah to pull back from the brink of all-out war, with the focus of violence shifting sharply in recent days from Israel's southern front with Gaza to its northern

border with Lebanon.

"We sleep and wake up to bombardment ... that's what our life has become," said Wafaa Ismail, 60, a housewife from the southern Lebanese village of Zawtar. Israeli military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari told people in Lebanon to avoid potential targets linked to Hezbollah as strikes would "go on for the near future". Hagari said Israel's military "will engage in [more] extensive and precise strikes against terror targets which have been embedded widely throughout Lebanon". He told civilians to "immediately move out of harm's way for their own safety".

The strikes sent hundreds of people fleeing their homes, according to Bilal Kachmar, an official in Tyre. "Hundreds of displaced people rushed" to a school-turned-shelter in the southern city, he said, with many others "camping out in the streets". AFP cor-

respondents saw rows of cars leaving the nearby city of Sidon. The Israeli military also warned people living in the Bekaa valley, in eastern Lebanon, to flee their homes, as it announced it was "broadening" the scope of its strikes.

Explosions around the ancient city of Baalbek in eastern Lebanon triggered flashes of fire and sent smoke billowing into the sky. In divided Lebanon, large parts of the south and east of the country, as well as the southern suburbs of capital city Beirut, are seen as strongholds of Hezbollah, where the group has historically wielded influence and built up services for its support base. The education minister said schools in targeted areas would close for two days.

The official National News Agency said the Lebanese had received phone messages from Israel telling them to "quickly evacuate". Hezbollah, a powerful political and military force in

Lebanon, says it is acting in its near-daily battle with Israeli troops along Lebanon's border in support of its Palestinian ally Hamas, which is also backed by Iran. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that Israel was not waiting for threats to emerge but was preempting them and was acting to change the "security balance" in the north.

Hezbollah's deputy chief, Naim Qassem, said the group was in a "new phase, namely an open reckoning" with Israel, and ready for "all military possibilities". They spoke after Hezbollah rocket attacks on northern Israel caused damage in the area of Haifa, a major city on Israel's north coast. On Sunday morning, hundreds of thousands of people in northern Israel fled to their bomb shelters as Hezbollah fired a barrage of rockets across the border.

The attack came after an Israeli air strike in Hezbollah's southern Beirut

stronghold on Friday killed its elite Radwan Force commander, Ibrahim Aqil, along with other commanders and civilians. Last Tuesday and Wednesday, coordinated communications device blasts that Hezbollah blamed on Israel killed 39 people and wounded almost 3,000. On Sunday, Hezbollah said it targeted Israeli military production facilities and an air base in the Haifa area with rockets as "an initial response".

On Monday, the group said it had again fired rockets at military sites near Haifa. "No country can live like this," said Ofer Levy, 56, a customs officer, who lives on the edge of Haifa. Since the cross-border exchanges between Israel and Hezbollah began in October, tens of thousands of people on both sides have fled their homes. An Israeli military official, who cannot be further identified under military rules, on Monday outlined the goals of the military operation.





ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Said Ahmed Al-Malilki. —APP Photo

## CM emphasizes CPEC's importance for Pak-China ties

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on Monday the significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a vital indicator of the robust and enduring relationship between Pakistan and China.

The CM views CPEC as a crucial development initiative that not only enhances economic ties but also reflects the deep-rooted partnership and mutual cooperation between the two nations. She expressed her views while participating in the 75th National Day ceremony of the People's Republic of China, where she met Chinese Consul General Zhao Shirin to convey her congratulations on this significant occasion.

The CM expressed greetings on behalf of the Pakistani people, stating, "On the occasion of China's 75th National Day, I extend my warm wishes to the Chinese people." She conveyed that the people of Punjab also send heartfelt congratulations to their Chinese brothers and sisters, expressing pride in attending the event.

She lauded the Chinese nation for achieving remarkable heights in development and innovation while extending a hand of friendship to the global community. Maryam Nawaz emphasized

that China's greatness lies in its unwavering commitment to peace, cooperation, and humanitarian well-being.

Highlighting the deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and China, she remarked that their relationship was built on trust, respect, and a shared vision for a bright future. "Our bond is not merely based on strategic interests; it is a connection of hearts and souls," she asserted.

The CM acknowledged China's significant achievements in lifting millions out of poverty and praised its role as a model for the world in technology, infrastructure, and industry. She noted China's indispensable contribution during global crises, affirming its commitment to providing resources to countries in need.

As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China has consistently promoted peace and development, exemplified by its Belt and Road Initiative, she said and added that the fruits of China's economic development are benefiting people around the world and that China is emerging as a leader with a vision that transcends borders.

CM Maryam Nawaz expressed pride in the strong and resilient

friendship between Pakistan and China, affirming that both nations were progressing together towards prosperity and a peaceful future. She prayed for the continued strengthening of the Pakistan-China friendship.

Zhao Shirin, the Chinese Consul General in Lahore, acknowledged the Chief Minister's people-friendly initiatives, highlighting projects like the IT City, cancer hospital, air ambulance services, and solar panel programs that provide real relief to the public. He commended the Punjab government for delivering excellent services to the people and called out "Long Live Pakistan-China Friendship."

The ceremony featured the national anthems of both countries, traditional Chinese cultural performances, and the cutting of a cake to celebrate China's 75th anniversary. Various cultural presentations included Chinese music, songs of love for the homeland, and a dragon dance. Prominent attendees included Governor of Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider, Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan, Senior Minister Maryam Aurangzeb, Provincial Minister for Industry Chaudhry Shafique Hussain, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, and IG Usman Anwar.

## OGDCL announces Rs. 463.698 billion in net sales revenue

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), in its meeting held on Monday, September 23, 2024, in Islamabad, announced the financial results for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

OGDCL achieved net sales revenue of Rs. 463.698 billion, with a profit after tax of Rs. 208.976 billion, translating to earnings per share (EPS) of Rs. 48.59. This strong financial performance reflects OGDCL's commit-

ment to operational excellence amidst a challenging economic and energy environment.

The Board of Directors announced a final cash dividend of Rs. 4.00 per share (40%) for the year ended June 30, 2024. This is in addition to the interim dividends of Rs. 6.10 per share (61%) already paid to shareholders during the year. Notably, the final quarterly dividend of Rs. 4.00 per share is the highest quarterly dividend in the Company's history, bringing the total cumulative dividend payout to 101%.

During the fiscal year, OGDCL contributed Rs. 218 billion to the national exchequer through taxes, dividends, and royalties.

The Company made five significant hydrocarbon discoveries during the year, further enhancing its portfolio. These discoveries were made in key areas across Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, continuing OGDCL's focus on expanding its resource base to support the country's energy needs.

In terms of production, OGDCL achieved an average daily output of 33,117 barrels per day (BPD) of crude oil, 717 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of gas, and 717 metric tons per day (MTD) of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Without the production curtailments by SNGPL and UPL, crude oil production could have reached 33,495 BPD, gas production 771 MMSCFD, and LPG production 736 MTD, reflecting potential increases of 1,107 BPD (3.1%), 7 MMSCFD (0.9%), and 16 MTD (2.2%), respectively, over last year's figures.

These efforts have played a key role in reversing the declining production trend seen over the past five years, during which crude oil and gas output had dropped by 20% and

24.6%, respectively.

In addition to its operational successes, OGDCL made considerable progress in production optimization, achieving annual savings of approximately Rs. 34 billion in the form of import substitution.

The Board of Directors commended the management's efforts in driving the Company's overall performance, which has contributed significantly to ensuring sustainable growth and energy security for the country. Key projects such as compression installations at KPD-TAY, Dakhni, and Uch continue to progress, securing uninterrupted supply as per contractual obligations and maintaining the company's operational integrity.

Moreover, OGDCL has embarked on a diversification project to assess the geothermal potential of its fields. The ongoing R&D project in collaboration with Schlumberger is expected to be completed by December 2024, marking a significant step toward diversifying the Company's energy portfolio.

Looking ahead, the Company remains committed to maintaining operational excellence while pursuing new growth opportunities to maximize shareholder value and support Pakistan's energy needs.

## DUHS confirms smooth MDCAT 2024 amid Heatwave

### F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) reaffirms that the MDCAT 2024 examination was conducted smoothly and efficiently, despite the hot weather conditions on Sunday. To ensure the comfort of candidates and their families, proactive measures were taken to mitigate the effects of the heat.

In response to reports published in various newspapers suggesting that MDCAT candidates were left standing in the heat for extended periods, DUHS categorically denies these claims. The university's administration has issued an official statement clarifying that entry into the exam centers was scheduled between 7:00 AM and 9:30 AM, with an extended grace period allowing candidates to enter until 9:55 AM. Addressing specific claims regarding Larkano, where it was reported that several candidates were allegedly denied entry despite arriving on time, DUHS stated that these allegations are unfounded.

The university reiterated that exam gates were to be closed at 9:30 AM, but leniency was shown, and candidates arriving up to 9:55 AM were admitted. However, no candidates were permitted entry after 10:00 AM, as the exam commenced promptly at that time.

The DUHS administration firmly asserts that any claims made by students or parents suggesting mismanagement are entirely false. The university holds documented evidence to substantiate its position. Comprehensive arrangements were made for the convenience of parents at each exam center, including seating, water, and restroom facilities. In Karachi, air-conditioned waiting areas were available for parents, ensuring their comfort throughout the day. Additionally, DUHS emphasized that external traffic and logistical management, particularly at NED University, Ojha Campus, and the Larkano exam center, were handled by the district administration and traffic police.

The traffic situation, especially on University Road in Karachi, has been notably challenging due to the ongoing BRT Red Line project, and the large influx of students and families on test day added to the congestion. DUHS remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of organization and fairness for all candidates and thanks the district administration, traffic police, and other stakeholders for their continued support.


## NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

### For the Procurement of IT Equipments (Printers, Desktops, Laptops and Licenses)

Sealed Bids/Quotations are invited from well reputed, authorized Dealers/Firms/Companies who are active tax payers and having proof of registration with one of the federal or provincial authorities for sales tax and income tax for purchase of certain equipment. Tenders Documents containing bidding procedure, terms & Conditions and required no of Equipments can be obtained on formal request by showing expression of interest on below mentioned email.

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- Firm/organization can submit their quotations via email: [procurementgloft@gmail.com](mailto:procurementgloft@gmail.com).
- The bids should reach on above email on or before 11/10/2024 up to 11:30 AM which will be opened on the same day at 11:00 PM in the presence of the representatives of the firms who choose to be present.
- Bids will be evaluated under single stage single envelop procedure of KPRA Rules 6(2)(1) of 2014.
- The firms/vendors should be registered with sales tax and income department and must be reflected on active tax payer list of FBR. The bidder is also required to be registered with KPRA.
- Incomplete tender shall not be entertained.
- The firms/vendors shall be bound to supply the items within the stipulated time as mentioned in the purchase order or tender form.
- All taxes levied by the government will be deducted from the invoice of the successful bidders.
- Bids are required to be valid till 30-06-2025.
- The Competent Authority may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal. The Procuring agency shall upon request communicate to any bidder, the ground for its rejection of all bids or proposal, but shall not be required to justify those grounds.


**PUBLIC NOTICE AUCTION OF GOLD**

Branch: Nowshera Auction Date: 26-09-2024 Branch code: 0024 Time: 10:00 AM

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

Customer Name	CNIC #	Address	Gold Weight (GM)	Detail of Gold Ornaments
Fakhr E Alam	17201-9936083-7	New Mohala Fakhar Abad, Post Office Nowshera	15.5	1 Kainti, 4 Rings

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE AUCTION OF GOLD**

Branch: Mansehra Auction Date: 25-09-2024 Branch code: 0029 Time: 10:00 AM

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

Customer Name	CNIC #	Address	Gold Weight (GM)	Detail of Gold Ornaments
Usman Sajid	13503-5083395-3	Gran Thali Andarasi, Tehsil & District Mansehra	21	8 Earrings, 1 Necklace

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



# Ihtisham, UNICEF team discuss installation of oxygen plants in 10 districts

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A key meeting between Advisor to Chief Minister KP on Health, Ihtisham Ali, and UNICEF officials was held at the Advisor's office here on Monday. The UNICEF team was led by Dr. Inam Ullah, alongside Immunization Officer Dr. Kamran Qureshi. Additional Director General Public Health Dr. Shahid Younas, Director Nutrition Dr. Fazal Majeed, and Director Maternal and Child Healthcare Dr. Khizar Hayat were also present.

During the meeting, Dr. Inam Ullah congratulated Advisor Ehtisham Ali on assuming his new role and provided a comprehensive briefing on UNICEF's support for the Health Department. He outlined the various areas in which UNICEF is providing technical and financial assistance to the department. Key discussions revolved around the installation and maintenance of oxygen plants in 10 districts across the province.

The Advisor was also briefed on the Integrated Service Delivery Program currently being implemented in the southern districts with UNICEF's support. Dr. Inam Ullah highlighted UNICEF's collaboration in improving maternal health services, specifically in Torghar district, where the deployment of female doctors has significantly enhanced maternity care.

In addition, UNICEF is supporting the department in areas such as cold chain management, digitalization, and immunization. The organization has also assisted in establishing the Social and Behavioral Change Cell within the Directorate General Health Services to enhance communication strategies.

UNICEF is playing a vital role in the digitalization of the health system, including technical support for the DHIS-2 system, which has been implemented in 15 districts. Moreover, during the last floods, UNICEF helped in the rehabilitation and reactivation of 19 health centers affected by

the disaster.

**Ihtisham Ali briefed on department's digitalization efforts by IT cell**

A high-level meeting on the digitalization of the Health Department was held under the chairmanship of Advisor Health, Ihtisham Ali. The meeting was attended by Special Secretary Health Ghafoor Shah, Muhammad Khalil, Director ICT Population Council Islamabad, In-charge IT Cell Zaki Ullah, Assistant Director IT Ashfaq Ahmed, Web Developer Yasin Khan, and other relevant officials.

During the meeting, Director ICT Muhammad Khalil briefed the Advisor on the Integrated Health and Population Dashboard, which is being developed to unify all management information systems of the Health Department. In-charge IT Cell Zaki Ullah provided a comprehensive update on the digitalization efforts within the department.

He explained that the HR records have already been digitized, enabling real-time tracking of vacant and filled positions

through the HRMIS system. He also mentioned the upcoming introduction of the Leave Management System, with district-wise HR data verification pending completion.

Advisor Ihtisham Ali instructed the team to expedite the launch of the online system for postings and transfers. He emphasized that this system will eliminate fake notifications and allow for real-time verification of all executive orders and notifications.

All DHOs and MSs are required to ensure the use of designated apps and systems for updating their data online. He directed that the entire Health Department's data should be digitized within a month, and all postings and transfers will be managed online.

Furthermore, the Asset Management System will be utilized to enhance the functionality of health centers based on the collected data. Over 40 programs are being integrated with the department's MIS systems, streamlining operations across the board.



PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister KP on Health, Ihtisham Ali being briefed on health department's digitalization by IT Cell.

## Active participation of Ulema stressed for reforms in society

PESHAWAR (APP) Minister of Hajj, Aqaf and Religious Affairs, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sahibzada Adnan Qadri on Monday stressed the imperative role of Ulemas and religious scholars for reforms, establishment of peace and order in society.

Presiding over a meeting

of the Muttahida Ulema Board here, he said that the imperative role of Ulemas and religious scholars could not be denied in reforming a society, adding that the current provincial government regards the scholars with great value, so their financial problems and other issues could be

addressed.

He said that the development of Madrasas and welfare of the Ulemas was the first priority of the provincial government.

The participants of the meeting expressed their special gratitude to the provincial minister for taking steps for the develop-

ment of religious schools and the welfare of Ulemas and preachers and for conducting the recent National Seeratul Nabi (peace be upon him).

Secretary Aqaf Department Adil Siddique and other officers of the ministry were present on this occasion.

## Environment friendly public transport A viable solution for improving air quality, urban mobility

PESHAWAR (APP): Once known as the "City of Flowers," Peshawar with 2500 years documented history is now grappling with air pollution and traffic congestion, exposing its residents to various health hazards.

Once famed as fragrant blooms of monsoon's flowers and red roses mostly blossomed in its ancient Mughal era gardens of Wazir Bagh and Shalmir Gardens, Peshawar has now been overshadowed by the relentless smoke exhausted from an influx of unregistered rickshaws, old taxis, and aging passenger vehicles where air pollution could be seen even with a naked eye due to dozens of brick kilns operating in its peripheries.

Congested areas like Hastnagri, Firdus, Khyber bazaar, Shoba, Tehkal, and Dabgari garden were engulfed by traffic congestion, where long queues of vehicles stretched endlessly, leaving many to stay for long hours in the hot weather amid traffic chaos.

Dabgari Garden, a vital center for medical services, has become a bottleneck where patients, often in

ambulances, find themselves stuck for hours en route to essential care. "Traffic jams have made our life miserable," lamented Fayaz Khan, a retired PST teacher while talking to APP at Dabgari Garden.

After spending nearly two hours navigating a route that should take just thirty minutes, he expressed frustration over the physical toll the gridlock takes. "My knees started to hurt from constant clutch and brake use while trapped in a massive traffic jam at Hastnagri-Firdus GT Road," Fayaz said. The transport department official told APP that the reliance on informal public transport has exacerbated the traffic situation as people still prefer wagons and taxis between Hayatabad and Chamkani despite BRT service.

"Most residents opt for unregistered rickshaws and taxis while travelling in the interior city, contributing to the traffic disorder on our streets, increasing problems for traffic policemen" he noted. The enforcement of regulations of traffic and environment laws to curb illegal operations is essential, alongside increasing

BRT buses frequency to enhance mobility and combat air pollution in Peshawar.

Sadaf Kamal, Spokeswoman of Trans Peshawar told APP that BRT service has ensured speedy quality mobility in Peshawar where about 350,000 passengers were daily travelling through it. She said the number of buses has been increased to 244 in main corridor and feeder routes, helping in addressing the problem of traffic congestion on BRT routes. Sadaf said that 503 smoke emitting wagons and buses were scrapped after launching of BRT at Peshawar and that compensation were paid to the owners besides jobs to its drivers and conductors. Due to BRT, she said the number of women passengers had increased from two percent to 30 percent besides positive social, educational and economic effects in lives of Peshawarties.

She said the Govt has planned to launch similar projects at Abbotabad, Swat and DI Khan. She maintained that BRT services were extended to Nasirbagh Road to link Regi Model

Town with BRT's main corridor and plans to extend it to Pabbi tehsil of Nowshera are under active consideration.

BRT's services have been recognized both at national and international level and received five international awards including Institute for transport development and policy as gold standard award, sustainable transport award in 2022-24, prize for cities and best smart ticketing program.

As Peshawar seeks to reclaim its title as a City of Flowers, the transition to an environmentally friendly public transport system and strengthening of BRT service could help prove to be a panacea for addressing its air quality woes and traffic mess. By addressing these pressing issues, the city has an opportunity not just to improve daily commutes, but to safeguard the health of its residents and restore the beauty of its environment. The residents also demanded an increase of BRT buses and speedy completion of its commercial malls at Dabgari Gardens and Hayatabad Peshawar to increase its revenue vital to facilitate passengers.

## Tatara Police foil drug smuggling bid

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Police claimed to have foiled a drug smuggling bid and arrested alleged smugglers within the jurisdiction of Tatara police station.

The operation was led by SHO Cadet Qamar Shehzad and his team, who intercepted a motorcycle attempting to smuggle narcotics, arresting Omar, a resident of Khyber District, and seizing over 4 kilograms of charas. In another operation, SHO Qamar Shehzad arrested Musa, a resident of Bannu, for involvement in ice smuggling, recovering thousands of rupees worth of ice. Both suspects confessed during initial investigations, and cases have been registered against them and further investigations are underway.

## BRT resumes Zu Express bus

PESHAWAR (APP): TransPeshawar on Monday resumed BRT Zu Express bus services ER-10 and ER-12 for the convenience of students of Peshawar University and educational institutes in the Hayatabad area.

## POWA strike enters into 5th Day

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Prosecutor Welfare Association (POWA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa strike entered its fifth day, severely impacting court proceedings across the province, on Monday.

The strike has led to no hearing of criminal cases in courts, under-trial prisoners transferred back to jail without any proceed-

ings, accused individuals remain in jail due to delayed in hearing of bail applications.

POWA stated that the grievances are remain unresolved despite five days of strike hence, we will continue our strike for indefinite time.

POWA 9-point charter of demands including establishment of autonomous Prosecution Department, Prosecutor

General's Office, service structure, Independent investigation authority, enhanced prosecution powers, improved working conditions and regular promotions.

The prosecutors displayed protest banners in their offices, highlighting demands. Negotiations between the government and prosecutors failed to resolve issues, prompting continued strike action.

## Prof. Dr. Farid named among top 2% scientists

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Prof. Dr. Farid Khan, University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar has been included in the prestigious world's top 2% scientists list 2024 published by Stanford University, USA and Elsevier, a global information analytics company.

The world's top 2% scientists list is published annually and is an esteemed resource to recognize the most prominent scientists in their respective fields worldwide which is based on data from Scopus, the world's largest abstract and citation database and includes



scientists from all fields of research.

Prof. Dr. Farid Khan is an eminent researcher, scientist, academician and administrator and is the founding director of the "Sensor and Energy Harvesting Systems

Research Lab".

He has expertise in the field of energy, energy harvesting, energy sustainability and resilience, renewable energy, Mechatronics Systems and Machine Health Monitoring.

It's worth mentioning that Prof. Dr. Farid was also part of world's top 2% scientists list 2023.

The inclusion of Prof. Dr. Farid Khan in the list is a substantial accomplishment for UET Peshawar. It is a testament to the innovative, high quality, cutting edge research accomplished at the University and commitment of its faculty and researchers.

## Speakers urge for empowerment of LG system

PESHAWAR (APP): Speakers at a orientation session here on Monday emphasizing the critical need for strong and empowered local governments system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to resolve the problems of people at their doorsteps.

Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) conducted a one-day orientation session for heads of local government representatives under the KPLG Act 2013.

The session focused on clarifying their roles and responsibilities while addressing challenges amid the current political and economic turmoil.

Notable attendees, including Deputy Speaker Suriya Bibi and former LG Secretary Hifz ur Rehman, advocated for the timely release of funds to empower representatives in effectively serving their communities and fostering development. The session has been conducted with the support of Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

Ms. Moonus Kayinat Zahra, Project Manager at CPDI, emphasized that strong local governments are fundamental to democracy. Despite constitutional provisions, local governments in Pakistan face

numerous challenges, including over-centralization, inadequate funding, and limited citizen participation.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while the Local Government Act promotes citizen involvement, greater financial autonomy is essential for effectiveness.

Immediate release of funds by the KP LG Government is crucial for local representatives to serve their communities.

Additionally, she advocated for inclusive local governance that amplifies the voices of women and marginalized groups.

Ms. Suriya Bibi, Deputy Speaker of the KP Provincial Assembly, delivered opening remarks emphasizing the critical need for strong and empowered local governments.

She highlighted the pressing issue of delayed fund releases for local government representatives, which exacerbates financial crises and hinders their effectiveness.

Ms. Bibi reaffirmed the commitment of the Provincial Minister for Local Government, Elections, and Rural Development, the chief minister, to strengthen the local government system and ensure timely fund dis-

bursement.

She also advocated for inclusive governance that amplifies the voices of women and marginalized communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Dr. Taj Muharram, a senior academician, provided an insightful overview of the historical evolution and legislative framework of local governance in Pakistan. He focused on the development of the local government system, emphasizing its constitutional and legal foundations.

The session aimed to clarify key concepts for elected representatives, enhancing their understanding from a political science perspective and equipping them to navigate the complexities of local governance effectively.

Hifz ur Rehman, former Secretary of Local Government, Elections, and Rural Development KP, conducted an informative session on the roles and responsibilities of local government representatives under the KP Local Government Act. He engaged participants in a focused discussion about the powers and functions of local government officials, using practical examples to illustrate key concepts and enhance understanding.

## Guardians of Peace: Pakistan armed forces and their sacrifices in global conflict zones

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

**PAKISTAN has played an integral role in global peacekeeping efforts, particularly through its participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions. This commitment to peace and stability across the world has become a hallmark of Pakistan's foreign policy and an expression of its moral and religious values. The dedication, professionalism, and sacrifice of the Pakistan Armed Forces have earned them global recognition and respect.**

Since its independence, Pakistan has maintained a strong presence in the international community, with its armed forces consistently participating in peacekeeping operations under the United Nations' banner. The country first began contributing troops to UN peacekeeping missions in 1960 during the Congo Crisis. Over the decades, Pakistan's military personnel have served in some of the most conflict-ridden regions of the world, from the Balkans to Africa, and from the Middle East to Asia. The commitment remains unwavering as Pakistan continues to be one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping operations.

Pakistan's armed forces, particularly the army, have participated in a vast number of peacekeeping missions. These include deployments in conflict zones such as Congo, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Haiti, Kosovo, Darfur, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, East Timor and many other countries. The role of the armed forces in these missions varies from providing security and support to maintaining law and order and assisting in humanitarian efforts. The goal is to create an environment where peace can be restored, allowing civilians to rebuild their lives after devastating conflicts. Over the years, Pakistan has contributed more than 200,000 personnel to 46 missions in 28 countries.

One of the most significant aspects of Pakistan's contributions is the sacrifice made by its soldiers. Peacekeeping is a dangerous and demanding task, requiring personnel to operate in hostile environments, often under difficult conditions. Pakistan has made sub-

stantial sacrifices in this regard. As of today, more than 170 Pakistani soldiers have laid down their lives while serving in peacekeeping missions, making Pakistan one of the highest contributors of personnel and martyrs in the UN peacekeeping forces. These soldiers represent the highest ideals of service, sacrifice, and dedication to global peace.

Pakistan's role in global peacekeeping is not limited to its male soldiers. Women in the Pakistan Armed Forces have also made significant contributions, particularly in the medical field, where they provide essential services to both peacekeepers and civilians in conflict zones. The involvement of women in peacekeeping operations not only enhances the operational effectiveness of missions but also aligns with the United Nations' objective of promoting gender equality in peace efforts.

The United Nations peacekeeping missions are designed to restore peace and stability in conflict zones by deploying military, police, and civilian personnel from various member states. While participation in these missions is voluntary, it is seen as a responsibility shared by all member countries to ensure global stability. The UN Charter does not mandate compulsory participation in peacekeeping missions for all nations. However, as a member of the international community, countries are expected to contribute in some capacity, either through financial support or by sending troops. For many nations, including Pakistan, participation in these missions is both an international duty and a demonstration of their commitment to world peace.

Pakistan's commitment to peacekeeping is also deeply rooted in its Islamic values, which emphasize peace, justice, and harmony among people. Islam promotes the idea of peace as a fundamental principle. In the Holy Quran, it is stated, "And if they incline to peace, then incline to it [also] and rely upon Allah" (Surah Al-Anfal, 8:61). This verse highlights the importance of striving for peace and engaging in efforts to bring an end to conflict. In another verse of the Holy Quran, it is stated, "Whoever saves a life, it is as if they saved all of humanity" (Surah Al-Ma'idah, 5:32). This

powerful verse aligns with the selfless efforts of Pakistan's armed forces, both men and women, as they work to restore peace and heal the wounds of conflict across the globe. Similarly, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized the value of peace and reconciliation throughout his life. He sought peaceful resolutions to disputes, even in the face of adversity, and encouraged his followers to foster harmony and avoid conflict whenever possible.

In the Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Shall I not inform you of something more excellent than fasting, prayer, and almsgiving? It is putting things right between people, spoiling relations is the shaver (i.e., it erases good deeds)." This saying underscores the significance of fostering peace and resolving conflict, showing that peacebuilding is considered one of the highest acts of worship in Islam.

Pakistan's participation in peacekeeping missions can be seen as a practical application of these values. By contributing to international peace and security, Pakistan's armed forces are not only fulfilling their global responsibilities but also aligning their actions with the Islamic principles of peace and justice. Their role in peacekeeping missions is, therefore, both a national duty and a religious obligation.

In conclusion, Pakistan's role in UN peacekeeping missions is a testament to its commitment to global peace and stability. The bravery and sacrifice of the Pakistan Armed Forces in these missions reflect the country's dedication to promoting peace in some of the world's most volatile regions. With more than 170 martyrs and a legacy of participation in 46 missions, Pakistan stands tall among the nations striving for a peaceful world. Through these efforts, the country not only strengthens its international standing but also upholds the Islamic values of peace, reconciliation, and justice. While participation in peacekeeping missions is not mandatory for all countries, Pakistan's consistent involvement demonstrates its deep-seated belief in the importance of peacebuilding, both as a member of the international community and as a nation guided by Islamic teachings.





## In brief

### PPs strike continue in Buner F.P. Report

BUNER: Prosecutor Officer Welfare Association (POWA) Buner chapter continues pen down strike on 5th consecutive day called by provincial cabinet in favor of their demands, on Monday. District Public Prosecutor Syed Falak Seer said that for a long time, the prosecutors have been approaching the relevant offices for the approval of their legitimate demands while talking to The Frontier Post. He claimed they have been knocking on the door but there was no positive response, so they were forced to resort pen down strike at the provincial level due to which the judicial work and the follow-up of cases have been affected and the police are facing legal problems and difficulties in following up the cases properly. The lawyers' work also suffered but the prosecutors had no other better option left with them other than but to go on pen down strike till acceptance their ling standing demands. DPP extended thanks to all those lawyers community judicial employees for visiting prosecutors strike camp and assured support.

### Attendance of medical staff F.P. Report

KARAK: Newly appointed District Health Officer (DHO) raised the baton against the employees who steal work, gave strict instructions to all the hospitals and primary health centers responsible to ensure the attendance of the employees and to transform the health centers into centers of service to the suffering humanity in the true sense. Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Khattak, an expert in administrative affairs, came to the office on Monday and assumed the official charge as DHO. As soon as he assumed charge, the newly appointed DHO called the EPI Coordinator, Malaria Control Program In-charge, Public Health Coordinator and LHW Coordinator to their offices and took a detailed briefing on the current situation of polio, ten deadly diseases, leishmania and dengue. And instruct the paramedics to take effective measures to prevent them from the available resources, and also to transform all the hospitals and primary health centers into centers of service to the suffering humanity in the true sense, while the medical superintendents to ensure 100% attendance of the employees. Give instructions.

### Timeframe scheduled F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: In the light of the orders of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, all the officers of the tehsils, including the Deputy Commissioner, are present in their offices to provide relief to the people in Toba Tek Singh from 10 am to 11:30 am. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu said that as usual heard the problems and issued orders for their immediate solution. The citizens appreciated the exemplary initiative of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif and said that it was possible to solve the complaints and problems because all the officers were in their offices during these times. Deputy Commissioner said, as per instructions of the Punjab government, all the officers in their offices. They are obliged to sit and listen to the problems of the citizens, he said that this initiative of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif is commendable, citizens can come to my office and explain their problems.



KARAK: KP Minister for Agriculture, Major (retd) Sajjad Barakol talking to media persons.

## Jl urges tribesmen to participate in jirga

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Khyber chapter urged the local tribesmen to actively participate in the tribal peace jirga to be held on September 25, 2024 at Delazak road, in Peshawar aimed to address issues of peace and development in the merged tribal districts.

Addressing to a news conference in Landi Kotal press club, district Khyber on Sunday Chairman Tehreek Haqooq Qabail and district naib ameer Shah Faisal Afridi, tehsil ameer Murad Hussain Afridi, general secretary Irfan Afridi, naib ameer Jamrud Zerghun Shah Afridi and others said that the jirga would take up issues like poor law and order situation, lack of basic facilities, growing target killing and kidnapping for ransom incidents and prolonged delay in provision of basic rights.

They added that the law



and order situation from Bajaur and Waziristan was unstable however the federal and the provincial governments had turned blind eyes towards it.

The JI leaders noted that as per the country; Constitution, safety of the lives of the citizens and their properties was the sole responsibility of the government but ironically the latter had failed to fulfill its duty.

Since the day, the government had announced Azm-e-Istehkam forces operation, militancy recommenced in the tribal region,

they added and said merged districts development funds were misused in the name of restoring peace.

The jirga would address the central chief of JI, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman in addition with numbers of leaders from across the province, they remarked.

They said that tribal elites and certain leadership of mainstream political parties especially from tribal districts were also expected to be participated in the jirga. They urged the tribesmen of Khyber to success the jirga by ensuring their active participation in it.

## AGEGA announces strike on 26th

Syed Waliullah Shah

NEWSHERA: All Government Employees Grand Association (AGEGA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa announced strike on 26th September in front of press clubs across the province, on Monday.

The government employees must unite to stop the economic exploitation by the government, as their survival depends on it, AGEGA argued. In this regard, an important provincial executive council meeting of All Pakistan Clerk Association (APCA) and AGEGA was held under the chairmanship of Fazal Ghaffar Bachi.

The meeting was attended by AGEGA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President Wazir Zada Khan and dozens of leaders from across the province. The meeting also completed the reorganization of AGEGA Nowshera, electing Muhammad Nahid Khan as Chairman, Zafar Javed as General Secretary, and Imran Khattak as Coordinator.

Speakers addressed the meeting, stating that the government's anti-employee policies have led to economic exploitation of poor government employees in Pakistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They criticized the government's new policies, which cut salaries, pensions, and benefits, and vowed to protest against these measures.

## Kohat Radio staff hosts luncheon

F.P. Report

KOHAT: The officers and staff of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Kohat hosted a luncheon party in honor of the newly appointed Station Manager and Producer Engineer Dr. Muhammad Athar Suri at a local hotel here on Monday.

The party besides the Regional Officer Information and PRs Kohat Irshad Afridi, was also attended by the Senior Transmission Engineer Sajid Mahmood Khattak, Junior Transmission Engineer Muhammad Sadiq Wazir, Audio Editor Abid Nawaz, Assistants Ansar Saeed and Jahanzeb Khattak, Duty Officers Muneebullah Afridi and Asif Mehmood Bangash and staff of the Pakhtunkhwa Radio Kohat.

Sajid Mahmood warmly welcoming Dr. Athar Suri, said that his appointment as Station Manager will further develop the Radio as he has a lot of experience as Station Director in Pakhtunkhwa Radio Peshawar. He hoped that Kohat Radio will also establish a distinct identity in the Pakhtunkhwa Radio Network under the leadership of Dr. Athar Suri.

Regional Officer Information and PRs Kohat in his welcome address termed the appointment of Dr. Athar Suri as a good omen for the Pakhtunkhwa Radio Kohat and extended his all-out support to him.

The newly appointed Station Manager thanked all the staff of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Kohat for the honor and said that this Radio is our own institution and we all have to work together as a team and take this Radio to the extent that will be followed by others.

## Dengue cases on the rise in Punjab

MIANWALI (INP): Dengue cases are on the rise in Punjab as 86 new cases were reported from various parts of the province during the last 24 hours.

Majority of these cases, 74 in total, were reported in Rawalpindi, while Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Attock, and Mianwali each recorded two cases. One case each was identified in Lahore, Kasur, Chakwal, and Sahiwal. According to health department sources, the total number of dengue cases was swelled to 1,044 after 377 new cases were reported in Punjab.

A spokesperson for the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department said that hospitals were fully equipped with necessary medicines and treatments to combat the virus. In response to the spike in cases, the health depart-

ment has issued an advisory urging citizens to maintain clean and dry environment to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

They called for public cooperation with health teams actively working to control the outbreak. A free helpline (1033) has also been provided for those seeking treatment or information, or to register complaints related to dengue. Health department officials stressed the importance of vigilance and proactive measures to curb the spread across Punjab.

On the direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the up-gradation of all hospitals inside the City has commenced. This was disclosed by Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir during the inauguration of a new nursery and

blood bank at the Govt Maternity Hospital New Karol on Sunday. The minister said the addition of these facilities was a part of larger up-gradation process aimed at improving the hospital's services.

He emphasised that each hospital would be thoroughly assessed, and any missing or inadequate facilities would be provided on a priority basis. Khawaja Imran Nazir announced the opening of clinics for hepatitis and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) under the chief minister's directive, further enhancing the healthcare system in the City. During his visit, the minister toured various departments of the hospital, reviewing medical facilities and inquiring from patients about the availability of medicines, tests, and other treatments.

## SCCI demands action against Commissioner, RPO

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Swat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) has condemned the blast and held the Commissioner and RPO responsible for the incident due to their negligence and security lapses. The meeting also offered prayers for the martyred police officer, Burhan Khan, and announced a donation of Rs. 100,000 to his family. The Chamber expressed concerns that the blast was a deliberate attempt to destabilize Swat and create an impression that terrorists still exist in the region.

In response, the Chamber has announced a protest rally on September 27 at 2 pm at Nishat Chowk, Mingora, urging the public to participate in large numbers to condemn such inci-

denents and demand improved security measures. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) issued a clarification on social media, stating that they have no connection to the attack on police personnel providing security to foreign diplomats.

District Police Officer said that the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) has registered a case regarding the blast on Malam Jabba Road, including sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), explosive materials, murder, and attempt to murder.

He added that the funeral prayer of martyred policeman Burhan Khan performed with official honors, while other injured personnel are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

## Future of ailing public sector universities

Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad

**I**n a landmark move, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has taken unprecedented action to address the longstanding issues plaguing public sector universities, providing hope to suffering employees and students.

A writ petition (CP-07/2024) filed by the All Public Universities BPS Teachers Association (APUBTA) exposed the dire situation, highlighting the delayed appointments of Vice Chancellors in over 70 universities nationwide. This has resulted in:

Financial and administrative chaos, Delayed salaries, Stalled promotions and Vacant teaching positions. On July 11, 2024, Bench 1, of the SCP under the Chief Justice of Pakistan ordered universities to provide detailed records, including: Meetings of statutory bodies (Senate, Syndicate, Selection Boards, Finance and Planning Committee, and Board of Trustees) Financial records (revenue generated from students and grants) and Liability records if any.

The court also sought information on administrative positions, like Registrar, Controller of Examination and Treasurer, the court during discussion questioned illegal extensions granted to some Vice Chancellors. In a dramatic turn of events, Vice Chancellors of federal

universities were summoned to appear in person on September 20. Some were dismissed on the spot for illegally extending their terms, while others attempted to evade attendance.

Islamic International University's Vice Chancellor claimed exemption due to illness but was ordered to appear, with the court offering to provide an ambulance if necessary. The university's assertion that it was not a public sector institution was swiftly rejected, and a special audit through the Auditor General of Pakistan was recommended. APUBTA welcomed the court's intervention, saying, "We expect the honorable court to investigate corruption and nepotism in appointments and reappointments in violation to clear provision of promotion in HEC ordinance 2002."

The association urges the court to address the systemic flaw allowing Vice Chancellors to prioritize hiring relatives and acquaintances even for HEC HED and for politicians and members of bodies over promoting incumbent staff, who often wait decades for promotions. Universities advertise positions, in violation to the provision of one scale promotion of incumbents.

The writer is General Secretary of APUBTA and is a PhD from the University of Essex, UK and serving the university of Malakand as Associate Professor of Mathematics.

## IG FC stresses on youth empowerment for development

F.P. Report

WANA: In an encouraging move towards regional development and youth empowerment, Major General Mehar Umar Khan Niazi held a meeting with the young people of Waziristan from various sectors of life.

The meeting focused on key areas such as education, skills development, sports, and tourism, along with other positive regional activities. The discussions emphasized the importance of mutual consultation in driving forward development initiatives.

During the meeting, Major General Niazi stressed the critical role of education in the progress of any region, stating that "No area can progress without education." He assured the participants that efforts would be made to promote quality education across the region. He also highlighted the pivotal role that young people play in both national and regional development, encouraging them to take an active part in these efforts.

The youth of Waziristan expressed their appreciation for the sacrifices made by security forces to ensure

peace in the region. They also committed to fully cooperating with authorities in promoting education, sports, and tourism as key areas for growth.

In a positive exchange of ideas, the youth presented several suggestions to the IGFC for the development and prosperity of Waziristan. These proposals ranged from improving educational facilities to creating opportunities for youth engagement in sports and tourism, marking a significant step forward in fostering a collaborative environment for the region's progress.





## Six dead after record rain causes floods in Japan



TOKYO (AFP): Six people have been killed and 10 others are missing after record rainfall caused floods and landslides in parts of Japan's Ishikawa prefecture. The cities of Wajima and Suzu, which are still recovering from a deadly earthquake that devastated the area on 1 January, are among the hardest hit by the deluge, which began and continued until noon local time (03:00 GMT) on Monday.

Both cities saw twice the amount of rainfall they typically receive in September in an average year, local media reported. Dozens of rivers burst their banks, cutting off roads and isolating more than 100 communities across the prefecture, the reports added. Two of the people who died were found near a landslide-hit tunnel in Wajima. One of them was a construction worker carrying out road repairs. Two elderly men and an elderly woman were among the other fatalities, the Japan Times said citing local authorities.

Japan's meteorological agency issued

its highest "life-threatening" alert level for Ishikawa and downgraded it to a regular warning. However, authorities have called for continued vigilance as the torrential rain was likely to continue until at least noon on Monday. The floodwaters inundated temporary housing built for people who had lost their homes in the New Year's Day earthquake. Footage aired by NHK showed an entire street in Wajima submerged under water.

The region is still recovering from the powerful 7.5 magnitude earthquake in January which killed at least 236 people, toppled buildings and sparked a major fire. Some 4,000 households were left without power on Monday, according to the Hokuriku Electric Power Company. More than 40,000 residents across four cities in Ishikawa - including Wajima, Suzu and the town of Noto - have been evacuated over the weekend. Another 16,000 residents in the Niigata and Yamagata prefectures north of Ishikawa were also told to evacuate, the AFP news agency said.

## Ukrainian soldiers killed in SUV donated by miners

KYIV (BBC): Six Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in an attack on a vehicle donated by Welsh miners just months ago. The men died when their SUV was shelled by Russian artillery in August, according to a Ukrainian trade union. The car was driven to Ukraine by Welsh miners as part of an aid convoy in February and some of the men who died were Ukrainian miners.

Attacks on donated vehicles have only now been revealed, including one which was destroyed in 2022. It is not known if anyone was injured in that attack. Carwyn Donovan, 36 from Abercraf, Powys, drove the vehicle to Ukraine that was destroyed last month. Looking at a picture of the wreckage, he points out the now barely visible sticker he placed on the front.

"You can just see the Ukrainian flag that we put on it before we left - it's still there", he said. Mr Donovan has taken part in seven aid convoys to Ukraine. He said knowing people were killed when the vehicle was attacked was "gut wrenching". "There's an overwhelming sense of sadness for the lives lost but also a profound admiration for their

bravery and their selflessness," he said. "There's a feeling of helplessness and even guilt knowing that these people have paid the ultimate price for something which is in all of our interests." The attack in August happened in the Kharkiv area, not far from the Russian border.

"This aid is especially critical", said Olesia Briazgunova, from the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine. She said the vehicles in particular were "a vital aspect of Ukraine's defence". The vehicles are used by "defenders, volunteers, medics and rescue services - and often save lives, especially in regions close to hostilities", she added. Welsh miners delivered medicine, warm clothing and vehicles to Ukrainian miners in Kyiv in February. The link between Wales and Ukraine began in the 1980s when Ukrainian miners, then part of the Soviet Union, donated a portion of their wages to striking miners. The donated vehicles have been used to take supplies to the front line and evacuate civilians from dangerous areas. There are currently hundreds, if not thousands of miners fighting in the war against

Russia. Ukrainian soldiers sent a video message to miners in Wales thanking them for the vehicles and aid. They said: "Thanks to our British colleagues from the NUM (National Union of Mineworkers).

"Thank you to all the people of the UK for your continued support and help - the war continues," they said. Standing holding a Welsh flag in front of a donated vehicle they said: "We fight every day for our independence and peace in Ukraine and all of Europe. "These vehicles help us to save lives - and bring our victory closer." The NUM, a cross-party Senedd group and Welsh businesses have donated 25 vehicles since the conflict began in 2022, with funds being raised for five more. There are now plans for another aid convoy from Wales to Ukraine in October. Former Welsh government counsel general Mick Antoniwi travelled as part of the convoy in February.

The Pontypridd MS has Ukrainian heritage and relatives of his have been killed in the war. He said the vehicles they were supplying "are vulnerable to artillery and drone attacks". "These vehicles which we deliver save Ukrainian lives on the front line", he said.

## Four killed in Italy house collapse

ROME (BBC): Four members of the same family, including two young children, have died in a gas explosion in southern Italy. Their two-storey home in the town of Saviano, near Naples, partially collapsed in the blast, killing the siblings - a boy and a girl - as well as their mother and grandmother.

The father and a newborn baby were recovered from the rubble alive, Italian firefighters said. He remains in hospital in Naples in serious condition, while the baby's injuries are not life-threatening, local media reported. The Vigili del Fuoco, Italy's fire service, reported that the parents and three children lived on one floor of the property, while another woman - said to be the grandmother - lived on the floor above.

"Firefighters recovered the father and a newborn baby alive, entrusting them to the care of the health workers on site, while they could do nothing for the two children, a boy and a girl, whose bodies were unfortunately recovered lifeless," The Vigili del Fuoco said in a statement. While authorities have not confirmed the ages of the children, local media reported that they were four and six. The explosion occurred at around 07:00 local time (06:00 BST), the Vigili del Fuoco said. Firefighters found the children and father in the morning, then spent the day searching through the rubble, not locating the mother until 16:45.

Firefighters' spokesman Luca Cari told reporters during the day that rescuers had to be "very careful and move slowly, to avoid new collapses" as they searched, the Associated Press reported. Search and rescue teams, operating with sniffer dogs, continued the search for the grandmother into the night, announcing they had found her and had wrapped up the search at 01:00. Investigations are continuing into the exact cause of the building's collapse, but early theories suggest the house collapsed after a gas explosion.

More than 60 civil protection volunteers joined the rescue efforts, the Campania region authority wrote in a post on Facebook. Images shared by the fire service showed rescue teams working through the rubble of the destroyed building through the night. Drone footage of the scene showed two gaping holes in the roof of the building, which was partially collapsed.

## Classes resume at BD university

DHAKA (AFP): Students have returned to classes at Bangladesh's Dhaka University, after a weeks-long shutdown sparked by a student-led uprising that toppled former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Tens of thousands had demonstrated on the campus and in the surrounding Shahbagh neighbourhood as protests against job quotas morphed into a nationwide struggle to end Hasina's 15 years of iron-fisted rule.

As the protests swelled in July, authorities shuttered the campus as part of a crackdown on the demonstrations that killed hundreds. Enrolled at the university were several of the top student protest leaders, some of whom were snatched by plainclothes police and held in custody for several days. The lecture halls were full again, with students chatting in groups along tree-covered walkways and buying drinks and snacks at canteens. Classes had started again in all but four or five departments, assistant proctor Mohammad Mahub Qaisar, who was appointed after previous administrators loyal to Hasina resigned, told the AFP news agency.

"Students are attending in a joyous mood," he said. Hasina's government was accused of widespread abuses, including the mass detention and extrajudicial killing of political rivals. More than 600 people were killed in the weeks leading up to Hasina's removal in early August, according to a preliminary United Nations report that said the toll was "likely an underestimate".

## Questions for ex-UK Defence Secretary over war crimes bill change

LONDON (BBC): Former Defence Secretary Sir Ben Wallace is facing questions about a change made to a draft bill that would have protected the SAS from prosecution. At the time the changed bill was presented to Parliament, Sir Ben was already aware of war crimes allegations against the elite regiment, senior government sources told BBC Panorama.

The Overseas Operations Bill had originally proposed British troops be protected from war crimes prosecutions relating to alleged offences more than 10 years ago. But under Sir Ben, the 10-year clause was halved to five years. The change had the effect of pushing war crimes allegations against the SAS outside the cut-off period for bringing a prosecution under normal circumstances.

Government sources close to the bill told the BBC that Sir Ben took personal charge of its passage and no changes were made without his approval. The allegations against the SAS - of extrajudicial killings on night raids in Afghanistan between 2010 and 2013 - are now being investigated by a public inquiry chaired by Lord Justice Haddon-Cave. Sir Ben is due to give evidence at the inquiry on Monday. The former Conservative Attorney General, Dominic Grieve, who expressed serious misgivings about the bill when it was introduced, told the BBC the change to the timeframe "certainly raises questions" in light of the allegations against the SAS.

"If ministers knew there were potential prosecutions that were likely to arise from operations in Afghanistan, if you knew about the allegations regarding special forces during that time period, it strikes me as troubling that you would seek to make that change," Grieve said. "The public inquiry may wish to look at this as part of their work examining the government's handling of the allegations in question," he added. Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Mercer, who was the army's top lawyer during the invasion of Iraq, told the BBC the change raised serious questions about the bill's intent. "Ministers appear to have known about the allegations against the SAS all along," he said. "So was this a deliberate attempt to cover up those allegations under the guise of dealing with so-called vexatious claims? It's a very serious ques-

tion."

In response to questions about this article, Sir Ben told the BBC it would be "wholly inappropriate and indeed disrespectful to Lord Justice Haddon-Cave to provide any comment whatsoever in respect of your questions only a day or so before I give evidence to the inquiry". The BBC asked the former defence secretary if he disputed knowing about allegations against the SAS before the bill was changed but he declined to answer our questions at this time. In a separate post on social media, he characterised our questions as "leading and inaccurate". The Overseas Operations Bill was designed to prevent what the government has characterised as "vexatious" legal claims against troops serving abroad.

But the bill drew severe criticism from both former senior members of the armed forces and human rights advocates, who said it gave soldiers effective immunity from prosecution. The original bill proposed a "triple lock" of protections after 10 years: a statutory presumption against prosecution; a requirement for prosecutors to give weight to the "exceptional demands and stresses" on service personnel operating overseas; and a requirement to obtain the consent of the attorney general for any prosecution to proceed. The only offences exempted from this triple lock were rape and sexual violence. Other alleged war crimes, including extrajudicial killings and torture, were to be afforded the presumption of these legal protections.

During the passage of the draft bill, the 10-year clause originally proposed by the Ministry of Defence was halved to five years, bringing the entire time period of the allegations against the SAS in Afghanistan under the protections offered by the bill. At the time the bill was introduced, Sir Ben was aware the Royal Military Police had already investigated several SAS squadrons for murder on night raids in Afghanistan - scrutinising more than 60 deaths in total. Sir Ben had also been briefed by then-defence minister Johnny Mercer about serious concerns around the adequacy of the RMP investigations, which had resulted in no prosecutions. The Ministry of Defence was also being sued at the High Court at the time for an alleged failure to adequately

ly investigate the allegations against the SAS. And Mercer had informed Sir Ben that video footage of the SAS operations under scrutiny, which should have been captured by drones and stored, had apparently disappeared.

Addressing parliament during scrutiny of the bill in 2020, Stephen Morgan, then shadow defence minister, noted the change to a five-year timeframe "meant that operations in Afghanistan, which ended in 2014, fell outside the time limit unless the circumstances for prosecuting any new alleged offences were deemed exceptional". "That raises questions about the government's reasons, and about the evidence or advice that they received, for changing the deadline to five years," he said. "Five years seems to be an arbitrary figure, with no clear evidence for why that timeframe has been selected." Mercer argued in parliament that responses to a public consultation had supported a reduction of the initial 10-year timeframe. Though according to the published consultation, 90% of respondents described themselves either as serving military personnel, veterans, or a relative of either.

Tessa Gregory, a partner at the law firm Leigh Day, which represents the bereaved Afghan families at the public inquiry, told the BBC that Sir Ben was "well aware of serious concerns surrounding UK Special Forces operations" at the time the Overseas Operations Bill was introduced. "Our client's judicial review was under way and [Sir Ben's] own minister was raising the alarm that something had gone gravely wrong," she said. "In such circumstances, it would be a matter of real concern for the bereaved families we represent if it was [Sir Ben] who personally decided that the presumption against criminal prosecution in the bill should apply to all offences more than five years ago, rather than the 10 years recommended by his department."

The bill was voted on several times by the Conservative-controlled House of Commons but repeatedly sent back by the House of Lords over concerns from peers the UK could end up subject to intervention by the International Criminal Court, if it was seen to be unwilling to prosecute its own forces for war crimes.

## US not responsible for surge of violence in Sinaloa

MEXICO CITY (AP): US Ambassador Ken Salazar rejected accusations by Mexico's president that the US was partly responsible for a surge in cartel warfare in northern Sinaloa over the weekend. Sinaloa has been eclipsed by violence as two warring factions of the Sinaloa cartel have clashed in the state capital of Culiacan in what appears to be a fight for power since two of its leaders were arrested in the US in late July.

"It is incomprehensible how the United States can be responsible for the massacres we see in different places," Salazar said in a news conference in Chihuahua. "What is being seen in Sinaloa is not the fault of the United States." The arrests startled many because it appeared that the son of notorious drug kingpin Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán abducted an elder cartel figure, Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, and flew them both to the US to be detained. Such a violent

outburst was expected in the wake of the arrests. As the warring cartel factions and authorities have clashed in firefights, helicopters regularly circle overhead and military rove the streets of the capital. Families have said they are scared to send their children to school.

Meanwhile, bodies have appeared across the city, often left slung out on the streets or in cars with either sombreros on their heads or pizza slices or boxes pegged onto them with knives. The pizzas and sombreros have become informal symbols for the warring cartel factions, underscoring the brutality of their warfare. Local authorities said that at least 53 people had been killed and 51 others have gone missing in Sinaloa state since the fighting started. Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador blamed American authorities in part for the bloodshed.

Asked at his morning briefing if the US govern-

ment was "jointly responsible" for this violence in Sinaloa, the president said, "Yes, of course ... for having carried out this operation." "If we are now facing instability and clashes in Sinaloa, it is because (the American government) made that decision," López Obrador said. López Obrador claimed American authorities "carried out that operation" to capture Zambada and that "it was totally illegal, and agents from the Department of Justice were waiting for Mr. Mayo." Salazar had previously denied that American officials were involved in the alleged kidnapping.

It was the latest blow to bilateral relations between the two regional allies. Last month, López Obrador - a populist prone to lashing out at critics - said he was putting relations with the US and Canadian embassies "on pause" after ambassadors criticized his controversial plan to overhaul Mexico's judiciary by requiring all judges to

stand for election. Still, the Zambada capture has fueled criticisms of López Obrador, who has throughout his administration refused to confront the cartels and has falsely stated that cartels respect Mexican citizens and largely fight amongst themselves. Under López Obrador, who leaves office at the end of this month, cartels have employed an increasing array of weapons and tactics, including roadside bombs, trenches, home-made armored vehicles and bomb-dropping drones. The criminal organizations have also seeped into new industries such as migrant smuggling and the lucrative avocado business.

While Mexican authorities said they had sent an additional 600 soldiers to Sinaloa as reinforcements, Salazar cast blame for the surge of violence in the state on Mexico's wider security crisis. "The reality is that there is a problem of insecurity and violence" in Mexico, Salazar said.

## Kenya's Ruto lands in Haiti to assess police mission as insecurity deepens

PORT-AU-PRINCE: Kenya President William Ruto has landed in the Haitian capital to assess a Kenya-led security mission in the Caribbean nation, a day after United Nations expert warned that Haiti faced deepening violence and insecurity. In a statement, a spokesperson for Ruto said the Kenyan leader would "visit and commend the Kenyan contingent working alongside their Haitian counterparts".

Ruto also planned to meet with Haiti's transitional presidential council and other officials, Hussein Mohamed said in a social media post. The visit to Port-au-Prince comes about three months after the first Kenyan officers arrived in Haiti as part of a UN-backed, multinational mission aimed at tackling a surge in gang violence.

Haiti has reeled from years of violence as armed

groups - often with ties to the country's political and business leaders - have vied for influence and control of territory. An uptick in attacks across Port-au-Prince at the end of February prompted the resignation of Haiti's unelected prime minister, the creation of the transitional presidential council and the deployment of the Kenyan police deployment. Yet despite the presence of Kenyan and other foreign police officers in the country, insecurity remains rampant, with armed groups believed to still control about 80 percent of Port-au-Prince.

As of August, more than 578,000 Haitians had been internally displaced, largely due to the violence, according to data (PDF) from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Displaced families have been forced to live in squalid conditions as they

wait to safely return to their homes. William O'Neill, a UN human rights expert on Haiti, said the country faced a dire humanitarian crisis as the armed groups continued to exert influence and carry out attacks.

He said the UN-backed mission - formally known as the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) - had so far deployed less than a quarter of its planned force. The mission's mandate expires early next month. "The equipment it has received is inadequate, and its resources are insufficient," O'Neill said at the end of a visit to the country. For its part, the Haitian National Police continues to lack "logistical and technical capacity to counter the gangs", he said. "This enduring agony must stop. It is a race against time," O'Neill said of the situation.

It remains unclear what

will happen when the UN-backed mission's mandate expires in early October. The United States, the deployment's key backer, has been pushing to get more funding and personnel to bolster the force.

"The United States has been actively working to secure this additional support," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who visited Port-au-Prince in early September, recently said. Blinken added that he plans to convene a meeting at the UN General Assembly this month "to encourage greater contributions to help meet Haiti's security needs, its economic needs, its humanitarian needs, as well as to renew the mission's mandate". Citing unnamed sources, The Miami Herald reported on September 4 that Washington was exploring the possibility of transitioning the mission into a UN peacekeeping operation. — Aljazeera



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## Biden's farewell QUAD summit of leaders

**T**HE meeting of the QUAD leaders from Australia, India, Japan and the United States, hosted by American President Joe Biden, his last before he demits office in January 2025, had announced a joint coastal guard exercise to enhance maritime security of the group. No details were forthcoming except that coast representatives of the four countries will join on a US Coast Guard vessel.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese explained that the personnel of the four coast guards spending time together will increase the 'inter-operability' of the security systems of the member countries. The group had not named China but the meeting began with an American report on China.

Biden had said that China was shifting tactics but strategy and Beijing continues to test the United States in the South and East China Sea and in Taiwan Strait. The American president went on to say, "We believe (Chinese President) Xi Jinping is looked to focus on domestic economic challenges and minimise the turbulence in China diplomatic relationships, and he's also looking to buy himself some diplomatic space, in my view, to aggressively pursue China's interest."

Biden sees the QUAD as his legacy and he is confident that it will stand. Of the four leaders, it is only Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi who will be in office for the next five years because he has returned to power on the back of a coalition in the summer parliamentary election. Biden is leaving office after the November 5 presidential election as he has stepped down from the contest. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will be stepping down as he will not be contesting the ruling party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), leadership contest. Albanese faces parliamentary election next year.

American experts have noted that India does not look at the QUAD as a military alliance, but the Americans think that India must engage in the QUAD's security aspects. India has not been a member of any military alliance since it became independent in 1947. American security expert Lisa Curtis argues, "But I think China's recent maritime aggression could be changing the equation for India and could be prompting India to become a bit more open to the idea of QUAD security cooperation."

But given India's stated foreign policy it is unlikely that New Delhi will accept the QUAD as a military group. American commitment to Taiwan, and the close military ties between Australia, Japan with the United States, the security linkages between the three will be stronger. India remains the outsider, though New Delhi has been arguing that the South China Sea should remain a free region for international shipping to pass through. China has been asserting that South China Sea is part of its sphere of influence, and its own maritime sovereignty. It is this contention that makes it a bone of contention.

There is the big question whether the US will continue with QUAD if Republican candidate Donald Trump wins the presidential election. He has been against external entanglements of the US, and he is not much interested in challenging Chinese domination of the South China Sea. But the QUAD will remain relevant because all the member countries are apprehensive of the growing domination of China in south-east Asia and its assertion of right over the sea-lanes in the South China Sea.

And there are economic compulsions. Australia and Japan are hugely dependent on China's markets for their products. The Indo-Pacific remains an area of strategic interest and concern for the United States, and China remains a rival at various levels, visible and invisible. China's domination is also a matter of concern for other countries in the Indo-Pacific.

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## Humanity's stark choice: Coexistence or carnage

Baria Alamuddin

**M**Y friend is an impeccably educated, beautiful woman from one of the wealthiest families in Lebanon. Now retired in her 60s, she lost her wealth in the banking and currency collapse and each day queues alongside fellow Lebanese at the bank for a meager sum that hardly buys food, let alone necessary medicines. Poverty and starvation have become unifying forces in today's Lebanon.

Following Israel's detonation of pagers and walkie-talkies last week and the latest escalations, my friend related to me how terrified of each other Lebanese have become. One man in the bank queue caused panic for carrying a first-generation Nokia phone. People urged him to throw it away, but he repeatedly refused, resulting in chaos as those present began screaming at him and beating him, before he was unceremoniously thrown out onto the street along with his phone. Later that day, Israeli planes strafed Beirut and my friend was reduced to cowering under her bed, fearing that long-anticipated war was commencing.

Daily survival in Lebanon is an ordeal of trauma, poverty, humiliation and fear. As pagers exploded, people did not know what could be next; they began throwing away mobile phones, removing babies from incubators, fearing to use computers and avoiding public places, with obvious concerns about what devices were safe to carry on aircraft and public transport. Although a high proportion of victims were Hezbollah members, many who lost hands and eyes were innocent bystanders or family members. The attack's indiscriminate nature added new levels of

horror to this unpredictable, grinding conflict.

Hassan Nasrallah was correct in asserting that the war has turned northern Israel into a no-go zone, but likewise for southern Lebanon. Even if Israel were to follow up on threats to reoccupy Lebanon up to the Litani river, such a cordon would hardly be an obstacle for medium-range Hezbollah munitions and such an occupation would be championed as a cause celebre for Hezbollah's "resistance" pretensions.

With the latest escalations and assassination of prominent commanders, Israel seeks to goad Hezbollah into a war, which the former would inevitably win through unlimited Western support. But along with the utter destruction of Lebanon, there would be immense costs for Israel.

Already, a year of war has had a hugely damaging impact for Israel. As well as almost the entire population of the north and south being evacuated, economic activity has been harmed by the widespread call-up of reservists and prices have soared. An estimated 60,000 Israeli businesses will shut in 2024, with large numbers of other small enterprises struggling. Spooked by the chronically uncertain security situation, thousands of families have simply emigrated — mimicking a similar brain drain witnessed in Lebanon in recent years due to economic collapse. The result in both states has been a deterioration in the numbers of skilled essential professionals — doctors, teachers, bureaucrats, entrepreneurs. Yet commanders on both side hint that the real war has not yet begun.

Every conflict in modern history — no matter how destructive or deci-

sive — inevitably concludes with negotiations and peacemaking. Hence, the looming regional war would cost tens of thousands of lives and cause hundreds of billions of dollars-worth of destruction, only for all sides to ultimately be compelled to withdraw to their positions prior to the conflict, with nothing to show for the carnage other than grieving widows, maimed orphans and lost futures.

The Ukraine conflict grinds away with comparable futility, with hundreds of thousands of lives on both sides squandered over a few kilometers of territory. Sudan is, meanwhile, being ripped apart by two power-hungry generals, both with scant prospect of winning outright, while unleashing ruinous mayhem and genocide. Through sub-Saharan Africa to Asia, via the Middle East, the planet is wracked by conflict-ridden disintegrating states, causing the number of forcibly displaced people to unprecedentedly soar to 120 million. The vacuous platitudes of countless official statements emanating from global capitals are rendered farcical by the perfect storm of crises the world faces.

Our world lacks guardrails because conflict-resolution bodies like the UN Security Council have been paralyzed by superpower rivalries, while developed nations have retreated from historic peacekeeping roles. When there are no consequences for invading and annihilating a weaker neighbor, we should expect this to be favored as normalized diplomatic practice in a planet bristling with nuclear weapons, while artificial intelligence offers hitherto undreamed-of war-making methods.

My friend in Beirut described a sense of numb-

ness and loss of empathy as every day brought with it exhaustively horrendous news — locally and in the world at large: hastily arranged back-to-back funerals, an entire generation of Gaza orphans, new depths of inhuman cruelty.

The land of Palestine is miniscule: Palestinian, Israeli and Lebanese populations live mere kilometers away from one another. Muslim, Christian and Jewish holy sites and residential areas in Jerusalem are practically built on top of each other. If they can peacefully pray that closely alongside each other, why can they not resolve to live together in peace? One side cannot annihilate the other without bringing unimaginable suffering and trauma upon its own citizens.

With the world's two biggest superpowers, America and China, locked in an arms race, nations are sharply reducing living standards in order to spend greater proportions of their gross domestic product on innovative ways of killing one another.

All wars are futile. The universal lesson from all this misery is simple: If we do not want our neighbors to harbor fantasies of destroying us, then we must find ways of peacefully coexisting with our neighbors. If we want states and leaders to act with morality and justice, there must be vigorously imposed international laws and norms, protecting human rights and outlawing aggression.

Aside from a tiny political warlord class whose egos, reputations and fortunes are staked upon perpetual war-making and saber-rattling, 99.99 percent of humanity desires to flourish in peace and safety, coexisting with their neighbors. For the sake of our offspring, let us make better choices in selecting wise, just and humanitarian leaders.

## Israel's tactical successes, strategic failures

Chris Doyle

**H**OW often do observers marvel at the technical efficiency and success of Israeli operations, yet are left dumbfounded as to what the long game is and what has been achieved? Last week's operation to detonate thousands of pagers and other electronic devices in Lebanon was remarkable, if terrifying and bloody.

No doubt Mossad bosses will be delighted. In the short term, Hezbollah will have been compromised, its communications exposed and infiltrated. Its capabilities will now be reduced. The armed group is vulnerable, its confidence shaken.

Israel can also argue it has shown that it has reestablished deterrence. This buys Israel valuable time, but will it use this constructively?

Israelis too often buy into their own government's propaganda too easily. Israeli spokespeople can claim the pager attacks were all highly targeted, but the reality is that Lebanese of all stripes see it as a mass-casualty attack; one that was far from surgical and that terrified an entire population, with people now scared of their own devices and what happens next. Israelis may believe the official narrative that the decimation of Gaza is fully justified, but those on the receiving end know the truth. Many Gazans will have been imbued with a hatred that will extend over generations. Hamas and Hezbollah will not have a recruitment challenge going forward.

Where does this all lead? Will there be peace and security? Will tens of thousands of Israelis and Lebanese be able to return to their homes?

Overall, Israel has not managed to be accepted in the region after more than 75 years. It blames its adversaries, but at what point does this look like an excuse to hide behind?

A reminder Hezbollah was forged in the hell of the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, some 42 years ago. Until the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000, for many Lebanese, Hezbollah had a legitimate role in resisting that occupation.

Similarly, Hamas was created in the early days of the First Intifada, which broke out in Gaza in December 1987. It too could claim a resistance role.

In both cases, Israel is not just facing the same adversaries, but ones that are considerably more potent, richer and better-organized than in those earlier years. One has to wonder at what point do intelligent, far-sighted Israelis question their country's one-track, force first-and-last approach.

One sees the same pattern with Iran. Operationally, the July assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on the occasion of the inauguration of the Iranian president was both audacious and brilliantly executed. As with the operations in

Lebanon, not one Israeli agent has been fingered or photographed.

But what has Israel truly achieved, except reminding the world that it has significant capabilities that perhaps Iran and Hezbollah have underestimated in recent years? The assassination of the key negotiator in the Gaza ceasefire talks has to be seen as escalatory.

It is also about an unquestioning belief that there are military solutions, despite evidence to the contrary. Hamas and Hezbollah have demonstrated time and time again that assassinated leaders can be replaced. Often, their replacements are even more hard-line. Most agree Yahya Sinwar is more uncompromising than his predecessor.

Has the Israeli strategy worked to prevent Iran going nuclear? Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has only one gear here too — escalation. In 2010, Israel deployed the Stuxnet malicious code to sabotage elements of Iran's Natanz nuclear facility. It certainly set Iran's nuclear program back, as did the killing of a host of nuclear scientists.

Yet, today, Iran is a threshold nuclear state. Israeli aggression against Iran has empowered the extreme hard-liners to push further down the nuclear path. Was that truly in Israel's or the region's interest?

The settler movement, in contrast, does have a strategy. Much of what happens is not random but is focused on specific communities the settlers want to forcibly evict and resources they want to control. The movement knows which settlements and land thefts will make a Palestinian state less likely. In Jerusalem, the inner circle of settlements around the Old City is designed to isolate Palestinians — Muslims and Christians — from the key holy and historic sites, to shove them to the periphery of the city and ideally outside it.

Reliance on force is also an accusation that can be made against Hamas and Hezbollah. Which of their military actions has truly brought freedom and rights for Palestinians? How many inches of Palestine have been liberated through rocket fire?

However, Israel, with all its capabilities, diplomatic alliances and economic muscle, has far more options.

It has academic institutions, think tanks and research groups — a full-blown intellectual apparatus to consider these long-term options.

But what future Israeli leaders want is hard to determine. Setting fire to the region also creates the risk of getting burned yourself.

It is time for Israeli leaders to have a long, hard think about engaging their neighbors in a peaceful, non-expansionist fashion. It would be a welcome change from an Israel that consistently basks in tactical successes but strategic failures.

## A killer that many people ignore

BJORN LOMBORG

**S**OME of the world's big challenges get a lot of attention. Climate change, wars and immigration are constantly in the news, and receive large funding from states and individual philanthropists. Other significant problems such as tuberculosis and malnutrition receive less airtime and people are less aware about them, but they count among major global priorities, with allocated funding.

Even the aptly named Neglected Tropical Diseases like rabies, river blindness and leprosy, which claim about 200,000 lives each year in less — and least-developed countries, have their own programs in the World Health Organization.

But there is a challenge which we hear little to nothing about, but which affects more than 1 billion people across the world and could be addressed very efficiently. We could reasonably call it the "Neglected Enormous Disease".

The world has made

significant inroads into tackling infectious diseases. Two centuries ago, they routinely caused almost half of all deaths, but today they kill less than 15 percent. Instead, half of all deaths are caused by the two biggest killers, cardiovascular diseases and cancer. Cancer causes about 18 percent of all deaths, but it is hard and costly to tackle with only modest success rates.

The biggest killer of all, which is technically called a cardiovascular disease but mostly consists of heart attacks and strokes, accounts for more than 18 million deaths each year, making up one-third of all global deaths. A big part of the problem is unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, and tobacco and alcohol consumption, which cause obesity and high blood pressure.

While doctors will tell you to stop smoking, cut down on alcohol and salt, exercise more, and consume fewer calories but more fruits and vegetables, this advice is evidently fairly difficult to

follow. Tobacco and alcohol regulation can make this easier, along with reducing the levels of salt in ready-made meals.

But focusing on high blood pressure is key to

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curbing this "Neglected Enormous Disease". Incredibly, the indicator of high blood pressure is the single biggest global death risk, leading to almost 11 million deaths annually, accounting for 19 percent of all fatalities

in the world.

As the world's population is aging, more and more people are living with high blood pressure

— the number of people affected has doubled in

.....

the past 30 years to about 1.3 billion. Because there are no obvious symptoms, almost half don't even know it, and four out of five are not adequately treated.

This combination makes high blood pres-

sure both enormously impactful and surprisingly neglected. The good news is that treating high blood pressure is incredibly cheap and effective with one or more pills that are off-patent and cost next-to-nothing. This is done fairly well in rich countries, but we should be doing this across the whole world.

Community screenings for high blood pressure cost as little as \$1 per person, and the prescription of blood pressure medications often costs only \$3-11 per year. Peer-reviewed research shows that controlling high blood pressure in less — and least-developed countries would cost about \$3.5 billion annually. But it would save almost a million lives every year. Put into economic terms, each dollar spent would achieve \$16 in returns to society, making it one of the world's most efficient policies.

Despite becoming a bigger killer than infectious diseases even in the developing world, chronic diseases such as cardiovascular diseases receive

very little funding. External funding accounts for almost 30 percent of health spending in low-income countries, but only 5 percent of all this funding goes toward the treatment of chronic diseases. For instance, in Nigeria, where heart disease is now responsible for one in every 10 deaths, the Federal Ministry of Health's Non-communicable Disease Division has launched a new program to control high blood pressure. This is an excellent start — but it is important that donors step up their support for programs that increase access to affordable, comprehensive high-quality prevention and treatment services for high blood pressure not only across Africa but in all developing nations.

High blood pressure is the leading global killer risk, yet it receives little attention and even less funding. For just \$3.5 billion a year, we can implement one of the best solutions for the world, saving millions of lives.

We just need to know.



# The UN Charter needs rewriting

Heba Aly, Brenda Mofya and Andreas Bummel

ON Sunday, the world's governments made a series of commitments to transform global governance at the United Nations Summit of the Future in New York. The ambitiously named summit was described as a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to "forge a new global consensus on what our future should look like".

Indeed, we are at a critical time when change is urgently needed.

The world faces "a moment of historic danger", with increasingly imminent risks – from nuclear war to a planetary emergency, from persistent poverty and widening inequality to the unhindered advancement of artificial intelligence – threatening humanity's very existence.

These are global challenges that cannot be solved purely at the national level: The people of the world need – and deserve – better coordinated global action.

Yet our global governance institutions have proven incapable of addressing current crises, from the wars in Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan to the increasing impacts of climate change.

And in an increasingly multipolar world, emerging powers that find the current system – particularly the composition of the UN Security Council – unfair and unrepresentative are losing faith in multilateralism and risk withdrawing from it altogether. That doesn't serve anyone, including the so-called great powers.

And yet UN member states failed – due, some of them argue, to a few spoilers – to take full advantage of the opportunity that the Summit of the Future presented.

In the months leading up to the summit, intergovernmental negotiations were contentious and went down

to the wire with diverging opinions on the proposed language to reform the international financial architecture, support human rights and gender, further climate action and disarmament, and reform the UN Security Council.

After more than two years of preparations, several revisions and countless hours of diplomatic energy, the summit produced an agreement known as the "Pact for the Future". The document takes incremental steps forward in the right direction but mostly at the level of principles and reaffirmations of commitments already made, not concrete actions.

The modest advances in the agreement – including a recognition of the need to redress the historical injustice and underrepresentation of Africa in the UN Security Council, a commitment to protect the needs and interests of future generations, the first international agreement on governance of artificial intelligence, and support for increasing the voice of developing countries in the decision-making governance of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank – fall below what many civil society organisations – and some governments – advocated for.

Given how high the stakes are, what is outlined in the Pact for the Future is simply not enough.

We, therefore, propose a more fundamental reform to our international order – one that goes back to the basics, to the founding constitutional document of today's international relations: the Charter of the United Nations.

Amid the polarised negotiations in the lead-up to the Summit of the Future, the broad principles laid out in the UN Charter were often the one thing countries could agree on. To be sure, some of its key principles need

only to be reinforced – and the charter's renewal could help modernise their application. Others need to be revised altogether.

The charter was adopted in 1945 by only 51 countries because most of Africa and parts of Asia were still colonised. It cemented power in the hands of the winners of World War II and, until today, uses the language of "enemy states" in reference to Germany, Japan and other "Axis" powers. The words "climate change" – or even "environment" – let alone "artificial intelligence" do not appear in the text.

The UN Charter was always meant to be a living document. At the international conference in San Francisco where it was adopted, then-United States President Harry Truman said: "This charter... will be expanded and improved as time goes on. No one claims that it is now a final or a perfect instrument. It has not been poured into any fixed mould. Changing world conditions will require readjustments."

The best way to address global challenges is to set up a new global social contract – one that recognises that the international power balance has changed since 1945, one that prioritises shared protection of our global commons over state sovereignty, and one that puts the world's people and future generations before short-sighted national interests.

A new charter could not only redistribute power in a more equitable way and treat threats like climate change and artificial intelligence seriously, it could also make the UN more effective by increasing enforcement and accountability.

In an interconnected age of pandemics, climate change and cyberthreats, when people are increasing-

ly affected by decisions taken outside their country's borders, a new charter could introduce a parliamentary assembly made up of representatives elected by the people of the world, giving them a say in the way world affairs are run and ushering in a whole new era of inclusion and representation.

A detailed proposal on what a new charter could look like is presented in this report by the Global Governance Forum. To be clear, many useful improvements to global governance do not require charter reform and should, we believe, simultaneously be pursued while we work towards more comprehensive, long-term change.

Given how difficult the Summit of the Future-related negotiations were around much more modest reforms, some ask: Is any of this even realistic?

Procedurally, our proposal to reform the UN Charter draws on the charter's own provisions: Article 109 calls for a general conference to be held to review the charter if supported by a two-thirds vote of the UN General Assembly and any nine members of the UN Security Council.

This particular provision was included in the charter as a concession to the many countries opposed to the idea of the permanent members of the Security Council having veto power. The intention was to review and revise this arrangement over time. Thus, reforming the UN Charter was part of the original plan.

Last year, a high-level advisory board appointed by the UN secretary-general to provide recommendations on how to make multilateralism more effective, co-chaired by former Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and former Liberian President Ellen

Johnson Sirleaf, included in its recommendations the activation of Article 109 for the purposes of reforming the UN Security Council.

There are very valid concerns about reopening the charter.

Some fear that in today's polarised climate, in which many previously agreed concepts like human rights are now contested, we could end up with something worse.

But no reforms to the charter can be adopted unless they secure support from a majority of governments as well as the permanent five members of the Security Council. Until such agreement exists, the current charter stands, so there is a fail-safe mechanism against regression.

Besides, even if the process does carry risks, the world's current trajectory carries higher risks.

It is hard to argue that the political mood right now is conducive to cooperation. But it is exactly in times of crises that breakthroughs tend to occur. The League of Nations and the UN were both born out of world wars. Must we wait for World War III before coming up with a better system?

Our current global governance isn't tenable. We know it will need to change. So we are appealing to UN members to start laying the groundwork for that change now because the process to reform the UN Charter will take years. The Summit of the Future failed to deliver the radical change the world needs to truly live up to the UN objectives to maintain peace and security and achieve international cooperation in solving collective problems.

A tipping point for that radical change will come eventually. And when it does, we should be ready.

— *Aljazeera*

# Israel's existential battle is with the Palestinians

Michael Jansen

ISRAEL'S campaign against Hizbollah escalated a week ago with the detonation of thousands of pagers and walkie-talkies which killed around 40 people and wounded 3,000 and peaked with Israeli strikes in south Beirut which slew two of the movement's commanders and 14 fighters as well as innocent civilians. Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant spoke of these carefully planned and calibrated attacks as a "new phase" in its war on Hizbollah.

This was followed by the most intense Israeli bombardment of Lebanon since Hizbollah opened a second front in the Gaza war last October. The objective of this phase is to force Hizbollah to end its cross-border exchanges with the Israeli army and restore quiet to the north of the country so 60,000 displaced Israelis can return to their villages and settlements. Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu – who has been under growing pressure to meet their urgent demands before schools resume classes – has added the north to his war objectives which are to crush Hamas in Gaza, subdue Palestinian resistance in the West Bank and bring home the remaining 97 Israelis and visitors taken captive by Hamas on October 7th last year. While he has refused to give Hamas' captives priority and reach a ceasefire deal in Gaza he hopes to boost his standing with the Israeli public by securing the demands of the far more numerous residents of the north.

Above all, Netanyahu is determined to keep the Gaza war going in order to postpone the reckoning over the failure of his government and the Israeli army to identify Hamas' intentions and predict and prevent Hamas' October 7th attack which killed 1,139 Israelis, the largest number in a single incident since the founding of the state 76 years ago. By continuing the Gaza war, Netanyahu also saves himself from appearing at his ongoing trial for bribery, fraud, and breach of trust. Conviction could land him in jail for up to 10 years.

Netanyahu has everything to gain and nothing to lose by escalating in Lebanon. He possesses the most advanced and powerful military machine in the region. He has the capability of turning Lebanon into another Gaza wasteland while targeting Hizbollah. He will be criticised by regional and Western powers and at the UN but no one will step in to save Lebanon. Furthermore, US President Joe Biden has dispatched war planes and a naval carrier group to the Eastern Mediterranean to discourage Hizbollah's ally, Iran, from intervening by firing ballistic missiles

war. Netanyahu knows this. Hizbollah also cannot afford a war. The movement, with 20,000 active fighters and 20,000 reservists, is the largest, best financed, and best trained military force in Lebanon. Thousands of its fighters are veterans of the Syrian civil/proxy war (2011-2019). Hizbollah can, in theory, deploy and fire an estimated 150,000 missiles and drones into Israel but large-scale strikes can be pre-empted by Israeli destruction of launch pads (as happened last week) and most can be shot down by Israel's Iron Dome system. Hizbollah cannot allow its ranks to be decimated, or its defences obliterated by Israel. Finally, Hizbollah is not simply a paramilitary organisation but is more than ever a socio-economic mainstay of needy Lebanese in south Beirut and the country's south by providing them with welfare, educational and health services.

Hizbollah's ally, Iran, (1975-1990), does not want to risk tan- Above all, Netanyahu is determined to keep the Gaza war going in order to postpone the reckoning over the failure of his government and the Israeli army to identify Hamas' intentions and predict and prevent Hamas' October 7th attack which killed 1,139 Israelis, the largest number in a single incident since the founding of the state 76 years ago. By continuing the Gaza war, Netanyahu also saves himself from appearing at his ongoing trial for bribery, fraud, and breach of trust. Conviction could land him in jail for up to 10 years.

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# Growing together through sport

WHEN Saudi athletes compete, when our nation stops and watches our version of the Olympics, the Saudi Games, and when international tourists travel to the Kingdom for international sport events only available in Saudi Arabia, we are not just seeing the impact of our rapidly expanding sport ecosystem, we are seeing the power of sport to shape, transform and reflect who we are as a nation.

Sport has a unique influence that both brings us together as a single Saudi family and connects us as a more unified international community.

I believe sport is a mirror of who we are and who we want to become. As individuals, striving to discover our best selves and, as a nation, shaping our leadership in the world and the values integral to our global connections and partnerships.

Sport is not something distant from us, but rather something very connected to us, something that spans divides and supersedes cultural and social differences. When our favorite athletes and teams compete – even the most long-standing rivalries, the fiercest indi-

vidual battles – we are really more united than we are divided. In those moments, sport does what almost nothing else can: it allows us to put aside what drives us apart and, for a brief instance, better understand what we have in common.

We can sit on one side of the stadium but still respect those on the other. We can support our favorite athletes, then marvel at the performance of their competitors. We can watch and embrace someone with a life story completely unlike our own but see our common humanity within.

On the surface, in sport, there are winners and losers, but really, when the stands are quiet and the fields and courts are empty, there are just winners.

That is why sport can connect us and bring us together, even in times of stress and disagreement, when nothing else can. Stadiums become safe places of neutrality and impartiality to assemble athletes and fans in friendly, healthy competition. A reminder, if we can come together in those moments, what else is possible.

That is why, when we invest in sport, we are investing in ourselves.

Princess Delayel bint Nahar Al-Saud

Every riyal spent on strengthening and expanding a Saudi sport or athletic tradition strengthens every Saudi.

That is why, when we invest in sport, we are investing in our young people, providing them with opportunities their parents could only imagine. Opportunities to test themselves, to dream and to chase those dreams.

That is why, when we invest in sport, we are investing in girls and young women, confirming their value, securing their equity to compete, participate and perform freely and safely, and to ensure there are female role models to inspire future generations of young girls.

That is why, when we invest in sport, we are investing in the future of our nation, defining who we are within the international community, confirming we are one of the places the world congregates when nations come together.

A decade from now, Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 Asian Games and, hopefully, also the FIFA World Cup.

Our plan for the 2034 World Cup is to be the first

nation to ever host the 48-team tournament as a single host country. We will have five host cities and another 10 host locations, with games played in 15 unique and visionary stadiums.

There really is no better place for the 2034 Asian Games and World Cup than Saudi Arabia. Sixty percent of the world is within eight hours of traveling time. We have hosted more than 100 international events since 2018. Last year, we were ranked first in the world for international tourist growth. And when it comes to football, our Saudi Pro League has more than 150 international players.

The world's athletes are already competing in the Kingdom.

But just not the world's athletes – we are also growing our own domestic sports capacity. Next month, more than 9,000 athletes and participants will come together in Riyadh to compete in more than 50 sports in the third edition of the Saudi Games.

This is our chance to celebrate the growth of sports in the Kingdom. Sports is a pillar of Vision 2030 and, in just a few years, we have seen a dramatic expansion in the sector. Most importantly, we have seen the

development of opportunities for athletes in Saudi Arabia to participate in sports regardless of skill level and for every Saudi citizen to engage in physical activity to improve their health and quality of life.

As a former equestrian athlete, when I was younger, I had to travel abroad to train and compete internationally. But now, with our recent investments in sport, our emphasis on inclusion and equity in sports and the growth in and access to training facilities, women's sport involvement has increased by 150 percent since 2015. For young girls, that means 70,000 now play in school football leagues.

That is sport as a mirror, showing us who we are, who we are becoming and who we will be.

The Kingdom we will show the world during the 2034 Asian Games and the FIFA World Cup will be different from the country we know today. It will continue to transform and get better. But what will not change are our reasons for hosting the Asian Games and the World Cup: to grow connections, to grow sport and to grow together, both as a nation and as a global family.

— *Arab News*

# It's time for Starmer's Labour to decide its stance on Palestinian statehood

FOR its supporters and the public at large, the UK Labour party's looming decision on how the country recognises the state of Palestine is one of the biggest it faces.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Foreign Secretary David Lammy have a statesman-like stand on the issue, which says recognition will come as part of a peace process. But the party faithful gathered in Liverpool for the annual Labour conference this week hunger for something more, by and large seeking swifter action.

Mr Lammy's job this week is to hold the line for now. "We have never lost sight of the end goal: an irreversible pathway towards a two-state solution," he declared during his address at the opening of the meeting.

Short of taking the party down that pathway, Mr Lammy can offer smaller measures that set a particular direction. These include restoring funding to UNRWA and putting on the table sanctions against the West Bank settlers, including the movement's leaders

who are currently ministers in the Israeli government.

There, undoubtedly, are trade-offs for the world's most influential countries in making the leap that Spain and Ireland made this summer to recognition. Just last weekend, the Palestinian envoy in Madrid presented his credentials to King Felipe. The governing Liberals in Canada have proposed a four-step move to recognition at the level of the Parliament's foreign affairs committee.

But for the legally minded, there are certain obligations that the UN puts around state recognition, and these practical hurdles are likely to matter within a government that takes the legalese so seriously. The UK's is one such government. Even when London's position on arms exports to Israel was adjusted earlier this month, Mr Lammy and others said the policy was dictated by the legal position not informed by politics.

The last time Labour was in power, the party was active on the Palestine-Israel issue. Across the span of devel-

opments from 1997 to 2010, it invested heavily in the practicalities of the two-state solution.

The subsequent Conservative government was energetic in how it reacted to the October 7 outbreak of fighting. By and large, however, its

The subsequent Conservative government was energetic in how it reacted to the October 7 outbreak of fighting. By and large, however, its record in the region was increasingly sorry. It did not include the concept of normalisation in its Integrated Review, which outlines the government's foreign and security policy. It was not even a bystander in the launch of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor last year, whereas Germany signed the launch memorandum. Today, Tony Blair would not be able to recognise the UK's demeanour over the Palestine-Israel issue. The former Labour prime minister wanted to make an impact by building trust on the ground and making incremental progress in bolstering the Palestinian authority. Indeed, he ran something of an end game around the Foreign Office by appointing a personal envoy on the process. He was also active at a time when the US slacked away. Following the collapse of the Camp David Accord, it was Mr Blair who provided the impetus for then US president George W Bush to issue the 2003 Roadmap for Peace.

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for then US president George W Bush to issue the 2003 Roadmap for Peace.

When his successor, Gordon Brown, took over, he not only became the first UK prime minister to address the Knesset but was also a noted champi-

on of the economic roadmap for Palestinian financial and business autonomy. It was a step towards proving that a Palestinian state could sustainably justify itself as an independent nation. Mr Brown was also a notable champion of the

Annapolis Process. But his time in office was also marked by the rise of Iran's threats to the region, not least when its president called for Israel to be wiped off the face of the map.

Mr Starmer will, in time, have an opportunity

to lead on the issue because of the UK's historic responsibilities and the pressures within his party for an active policy.

What is true about Mr Blair and Mr Brown is that they were able to hold together the party by taking a positive and international prominent role. For the most part, the policy was an important tool of party management. However, Mr Blair's approach to the Lebanese offensive in 2006 was the moment his leadership ran out of road. Exhausted with the Labour membership, he was gone within a year.

A decade and a half later, the Labour bench retains deep expertise on Palestine and Israel. The realism allied with pragmatism that it has promised to bring to foreign policy means that Mr Starmer may be forced to deal with Donald Trump in the White House in ways that Mr Blair was tested by Mr Bush.

A poll released on Monday by the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, the former leader's think tank, in association with Zogby Research Services showed

that even in the ravages of the current conflict, there is appetite for a fully functioning Palestine government. Of those polled in Gaza, the biggest grouping (about 29 per cent) supported a Gazan administration of local representatives, with international oversight and linked to the Palestinian Authority.

Among all the Palestinians, there was strong agreement on the ground that reform in the PA is the only way forward, should a ceasefire come. In the West Bank, four fifths support moderate-to-deep reform if it is on the table. The respondents remain optimistic that the PA represents a future state-in-the-making, with 69 per cent on average still backing it as the way forward.

The approach taken by Mr Starmer and Mr Lammy is not yet clear, but their government can reconcile the political and diplomatic importance of recognition with the deep engagement that would assist reforms to overcome the all-too-many reverses that Palestinians have suffered in recent years.





## UK Trade Commissioner meets Minister Kamal — discusses bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Kingdom Trade Commissioner Oliver Christian on Monday met with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to explore avenues for enhancing bilateral trade.

The meeting highlighted the need for sectoral collaboration and a business-to-business matchmaking approach to target growth areas in both countries, said a news release.

Jam Kamal emphasized Pakistan's immense potential in the food sector, particularly through value addition. "Pakistan currently can get more foreign

exchange by focusing on value addition," he added.

The minister underscored the government's commitment to expanding trade, particularly under the leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif. He praised Prime Minister's dedication to achieving an ambitious export growth plan, aiming to increase exports from US\$30 billion to US\$60 billion.

He also highlighted Pakistan's success in organizing the FoodAg Expo in Karachi, where more than 800 foreign delegates participated.

"This was the first event of its kind, with such a

large international presence, and it opened doors to significant business opportunities," he added.

Kamal cited Pakistan's growing exports in other sectors, such as IT, mining, horticulture, and dairy, and discussed the potential for future exports, including olive products.

"Pakistan is on its way to becoming a significant olive exporter, with vast cultivation underway," he informed. The UK Trade Commissioner acknowledged Pakistan's vast potential and extended full support for increasing the trade volume between the

two nations.

Both sides emphasized the importance of the UK-Pakistan Trade Dialogue, a platform to be established soon to promote trade and investment.

As the UK diversifies its import sources post-Brexit, the minister highlighted Pakistan's potential to become a key supplier of food products to the UK, given its compliance with international standards.

This discussion marked a significant step in strengthening trade ties, with both parties expressing optimism for the future of UK-Pakistan trade relations.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Jam Kamal and UK Trade Commissioner Oliver Christian discuss strengthening bilateral trade and exploring new avenues for partnership.

## CEO CDC elected as Chairman

KARACHI (PPI): Badiuddin Akber CEO-Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited has been elected as the Chairman of Asia-Pacific Central Securities Depositories Group (ACG) for the three year term of 2024-2027 during the proceedings of the ACG's 26th Annual General Meeting held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on September 11, 2024.

Accordingly, Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited has also become the ACG Secretariat for the same term. The ACG currently consists of 41 member institutions from 27 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

This marks a significant achievement for CDC and represents a major milestone for Pakistan in the global securities market.

This leadership position not only underscores CDC Pakistan's capabilities and legacy but also enhances Pakistan's stature within global financial and capital markets.

During its term as the ACG Secretariat, CDC will work closely with regional and global partners to foster collaboration, innovation, and the exchange of best practices within the securities and financial sectors.

With this appointment, Badiuddin Akber will also be representing the Asia-Pacific Region on the Executive Board of World Forum of CSDs (WFC), the global body of five regional CSD associations including Americas' Central Securities Depositories Association (ACSDA), Association of Eurasian Central Securities Depositories (AECSD), European Central Securities Depositories Association (ECSDA), Africa and Middle East Depositories Association (AMEDA) and ACG.

## Opening of Harsukh Residencies: Luxury living like never before

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Almaymar, the renowned developer, is delighted to present their latest masterpiece, Harsukh Residencies at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Located in the stunning Galiyat region, Harsukh Residencies offers a rare combination of breathtaking natural beauty and top-notch living. Just a few minutes from Nathiagali, Dunga Gali, Changla Gali, Kuza Gali, and Ayubia National Park, this area is a favorite among tourists from all over Pakistan. The location is 65 minutes from Islamabad, and 50 minutes from Abbottabad, making it a prime location.

Harsukh Residencies offers luxurious living with modern amenities and stunning views. It features exquisite penthouses with spacious terraces, private pools, and luxury finishes. For larger families, there are expansive and airy three-bedroom apartments. Smaller families and professionals will appreciate the modern amenities of the two-bedroom apartments, while individuals or couples can enjoy the well-designed and uniquely styled one-bedroom apartments. The studio apartments offer an excellent blend of innovation and comfort in a compact space.

Harsukh Residencies provides a dream world where you can escape the complexities of daily life. Enjoy every season with private pools and stunning views, a gym equipped with state-of-the-art machinery

for you to stay fit, a restaurant to savor delicious meals with beautiful views on high altitudes making every bite memorable, a coffee lounge for enjoying natural scenery and warm beverages, and a walk among the clouds on our breathtaking sky bridge. While parking in Galiyat can often be a hassle, we ensure your peace of mind with secure, convenient basement parking designed for your ultimate comfort.

Located just 65 minutes from Islamabad and 50 minutes from Abbottabad, Harsukh Residencies is conveniently situated near major attractions. This prime location makes it an ideal choice not only for your home but also as a fantastic investment opportunity, offering high rental yields of over 1% per month.

## PSX approves Burj Clean Energy Modaraba listing

KARACHI (PPI): Burj Modaraba Management Company (BMMC) has received approval from the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) for listing Burj Clean Energy Modaraba (BCEM) on the Growth Enterprise Market (GEM), Pakistan's First Green Energy Fund. This approval is a big step for Pakistan's Capital Markets, BMMC's ability to access direct investments through the Stock Exchange for sustainable energy investments will lead the way for clean energy project developers and investors to come together through BCEM.

According to the company information on Monday, the Initial Offering (IO) of Burj Clean Energy Modaraba (BCEM) will take place on the 25th and

26th of September 2024, marking the official launch of this groundbreaking fund. The offering will consist of 10%, amounting to PKR 100 million out of a total issue size of PKR 1 billion. BCEM/ Green Energy Fund is Pakistan's first renewable energy investment fund to be listed on the GEM Board. This move highlights BMMC's commitment to offering profitable, Shariah-compliant investment opportunities through capital markets while advancing the growth of renewable energy projects across Pakistan.

BCEM is proud of its partners & Investors like Meezan Bank Limited and Habib Bank Limited who are equally committed and leading the way to promote the use of renewable energy

in the country and helping reduce the cost of energy production. Arif Habib Corporation Limited, along with AKD Securities are the underwriters to the issue, Arif Habib Limited (AHL) is the financial advisor to BMMC, Usmani & Company Shariah Advisors (Pvt.) Limited is the Shariah advisor.

BCEM is well positioned to capitalize on the growing demand for clean energy in Pakistan by offering a fund that delivers sustainable value for its certificate holders. A diversified portfolio of investments including solar, wind, energy storage, and energy efficiency solutions, all underpinned by a strong commitment to sustainability while helping deliver reduced electricity costs.

## Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry polls: Businessmen Panel achieves historic victory in elections



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Businessmen Panel, led by Malik Mehr Elahi, achieved a historic victory in the elections of the Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry, completely defeating the opposing group. Through this significant victory, the business community of Peshawar has once again demonstrated their full confidence in

Malik Mehr Elahi's leadership and selfless services. Out of 26 candidates from the Businessmen Panel, 22 emerged victorious, which is a clear testament to the group's public popularity and strong support for its policies.

This remarkable victory reflects the unwavering trust of the business community in the leadership of the Businessmen Panel and indicates that the traders stand

firmly with their leadership.

The successful candidates include Shakeel Ahmad Khan, Haji Tila Muhammad, Muhammad Ehtisham, Muhammad Israr Lodhi, Sheikh Fazal Mola, Humayun Khan, Haris Siddiqui, Imran Khan, Kamran Mahmood, Malik Zohaib Arif, Abid Hussain, Muhammad Faheem Niazi, Muhammad Rafeeullah, Rehmatullah, Shehzad Abdul Rahman,

Shaukat Durrani, Sohail Ahmad, Abdul Rauf, Sohail Akhtar, Umar Elahi Malik, Faizan Sartaj, and Muhammad Ashfaq, along with two women on reserved seats.

The success of the Peshawar Businessmen Panel also foreshadows the victory of the Sarhad Business Alliance Group in the upcoming Sarhad Chamber of Commerce elections.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Corona, North Berwick and Sapphire-X Palm oil and Coals, berthed at Liquid Cargo Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Kiton-M, Oslo Eagle and Milaha Ras Laffan are also arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours.

Seven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, ATN Victory and Torm Belis are expected to sail on Monday.

Cargo volume of 99,160 tonnes, comprising 93,101 tonnes imports cargo and 6,059 tonnes export cargo was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Seven ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them four ships, TSS Amber, ATN Unity, Kiton-M and Milaha Ras Laffan are carrying Container, Palm Kernel, Gas oil and LNG are expected to take berths at QICT, MW-2, FOTCO and GPGCL respectively on Monday. Meanwhile three more container ships, Maersk Durban, MSC Maeva and Atlantic Ibis are due to arrive at port on Tuesday.

## Pakistan a potential supplier in global kiwifruit market

BEIJING (INP): Pakistan is a potential supplier in global kiwifruit market, China Economic Net reported on Monday quoting experts.

According to the report, the newly concluded International Training Workshop on Kiwifruit Production in Sichuan, agricultural experts from Pakistan saw their country's potential to become an important player in the world's kiwifruit market, through collaborating with China.

Meanwhile, an MoU

was reached between Sichuan Provincial Academy of Natural Resource Sciences and the University of Swabi, marking a promising beginning of Sino-Pak kiwifruit cooperation in a more in-depth form.

"Pakistan's kiwi industry has immense potential for growth and development. With its favorable climate, rich soil and abundant water resources, Pakistan can become a significant player in the global kiwifruit market," Dr. Ruidar Ali Shah from the University of Swabi told CEN.

Further, "Pakistan's strategic location allows for easy access to markets in the Middle East, Central Asia and Europe, providing a competitive edge. I am optimistic about the future of Pakistan's kiwi industry and its potential to contribute significantly to the country's economy," he added. "Pakistan's climate, especially in its northern and hilly regions, is suitable for growing kiwifruit, which requires moderate temperatures and adequate rainfall.

The growing demand for kiwifruit in both local and international markets, coupled with Pakistan's large agricultural workforce, presents a significant opportunity for the country

to develop a profitable kiwifruit industry," Dr. Muhammad Akhlaq from PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi holds the same opinion.

At the two-week workshop, agricultural experts from overseas countries including Pakistan, Egypt, Nepal and Mongolia acquired China's expertise in kiwifruit germplasm resource collection and protection, new variety breeding, cultivation management, pest control, postharvest storage and marketing.

"China kiwifruit technology and industry are highly advanced and impressive. The country's experience in kiwifruit production particularly in Sichuan province is remarkable. China's success in kiwifruit cultivation, harvesting and marketing is attributed to its robust research and development, efficient irrigation systems and effective supply chain management," Dr. Ruidar Ali Shah said. Additionally, as Dr. Muhammad Akhlaq sees it, techniques such as controlled atmosphere storage, mechanized harvesting, and disease-resistant varieties are some of the advancements contributing to China's dominance in the market.

## Correction of father's name in university records

My name is Muhammad Ammad Khan, and I am a Final Year MBBS student of Frontier Medical & Dental College Abbottabad. My father's name has been misspelled as "Amjid Khan" in the university records, whereas the correct spelling is "Amjad Khan". I kindly request that you to correct this error at the earliest convenience. This correction is essential, as any discrepancy in my personal information may cause difficulties in my academic and professional pursuits.

Muhammad Ammad Khan s/o Amjad Khan.

## Jubilee Life Insurance accelerates net zero transition with Spectreco

F.P. Report

KARACHI: In a pioneering move towards sustainability, Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector insurance company, has partnered with Spectreco to spearhead its transition to Net Zero. This step sets a benchmark not just in Pakistan but for the global insurance industry as well, reinforcing Jubilee Life's commitment to embedding sustainability at the heart of its business operations.

In the face of escalating environmental challenges, Jubilee Life's collaboration with Spectreco embodies a forward-thinking approach, positioning the company as a leader in responsible business practices. Leveraging Spectreco's innovative technology platform, data-driven insights, and expert guidance, Jubilee Life is taking decisive actions to reduce its carbon footprint and align its operations with international sustainability standards.

Faraz Khan, CEO & Partner of Spectreco, emphasized the significance of this collaboration: "We are excited to support Jubilee Life on their transformative journey towards a Net Zero future. This partnership is a testament to how business case development, GHG emission reduction strategies, and



data-backed messaging can collectively drive substantial change. Together, we are setting a new standard for sustainability in the insurance sector, not only in Pakistan but globally."

Mr. Farhan Faridi Group Head - Retail Operations, Marketing & Administration of JLI further commented:

"By incorporating decarbonization strategies into our operations, we have begun our journey toward meeting global sustainability standards, with the potential to lead by example in the insurance industry in the future. Our collaboration with Spectreco marks a pivotal moment in our journey toward achieving Net Zero. This partner-

ship demonstrates our commitment to driving meaningful environmental change while continuing to deliver value to our customers."

At the core of this partnership lies Spectreco's Net Zero Transition Sprint, comprising business case development, GHG emission reduction, and targeted sustainability messaging through the MessageCraft service.

This multifaceted approach ensures that JLI remains agile, proactive, and transparent in its sustainability commitments, meeting the expectations of stakeholders, investors, and regulators alike.

Through Spectreco's AI-backed platform, Jubilee

Life can efficiently track, measure, and optimize its sustainability efforts, ensuring real-time visibility into its progress.

The collaboration integrates tailored decarbonization strategies, stakeholder engagement, and advanced sustainability practices, ensuring that Jubilee Life's environmental impact is minimized while positioning the company as a pioneer in the insurance sector's green transformation.

This partnership is a bold step in leading the charge towards a more sustainable future, combining cutting-edge technology and business excellence to deliver measurable results and set new industry standards.





In brief

Nurpur Lions fined for slow over-rate

FAISALABAD (PPI): The Nurpur Lions have been fined for slow over-rate in their 22 September game of Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup against the Engro Dolphins, which they lost by 16 runs but still qualified for the playoff stage on Sunday night, at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad. According to PCB information on Monday, all the eleven playing members of the Shaheen Shah Afridi-led team have been fined five per cent of their match fees as per the article 2.22 of the PCB Code of Conduct for Players and Players Support Personnel, which deals with over-rate offences. The charges were levelled by the on-field umpires Faisal Aafreedi and Imtiaz Iqbal as the Lions were found to be one over short of the stipulated time.

Nadal, Alcaraz and Sinner in Davis Cup finals teams

BARCELONA (AFP): Spain named 22-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz in a five-man Davis Cup team on Monday, while Italian world number one Jannik Sinner will also compete in the final eight in Malaga. Nadal, 38, pulled out of the US Open and Laver Cup in recent months and has only taken part in one of the last seven Grand Slams because of injury and fitness struggles. French Open and Wimbledon winner Alcaraz will be Spain's key figure as they bid to win the competition dubbed the World Cup of tennis for the first time since 2019, starting with a clash against the Netherlands. Alcaraz inspired Team Europe to Laver Cup victory over Team World last weekend in Berlin. US Open and Australian Open champion Sinner is part of Italy's squad for the finals, which start on November 19. The 23-year-old was crucial as Italy triumphed last year, beating Serbian superstar Novak Djokovic twice in one day, first in singles and then in doubles, in the semi-finals. Italy, who face Argentina in their quarter-final clash, beat Australia in the 2023 final to win the competition for the first time since 1976.

Knight reprimanded over 'blackface' photo

LONDON (AFP): England women's cricket captain Heather Knight has been reprimanded and given a suspended £1,000 (\$1,300) fine after a historical photograph of her in "blackface" emerged on social media. Knight, set to lead England at next month's Women's T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates, said she was "truly sorry" for conduct that was deemed "racist and discriminatory" by Cricket Discipline Commission adjudicator Tim O'Gorman. However, O'Gorman accepted there was no racist or discriminatory intent by Knight, who was 21 when the image was taken at a sports-themed fancy dress party in 2012. Knight, whose fine has been suspended for two years, said in a statement: "I'm truly sorry for the mistake I made in 2012. It was wrong and I have long regretted it. "Back then, I simply was not as educated as to the implications and consequences of my actions as I have become since. There was no ill-intent meant. "Whilst I can't change the past, I am passionate and committed to using my platform to promote inclusivity across the game, ensuring under-represented groups are afforded the same opportunities and fulfilment within the game as I have."

# PCB's 'Connection Camp' aims to celebrate legacy of test cricket

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will host a high-level 'Connection Camp' with a view to connect with glorious past in test cricket, give a vivid and unified vision and set a roadmap for the future of test cricket in the country during a day-long session at a local hotel, here on Monday.

The 'Connection Camp', to be chaired by Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi, is an outcome of a series of consultations he held with former cricketers since assuming the office earlier this year. Nine elite cricketers, including Babar Azam (Pakistan's white-ball captain), Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Rizwan, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and Shan Masood (Pakistan's red-ball captain). Joining them will be national team head coaches Jason Gillespie and Gary Kirsten, assistant coach Azhar Mahmood and high-performance specialist David Reid will attend the Connection Camp.

The PCB, in a press release, maintained that the session would focus on fostering stronger collaboration between players and the PCB, while the board would reaffirm its commitment to supporting players

in meeting strategic goals. It further said that the ultimate aim was for players to take a leading role in inspiring the next generation of cricketers through outstanding performances.

Chairman PCB Naqvi believes the Connection Camp is a critical step toward unifying our approach to restore Pakistan cricket to its former glory, adding that the aim is to identify key issues, foster open dialogue and collectively agree on a strategic path forward.

He said the PCB remains optimistic that this session, which builds on prior discussions with former cricketers, will lead to a results-driven strategy that improves both player management and team performance.

Mohsin Naqvi further said that this is the first step in an ongoing journey to reshape Pakistan cricket. The PCB will continue these collaborative efforts to ensure long-term success, keeping fans at the heart of our mission."

Pakistan Test team captain Shan Masood said: "The Connection Camp is an important moment for us as players. We're fully committed to working with the PCB to reignite the pride and passion that Pakistan cricket is known for. These discussions will

help us set a strong course for the future and we are excited to be part of this collaborative effort.

"The outcomes of the session will include performance benchmarks, player development programmes and strategies to enhance grassroots cricket. This initiative aligns with the PCB's vision to not only improve immediate team performance but also ensure long-term sustainability of excellence in the sport."

Pakistan men's team red-ball head coach Jason Gillespie said that the camp provides a valuable opportunity for open dialogue and alignment between the coaching staff and players. We're all striving toward the same goal — raising the standard of Pakistan cricket and creating a culture of winning."

Gary Kirsten, Pakistan men's team white-ball head coach, said as a coach, it is my responsibility to setup the best environment possible for the players to thrive. He reaffirmed to focus on refining approach in white-ball cricket to meet the standards of the highest levels of international competition, adding that every possible effort will be made to ensure that people of Pakistan are proud of their national team.

# Muhammad Ammad wins Jahangir Khan Squash Series



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Muhammad Ammad of PAF from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa won the title of Jahangir Khan PSA Satellite Squash Series. He defeating Sakhiullah of Punjab by three to one in the final.

In the final organized by Pakistan Navy at Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex Muhammad Imad Gul of Pakistan Air Force

defeated Sakhiullah of Punjab by three sets to one in the final. Imad's defeated sakhi ullah by 11-3, 11-6, 7-11 and 11-8.

Earlier, Mohammad ammad beat Shoaib Khan of Punjab 3-0 in the first round, Naveed Rehman of Karachi 3-0 in the second round. In the semi-final he defeated Saddamul Haq of Pakistan Army in straight set.

He also won the bronze

medal in the Asian Junior Squash Championship and reached the quarter-finals of the team event in the World Junior Squash Championship.

Ammad's success a very important role of his coach Tahir Iqbal, who worked hard with him. Muhammad Imad also thanked his coaches and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Squash Association for his success.

# Bhutan come from behind to hold Pakistan for a draw

THIMPHU (Monitoring Desk): Hosts Bhutan scored two stoppage time goals to hold Pakistan for a 3-3 draw in the sixth match of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U17 Championship here at Changlimithang Stadium on Monday.

The home side took the lead early as Thinley Yezzer found the back of the net with just 25 minutes into the game. But Pakistan hit back 13 minutes later and levelled the score, courtesy of a well-judged shot by Khobaib Khan.

The Green Shirts doubled their advantage in the 47th minute on the back of Subhan Karim's individual brilliance. Pakistan then took command of the game in the 67th minute as Sharaf Khan, with a deft finish, extended their lead by two goals but Bhutan, playing on their home soil,

was not to be overwritten.

The home side showcased exceptional resilience and staged a dramatic comeback by scoring two quick goals in the stoppage time and held Pakistan for a stalemate in a goals-galore SAFF U17 Championship clash.

Tandin Phuntsho sparked Bhutan's comeback with a brilliant goal four minutes into the extra time and just two minutes later the home side was awarded a penalty, which was successfully converted by Sonam Dhurji.

In their SAFF U17 Championship campaign opener, Pakistan edged past Nepal 1-0 with Muhammad Talha scoring the winner in the 81st minute.

Despite a 3-3 draw against Bhutan, Pakistan are in contention to qualify for the semi-finals. They next face Sri Lanka

on September 25 at the same venue.

Pakistan and Bhutan lead the Group B standings with four points each, followed by Nepal with three points while Sri Lanka are at the bottom with zero points.

Pakistan Squad for SAFF U17 Championship: Defenders: Abdul Rehman, M. Husnain Saleem, Najeem Khan, Sameer Ahmed, Ubaid Ullah Khan, Majid Ali, Syed Muhammad Aabis Raza and Umar Javed.

Midfielders: Abdul Samad, Muhammad Faraz, Farhad, Haroon Rashed, Hikmat Ullah, Khobaib Khan, M. Shahab Ahmed and Muhammad Khan.

Forwards: Abdul Ghani, Subhan Karim, Shahraf Khan and Muhammad Talha Khan. Goal Keepers: Aadil Ali Khan, Ghulam Abbas and Kashif.



GALLE: Tom Blundell was bowled attempting a reverse sweep.

# Jayasuriya grabs five wickets as Sri Lanka win first NZ Test

GALLE (AFP): Prabath Jayasuriya took five wickets to steer Sri Lanka to a 63-run victory Monday against New Zealand on the final morning of the first Test in Galle.

Set a target of 275 to win, the Black Caps were bowled out for 211 less than 15 minutes after play resumed, with Rachin Ravindra top-scoring on 92.

"When you come to Galle, all that you need to do is to stick to the basics," said Jayasuriya. "The wicket provides plenty of assistance and you just need to bowl with discipline. Your consistency is the key and there was lot of help from the rest of the spinners as well."

Ravindra had finished on Sunday waging a lone

battle on a sharply turning pitch in Galle, where the tourists had lost all four of their previous Test encounters.

His knock was the highest score by a New Zealander at the ground, eclipsing Ross Taylor's 89 in 2019. But the slender path to victory he had opened was snapped shut when Jayasuriya trapped him lbw while trying to defend on the back foot.

The decision was upheld despite Ravindra's review, and he departed having added just one run to his overnight total. Jayasuriya, who took nine wickets across the match and finished the second innings five for 68, brought the match to an end when he bowled rook-

ie pacer William O'Rourke for a duck.

"Disappointed we didn't get enough lead in the first innings," New Zealand skipper Tim Southee said. "We had the game in the hand, but we threw it away."

'Sensational' O'Rourke lauded

O'Rourke, 23, had impressed for New Zealand with eight wickets, including his second five-wicket haul from just three Test appearances in the first innings.

"William O'Rourke has been brilliant for us," Southee said. "For him to come here and do what he did was absolutely amazing. He's never played in conditions like these... when there is not much for pace bowling. His effort was sensational."

New Zealand had cause for cheer after fighting on for a fifth day during their first Test in six months on a pitch where they have always struggled.

Their scheduled warm-up against Afghanistan earlier in September was washed out without a ball being bowled. Left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel claimed 6-90 in Sri Lanka's second innings, the best figures by a New Zealand bowler in Sri Lanka since Daniel Vettori's 6-64 in Colombo in 1998.

Tom Latham, Kane Williamson, and Daryl Mitchell all contributed with half-centuries in the first innings. The second and final match of the series will be held at the same venue from Thursday.

# Erling Haaland equals Cristiano Ronaldo's 13-year-old record

MANCHESTER (Agencies): Manchester City forward Erling Haaland on Sunday, added another feather to his cap by equalling legendary Cristiano Ronaldo's 13-year-old record of the fastest to 100 goals for a European club.

Haaland achieved the milestone in City's Premier League clash against Arsenal, which ended in a 2-2 draw at the Etihad Stadium. The Norwegian striker gave the home side a head start by netting the opener just nine minutes into the game.

With that goal, he became the 19th player for Manchester City to amass the 100-goal landmark, joining the likes of Sergio Agüero, Kevin De Bruyne and Raheem Sterling.

Erling Haaland achieved

the feat in the fewest appearances for the City and thus drew level with Cristiano Ronaldo, who also conceded 105 matches to score 100 goals for Real Madrid in 2011.

Top 10 players with the fastest to 100 goals for a European club

Erling Haaland (Manchester City): 105

Cristiano Ronaldo (Real

Kylian Mbappe (Paris Saint-Germain): 137

Christian Vieri (Inter Milan): 138

Furthermore, Erling Haaland, who has been in a purple patch since the start of this year's Premier League, has scored nine goals in just four matches.

His tally of nine goals is the highest by a player in the first four matches of the Premier League edition, going past Wayne Rooney, who scored eight goals for Manchester United in the 2011/12 season.

Since joining the City in 2022, Haaland helped the club to achieve new heights. He ended the 2022/23 season as the leading goal-scorer with 36 and played a pivotal role in leading Manchester City to their fourth-consecutive Premier League title.

# Warren wants IBF champion Dubois to fight Usyk next

LONDON (Agencies): IBF heavyweight champion Daniel Dubois has "all the tools" to take over the division, says his promoter Frank Warren.

Following his stunning five-round world title demolition of fellow Briton Anthony Joshua on Saturday, Warren wants Dubois to face WBO, WBA and WBC champion Oleksandr Usyk in a rematch next. Dubois fought Usyk in August 2023, with the Ukrainian winning via a ninth-round stoppage.

Dubois, 27, was elevated to IBF champion after Usyk vacated the belt in June, just weeks after beating Tyson Fury to become the first undisputed heavyweight boxing champion in 25 years.

"The fight I would like to see him in now is Usyk again," Warren told BBC 5 Live. "He is a different Daniel Dubois, he is more mature physically and mentally."

"He will go from strength to strength. He will be here for a while, he is a young man and has all the tools to take this division over." There is a clause [for a rematch with Joshua] in his contract but not in ours. But that's not to say we wouldn't do it. It's some-

thing we'll sit down and discuss." Usyk was ringside at Wembley, taking a brief break from his training camp as he prepares for a rematch with Fury on 21 December.

There was controversy in the fifth round when Dubois and Usyk met in 2023. The Brit sent Usyk to the canvas, but it was ruled a low blow by the referee, with Usyk given almost four minutes to recover.

"Dubois lost his composure [after the incident]," said Warren. "I think that was down to the fact he was a bit younger and he probably did not have the ring savviness to deal with it."

"But now he is a different guy altogether, as you saw on Saturday night." Joshua has reiterated that he has no plans to retire despite the devastating nature of the defeat.

"We came up short but we have to look at the positives, that has to be the mindset," Joshua, 34, said in a video posted on social media, external.

"Look at what we have achieved over 11 years. It has been phenomenal. What a rollercoaster journey - but it is far from over."

"I've got a lot more to bring to the game and long may it continue."

# Joshua says boxing career 'far from over' after Dubois defeat

LONDON (Agencies): Anthony Joshua insists his career is "far from over" following his devastating knockout defeat to Daniel Dubois at Wembley, which raised doubts about his future in boxing.

Joshua was aiming to become a three-time world champion by claiming the IBF world heavyweight title on Saturday but was knocked out in the fifth round in front of a record-breaking official attendance of more than 98,000. The 34-year-old was floored four times by Dubois and many people called for Joshua to retire afterwards.

But the British former Olympic champion released a video on X on Monday saying his journey in boxing is not over yet, with a potential rematch with Dubois as well as another all-British clash with Tyson Fury options in the future. Joshua said he was determined to take the positives from the situation despite his mauling -- the fourth defeat of a 32-fight career.

"What a rollercoaster journey, but do you know what the problem is? It is far from over yet," he said. "We've done it once, we've done it twice, doing it a third time hasn't been easy but I believe it is something I can achieve. It's about making the right steps forward, working hard, improving and it has to come from here (heart) more than anything. "It's only been a day but I know when I sit back I know I've got a lot of this (heart), thanks for your support, thanks for being on this rollercoaster journey with me. "Keep your seatbelts tight because deep down in here I know we have a lot more to bring to this game."







## In brief

### IESCO notifies power shutdown programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued a power suspension programme for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to an IESCO spokesperson, the power supply would remain suspended from 7 a.m. to 12 noon in Islamabad Circle including Sohan, Faizabad Housing Society, I-8/4, Dheala, Kirpa, Farash Town, Tufail Shaheed, Jhang Syedan, Sharifabad, Khanna East, Rehman Enclave, Qaderpur, Waheedabad, Tiramiri, Ghori Garden and Suhadran Road feeders; Rawalpindi Cantt Circle including Dhamial-I, Lalkarti, UC Lakhana, Shah Jeevan, Gulshan Saeed, Mehboob Shaheed, Park View, Pindi Board, Jail Park and Car Chowk feeders; Rawalpindi City Circle including Muzamal Town, Service Road, Muslim Town, Dhok Hassua, Alamabad, Rata, Khanna II, Al Noor, Service Road, Azharabad, Raja Sultan, Sardar Bagh, Eid Gah, Dhok Najo, Ali Market, Khayban Sir Syed and Muhammad Chowk feeders; Jhelum Circle including Islampur, Kangar, Qazila, Colonel Muhammad Akram feeders, and Chakwal Circle including Dera Muslim, Daulatala, Rizwan Mill, Al Qadir Mill, Chakral, Sarkal, Sarpak, Islamia Chowk, Lilla, PD Khan, KS Maniz feeders and surrounding areas.

### IRSA releases 218,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 218,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 142,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1537.16 feet and was 139.16 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 83,400 cusecs and 130,000 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 15,300 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 114,400, 107,400, 88,500 and 36,600 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 17,100 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

### RPO holds 'Khuli Kachehri'

RAWALPINDI (APP): Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi, Babar Sarfaraz Alpa organized "Khuli Kachehri" at the regional office to address public grievances here on Monday. This initiative is part of the Punjab government's open door policy, said police spokesman. During the open court, several citizens voiced their concerns, including Asif Mahmood, Malik Waqas, Noman Afzal, and Muhammad Farid from Rawalpindi as well as Muhammad Asif and Hajra Bibi from Attock. Shoaib Akhtar and Sidra Safdar presented applications from Jhelum, while Syed Abid Shah brought up an issue related to Murree. After listening complaints, RPO Alpa took swift action, directing inquiries to the relevant officers and resolving the applications based on the merits. RPO Alpa emphasized the importance of these open courts, stating that they are held daily to ensure citizens' complaints are addressed promptly.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addressing an important press conference. —APP Photo

## Pakistan's parliament set to enshrine Climate Change in constitutional law

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister on Law and Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik, on Monday said that inclusion of climate change as a constitutional right was the landmark step in the 26th Constitutional Amendment. In addition, the 26th Amendment will play a crucial role in strengthening the judicial system, he said while speaking to a private news channel. "This will be the first parliament in the world to grant constitutional recognition to climate change," he said. He further noted that the amendment has been unfairly criticized, with its true meaning misunderstood and the government's real intent misinterpreted. "He said that work on the 26th amendment has been ongoing since March and April. Several meetings were held involving the Law Minister, Information Minister, and coalition partners to ensure broad consensus, he added. In response to a question, he said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman requested additional time to ensure broad consultation, which was agreed upon.

Consultations regarding the age-related provisions are ongoing, with a final decision expected after input from the legal community and other stakeholders, he said. "This was the right approach as all stakeholders will now have a chance to provide their feedback. We expect recommendations from the legal community within a week, and after reaching a consensus with the opposition, we aim to present the amendment in the first week of October," he added.

He informed that 55 grams hashish and 30 grams ice were recovered from the possession of two suspects going on a motorcycle near Tiramiri Chowk, Islamabad. 10 grams cocaine and 1.8 kg ice were recovered from the possession of an accused netted from E-11 Islamabad. 1.5 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near a university located on Canal Road, Lahore and an accused was arrested. 350 grams hashish and 220 grams ice were recovered from a motorcyclist nabbed near a college on Togh Bala-Pindi Road, Kohat. 4.8 kg hashish found near a university in Malakand and two accused were arrested during the operation. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to students of educational institutions. 18 kg hashish was recovered near Myanmar Mor Super Highway, Sohrab Goth Karachi and an accused was arrested during a raid. 12 kg hashish was recovered from Pushtakhara Chowk, Ring Road Peshawar. The spokesman informed that in an operation 660 grams ice drug was recovered from the possession of Jeddah bound passenger arrested at Islamabad International Airport. 850 grams opium, 1.8 kg hashish and 50 grams ice were recovered from a drug dealer rounded up near Marlay Check Post, Pak-pattan. In 10th operation, 16 grams weed was recovered from a parcel booked for the UK at a courier office in Mirpur Azad Kashmir. In 11th operation, 1.2 kg weed was recovered from a parcel sent from Thailand at a courier office in Multan.

### ANF recovers 45 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover 45 kg drugs worth over Rs 5.2 million and arrested 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 55 grams hashish and 30 grams ice were recovered from the possession of two suspects going on a motorcycle near Tiramiri Chowk, Islamabad.

10 grams cocaine and 1.8 kg ice were recovered from the possession of an accused netted from E-11 Islamabad. 1.5 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near a university located on Canal Road, Lahore and an accused was arrested. 350 grams hashish and 220 grams ice were recovered from a motorcyclist nabbed near a college on Togh Bala-Pindi Road, Kohat. 4.8 kg hashish found near a university in Malakand and two accused were arrested during the operation.

The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to students of educational institutions. 18 kg hashish was recovered near Myanmar Mor Super Highway, Sohrab Goth Karachi and an accused was arrested during a raid. 12 kg hashish was recovered from Pushtakhara Chowk, Ring Road Peshawar. The spokesman informed that in an operation 660 grams ice drug was recovered from the possession of Jeddah bound passenger arrested at Islamabad International Airport. 850 grams opium, 1.8 kg hashish and 50 grams ice were recovered from a drug dealer rounded up near Marlay Check Post, Pak-pattan. In 10th operation, 16 grams weed was recovered from a parcel booked for the UK at a courier office in Mirpur Azad Kashmir. In 11th operation, 1.2 kg weed was recovered from a parcel sent from Thailand at a courier office in Multan.

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## Pakistan should embrace materials suited to environment: Inam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General, Inam Haider Malik on Monday said Pakistan should must embrace not only traditional infrastructure but also materials suited to the country's environment.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) hosted a seminar focused on "Disaster Resilient Infrastructure," in collaboration with Bahria University, aiming to address the pressing need for climate adaptation and infrastructure resilience in Pakistan. Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik led discussions on the country's preparedness for future disasters, highlighting the critical threats posed by climate change and the steps being taken to mitigate its impact.

"Resilience won't come solely from the type of construction but from adapting to what we have," he emphasized. He lauded NDMA's technological efforts, including simulations of the 2022 floods and advanced weather forecasting, noting that "technology today can not only address present needs but future ones as well."

In his keynote address, Lieutenant General Malik warned that if global temperatures exceed the 1.5°C threshold, countries like Pakistan would face unprecedented climatic disasters. "From glacial melting to recurring floods, we are already witnessing severe climate impacts," he said. He cited the 2022 floods, which caused massive devastation, with over 8,000 miles of roads and 480 bridges damaged, leading to significant economic

## KSA symbol of strength, progress: Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, said on Monday that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a symbol of strength and progress around the world.

In a statement on the 94th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he said, 'On behalf of the National Assembly and the people of Pakistan, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on this joyous occasion.'

"Saudi Arabia's contributions to global peace, economic development, and the preservation of Islamic heritage are recognized and appreciated worldwide" he added.

He expressed special greetings to King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Speaker of Shura Council Dr.

Abdullah Al-Sheikh and the nation of Saudi Arabia commending their exemplary leadership and vision.

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized Saudi Arabia's vital role as the custodian of the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina, expressing profound gratitude for the Kingdom's hospitality towards millions of Muslim pilgrims each year. He acknowledged the importance of this sacred responsibility, highlighting the Kingdom's commitment to ensuring a safe and enriching pilgrimage experience for all.

Reflecting on Saudi Arabia's achievements over the past 94 years, the Speaker said the Kingdom contributions to socio-economic development within the region and the Muslim world are commendable.

Saudi Arabia has significantly fostered growth in the region and has

played a key role in unifying the Muslim Ummah, through its monumental contributions as member of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), he added.

The speaker also highlighted the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, built on mutual respect, shared values, and Islamic brotherhood.

He said that both nations have consistently supported one another in times of need, reinforcing their enduring friendship. The Speaker expressed confidence that the relationship will continue to flourish, paving the way for greater collaboration and mutual benefit in the years to come.

The Speaker prayed to Allah to bless Saudi Arabia with lasting peace, unity, and progress, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties for a prosperous future.

## Dasu Hydropower Project's construction continues

ISLAMABAD (APP): WAPDA Chairman Engr Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani has said that Dasu Hydropower Project is of immense importance for meeting the energy requirements of the country through indigenous yet clean, green and affordable hydel electricity, therefore, concerted efforts are needed for completion of the Project as per the timelines.

He expressed these views during his visit to Dasu Hydropower Project, being constructed by WAPDA on River Indus in Upper Kohistan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to WAPDA spokesman here Monday. The Chairman had a detailed visit of the various sites, which included left and right abutments of the main dam, under-ground power house and transformers cavern, main crushing and batching plants and re-located Karakoram Highway (KKH-I), and reviewed construction activities there.

The GM/PD Dasu Hydropower Project, the Consultants and the Contractors briefed the Chairman about the site-wise targets and achievements on the Project.

It was briefed that construction activities on 15 key work fronts are progressing ahead uninterruptedly and at a good pace. After construction of upstream starter dam up to 798 feet above mean sea level, the diversion system this season successfully passed the recent floods through the two diversion

tunnels and a bypass tunnel.

Excavation and slope stabilisation continued on left and right abutments of the main dam, power house and transformers cavern. While, all seven tunnels of KKH-I have achieved their breakthrough mark. While, land acquisition for the Project is also complete.

Later, the Chairman also participated in a Jirga with elders and civil administration of the three districts namely Upper Kohistan, Lower Kohistan and Kolai Pallas. The matters about payments under Enhanced Self Managed Relocation (ESMR) Package and implementation of Local Area Development Schemes (LADS) were discussed in detail. Reiterating his resolve, the Chairman said that WAPDA is committed to bringing positive change in the life of the people residing in the Project area, and with this in view, WAPDA is spending Rs. 17.34 billion on the schemes of resettlement, environmental management and social development in the area.

He directed the Project Management to promptly address grievances of the locals about ESMR Package and LADS. It is important to note that the 4320 MW-Dasu Hydropower Project is planned to be completed in two stages. At present, WAPDA is constructing stage-I with installed generation capacity of 2160 MW and annual energy generation of 12 billion units of low-cost and environment-friendly electricity. The

stage-II, when implemented, will also provide 9 billion units to the National Grid. On completion of the both Stages, Dasu will become the project with highest annual energy generation in Pakistan i.e., 21 billion units on the average.

## Int'l Anti-Terrorism Conference on Sept 25

ISLAMABAD (INP): A day-long international conference on counter-terrorism will be held in the federal capital Islamabad on Wednesday (September 25).

Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal will be the chief guest while domestic and foreign experts will address the conference. Renowned think tank Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) in collaboration with Bahria University Islamabad was organizing the one-day international conference on counter-terrorism.

The conference was aimed at discussing Pakistan's achievements in counter-terrorism so far and to formulate actionable policy proposals. Minister Planning Ahsan Iqbal will inaugurate the conference while Pakistani and foreign experts will present papers. Experts, diplomats, writers, columnists, and students from universities and think tanks of the twin cities will participate in the conference to be held at Bahria University.

## Railways celebrate enhanced operation ratio with 98 daily trains

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has achieved 'improved operation ratio' with an effective reform strategy, focusing on cost cutting, optimizing train loads out sourcing commercial operation of passenger, freight trains and capitalizing freight market.

"At present, Pakistan Railways (PR) is running 98 daily passenger services on different routes across the country," a senior official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

He said that the term profit or loss is related to body corporate. The profitability of any railroad is worked out on the basis of operating ratio.

The official said that any railroad operating below 100 percent is considered financially viable and

Pakistan Railways was able to achieve operating ratio of about 98 percent for the financial year 2023-24.

He said that Pakistan Railways has skewed expense as it is running 57 percent of its passenger trains under Public Service Obligation (PSO) to cater the transportation need of masses of remote areas and thus has to absorb operating cost for all such trains.

He said that Pakistan Railways role of providing public service in remote and socially marginalized regions, without matching subsidies for such services has also constraints on its financial health.

Answering a question, he said the expenditure of only three heads including regular salaries, pension and operational fuel (HSD) is about 89 percent of the

total expense, thus leaving only 11 percent of its total budget for utilities, repair and maintenance of its operational assets, he added.

The official said that in addition, Pakistan Railways is bound to follow Federal Government pay & pension structure, adding that pension, with exponential growth is a fundamental challenge which had been adversely impacted its performance.

He said that Pakistan Railways is bearing all its operating expenses including salary, fuel from its revenues except pension which is provided by federal government through annual grants in aid. In view of explained position, the Pakistan Railways cannot be considered as a loss making entity.

## ICT Police nab key gang member, Seize 19 stolen bikes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Kohsar team of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police has arrested key member of a notorious gang involved in multiple motorcycle thefts, recovering 19 stolen motorcycles, including a Honda 125, from their possession. An ICT police spokesperson stated on Monday that under the special direction of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Police Syed Ali Raza, ICT Police initiated a crackdown against criminal elements to safeguard the lives and property of citizens. In line with these directives, the Kohsar police team employed both technical and human intelligence to apprehend the gang members involved in the theft of numerous motorcycles, he said. He said identified the arrested individual as Mohammad Asif. He said during the operation, the police recovered 19 motorcycles, including a Honda 125. In addition, nine motorcycle number plates, several spare parts, and tools used in the thefts were found in the possession of the suspects, he said. Nine cases reported at Kohsar police station were traced using the recovered number plates, he added. He said the arrested individuals also have a criminal history, with Mohammad Asif being previously involved in 14 motorcycle theft cases in Punjab. He said the operation was conducted by a team led by ASI Muhammad Ishaq, under the supervision of SHO Kohsar.



IEA extends condolences

KABUL (Ariana News): The IEA has extended its condolences to Iran and the families of victims killed in the coal mine explosion over the weekend. According to a statement issued by the ministry of foreign affairs, the IEA described the explosion as a tragic event. Abdul Qahar Balkhi, the ministry's spokesman said in the statement: "The IEA expresses its sympathy with the government and people of Iran and we wish divine forgiveness for the deceased."

UN facilitates farmers

KABUL (TOLONews): The UNAMA deputy special representative for Afghanistan, said that they are working to provide Afghan farmers with alternative crops to poppy cultivation. During his visit to Badakhshan to review the work of UN partners, he mentioned that converting rain-fed lands into irrigated ones is one of the essential needs of farmers. He said they are targeting those farmers for alternate co-production, which means distribution of seeds.

Afghanistan's GDP grows by 2.7 per cent

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Economy reported that Afghanistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased by 2.7% over the past year. Abdul Rahman Habib, the spokesperson of the ministry, said this increase is due to the expansion of exports, support for the private sector, and other factors. The spokesperson of the Ministry of Economy said: "The agricultural sector: 34.3% with a growth of 2.1%, the industrial sector: 13.5% with a growth of 2.6%, the mining sector: 2.4%, the water, electricity, and gas sector: 2.8% with a growth of 5%, and the services sector: 46.8% have been calculated." The Chamber of

Commerce and Investment said that to increase GDP revenue, the Islamic Emirate needs to support various sectors in the country. Khanjan Alokozai, a member of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said: "With the arrival of the Islamic Emirate, significant attention has been given to domestic production. For example, taxes on industrialists and farmers have been reduced, and small businesses have also benefited from tax reductions."

Abdul Naseer Rashtia, an economic expert, said: "Any country that focuses more on an inward-looking economy and takes production seriously can achieve

three things: first, it prevents the outflow of currency, meaning what we import can be produced domestically; second, it creates employment because the higher the investments, the more jobs are created; and third, it can lead to economic growth in the country."

The Ministry of Economy has also cited the expansion of exports, the stability of the Afghan currency against the dollar, the prevention of currency smuggling, the reduction of raw material prices, the reconstruction of highways, and the implementation of national and entrepreneurial projects in various sectors as effective factors in increasing the GDP.

IEA hoping to attend next BRICS meeting

KABUL (Ariana News): Afghanistan's ministry of foreign affairs has formally asked to attend the BRICS summit in Kazan next month. In a written request, the ministry asked Moscow to allow the economic deputy prime minister of the Islamic Emirate, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, to attend the summit.

In 2001, the Goldman Sachs Investment Institute proposed a new alliance to forecast future economic trends. At its 61st session of the UN General Assembly, in 2006, the foreign ministers of Brazil, Russia, India and China started preliminary talks.

They called themselves BRIC and their first meeting was held on June 16, 2009 in Yekaterinburg, Russia. When South Africa joined in 2010, the name of the alliance was changed to BRICS.

BRICS was designed to bring together the world's most important developing countries to challenge the political and economic power of the wealthier countries of North America and Western Europe.

This coalition has seen significant expansion in recent years and now includes Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates.

Before this, BRICS leaders (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) announced that Afghanistan should not threaten countries or become a training center for terrorists. Türkiye has also announced its readiness to join this economic alliance.

'Children with heart defects await treatment'

KABUL (Pajhwok): Health experts describe a heart defect known as a 'hole in the heart' as a congenital condition, urging families to seek medical treatment if they observe symptoms like breathing difficulties, bluish nails and lips, weakness, or fever in their children.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) facilitates free surgeries for hundreds of children suffering from heart defects each year.

Dr. Abdullah Yousafzai, a heart surgery specialist at the French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children, explained that this congenital heart was an inborn disease and could be treated effectively.

Dr. Yousafzai identified several factors contributing to the development of a heart defect, including premature birth, matching blood types of parents, maternal age, tobacco use during pregnancy, and inappropriate medication.

Symptoms of the condition include persistent cough, breathing problems, poor growth, restlessness, fever, excessive sweating, poor appetite, and signs of malnutrition.

He emphasised the importance of timely medical intervention: "If you notice symptoms like bluish nails and lips or weakness and fever, consult a doctor as soon as possible." While surgery is the primary treatment for serious heart defects, less severe cases may be managed with supportive medications.

The French Medical Institute has a dedicated team trained abroad that treats both paying patients and those referred by the ARCS.

Each month, ARCS introduces about 50 children to this facility, which has the capacity to operate on around 100 children monthly.

ARCS: Nearly 1,000 children operated upon in last 6 months.

Maulvi Mudassir Hamraz, head of publications at ARCS, noted that the organization has been providing treatment for heart defects since 2008. Currently, 93 percent of surgeries are performed within Afghanistan, whereas previously, patients were sent abroad for treatment.

Emirate companies report achievements over past year



KABUL (TOLONews): The Emirate Companies Directorate said that it has 43 companies in various sectors under its structure, with most of them currently active.

Ahmad Jan Bilal, the acting head of the Emirate Companies, in presenting the achievements of the past year, said that significant activities include 64% progress in the second phase of the Qush Tepa Canal, an increase in cement production, efforts to boost oil and gas extraction in the north of the country, and the repair of various government factories.

The acting head of the Emirate Companies added: "The Spin Zar State Company has been reactivated, the Baghlan rice factory's machinery has been repaired, the Kandahar Textile Factory and Kandahar Woolen Textile

Factory, Bost Helmand Enterprise, and the Mazar Textile Factory have also been made operational."

The National Development Company, which is part of this directorate, reported that the excavation work for the second phase of the Qush Tepa Canal has progressed by 64%.

The financial and administrative deputy of this department dismisses concerns about the payment delays to contracted companies and added that contractors are being paid on time and that work on the Qush Tepa Canal project is proceeding as usual.

Abdul Wali Adel, the financial and administrative deputy of the National Development Company, said: "The excavation work and structures are progressing normally, and payments to companies have been

made. There is no issue with the Qush Tepa Canal."

The Oil and Gas Company also stated that it has prevented corruption and hoarding in the oil and gas market and that unhealthy competition among traders in the oil import process has been eliminated.

The head of the Oil and Gas Company said that fluctuations in global oil prices, foreign currencies, transportation challenges, and political and military events worldwide are key factors contributing to the high prices of petroleum products.

Mohammad Naseer Rahimi, the head of the Oil and Gas Company, said: "Last year, we had 85 retail gas outlets, and now we have 117, Alhamdulillah, and the plan is to expand this process in major cities

like Herat, Kandahar, Jalalabad, and Mazar-e-Sharif in the near future."

Breshna Company also assured residents of the capital that within the next two years, 24-hour energy will be supplied to the residents of Kabul from various domestic sources.

Abdul Bari Omar, the CEO of Breshna Company, said: "Insha'Allah, within the next two years, Kabul and its surrounding areas will have 24-hour electricity. Whether it's industrial parks, commercial areas, or government offices, all will receive 24-hour power."

According to the statistics of the Emirate Companies Directorate, currently, 80% of the fiber optic network has been standardized, and work on a 1,500-kilometer fiber optic project in the country is ongoing.

Supreme Court: 25 convicted people punished in seven provinces

KABUL (TOLONews): The Supreme Court stated that in the past two weeks, punishments have been carried out on 25 individuals across seven provinces of the country.

According to Abdul Rahim Rashid, the spokesperson for the Supreme Court, these sentences were carried out on convicted individuals in the provinces of Zabul, Balkh, Faryab, Sar-e-Pul, Bamyan, Maidan Wardak, and Ghor.

Rashid stated: "Disciplinary punishments have

been applied by the Islamic Emirate's courts on 25 convicted and accused individuals in seven provinces of the country, including Zabul, Balkh, Faryab, Sar-e-Pul, Bamyan, Maidan Wardak, and Ghor."

Recently, the Supreme Court also announced in a statement that three individuals in Herat were sentenced to 39 lashes and two years in prison for the crime of selling and transporting drugs.

Haseebullah Hanifi, a religious scholar, said:

"The disciplinary measures imposed by the Islamic Emirate yield very positive results. Through these, our society is safeguarded from kidnappings, corruption, murder, and violence."

Sayed Moqadam Amin, a legal expert, said: "The Hudood (Islamic punishments) are one of the legal matters and a Sharia-based limit, and disciplinary measures are also among the punishments that have been thoroughly discussed in Islamic jurisprudence. Their enforcement can have both a

Sharia-based and legal foundation. However, if the enforcement of Hudood is done arbitrarily and outside the bounds of law, it can harm public opinion."

Previously, the Supreme Court announced that it would not succumb to any pressure from the international community regarding the enforcement of Sharia law and that the world should refrain from negative propaganda about the implementation of Sharia punishments in Afghanistan.

Preserving Islamic heritage, national growth: Seminar underlines youth's vital role



PANJSHIR (BNA): Qari Mohammad Younis Rashid, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Information and Culture, highlighted the vital role of youth in national development during a seminar titled Opportunities for a Bright Future for Youth in Panjshir province.

During the meeting, Panjshir Governor Hafiz Mohammad Agha Hakim

emphasized that educated, goal-oriented youth are key to societal progress, noting their pivotal role in spreading Islam and ending foreign occupation.

Meanwhile, Mawlawi Rashid described youth as the creative force of society and stressed their responsibility in preserving the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. He assured attendees that the Ministry

is committed to addressing their needs through educational programs in the province.

Mawlawi Nasrullah Malekzada, Head of Information and Culture in Panjshir, called the Islamic Emirate a divine blessing that restored dignity to the nation. Rashid concluded by addressing questions and reaffirming the Ministry's support for youth.

NRC to provide education for Afghan children in Iran

KABUL (Khaama Press): Following reports of Afghan migrant children being banned from attending schools in Iran, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) announced that they will provide education opportunities for these children.

The council stated in a press release, that nearly 1.5 million Afghan migrant children live in Iran.

The statement mentioned that the NRC and other organizations will organize educational classes to offer schooling for children deprived of education in Iran.

Recently, Iranian author-

ities instructed school administrators in several cities not to enroll undocumented refugees.

Mohammad Mehdi Fadakar, the governor of Kerman, warned that legal action will be taken against school administrators who register "illegal" migrants, particularly undocumented Afghan refugees.

This decision has sparked reactions, with several Afghan migrants, especially students in Shiraz, protesting in front of the UNHCR office.

The protesters, chanting "Education is our right," called on the United Nations to provide educa-

tion opportunities for Afghan children in Iran.

Previously, the Norwegian Refugee Council had also reported on World Refugee Day that 900,000 Afghan migrant children in Iran lack access to education.

According to Jan Egeland, the head of the Norwegian Refugee Council, only 10% of Afghan children in Iran have the right to education.

This alarming situation highlights the urgent need for international support to ensure Afghan migrant children in Iran receive their basic right to education.

Thousands of inmates getting vocational training

KABUL (Pajhwok): More than 2,000 prisoners are receiving vocational training in prisons across Afghanistan, the Jails Regulatory Authority chief said on Monday.

In an interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Maulvi Mohammad Yousuf Mestari said prisoners were being provided learning opportunities. The prisoners were being trained on carpentry, embroidery, farming techniques, steel work, carpet weaving, tailoring and other vocations in jails, he added.

Mestari explained that a number of prisoners, including women, had already graduated from vocational training programmes. They have been given sewing machines and clothes. But JRA needs more sewing machines for prisoners.

Several prisoners have also been afforded the opportunity to get training on agriculture, according to the official, who said efforts were underway to

continue the programme this year too.

The training is being offered by prisoners with vocational expertise. Illiterate inmates are taught a special curriculum involving religious and scientific subjects.

Mestari added studying religious and scientific subjects in prisons was mandatory, but participation in professional training depended on merit. All inmates must sit a test at the end of each training session. The successful inmates are promoted to higher classes.

He said hiring professionals from amongst the prisoners was a priority for JRA but in the case of need, the government appointed trainers from outside.

Hameedullah, a prisoner learning metalworking at the Pul-i-Charkhi jail, told Pajhwok they were trained by professional instructors.

He said: "Insha Allah (God willing), I will adopt this profession I learn here and work for myself, I

regret what I did in the past and want to lead a good life in the future."

He has been learning metalworking for the past six months. He knows how to make beds, cabinets and chairs.

Ahmad, another prisoner, said he had learned the profession of tin-smith from his instructor. Now he teaches other inmates the skills he has learnt. He sells the items he makes in prison with the help of officials in the market and earns an income for himself.

The government arranges the required tools and items that Ahmad uses. The two sides share the income, with Ahmad getting 40 percent and the government 60 percent.

He urged other prisoners to register themselves at such vocational centres and learn different skills.

The JRA head says about 16,000 individuals, including 1,000 women, are currently in jails across Afghanistan.

Chenartoi residents in Uruzgan complain of school shortages

URUZGAN (TOLONews): Residents of Chenartoi District in Uruzgan are calling for action to address the shortage of schools in their district.

They said that currently there is only one high school and three middle schools in the district, which is insufficient given the district's population.

Abdul Zahir, a resident of Chenartoi District, said: "In our district, there is one high school, which only became a high school this

year. Apart from this, there are only three other primary or middle schools. We have no other schools here."

Residents of the district are urging the authorities to increase the number of schools in accordance with the population statistics of the district.

Mohibullah, another resident of Chenartoi District, said: "Now security has been established, we ask the Islamic Emirate officials to first cooperate with us in the field of education."

Hamidullah, another resident of the district, said: "As you know, in the past 20 years, our youth grew up without education. When we talk to them about this, they seem unfamiliar. Education is a human need."

Meanwhile, local officials pledge that efforts are underway to establish schools in the districts of this province, including Chenartoi.

Agha Wali Inaam, a spokesperson for the governor of Uruzgan, said: "Efforts by the Ministry of

Education, in cooperation with other organizations, are ongoing to establish an educational center in this district. In addition, efforts are continuing in other districts as well."

According to local officials in Uruzgan, currently, 20 schools are under construction in the city of Tarin Kot, and other districts of Uruzgan with the support of the UNICEF, and they are planned to be completed by the end of the current solar year.





ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Ambassador of Uzbekistan, Mr. Oybek Usmanov, meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Trump says he won't run again if beaten in US polls

WASHINGTON: Republican election contender Donald Trump has said that he will not run again for the presidency of the United States if he loses the November 5 election. Asked if he saw himself running again in four years' time if he is beaten by Democratic rival Kamala Harris, the 78-year-old former president told the news programme Full Measure: "No I don't. I think that will be — that will be it. I don't see that at all."

The property tycoon added that he hoped he would be "successful" at the ballot box. Polls suggest Trump and Harris, who became the Democrats' candidate after 81-year-old incumbent Joe Biden withdrew in July, are neck-and-neck in the key battleground states likely to be decisive in determining the winner. Trump lost to Biden in 2020 but refused to accept the defeat, claiming the election was "stolen" and fuelling conspiracy theories.

On January 6, 2021, fervent Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol in an attempt to stop the certification of the result. The Republican, who was president from 2016 to 2020, faces criminal charges over efforts to overturn the election results. He denies any wrongdoing and has cast the indictments as politically motivated. He has refused several times in recent months to commit to unconditionally recognising the result of November's election. If he were to attempt a fourth campaign for the White House in 2028, Trump

would be 82.

Reuters adds: The man accused of hiding out with a gun near Donald Trump's Florida golf course in an apparent bid to kill the former president wrote a letter months earlier describing an "assassination attempt" and offering a bounty on Trump's life, U.S. prosecutors said on Monday. Ryan Routh, 58, has been charged with two gun crimes after he allegedly pointed a rifle through the tree line on Sept. 15 while the Republican presidential candidate was playing golf at his course in West Palm Beach, according to a criminal complaint. He has not yet entered a plea.

Routh is due to appear at a hearing scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. EDT (1500 GMT) on Monday in which prosecutors where will ask a judge to keep him in jail until his trial. In a court filing released before the hearing, prosecutors said that several months prior to the incident, Routh dropped off a handwritten letter addressed to "the world" that offered a bounty on Trump.

"This was an assassination attempt on Donald Trump but I failed you," the suspect wrote, according to the filing. "I will offer \$150,000 to whomever can complete the job." The letter was found in a box handed over by an unidentified civilian witness that also included ammunition, a metal pipe and four phones, prosecutors said. — Agencies

## FIA submits supplementary challan against PTI founder

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Monday submitted a supplementary challan in Toshakhana case against former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi.

The challan submitted to the court of Special Judge Central has a list of 24 witnesses in the case. The FIA challan stated that concrete evidence are available against the PTI founder and his wife in Toshakhana case. The evidence have proved that the husband and wife allegedly took financial benefits via corruption and illegal means, the challan stated and added that the "former premier acquired Bulgarian necklace at lower rate from Toshakhana by using his position". According to the NAB, Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were "involved" in the unauthorised sale of valuable items including brand watches and diamond and gold jewelry. The NAB also accused the PTI founder and his wife of selling the gifts without being legally owned or deposited in the

Toshakhana as required by law.

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

Meanwhile, again showing his distrust in Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa, former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan on Monday submitted an application to the Practice and Procedure Committee, requesting the CJP not to hear the cases involving him.

In the application, the PTI founder said that Justice Isa should not sit on the bench hearing his case. Over a month back, Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan, sisters of Imran Khan, had approached the Supreme Court seeking the recusal of CJP Qazi Faez Isa from cases involving their brother, but their plea was not entertained by the SC office. Earlier on July 24, 2024,

Imran had filed an application to the three-member bench-constitution committee of the top court, seeking the recusal of the chief justice from the cases involving him, his wife, his party, or his allies. In the application, the former PM pointed to the "actual and potential bias" on the part of Justice Isa. Imran said that the bias had its roots in the reference, which had been filed against the CJP during his government and that it had not faded away despite Justice Isa's elevation to the rank of the chief justice.

Also on Monday, the PTI challenged the amendment made to the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act through an ordinance in the Sindh High Court (SHC). Making the federal government, secretary cabinet and secretary parliamentary affairs respondents, the party stated in the petition that the CJP Isa, in one of his decisions, had set three conditions for the ordinance. "Presently there is no emergency in the country. And at a time when there is a parliament in the country, there was no need for the ordinance."

## PTI to oppose proposed amends: Goher Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Goher has vehemently opposed the proposed constitutional amendments labeling it as "unconstitutional" and "undemocratic", on Monday.

This he said while talking to media personnel at Peshawar High Court (PHC) and claimed that the government's attempts to undermine judicial independence and alter the parliamentary structure. He emphasized that these amendments would have far-reaching consequences and will affect the future of 250 million Pakistanis.

The proposed amendments are a blatant attempt to protect a specific individual and legitimize the government's unconstitutional actions. This is unacceptable and will be opposed on every platform, Goher stated. Barrister Goher claimed that PTI is committed for upholding the constitution and law, citing the party's struggles to obtain NOCs for rallies. He added that our leaders and workers face raids and arrests, but we remain committed to democratic principles.

PTI has announced plans to hold nationwide rallies against the constitutional amendments, while lawyers will organize conventions to protest the proposed changes, Goher claimed. It is worthy to mention that the proposed amendments will be reviewed by parliamentary committees. PTI (Sunni Ittehad Council) and other opposition parties have representation in the respective committee.

## Qatar Emiri Naval Ship visits Karachi F.P. Report

KARACHI: Qatar Emiri Naval Ship (QENS) ALKHOR visited Karachi. Upon arrival, the Ship was warmly welcomed by Pakistan Navy officers and sailors.

During the visit, Commanding Officer of the QEN Ship paid homage at Mazar-e-Quaid. He also called on Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi. During the meeting, he appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan Navy in promoting peace and security in the region. Additionally matters of mutual interest and enhancing bilateral cooperation were discussed.

The Qatari Ship will participate in joint exercise Asad Al Bahr and bilateral training and discussions with PN counterparts during its stay at Karachi. The significant visit of Qatari Ship not only underscores the strong diplomatic ties between both countries but also present an opportunity to further augment defense and bilateral relations.

## Moscow, Kyiv face off over Kerch Strait

MOSCOW, KYIV: Ukraine has accused Russia of flouting maritime law by trying to put the Kerch Strait under its sole control. The warring nations faced off at an international court in the Netherlands on Monday to fight over the strategic waterway that lies between mainland Russia and the occupied Crimean Peninsula.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and 31 months of fighting since saw the pair firing legal broadsides at one other at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague. "Russia wants to take the Sea of Azov and Kerch Strait for itself," Ukraine's representative Anton Korynevych told arbitrators at the opening of hearings. "Ukraine is here to prove Russia's many violations of the laws of the sea and to demonstrate that Russia is not free to rewrite the laws of the sea," he added.

Kyiv started proceedings at the court in 2016 after Moscow began building the 19km (12-mile) Crimea Bridge, linking its mainland to the peninsula, which it seized from Ukraine two years earlier. The bridge is crucial for the supply of fuel, food and other products to Crimea, where the port of Sevastopol is the historic home base of Russia's Black Sea Fleet. — Aljazeera

# CM decides to include life insurance in sehat card plus

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a bid to provide relief and ensure social protection to the citizens of the province, the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has decided in principle to include 'life insurance' in Sehat Card Plus and directed the relevant authorities to come up with a viable plan to this end as early as possible.

He made this decision while chairing a meeting regarding Sehat Card Plus, held here on Monday at Chief Minister's Secretariat Peshawar. Advisor to CM for Health Ahtisham Ali, Advisor Finance Muzzamil Aslam, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Ikram Ullah Khan, High ups of Health Department and State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC) attended the meeting.

In the meeting, an extensive discussion was made on various matters related to further streamlining the Sehat Card Plus. During the meeting, the Chief Minister also took notice of the complaints regarding suspension of cardiac surgeries at Peshawar Institute of Cardiology (PIC) under Sehat Card Plus, due to existing rates, he has directed the concerned authorities to make sure resumption of cardiac surgeries at PIC under Sehat Card and said that the provincial government would also bear the additional expenses of the cardiac procedures ensuring that no burden is placed on the patients.



He also directed the relevant quarters to ensure that patients should not face any difficulties in getting treatment under the free health care facility. The Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur termed Sehat Card Plus as a flag initiative of the Pakistan Tehreek -E-Insaf government and said that the incumbent provincial would go all out to make it more inclusive by covering treatment of remaining diseases and ensuring transparency and accountability.

He added that Sehat card was not only an initiative but a complete package of social protection. He announced that, keeping in view needs of the citizens, hospitals with good reputation would also be added to the Sehat Card Panel, ensuring that people in remote areas also have access to free and quality health care services at their doorsteps.

Addressing the participants, Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur stated that the incumbent provincial government since its inception had been making payments to State Life Insurance Corporation for Sehat Card Plus on priority, and there should be

no obstruction in providing free health care facilities to the patients under cashless facility.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur while taking notice of the emerging law and order situation in district Kurram, has directed the concerned quarters for necessary measures to resolve the issue on priority basis.

On the directives of the Chief Minister, Home and Tribal Affairs Department has sent a letter to Commissioner Kohat Division and Regional Police Officer Kohat Division to engage grand jirga on immediate basis, involve the elected representatives including MNAs, MPAs and Local Bodies elected representatives as well as Law Enforcement Agencies ; and bring out exact demands of both side and propose way forward for engagement at provincial level towards a permanent solution to the conflict. The officials have further been directed to take immediate action on the above under intimation to the provincial government.

## Article in Israeli paper exposed Imran's links with Jewish lobbies

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Daniyal Chaudhary said on Monday that the recent article published in Israeli news had further exposed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan Jewish lobbies.

Addressing his first press conference after assuming charge as parliamentary secretary, Daniyal Chaudhary said that Israeli newspaper Jerusalem Post through an article written by Harry Richer has once again exposed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Chairman Imran Khan's Zionist connection. Barrister Daniyal said that in the article, the newspaper had clearly stated that Imran Khan was the only leader in Muslim Ummah who could play a central role "in changing both public opinion and military policy" in Pakistan towards Israel.

He said that Zionist lobbies believe that Imran Khan and his party could represent Israel in Islamic world in a better way. He remarked that Imran was already representing Jewish sentiments as his children were with them and he had supported Zac Goldsmith against Pakistani Sadiq Khan in London mayoral elections. He lamented that whenever Pakistan was on the path of stability, the anti-Pakistan lobbies became active to weaken it.

Daniyal Chaudhary said that the article had connection with the lobbyist firms hired by Imran Khan on behest of India in the US to weaken Pakistan. He said that the objective of Imran Khan was to run a defamation campaign against Pakistan in international media and get legislation done against Pakistan in the US Parliament. He alleged that the firms

hired by Imran were involved in activities against Pakistan's interests and they formulated strategies to weaken it economically. They were also involved in conspiracies to weaken Pakistani armed forces which were not only defending it against external threats but also internal conspiracies.

He said that the objective behind May 9 attacks and burning the monuments of martyrs was to weaken the spirit of patriotism among the forces. He said that PTI leader Rauf Hassan was also found involved in anti-state propaganda. He said that the May 9 conspiracy was hatched to create hatred against the national institutions. He quoted JUI-F Amir Fazlur Rahman as saying in a talk show that he had been saying for many decades that Imran Khan and his party were in the hands of Zionists who were working to weaken Pakistan.

Referring to a PTI Minister's statement about fake licences of PIA pilots, he said it ruined the national airlines within no time. He questioned on whose instructions that anti-Pakistan statement was given. Similarly, he said that chief minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa announced to hold talks with the regime of Afghanistan, bypassing the federal government. Daniyal Chaudhary also referred to the book of late Hakeem Saeed who had written that Jewish lobbies had selected Imran to safeguard their interests in this region and they had invested hundreds of billions of dollars on him.

He said that many Muslim countries like Libya, Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq were destroyed and anti-Pakistan forces were hellbent to weaken its armed forces to target Pakistan in future. He said when the enemies failed to weaken armed forces, they tried to weaken it eco-

nomically. He said that Imran's supporters claim that Pakistan could not be run without Imran and they incite the youth to burn everything if Imran was not its prime minister. He said that the PTI leadership believed in spreading hatred and anarchy in the state, as famous religious scholar Dr Israr had predicted that Imran would be imposed as Jewish agent.

He said that the PTI was trying to create differences between the provinces for political gains. He said that the PTI leadership was unable to digest the improvement in economic indicators as inflation had fallen from 24 per cent to single digit and interest rate was reduced to attract investment. He recalled that when the government was holding talks with the International Monetary Fund for loan agreement, the PTI supporters were holding a sit-in outside IMF head office to scuttle the process.

He said that due to the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the vision of the heads of national institutions, Pakistan was fast moving towards stability. At this critical time, the Israeli newspaper had written that Imran could be the best advocate for promoting the Abraham Accord narrative in Pakistan. He made it clear that now it was not a personal conflict, rather it was a religious conflict and the entire Pakistani nation and all institutions were united against anti-Muslim Zionist thinking.

Replying to media persons' questions, he said the Parliament was the supreme institution, which had the right of legislation and the judiciary could interpret the Constitution, but it could not rewrite it. He said that the price of wheat and other edible items were reduced and inflation had decreased and relief was given to power consumers in electricity bills.

## UN adopts Pact for Future

UNITED NATION (APP): World leaders adopted a Pact for the Future aimed at strengthening global governance to address challenges ranging from conflict to climate change and human rights, despite last-minute objections from a group of countries led by Russia. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who organized the "Summit of the Future," had billed it as a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to reshape human history by rekindling international cooperation.

The pact aims to strengthen global governance and tackle key challenges facing humanity, including sustainable development, international peace, and technological innovation, youth and future generations and transforming global governance. It also proposes detailed action plans to address these challenges. The adoption of the text faced a brief delay when Russia's deputy minister of foreign affairs, Sergey Vershinin, introduced an amendment emphasizing the "principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of states" and urging the UN to avoid duplicating efforts.

Russia's objections were backed by allies Belarus, North Korea, Iran, Nicaragua and Syria, but its amendment did not pass in a motion to take no action. Pakistan and China abstained. As the President of UN General Assembly, Philémon Yang of Cameroon, banged the gavel to signal the adoption of the Pact, loud applause ranged out in the

packed hall where dozens of world leaders and high-level delegates were present.

Asked by APP for comments, Pakistan UN Ambassador Munir Akram said that while the documents was "not perfect", it will advance world community's common objectives. "Pakistan has worked diligently for the successful adoption of the Pact for the Future," he stressed. "Our primary goal has been to ensure that the Pact upholds the fundamental principles of the UN Charter, enhances equity among and within nations, accelerates progress on Agenda 2030 and the SDGs (sustainable development goals), and strengthens the UN's ability to advance peace, development and human rights."

Ambassador Akram added, "While the negotiation process was not satisfactory, and the Pact is not perfect, we believe it will advance these common objectives of the international community." In the adopted version, leaders pledged to bolster the multilateral system to "keep pace with a changing world" and to "protect the needs and interests of current and future generations" facing "persistent crises."

"We believe there is a path to a brighter future for all of humanity," the document says. The pact outlines 56 "actions," including commitments to multilateralism, upholding the UN Charter and peacekeeping. It also calls for reforms to international financial institutions and the UN Security Council, along with renewed efforts to combat climate change, promote

disarmament, and guide the development of artificial intelligence.

During the negotiations phase, Guterres had urged nations to show "vision" and "courage," calling for "maximum ambition" to strengthen international institutions that struggle to respond effectively to today's threats. The fight against global warming was one of the sticking points in the negotiations, with references to the "transition" away from fossil fuels having disappeared from the draft text weeks ago, before being re-inserted.

Developing countries have been particularly vocal in demanding concrete commitments on the reform of international financial institutions, aiming to secure easier access to preferential financing, especially considering the impacts of climate change. Yang, the General Assembly President, hailed the adoption as a "pledge to address immediate crises" and "lay the foundations for a sustainable, just, and peaceful global order."

The Global Digital Compact outlines principles for an open and human-centered digital future, while the Declaration on Future Generations calls for recognizing the rights of future generations in decision-making processes. Yang emphasized the need for solidarity and multilateral cooperation in implementing the pact's commitments. He described the upcoming Summit of the Future as a "call to action" to shape a future that protects both humanity and the planet.

## S Lanka's new leader promises change

COLOMBO (Reuters): Sri Lanka's leftist leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake took office as president on Monday, promising change in the island nation long led by powerful political families which is emerging from its worst economic crisis in more than seven decades.

Millions of Sri Lankans had voted for the opposition parliamentarian, putting faith in his graft-fighting pledge and vow to bolster a fragile economic recovery. "I pledge ... to demonstrate dedication to protecting and upholding democracy," Dissanayake, 55, said in inauguration remarks at the president's office, saying he was taking office at a challenging time in the Indian Ocean nation.

"Our politics needs to be cleaner, and the people have called for a different political culture," he added. "I am ready to commit to that change." Dissanayake ran as the candidate for the National People's Power (NPP) alliance, which includes his Janatha Vimukthi Peremuna (JVP) party that traditionally championed Marxist economic policies centred on protectionism and state intervention. In recent years the party has taken more centrist positions. Outside, dozens of supporters held up posters carrying his image, with some waving the Sri Lankan flag and chanting "AKD", the initials of the new president, who displaces the incumbent, veteran politician Ranil Wickremesinghe.