

LHC to hear PTI plea F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) fixed for hearing a plea filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking permission to hold a public gathering at Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore. PTI Central Punjab Senior Vice President Akmal Khan Bari approached the LHC, seeking permission to hold a power show at Minar-e-Pakistan on October 5.



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NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif shaking hands with Secretary General of United Nations, Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of 79th session of United Nations General Assembly.

IMF okays \$7b bailout package for Pakistan

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday approved the much-awaited \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan. The decision was made during an Executive Board meeting chaired by IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva in Washington, with Pakistan's agenda at the forefront.

According to sources, Pakistan is expected to receive the first tranche of \$1.1 billion by Sept 30. Following the approval of the loan programme, the second tranche is also anticipated within the same fiscal year, with the IMF loan being provided at an interest rate of less than 5%.

It is noteworthy that an Extended Fund Facility loan programme was agreed upon between Pakistan and the IMF on July 12. With the approval

of the loan, Pakistan's economic and foreign exchange reserves are expected to improve, and the pressure of payments on Pakistan will decrease.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told media after a meeting with Turk President Tayyip Erdogan that Islamabad had met strict conditions of the IMF and hoped that it would get fiscal assistance to stabilise the country's economy.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb expressed optimism about approval of the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its today's meeting. The IMF announced that its board would meet on Sept 25 to discuss the EFF for Pakistan.

Addressing a seminar on "CPEC Phase-two and the region" in Lahore via video link, the finance minister

said the confidence of investors in the country had increased. He said phase one of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) focused on infrastructure development while phase two would now focus on the monetisation of phase one and was set to commence.

Aurangzeb said the private sector had the potential to drive the country's economic growth. The foreign investment in the country was increasing, he added. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing favourable conditions for investors from China and Saudi Arabia and expressed optimism about the success of the IMF programme. A few days earlier, the finance minister claimed that all matters with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had been resolved. — Agencies

FO issues travel advisory for Lebanon F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Wednesday advised the Pakistani nationals to exercise extreme caution and avoid traveling to Lebanon in the wake of Israeli attacks.

Similarly, the Pakistanis "presently residing in Lebanon are advised to travel out through commercial flights which are still available," the FO Spokesperson said in a statement.

Those Pakistanis, who could not leave Lebanon owing to some specific reasons, should exercise extreme caution and relocate to safe areas, he added. "They are also requested to remain in contact with the Embassy of Pakistan, Beirut. Contact the Embassy at +961-81669488 or +961-81815104 (Cell/WhatsApp) or via email at parepbeirut@mofa.gov.pk," the spokesperson added.

Afghanistan wants to join BRICS

KABUL (AFP): Afghanistan's Taliban government is keen to join the BRICS economic forum, a spokesman said ahead of the group's summit in Russia. The summit of emerging economies that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa will meet on October 22-24 in the southwestern Russian city of Kazan.

"Countries with major resources and the world's biggest economies are associated with the BRICS forum, especially Russia, India, and China," said Hamdullah Fitrat, a government deputy spokesman. "Currently, we have good economic ties and commercial exchanges with them. We are keen to expand our relations and participate in the economic forums of the BRICS," he said.

The Taliban authorities have not been officially recognised by any country but have growing relations with founding BRICS nations, including China and Russia. The group, which has recently expanded by including Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Ethiopia, has not publicly reacted to the Taliban government's comments. A spokesman for the Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs told AFP on Wednesday that they have "no information so far" about an invitation to the event. Both Moscow and Beijing have expressed their readiness to invest in commercial projects in Afghanistan and to cooperate with Taliban authorities in its fight against Islamic State Khorasan, the Islamic State group's Afghanistan branch.

Govt clarifies to not try Imran in military court F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Wednesday disposed of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's plea against his possible military trial as the government has clarified that the founder Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will not be court-martialed and that such a move will only begin after formalities are completed.

According to the details, IHC Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the application. During the hearing, Additional Attorney General Barrister Munawar Iqbal Dogal appeared in the court.

On the court's inquiry about presenting Imran Khan in a military court, Barrister Munawar Iqbal said that the federal government has not taken any decision to court martial Imran Khan in connection with the May 9 cases. However, he said that if the competent authority decided to give him a military trial, then legal procedure would be adopted and permission would be sought from the concerned judicial magistrate.

Pak-Turkiye agree to boost cooperation

PM calls on UN chief to use good offices for Kashmir dispute resolution

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wherein two sides agreed to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, investment, defence, and security domains.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly here, the two leaders discussed bilateral matters, regional and global developments, according to a PM Office press release. They assessed preparations for the upcoming 7th session of Pakistan-Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) to be held in Islamabad in the near future.

The two leaders also discussed regional and global developments, especially the ongoing genocide and the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. They called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and end of hostilities. Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated Turkiye's firm and consistent support for the oppressed people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

President Erdogan expressed his admiration for Prime Minister Shehbaz's economic policies, which had played a crucial role in stabilizing Pakistan's economy and commended his leadership and commitment to economic reforms. Furthermore, he also extended his heartfelt birthday wishes to the prime minister who celebrated his 73rd Birthday this week. Prime Minister Shehbaz congratulated President Erdogan on his passionate address to the 79th session of the UN General Assembly that centred on the Palestinian crisis.

"The way the Turkish president highlighted the issue touched the hearts of all those listening to him in the Assembly hall," he told reporters after the meeting. In his emotional address, Erdogan said that the values of the United Nations' system and the Western world were dying in Gaza as the conflict continued there, calling

Shehbaz, Kuwait Crown Prince discuss relations

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday held a bilateral meeting with the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and expressed Pakistan's keenness to further strengthen ties between Pakistan and Kuwait. In the meeting held on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly Session here, the prime minister affirmed the longstanding cordial relations between the two brotherly countries. The two leaders also reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, ranging from political, economic and defense cooperation to people-people exchanges. Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed his desire to engage with Kuwait in mutually beneficial economic investments under the rubric of the Special Investment Facilitation Council. The two leaders affirmed to closely collaborate bilaterally, as well as on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Premier attends Bangladesh's 50 years of UN membership ceremony

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attended a ceremony to mark 50 years of Bangladesh's membership of the United Nations on the invitation of its Chief Advisor Dr Muhammad Yunus. Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi accompanied the prime minister. Dr Muhammad Yunus warmly welcomed Prime Minister Shehbaz and members of his delegation at the ceremony held on Tuesday night on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The two leaders agreed to promote cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh in various fields. There was a positive discussion regarding the expansion of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

for an "alliance of humanity" to stop Israel's aggression.

The Turkish leader strongly criticized Israel over its military campaign in the Gaza Strip and on the Western countries for their support to Israel. "Along with children in Gaza, the United Nations system is also dying, the truth is dying, the values that the West claims to defend are dying, the hopes of humanity to live in a fairer world are dying one by one," Erdogan added. Commenting on the country's economic situation, Prime Minister Shehbaz told the media that agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was in the

final stages of approval as Pakistan had accepted all its conditions - some of them quite tough.

In this regard, he profusely thanked China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, saying without their support this would not have been possible. The premier said his government had accepted the economic challenge to the country and now, with collective efforts of the government and all institutions, it has overcome those challenges. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif prayed for Allah's help in serving the people of Pakistan.

(Continued on Back Page)

Kurram clashes claim 21 lives, injure 30 in five days

F.P. Report

SADDA: Clashes between rival tribes in different areas of Kurram district entered its fifth day on Wednesday as according to a police report at least 21 people have died and 30 others injured so far.

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 Balashkkel, Khaar Kali, Trimanal, Baghki, Maqbal and Kanj Alizai. Hospital sources said eight more people succumbed to their injuries the other day while 30 more were under treatment. However, independent sources said the death

toll was higher as some of the areas were inaccessible for evaluating life loss.

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.

Police said a grand jirga was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. today as the Commissioner Kohat and RPO have also reached Parachinar to persuade the rival groups for a ceasefire. Elders of Turi-Bangash tribes were also attending the jirga. 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.

The Home & Tribal Affairs Department, on directive of the chief minister, wrote a letter to the Kohat commissioner and regional police officer, seeking resolution of the crisis. The department mentioned that it had been about a year since the issues of law and order were taking place and they were not being resolved permanently in the district.

"The issues are being settled temporarily through actions of jirgas and institutes," it said, directing a grand jirga to peacefully resolve the strife. The letter said that tribal elders, members of the national and provincial assemblies as well as representatives of the local government should be invited in the jirga. After convening the jirga, the warring parties' demands should be submitted to the government. Proposals should also be made to the provincial government regarding the conflicts' permanent resolution, it added.

President pledges sustainable transport system

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed Pakistan's dedication to developing a safe, sustainable, and environmentally friendly transportation system. Speaking via video message at the Global Sustainable Transport Forum-2024 in Beijing, he emphasized the need for collaboration with China to achieve sustainable development goals that promise an era of peace and prosperity.

In his address, President Zardari underscored the necessity for resilient infrastructure that supports efficient, low-carbon transport solutions to meet global demands. He com-

mended China's leadership in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly highlighting the vital role of the transport sector.

The President outlined several initiatives undertaken by the Pakistani government, including the introduction of pink buses specifically designed for women, aimed at providing a safe and comfortable public transport option. He also reported significant improvements in rural accessibility, with 92% of all-weather roads now serving rural areas, a crucial step towards promoting sustainable development and essential services for the rural population.

Addressing the challenges posed by climate change, President Zardari noted the recent devastating floods and extreme weather conditions that have severely impacted Pakistan's transport infrastructure, isolating millions, especially in rural regions. He expressed gratitude for China's role in fostering sustainable development and its contributions to both regional and global economic prosperity.

The President extended Pakistan's support for developing sustainable transport cooperation among member states and appreciated the initiatives led by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Court reserves verdict in Toshakhana reference F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Accountability Court of Judge Abida Sajjad has reserved its verdict in the Toshakhana vehicle reference involving former Prime Ministers Nawaz Sharif, Yousuf Raza Gilani, and former President Asif Ali Zardari, among others.

After hearing the arguments from all parties on Wednesday, Judge Abida Sajjad said that the decision will be pronounced on October 14. During the hearing, Nawaz Sharif's lawyer, Qazi Misbah-ul-Hassan, and pleader, Rana Irfan, along with Asif Ali Zardari's counsel, Farooq H Naek, presented their arguments.

Farooq Naek read out the new NAB Amendment Law to the court, arguing that under the amended law, the case no longer falls under the jurisdiction of the accountability court. He pointed out that the total value involved in the case is Rs80.5 million only, which is below the threshold of Rs500 million, and hence, it should be referred back to the NAB chairman.

Judge Abida Sajjad questioned whether all parties agreed that the court lacked jurisdiction over the case. Farooq H Naek responded by highlighting that Zardari had not been granted presidential immunity when the case was initially brought forward. He argued that sending the case to another court would imply a discussion on its merits, which, according to him, the court lacks authority to do under the amended law.

Meanwhile, Qazi Misbah-ul-Hassan reminded the court that a similar case had previously been returned to NAB and later came back to the same court following a decision by former Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial. The NAB prosecutor added that the court had already granted presidential immunity to Zardari and that the case should remain on hold for Zardari while being sent back for Nawaz Sharif.

Two cops, 10 others injured in Quetta blast

F.P. Report

QUETTA: At least 12 people, including two cops, were injured after an explosion near a police mobile on the eastern bypass in Quetta on Wednesday. The rescue officials found a wrecked motorcycle near the site of the blast and the police claim that explosive material was planted in the motorcycle.

According to the law enforcers, a bomb disposal squad was called at the spot, while the nature of the blast was being determined. The injured, meanwhile, were shifted to the Civil Sandeman Hospital, said the police.

The blast comes just two days after a "remote-controlled bomb explosion" targeted a police van guarding a convoy of foreign envoys heading to Malam Jabba from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat district on Sunday. According to the police, the attack targeted a group of 11 foreign diplomats, resulting in one officer losing his life and four others being injured. All the envoys were safe after the explosion and had been shifted to Islamabad, said the police.

The nation has been reeling under rising violent attacks since the Taliban rulers returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of KP and Balochistan. The two most vulnerable provinces saw a sharp rise in deadly attacks last month, according to

Terrorists blackmail women into heinous crimes F.P. Report

QUETTA: Adeela Baloch, an alleged suicide bomber, has made shocking revelations, stating that terrorists blackmail women into committing heinous crimes. Apprehended by security forces in Turbat, Adeela shared her ordeal at a press conference on Wednesday, describing how she was blackmailed and lured into joining terrorist groups through false promises.

Speaking alongside her parents and Balochistan MPA Farah Azeem, Adeela said she was from Turbat, received early education there, completed a nursing course in Quetta, and was involved in a WHO project. She expressed gratitude to the Balochistan government for rescuing her and admitted she had been in contact with individuals who led her astray, resulting in her agreeing to a suicide attack.

Adeela revealed that these individuals took young people to the mountains under the pretense of offering them a better life. She confessed to being brainwashed and misled, but realised her actions were sinful. "I am meant to save lives as a nurse, not take them," she repented. Her mother said that terrorists exploit women's vulnerabilities for their malicious purposes, while her father, a bank employee in Karachi, recounted how he had worked hard to educate his children on a modest income. He was informed of Adeela's disappearance and learned that she had been taken to the mountains and used for nefarious ends. He requested the Balochistan government's help in rescuing her, which they successfully did. Her father advised other parents to closely monitor their children's activities to ensure they don't fall into the wrong hands. He also questioned how fellow Baloch could abduct their own people for terrorism, remarking, "Those in the mountains are also Baloch—how can they kidnap someone's daughter for such purposes?" MPA Farah Azeem warned terrorists to end their hostility, stressing that the state would take decisive action against them.

data from the Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS).

The digital database of security incidents managed by the Islamabad-based think-tank suggested an alarming situation as the number of attacks jumped

from 38 in July to 59 in August. These incidents included 29 attacks in KP, 28 in Balochistan, and two in Punjab. Meanwhile, KP witnessed 25 casualties in the 29 terrorist attacks during August.

Pakistan, China working together to build an upgraded version of CPEC: Chinese CG

KARACHI (APP): The Consul General of People's Republic of China in Karachi, Yang Yundong has said China and Pakistan were working together to build an "upgraded version" of CPEC as per consensus of the leadership of both the countries.

He said this while addressing a reception hosted on 75th National Day of People's Republic of China here at Karachi Consulate on Tuesday night. Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, Chief Minister Syed Murad Shah, provincial Ministers, diplomats of different countries and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Consul General Yang Yundong said Pakistan and China are good neighbors connected by mountains and rivers and good friends

with shared trust and integrity. Over the 73 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, Pakistan and China have maintained mutual respect and support, forging the "ironclad brother" friendship, Yang said, adding that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an important pilot project of the Built Road Initiative (BRI).

He said CPEC was launched in 2013 and now both sides are working for an "upgraded version" of the project. We should fully implement the important consensus of the leaders of our two countries, Yang Yundong added. He said China will work with Pakistan to upgrade and renovate the Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway, continue enhancing other infrastruc-

ture, fully release the potential of these infrastructures, and consolidate the foundation for Pakistan's sustainable development.

He said China will encourage investment in Pakistan's automobile manufacturing and new energy sectors, promote technical cooperation in textiles, minerals, fisheries and agricultural and sideline products and further deepen cooperation between the two countries on all fronts. He said China is eager to further strengthen cultural and people to people exchanges and cooperation, particularly in areas like education, sports, media and think tank.

He also referred post floods disaster reconstruction projects for schools in Sindh province. He said

China firmly supports Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism. He said he had served in Karachi for nearly a year and half and deeply felt the profound heritage of China Pakistan friendship.

He also thanked to the friends from all walks of life in Sindh and Balochistan for their long standing support and assistance. Yang Yundong also shed light on China's unprecedented growth and development and said China's development is to provide a better life for its people not about competing with other countries, let alone seeking hegemony.

He said the IMF recently raised its forecast for China's growth this year to 5% in its latest World Economic Outlook report. He said China's GDP in

first half of this year reached 61.7 trillion yuan. Speaking in the occasion, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said Pakistan and China would continue to work together to develop projects that promote sustainable growth, particularly in areas such as renewable energy, digital connectivity, and industrialization.

He extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Chinese government and its people on this momentous milestone.

Shah said that China's remarkable journey over the past 75 years, under the visionary leadership of its government, was a source of inspiration for many across the globe. "The rapid economic growth, the technological advancements, and the societal

progress that China has achieved in such a short period are nothing short of extraordinary," he said.

The historical and diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, have been strong since the era of founder chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, CM recalled and said that Shaheed Bhutto's relationship with Chairman Mao Zedong was crucial in laying the foundation for the Pakistan-China partnership.

Referring to the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China,

CM Sindh said it had injected fresh energy into this bond, with the signing of several agreements set to further strengthen our bilateral ties, especially as we look ahead to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, which Pakistan is honoured to host in Islamabad this October. He disclosed that President Asif Ali Zardari will visit China in November this year.

Shah said that collaborative efforts in infrastructure development to the energy sector, our relationship with China has continued to flourish. "The China-

Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has played a pivotal role in strengthening these ties, and Sindh has been at the forefront of this partnership," he said.

The Chief Minister said that Pakistan-China's collaboration in various sectors, such as infrastructure, agriculture, technology and education, was a testament to our shared vision for progress," he said and added that China's expertise, combined with Sindh's resources, could create new development opportunities, fostering a brighter future for our people.

DUHS dismisses claims of candidate distress during MDCAT 2024

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

administration, traffic police, and other stakeholders for their continued support.

از دفتر تحصیل میونسپل ایڈمنسٹریشن ، ایبٹ آباد

اطلاع عام

برائے غیر قانونی پرائیویٹ ہاؤسنگ سکیمز/ٹاؤنز

تحصیل میونسپل ایڈمنسٹریشن ایبٹ آباد کے محضر بشیر یوں اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ تحصیل میونسپل ایڈمنسٹریشن ایبٹ آباد کی حدود میں کئی بھی ہاؤسنگ سکیم یا پلانک ہے یا اسے زمین خریدتے وقت اس بات کی تلی کریں کہ متعلقہ ہاؤسنگ سکیم نے تحصیل میونسپل ایڈمنسٹریشن ایبٹ آباد سے اجازت نامہ/ NOC حاصل کیا ہے یا نہیں۔ اگر نہیں تو اس صورت میں حکومت کی طرف سے متعلقہ ہاؤسنگ سکیم کے خریداروں کو پانی، بجلی، گیس اور معافی وغیرہ کی کوئی سہولت نہیں ہو سکتی۔ لہذا ان سے متنبہ کی جاتی ہے کہ غیر قانونی ہاؤسنگ سکیموں میں سرمایہ کاری اور خرید و فروخت پر گزرنہ کریں۔ غیر بخوشخواہ اور گورنمنٹ پرائیویٹ ہاؤسنگ سکیمز ٹینٹس و ریگولیشن روٹر 2021 کے تحت ایبٹ آباد کی حدود میں موجود درج ذیل ہاؤسنگ سکیموں میں پانوں کی خرید و فروخت غیر قانونی ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام ہاؤسنگ سکیم و پیت	نمبر شمار	نام ہاؤسنگ سکیم و پیت
1	شملہ بل زر پٹھان زرخشاں چوک	7	جدہ ٹاؤن سہلہ
2	سنو فال ہاؤسنگ سوسائٹی کاول	8	علی ٹاؤن میر پور
3	ایبٹ آباد سمارٹ ٹی وہسٹوز	9	عبداللہ ٹاؤن تربہ
4	ایبٹ آباد انڈیگو ٹی ٹھہر	10	محمد ٹاؤن جھنگی
5	ٹھیل و بی لاند میری	11	بلقیاض ٹاؤن جھنگی
6	SKB Developers تربہ	12	سلک ویلی ٹیر-II ٹی ٹھہر

اس کے علاوہ ہاؤسنگ سکیم کے مالکان کو بھی سے متنبہ کی جاتی ہے کہ جلد از جلد اپنے ہاؤسنگ سکیمز/سوسائٹیز و ڈسٹرکٹ کے قرضہ جات و کفالت کے ہمراہ دفتر تحصیل میونسپل ایڈمنسٹریشن ایبٹ آباد حاضر ہو کر قانونی کارروائی کیلئے پیش کریں تاکہ ریکورل گورنمنٹ ایکشن ایڈز رولز ڈیولپمنٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے مروجہ قوانین کے مطابق متعلقہ ہاؤسنگ سکیم کی منظوری دی جا سکیں بصورت دیگر ملوث افراد کے خلاف سخت تادیبی کارروائی کی جائے گی۔ یاد رہے کہ غیر قانونی ہاؤسنگ سکیم میں ملوث مالکان کو 3 سال قید اور 50 لاکھ جرمانہ ہو سکتا ہے۔

بحکم: تحصیل میونسپل آفیسر،

المشہور: ڈسٹرکٹ آرکائیٹیکٹ،

ٹی ایم اے ایبٹ آباد

INFP) 2500 / 24

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (FIP)
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT, P&D DEPARTMENT
CIVIL SECRETARIAT PESHAWAR KP

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

Sealed Bids on the basis of "Single Stage Two Envelop Procedure" in accordance to KPRA Rule 2014 (last amended), are hereby invited for the following works from the eligible contractors/firms registered with Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant category having specialization code (CE-01(i), CE-10(ii)) and enlisted with C & W Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the current financial year.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Registered Category of PEC	Bid Security (EM) 2% of Estimated Cost + stamp duty	Last Dates & Time for submission of Bids	Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid
1.	Re-surfacing of Newly Constructed WBM Road from Murghan to Nika Ziarat RD 0+000 to 8+000 Tribal District Kurram.	C-5	2% of Estimated Cost + stamp duty	15-10-2024 12:00 hours	15-10-2024 12:30 hours

1.

All tenders shall be processed according to "Above / Below System" on BOQ (both in words and in figures) based on the Market Rate System 2022 (Bi) and hence Above /Below/At Par should be applied & must be written on Tender Form as well as on BOQ.

2.

All Bidders are required to be registered with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority and should be on active Taxpayer's list of the KPRA.

3.

For Additional Security in case of abnormally low bids. KPRA Notification SRO (14) Vol: 1-24/2021-22, dated, 10th May 2022 shall be applicable.

4.

The bid security shall be submitted from the account of the firm/bidder/contractor who submits the bid in compliance to KPRA notification No. KPRA/M&E/Estt/-1-12/2017-18 Dated April 05, 2018.

5.

For Performance Security/Guarantee KPRA notification SRO (18) Vol: 1- 28/2023-24 dated April 8, 2024 is applicable.

6.

The eligible contractors/firms are required to submit two separate envelopes i.e. envelope containing technical information of the contractor clearly marked as technical "bid" comprising of information as included in the instructions to Bidders" while the second envelope containing Priced BOQ clearly marked as Financial Bid shall be accompanied with Tender Form Earnest Money /Bid Security @ 2% of Estimated Cost and stamp duty in favor of Project Director PMU-FIP SDU P&D Department Peshawar in shape of Call Deposit from any schedule bank of Pakistan.

7.

Tender form BOQ complete set of bidding documents and Evaluation Criteria etc. may be obtained from the date of appearance of advertisement in the press till 14-10-2024 on submission of written application only to sole owner/persons whose name are born on the form H/Partnership deed or authorized persons of contractor duly authorized by him in writing, from the consultants' office of Chief Resident Engineer M/s ECC-UET Hayatabad Phase-V Peshawar, Phone No. 091-5881031 during office hours.

8.

The contractors whose contracts under the FIP were terminated are not eligible for participation in these bidding process.

9.

The Procuring Entity may reject all bids at any time prior to the acceptance of bid. The Procuring Entity shall upon request communicate to any contractor who submitted a bid the ground for rejection of bids as per KPRA Rule 47(1).

10.

The NIT is also available at the following websites: www.kppra.org.pk & www.kp.gov.pk

Project Director

INFP) 2526/24

Project Management Unit

FATA Infrastructure Program

EX-FATA SECRETARIAT WARSAK ROAD PESHAWAR

US's Blome attends EnglishWorks ceremony

LAHORE (APP): United States (US) Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome attended the orientation ceremony and welcomed 150 new students to the US EnglishWorks programme in Sialkot, which will offer the youth an opportunity to enhance English language, entrepreneurial, and leadership skills.

US Consul General to Lahore Kristin Hawkins also accompanied the ambassador in Sialkot. Addressing students, Ambassador Blome said: "These skills will help young Pakistanis become community leaders who contribute to a prosperous, proud, and peaceful future for Pakistan," Ambassador Blome said.

Mazari chairs meeting of IPC department Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Sindh for Inter-Provincial Coordination and Cooperative Department, Ehsan Ur Rehman Mazari on Wednesday chaired an important meeting of the Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Department, Sindh.

The meeting was attended by Director to the Chief Minister's Advisor Faizan Inayat, DS IPC Haroon

Ijaz, Additional Secretary and Special Secretary (Technical) of the Irrigation Department Junaid Hashim Talpur, Director General of the Livestock and Fisheries Department Ali Muhammad Mastoi, Managing Director of Karachi Fisheries Harbour Authority, along with other relevant officials.

CORRIGENDUM

The Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) Submitted to Director of Information (IT) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar vide this office letter No. 2007/5-M dated 11/09/2024. The tender entry fees @ Rs. 0.03% on account of printing charges vide (Notification No. KP-PPRA/M&E/advice/16-60/2024-25 dated 20/08/2024) may be submitted separately on the shape of call deposit and other condition shall be remain intact.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

INF(P)2525/24

GOVERNMENT GIRLS DEGREE COLLEGE BARA DISTRICT KHYBER

Email: ggdcbarakhyber@gmail.com, Facebook: [ggdcbara](https://www.facebook.com/ggdcbara)

FEMALE TEACHERS

TEMPORARILY REQUIRED

Principal Govt. Girls Degree College Bara District Khyber invites applications for the positions of teachers purely on Temporary basis initially for six months (extendable in needed) @ Rs. 80,000/- per month for the following subjects (one for each subject).

S.No.	Subject	Vacancy
01	Computer Science	1
02	Islamiyat	1
03	Political Science	1

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

> Candidates possessing minimum Master's Degree or BS 4 Years degree (16 years of education) with minimum 2nd division.

> Candidates holding domicile of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

> Candidates not above the age of 35 years on the last date to apply.

PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING

Candidates are directed to submit their application for the post on prescribed application form available at Govt. Girls Degree College Bara, along with attested photocopies of academic documents, recent photograph, CNIC & Domicile and an updated CV on or before 3rd October, 2024.

> Only Shortlisted Candidates will be called for Interview/Demonstration.

> Experience certificates issued by recognized institutions will only be accepted.

> Remuneration will be payable for only contract period.

> No T/ADA will be admissible to the candidates appearing for interview/demonstration.

> Candidates shall clearly mention the name of subject they are applying for on the envelope.

> Hiring shall not confer upon him/her any right of regularization of services.

> The services of hired staff will non-transferable.

> The competent authority has right to increase or decrease the vacancies during the course of recruitment process.

Principal Govt. Girls Degree College Bara District Khyber

INF(P) 2506/24

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Yaseen Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Nasreen Begum citizen number 1620208675640 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1. Ihtisham (Son)2. Seema (Daughter)3. Bushra Qaisar (Daughter)4. Uzma Javed (Daughter)5. Sawaira Khan (Daughter)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SWABI-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Asif with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Arshad citizen number 1350305694731 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1. Arshad Ali (Son)2. Muhammad Asad (Son)

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Saima Abdul Basit with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Khurshid citizen number 1310169069627 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1. Nazia Gohar (Daughter)2. Usman Ferooz (Daughter)3. Saima Ferooz (Daughter)4. Saira Ferooz (Daughter)5. Zameena Ferooz (Daughter)6. Amna Mehreen Gul (Daughter)7. Naila (Spouse)

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INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Haseeb Ahmad with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Haseeb Ahmad citizen number 173011521697 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.

1. Shireen Usman (Spouse)2. Usman Ferooz (Son)3. Kausar Ferooz (Daughter)4. Saira Ferooz (Daughter)5. Zameena Ferooz (Daughter)6. Amna Mehreen Gul (Daughter)

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INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ABBOTABAD-SFU

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INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ABBOTABAD-SFU

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INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ABBOTAB

US govt, KP celebrate youth empowerment at Sports Gala closing ceremony

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: U.S. Consul General Shante Moore celebrated the successful partnership between the United States and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) at a closing ceremony of a Sports Gala, highlighting the transformative impact of the Land Registration in Merged Areas Activity.

The Sports Gala, organized under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-supported Land Registration in Merged Areas (LRMA) Activity, brought together local leaders, community members, and youth participants to showcase the enthusiasm and potential of young athletes from the Merged Areas.

The event highlighted

the region's progress toward a brighter future and the transformative impact of land registration initiatives..

Addressing the gathering, U.S. Consul General Shante Moore emphasized the crucial role of youth in shaping the region's future. "This Sports Gala isn't just about competition. It's about fostering a sense of belonging, unity, and hope. For the people of the Merged Areas, especially the youth, hope is what drives progress. It motivates change, and it is the foundation on which brighter futures are built," said Consul General Moore.

He emphasized the U.S. government's commitment to supporting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through initiatives that empower

youth and ensure equal opportunities for all citizens, including women and marginalized groups.

Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, Advisor to the KP Chief Minister on Information and Public Relations, echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the importance of youth engagement in shaping the province's future.

"The energy, determination, and resilience shown by the young participants today assure us that the future of this region is in good hands.

They are the leaders, the innovators, and the changemakers who will guide Khyber Pakhtunkhwa forward."

The partnership between the U.S. government and the Government of KP is grounded in a shared commitment to

promoting reforms that foster fairness, inclusivity, and progress for all. The USAID-supported LRMA activity is a key initiative that supports the KP government in establishing land registration processes, enabling landowners to secure their property rights and use land as collateral for loans and investments.

These efforts are essential for unlocking economic potential in the Merged Areas and encouraging investment in agriculture, tourism, and other critical sectors. By building trust between citizens and the government, promoting inclusivity, and ensuring transparent land tenure processes, USAID is helping to create a more prosperous and equitable future for the people of the Merged Areas.



PESHAWAR: U.S. Consul General Shante Moore and Advisor to the KP Chief Minister on Information and Public Relations Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif addressing the closing ceremony of sports gala.

Kundi writes letters to ambassadors, condemns attack on convoy in Swat

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has written condemnation letters to ambassadors of 12 countries regarding attack on convoy of foreign dignitaries in Swat KP few days ago.

According to letters, issued here on Wednesday, "I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to address the recent tragic incident in Swat involving a convoy carrying foreign

dignitaries. The attack, which resulted in injuries and loss of life, has left our community in shock and mourning."

"The government is actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the attack and will work tirelessly to bring those responsible to justice. We understand the importance of safeguarding foreign visitors and are reinforcing our security measures to prevent such incidents in the future."

"As Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, I want to convey my profound relief that, as state guests, you are safe during this onslaught.

Your protection and safety are our top priority, and we are committed to ensuring a secure environment for you and all foreign visitors."

We understand that incidents like this can raise concerns, and we are taking immediate and robust measures to

enhance security across the region, said the letter.

In light of this situation, I would like to extend an invitation for you to Governor's House Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in near future at your convenience. It's my firm conviction that through this visit the beautiful face of the province blended with hospitality, affection and care would be incarnated, besides, ensuring peace in the province, he added.

Hindko Academy facing lack of funding

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Gandhara Hindko Academy, Peshawar, is facing a lack of funding issue as the special grant of Rs 2 million, sanctioned by Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur months ago, has not been released by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Higher Education Department for unknown reasons.

Hindko writers and poets expressed concern over the non-availability of financial resources for the academy during a meeting convened at the Gandhara Hindko Board's central office on Wednesday.

They noted that the academy's research activities would suffer if the issue was not addressed.

They pointed out that Hindko is the second most spoken language in KP and the sixth widely spoken regional language in the country.

"The demand for the establishment of a Hindko Academy was first made in 1962, but it remained unfulfilled for a long time. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf [PTI] government respected the aspirations of the Hindkowan population and set up the Gandhara Hindko Academy under a public-private partnership in April 2015," recalled Adnan Mahmood Gul, senior vice-chairman of the Gandhara Hindko Board, which runs the academy in partnership with the KP Higher Education Department.

Muhammad Ziauddin, the general secretary of the

board, recalled that in the last nine years, the academy has performed remarkably, not only by publishing books and other materials in the Hindko but also in other regional languages of KP such as Saraiki, Khowar, Koshistani, Torwali, etc along with organizing literary and cultural events in various parts of the province.

"The number of books and publications brought out by the Hindko Academy stands at 550. The academy's work has been acknowledged at the official level as well," he said, mentioning the Pakistan Academy of Letters and other organizations.

The writers noted that despite these achievements, the Hindko Academy Project was dropped from

the Annual Development Plan last year, which was bound to affect the research body's activities.

The board office-bearers said Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, after assuming office this year, took notice of the issue and sanctioned a special grant of Rs 2 million for the academy, with a promise to allocate more funds. However, the KP Higher Education Department has not released the amount even after several months, creating concerns among the literati.

They appealed to the chief minister to direct the KP Higher Education Department to release the special grant to the academy as soon as possible so that its research activities are not disrupted.

Ihtesham visits Hayatabad Burn and Plastic Surgery Centre

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Health, Ihtesham Ali, visited the Hayatabad Burn and Plastic Surgery Centre on Wednesday, where he inspected various departments. During his visit, the Health Adviser met with patients, inquired about their well-being, and personally checked on the condition of those from his constituency.

He remarked, "The Burn Centre is a valuable gift for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as patients previously had to seek treatment in other parts of the country."

Dr. Tehmidullah, the Director of the Burn Centre, provided a detailed briefing on the facility's operations and challenges. He shared that the center, established in 2018, consists of 120 beds and is equipped with modern facilities, including

eight operation theatres, four of which are modular. The center also features an eight-bed ICU and a 10-bed trauma HDU, while Specialized training has been provided to the nursing staff for the care of burn patients.

Dr. Tehmidullah highlighted that the Burn Centre not only serves patients from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but also from Northern Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Afghanistan.

He further informed the Health Adviser that the center is soon set to sign a memorandum of understanding with Afghanistan for the treatment of burn patients. Last year, more than 9,000 patients received treatment at the center, and since 2018, the number of patients has increased by 66%. Outpatient visits (OPD) have also seen a significant rise, with a 242% increase resulting in 19,391 patient consultations last year.

PM address at SDG Moment 2024: a clarion call for global unity

PESHAWAR (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's inclusive address at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Moment 2024, held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at New York, has garnered widespread acclaim from international relations experts, civil society members, environmentalists and politicians, terming it foresighted and wide-ranging with solution to all issues.

Eminent experts said PM Shehbaz Sharif's address at the SDG Moment 2024 served as a clarion call for international and regional unity in tackling the world's most pressing challenges including climate change, debt burden and terrorism that mostly affected underdeveloped and developing

countries including Pakistan.

Manzoorul Haq, a former Pakistani ambassador, emphasized the significance of the Prime Minister's focus on pressing global challenges such as debt burdens, climate change, and carbon emissions. He noted that these issues disproportionately affected developing nations, including Pakistan, which has been severely impacted by climate-related disasters despite its no contribution in global carbon gas emissions.

The huge debt burdens which are increasing with each passing year, are directly affecting development in developing countries including Pakistan, marring efforts to provide better services to residents due to repayment of finan-

cial resources.

"The world witnessed the devastating floods in northern Pakistan in 2022, which obliterated infrastructure, agriculture, and energy projects, particularly in Swat and Kohistan districts," Manzoor, who served as Pakistani ambassador to Egypt and Saudia Arabia, explained.

He said that several expensive hotels in River Swat beds were razed to ground and small dams washed away in KP due to climate change.

He underscored the anticipation surrounding the Prime Minister's forthcoming key note address at the UNGA, which is expected to highlight the complex geopolitical and security landscape and reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and contin-

ued political, moral and diplomatic support to the oppressed Kashmiris of IIOJK who faced endless India's state terrorism since 1947.

Echoing Manzoor's sentiments, Professor Dr. Ejaz Khan, a former Chairman of the International Relations Department at the University of Peshawar, commended the inclusivity of PM Sharif's speech.

He pointed out the Prime Minister's candid discussion on combating terrorism, climate change and its great toll on Pakistan, citing the loss of approximately 80,000 lives and an economic setback of \$150 billion due to this imposed terrorism war.

"Pakistan had faced unprecedented challenges, and the international community must step forward to

aid in the rebuilding of our infrastructure damaged by both climate change and terrorism," Dr Ejaz Khan stated.

He urged the Afghan government to take responsibility for preventing its territory from being used for anti-Pakistan activities.

The Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif address also resonated with political figures within the country. Ikhtair Wali Khan, PMLN KP Information Secretary, and former Provincial Minister Wajid Ali Khan highly commended the emphasis on the positive role of Danash schools in enhancing educational access to all, especially to thousands of under privileged children.

Due to Danash schools, they said poor students get free admission and later

joined top professional colleges and universities, playing a positive role in the country's development process.

They also highlighted achievements such as the development of motorways, highways and the completion of the long-awaited Lawari Tunnel Project, which significantly shortened travel time between Peshawar and Chitral, benefiting hundreds of thousands people every day besides bolstering trade and tourism in Malakand division.

Moreover, the establishment of the Nawaz Sharif Kidney Hospital in Swat was described as a vital initiative of PMLN Govt for providing free healthcare to the underprivileged in the Malakand division, showcasing PMLN Quaid Nawaz

Sharif and PM Shehbaz Sharif commitment to the social welfare of people of KP.

On the other hand, he said that PTI, despite three terms of government in KP since 2013, has failed to construct a single major hospital in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, forcing many poor patients to seek treatment from expensive private hospitals at high cost. They said that BRT was facing about Rs3.2 billion economic losses per year due to non completion of its commercial plazas at Dabgari Gardens and Hayatabad.

Instead of focusing on people's welfare, they said that KP Chief Minister was leading protests in a bid to get NRO for the PTI founder, adding law would take its own course in the

PTI founder corruption case and that no NRO would be given to anyone.

As global leaders at UNGA and Pakistani leadership alike look towards the future, PM Shehbaz Sharif's address at the SDG Moment 2024 served as a clarion call for unity in tackling the world's most pressing challenges that the international community was facing today.

With his focus on climate action, international cooperation, and humanitarian issues, the speech of Pakistani premier is not only a reflection of Pakistan's principled position on the regional and global stage but also a heartfelt appeal for solidarity in pursuit of sustainable socio economic development imperative for prosperity of people.

Jobless son kills father over repeated advices

PESHAWAR (APP): A blighted son, frustrated with repeated advices of his father to find some job and add share in household expenditures, shot dead the father in Bhana Mari area here.

Police said the incident occurred late night the other day in Ghayas Abad area of Bhana Mari however the victim died of his injury at the hospital on Wednesday morning.

The deceased Ikram Ullah was shot dead by his son Salman soon after he went out of the house for market.

Police further said that the accused Salman was accompanied by his friend, Izzat Khan, a resident of Shah Alam and both were armed.

Bhana Mari police have registered a case and started search for both the accused.

CS concerned over recent polio case

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary (CS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry has expressed deep concern over the recent polio case being reported in a girl child from Mohmand district. He was addressing an emergency meeting with the health authorities of the province here on Wednesday. The Chief Secretary termed the case alarming and said, "The detection of polio in a child is not just a concern for the affected family but for the entire province. We must conduct an in depth study of the case to identify root cause and realign our strategy if required."

He further highlighted the importance of high immunization coverage and said that it is imperative to achieve the required immunization targets.

Federal Ombudsman - The poor man's court

Syed M. Ilyas

THROUGHOUT the human history, the Office of the Ombudsman has existed in one form or the other in various societies. It has, over the years, emerged as an essential feature of every modern society as it embodies the broad principles mainly adherence to the rule of law and upholding will of the people, upon which the edifice of democracy is raised. Today, the institution of Mohtasib exists in over 140 countries of the world including Pakistan as the principal watchdog of public administration.

Broadly speaking, it protects the citizenry by acting as a strong bulwark against administrative excesses as well as acts of maladministration by the public service agencies. It also has a vital role in the promotion and protection of human rights and civil liberties. Pakistan witnessed establishment of this vital institution in 1983 through a Presidential order, which was later amended and broadened by an Act of the Parliament in 2013 which not only enhanced its powers but also imparted it with financial and administrative autonomy. With 20 Regional Offices and 04 Complaint Collection Centers, today it covers almost the entire length and breadth of the country. It functions as a truly poor man's court since it requires neither any fee nor the services of any lawyer as the dispensation of justice is absolutely free. Moreover, the procedure is short and simple. Multiple means are available to the public to lodge their complaints including the website, mobile phone or even a simple letter through post. The complainants can join the investigation process/hearings through skype or other online applications and unlike the conventional court system, the complaint is disposed of within the prescribed limit of 60 days.

This office received and processed a record number of complaints in 2023 i.e. 194,106 which is 18% higher than the preceding year. It is noteworthy that 88% complaints were disposed of within the prescribed time limit of 60 days. The incidence of complaints recorded in the 3rd quarter of the current year is nearly 14% higher than the same period last year. It manifests the growing public trust in the efficiency and viability of this institution as well as holds a promise for the future. The satisfactory disposal of increasing number of complaints is undoubtedly the result of hard work, dedication and commitment of its employees and series of initiatives including the Informal Resolution of Disputes (IRD), Outreach Complaint Resolution (OCR) and the Khuli Katcheries besides the inspection visits to various public service agencies. In addition, a system of strict monitoring, follow up and verification of the implementation of every decision is in place and an impressive implementation rate of 85.4% was recorded in 2023.

During the current year, the Investigation Officers visited remote and far flung areas of the country and resolved 2210 complaints on the spot. This measure greatly enhanced the outreach and accessibility of this office and ensured free and expeditious relief to the general public. Time and again, the heads of the federal agencies have been instructed to address the grievances of the poor and marginalized segments of the society, following the highest standards of public service, efficiency and propriety in the discharge of their official responsibilities.

The Wafaqi Mohtasib Office in Pakistan stands out as a premier agency for administrative accountability with an accumulated experience and knowledge of over 41 years. This institution was established with the explicit mandate to diagnose, investigate, rectify and redress public grievances against maladministration by the government agencies. Its mandate flows from Article 37(d) of the Principles of Policy enshrined in Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which entrusts the state with the responsibility to ensure provision of inexpensive and expeditious justice to the public.

The Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman)'s institution, has perfected its complaint handling mechanism comprising registration, investigation, appraisal, review and implementation of its decisions/findings. It is now fully capable of (i) resolving complaints of mal-administration in large number; (ii) reaching out to the complainants for redressal of grievances at their doorsteps; (iii) informal resolution of disputes; (iv) inspection of various federal government agencies to improve service delivery; and (v) undertaking studies/reports to ascertain the root causes of corrupt practices and recommending appropriate steps for their eradication.

Encouraged by the accomplishments of the past four decades, the Office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib under the stewardship of Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi remains committed to pursuing the goals and objectives as enshrined in the President's Order No. 1 of 1983. The trust and confidence of the general public that the institution has earned over the years, inspires it to serve not merely a complaint office but an architect of good governance.



In brief

CS visits Swabi varsity F.P. Report

SWABI: Chief Secretary (CS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry on Wednesday visited University of Swabi Drug Rehabilitation Center Shah Mansoor. During his visit to UoS, CS met with faculty members and students. He interacted with students and answered their queries relating to various issues. He also attended a briefing about administrative matters of the varsity and disciplines being taught to students. Later, he visited Drug Rehabilitation Center Shah Mansoor and inquired about the facilities being provided to addicts. He also visited administrative section of the center and distributed wheelchairs among deserving people.

Bugti denounces terrorists' attack F.P. Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said on Wednesday that terrorist attack at police mobile in eastern bypass area of Quetta was condemnable. In a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Secretariat, he said that terrorists would be held accountable, adding that terrorists were coward who always searched for a soft target. The CM said that operations against terrorists would continue. Praying for the early recuperation of the injured of the blast, he directed the concerned authorities to provide the best treatment facilities to the injured.

Four alleged culprits held F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: Police arrested three alleged culprits named Nadeem, Rehman and Kamran who were possessing illegal weapons and recovered one Kalashnikov, one rifle 244 bore and one repeater with 12 bore cartridges, on Wednesday. In the same way, SHO Police Station Sadar Toba Tek Singh and the employees of the police took actions and controlled the accused Sajid, who was in possession of illegal weapons, from whose possession illegal pistols and 30 bore bullets were recovered. District Police Officer Toba Tek Singh Ibadat Nisar has issued instructions to SDPOs, SHO's and incharge CIA of the district to take actions against drug dealers and criminals.

Mother, son gunned down

QUETTA (PPI): Mother and her son were gunned down by unidentified assailants at Subzal Road area of the provincial capital on Wednesday. According to police, unidentified assailants shot dead a woman and her son namely Kamran at Subzal Road area of the provincial capital. The assailants managed to escape after committing the crime. The bodies were shifted to Sandeman Provincial Hospital Quetta and later handed over to the heirs after fulfilling necessary medico-legal formalities. The incident has created a mourning atmosphere in the victims' home. Further investigation was being conducted by the authorities. The motive of the crime could not be ascertained till filing this report.

4 passengers die

TAXILA (INP): Four passengers died while several others were injured when a dumper went out of control, overturned and fell on a Hiace van on Wah Cantt Road near Taxila on Wednesday.



QUETTA: WASA employees holding a protest for acceptance of their demands.

District admn holds jirga in Landi Kotal

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: A special jirga under the supervision of the district administration was held in jirga hall, Landi Kotal on Wednesday in accordance with the Chief Minister's special instruction under the Good Governance Policy.

Besides Additional District Commissioner (ADC) Nauman Ali Shah, assistant Commissioner, Landi Kotal Adnan Mumtaz, officials of line departments besides a large number of tribal elders, political elites and people from different walks of life were among the participants.

Highlighting aims and purpose of the convening the jirga ADC Nauman Ali Shah said that to get information of the genuine and main problems of the tribesmen, comprise a comprehensive report on it and convey it to the provincial government as per order for its resolution. He maintained that the provincial



government was serious about addressing miseries of the locals in limited sources.

Earlier, locals tribal including Tehsil Chairman Haji Shah Khalid, Malik Abdurrazzaq, Malik Khalid Khan, Malik Nadir Khan Shinwari, Mirajuddin Shinwari, Akhtar Ali and others expressed their dissatisfaction over the efficiency of line departments and put pile of complaints against provision of basic facilities like poor law and order situation, lack of health, education, electricity and roads etc.

They criticized the incumbent government for

its poor ability and declared the present era as the worst governance they ever experienced. They also demanded the government to feel sensitivity of the matter and resume the Pak-Afghan highway, blocked by the Koki Khel Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) for the last 36 days that multiplied their miseries.

After his speech, Tehsil Chairman Haji Shah Khalid along with dozens of councilors boycotted the jirga in protest and said such kind of gathering were organized only for photo shoots and not to resolve problems of the tribal being faced them since long.

Mehfil-e-Naat organized at KKKUK

F.P. Report

KARAK: The Religious and Character building society, Khushal Khan Khattak University organized a Mehfil-e-Naat to celebrate the birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in connection with the month of Rabi ul Awal.

The event drew large participation from students, faculty, and staff, who came together to reflect on the life and teachings of the Prophet (PBUH) through soulful Naat recitations and Darood-o-Salam. The Mehfil encouraged the expression of this devotion through a Naat competi-

tion, where students showcased their love for the Prophet (PBUH). Certificates were awarded to the Naat Khawan students and organizers.

Muhammad Shah Din Assistant Professor Management Sciences honored the occasion as the chief guest and spoke about how the Prophet's (PBUH) message of Rehmat provides guidance in every facet of life. He emphasized how the Prophet's (PBUH) qualities of forgiveness, forbearance, and justice are essential in today's world.

Deputy provost Dr zulfiqar ali Anjum echoed these

sentiments, appreciating the students enthusiasm and dedication to celebrating the Prophet's legacy. In his statement Muhammad Ishfaq Incharge Religious and character building society focused on Prophet's message of Rehmat (mercy), along with other speakers reminding attendees that the Prophet (PBUH) was sent as a mercy not only to humans but to all of creation. Speakers expressed that His example of caring for the weak, forgiving wrongdoers, and showing love even to those who opposed him was highlighted as a model of ideal behavior for Muslims.

World to held Israel for war crimes: Samina

F.P. Report

QUETTA: Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, has expressed her deep anger and grief over the martyrdom of hundreds of civilians in the bombing and missile attacks by Israel on the cities of Lebanon.

In her condemnation statement, she said that in the past few days, Israel has carried out hundreds of aerial attacks on various cities including the Lebanese capital Beirut in the last two days, in which hundreds of innocent people including children and women were martyred while thousands were injured. This barbaric action by Israel will increase the already ongoing tension in the region. With this action of Israel, the risk of a big war has increased even more. We condemn in the strongest terms.

Senator said this act of aggression against Lebanon is a serious violation of the UN Charter and international laws. The Israeli action is dangerous, further jeopardizing peace and security in an already volatile region. Pakistan reiterates its full support for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the

entire Pakistani nation stands in solidarity with the people of Lebanon and their right to live in peace and security. Israel is the biggest threat to the peace and recent Israeli aggression reflects Israeli war aims.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that the Israeli attack on Lebanon is an open violation of human rights in which hundreds of innocent Lebanese have been martyred, including a large number of children and women. She added in her statement that due to the increasing violence in the Middle East, global peace has faced a serious threat and this situation can turn into a big tragedy at any time. Looking at the attacks, there is an urgent need for international organizations to stop Israel from aggression and solve the problem, for which the United Nations must play its full role. War aims can be established by bridging.

She further said that Israel is a terrorist country and it has become an enemy of peace in the region in order to achieve its aggressive war ambitions. She said that the oppression and cruelty inflicted on the Palestinians for the past several decades has increased to a terrible extent in recent days and

the recent Israeli attacks on Lebanon have once again raised a question mark on the role of international institutions.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that the indifference of the international community on the Israeli aggression is obvious and the role of the international organizations which are sitting silently on the Israeli aggression is becoming suspicious. She called on the Organization of Muslim Countries (OIC) to raise its voice and play its role on recent events.

Robber killed

GOJRA (INP): One robber was killed while his two accomplices managed to escape after police encounter in Saddar police station jurisdiction on Wednesday.

According to details, a three-member gang of robbers was engaged in picket looting at Mochiwala road near Chak No 354/JB during when police reached the scene. Upon sight of police, three robbers started fire which led to an exchange of fire. In cross firing, one robber was killed while his two accomplices managed to escape.

Poem

*If you're banned, then you're unbanded.
If you're branded, then you're a man.
After a long time, people think,
"That guy, known by people, is just a gland."
Look out at yourself with warm eyes,
And remove the things that make you shy.
Boost up yourself and be visible,
Like a star that swims in the sky.
Figure out your weakness,
And don't expose it to society.*

*Try to make strength your magnity,
Then you are the flower of society.
If you lose in any situation,
Don't be worried, loss and win are husband and wife.
Make yourself the hero of your life,
Cut the problem with the bank of a knife.
If you do anything, make yourself perfect.
If all society considers you imperfect,
Be branded, build a brand,
Make a brand,
Try again and again, but make a brand.
— Bilal*

Secy E&SE visits Fazle Haq College F.P. Report

MARDAN: Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education (E&SE) department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Masood Ahmad visited The Fazle Haq College Mardan to inspect the ongoing developmental projects at the institution. During his visit, he also visited a book fair organized by the college, on Wednesday.

He expressed satisfaction with the students' active participation in reading activities and praised the college for promoting intellectual growth and fostering a reading culture among students. Professor Jehan Zeb, Principal of The Fazle Haq College, briefed Masood Ahmad on the various developmental measures taken to uplift the standards of the institution.

The briefing included key improvements in administration, security, and academic performance. Masood Ahmad appreciated the efforts of the Principal and the college administration, encouraging them to continue working collaboratively for the further advancement of the institution.

Masood Ahmad assured the college of his full support in all future endeavors and emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards in both academic and infrastructural development.

One killed in Tank firing F.P. Report

TANK: Nephew of a police official was killed when unidentified armed men attacked his residence here on Wednesday.

According to details, unknown culprits opened firing at house of SHO Sami Barkazai located in Bara Khel area of Tank. As a result of firing, nephew of the SHO was killed and attackers fled the scene. The DPO said that investigations into the attack on house of Sami Barkazai were underway and culprits would be detained soon.

KP CM prioritizes rapid development in merged districts

F.P. Report

DARA ADAMKHEL: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Afridi advocate has said that the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has a visionary thinking for the rapid development of the entire province, especially the merged tribal districts and other merged areas and he truly wants its real development. That is why the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has started a particular Program "Grand Tribal Jirga" for the rapid development of the merged tribal districts and other merged areas.

This he said while addressing the "Awami Jirga" of Dara Adamkhel as a chief guest, which was organized by Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram. Deputy Commissioner Kohat while highlighting the aims and objectives of the Jirga, said that the purpose of holding

the "Awami Jirga" is to get the opinion and proposals of the elected representatives of Darra Adamkhel Tehsil, tribal leaders, elders and common man on the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Program "Grand Tribal Jirga" for the rapid development of the merged districts.

Tehsil Nazim Dara Adamkhel Shahid Bilal Afridi, former MNA Baz Gul Afridi and other prominent tribal leaders also addressed the Jirga and presented their useful and viable suggestions and recommendations for the rapid progress of the area. They also pointed out some of the major problems facing the area which the Minister assured to solve on priority basis.

The Law Minister while referring to the merger of tribal areas, said that he also have reservations about it and is voicing for it on the relevant forums. He said that the purpose of holding today's Jirga is to get the valuable opinions

and suggestions of the people here for the development of the area and the participants gave the best and valuable suggestions and recommendations.

The Minister said, for the economic development of the area and skills development of youth of Dara Adamkhel, establishment of an Industrial Zone is under active consideration of the Provincial Government. Similarly, work on promoting agriculture and planting olive groves in the area is also in progress, he added. He continued, working on the construction of dams to protect the natural water from wasting is also underway.

Upgradation of hospitals, schools and colleges and establishment of separate sports complexes one each in Dara Adamkhel and Jawaki area is in the pipeline, he said. Aftab Alam also assured to talk to the Chief Minister for providing funds to the TMA Dara Adamkhel.

Crackdown against profiteers directed

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razzaq has said that provision of essential commodities to people on cheaper rates is top priority of the district administration and profiteers are not deserving any mercy. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of price control magistrates held to review performance of price magistrates.

DC directed the price magistrates to take strict action against owners of tandoors and hotels who were selling Roti on inflated price in the district. He said that criminal cases also be get registered with police stations against profiteers who were not implemented on price list.

Meanwhile, ADCG and

Administrator Municipal Committee Hafizabad Hamadullah has issued order to enquiry against four employees of MC involved in Rs. 7 million corruption in Maps fee of buildings.

According to details, MC employees Rana Waqar Azeem, Shahid Mehmood, Umar Riaz and Jahangir allegedly allowed to Muhammad Zabair Aziz for constructing commercial building at Raja Chowk Hafizabad while officials of MC deposited map fee of domestic building rate instead of commercial fee rate. As a result of which, Municipal Committee has to face loss of Rs.7 million. Administrator MC Hamadullah appointed Madam Tashan Fatima as enquiry officer.

Moreover, MC was sealed two shops on the

charges of construction building without approval of map by the MC few days ago but owner of shops Muhammad Zabair Ahmad de-sealed without permission of the MC. Police have registered a case against Muhammad Zabair Aziz on the application of MC Hafizabad.

Police arrests three alleged drug dealers: Hafizabad police have arrested women and recovered 10 kg opium from her possession. According to police report, city police raided on Kolo Road and arrested accused Shama. Police recovered 10 kg opium for her possession and registered a case against her. Meanwhile, Jalalpur Bhattian police arrested two notorious proclaimed offenders involved in different cases.

Bandits kidnap eight with deceptive marriage offer

SHIKARPUR (INP): Katcha area bandits kidnapped eight people deceiving them with a marriage proposal, police officials said on Wednesday.

Local police said that four women have been among the kidnapped persons. The bandits had invited the victims with deceptive marriage proposal to the katcha area, according to police. The outlaws kidnapped them when they reached in katcha area of Napur Kot. "They had been invited to see a girl for wedding to the katcha

area".

Police said that the hostages have been residents of Sukkur's Micro Colony locality. Recently a cop killed while two sustained injuries as Sindh Rangers and Police carried out a joint operation against bandits in katcha area (riverine area). A most wanted bandit was killed, and two others arrested in injured condition in the operation.

According to a Rangers spokesperson, the law enforcement agencies detained six other suspects.

The killed outlaw was identified as a brother of notorious bandit Malguzar Bhulkani carrying head money on him. Earlier, on August 23, 12 policemen were martyred and seven others were injured in an attack on two police vehicles by dacoits in Rahim Yar Khan's katcha area. The bandits launched a rocket attack on two police vehicles in Machhka, Sadiqabad, when they stuck in accumulated rainwater. Approximately 20 officers were present in the vehicles at the time of the attack.

Nation pays tribute to sacrifices of armed forces

F.P. Report

HUB: Senior leader of Pakistan People's Party, Spokesperson of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Advisor for Industry and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri has said that the armed forces of Pakistan are protecting the country's borders fearlessly by sacrificing their lives.

The armed forces have not only protected the country's borders well, but have given countless sacrifices while fully fighting the terrorism imposed in the country. Paying tribute, he said that the Pakistan Army has played its full role in every difficult time, whether it is the determination of the war against terrorism or the protection of the country's borders. He said that the role of the army in Pakistan has always been at the forefront. It is like a wall through which national security cannot be attacked.

He said that Pakistan's armed forces are protecting the country's borders without fear or danger and Pakistan Army has only one goal and that is the security and integrity of Pakistan and for this purpose, the sacrifices of Pakistan Army

stand by its brave forces of Pakistan and the integrity of Pakistan and will not hesitate to make any sacrifice for survival.

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Murderer convicted F.P. Report

BUNER: District and Sessions Judge (D&SJ) Buner Samira Wali convicted murderer Jamshed Khan for lifetime imprisonment and imposed fine of Rs one million, on Wednesday.

According to prosecution, two accused including Jamshed Khan and Amjad charged in murder of Nurul Amin on 10th December, 2019 in China village Buner district. D&SJ Samira Wali sentenced the accused to life imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 10 lakh under Section 302 of the Pakistan Penal Code, while under Section 15 AA, three years imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 20,000. The court acquitted the other accused Amjad on a plea agreement with the heirs.



KYIV: Rescuers work at the site of an apartment building hit by a Russian air attack on northeastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.

Japan asks China to ensure safety of Japanese citizens

TOKYO (AP): Japan's top diplomat asked China to ensure the safety of Japanese citizens there after the fatal stabbing of a Japanese schoolboy, and demanded a crackdown on what she called "groundless, malicious and anti-Japanese" social media posts that threaten children's safety.

China's Foreign Ministry said the attack was an isolated case and urged Japan to react calmly. Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa asked her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, conduct a full investigation into the stabbing and provide a clear explanation to Japan about what happened, and to punish the suspect and implement preventive measures for the future. Kamikawa said Beijing should take concrete steps to ensure safety of Japanese residents, especially children, in China, according to Japan's Foreign Ministry. The two ministers met in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting. The 10-year-old boy was stabbed on Sept. 18 near the gate of the Shenzhen Japanese School. The attacker, identified as a 44-year-old man, was arrested on the spot and is being investigated, according to Chinese officials. No motive for the attack was immediately clear.

Kamikawa has said the attack occurred despite Tokyo's request to Beijing for increased security for Japanese citizens and around

Japanese schools ahead of the Sept. 18 anniversary of the Mukden Incident in 1931, which China marks as the beginning of the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, now northeast China. On June 24th, a knife attack at a school bus stop for a Japanese school in the southeastern city of Suzhou killed a Chinese national who was trying to stop the attacker and injured a Japanese mother and her child.

Earlier in June, a Chinese man stabbed four US university instructors at a public park in Jilin in the northeast and a Chinese person who tried to intervene. The four instructors from Cornell College were teaching at Beihua University. Their injuries were not critical. Kamikawa also told Wang that "groundless, malicious and anti-Japanese social media postings and others, including those targeting Japanese schools, directly affect the safety of children and are absolutely unacceptable," demanding China a thorough crackdown as soon as possible, according to a ministry statement.

Wang said the stabbing was an "accidental, individual case" and that China would handle the case under the law, the ministry said. It said Kamikawa and Wang agreed to further cooperate to achieve progress on the issues as soon as possible. "China will investigate and handle this isolated attack on a Japanese student in

Shenzhen in accordance with the law, and will ensure the safety of all foreign citizens in China as always," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued. "Japan should treat the matter calmly and rationally and avoid politicization and amplification." Safety concerns are rising among the Japanese business community in China.

Vice Foreign Minister Yoshifumi Tsgue was in Beijing for talks with his counterpart, Sun Weidong, and conveyed a similar message of concern. Tsgue then met with representatives of the Japanese business community to hear their thoughts on safely operating in China. Tsgue said Japan is spending 43 million yen (\$300,000) to urgently beef up security around Japanese schools and their bus stops during commuting hours, and plans to seek additional budget to staff security guards on Japanese school buses. Tetsuro Honma, head of Panasonic Holdings Corp.'s Chinese subsidiary and head of the Japanese Chamber Commerce and Industry in China, told Tsgue that the latest stabbing, in addition to an earlier case in June, were extremely regrettable, according to the ministry.

Honma said ensuring the safety of employees and their families is crucial for Japanese companies operating in China. About 100,000 Japanese students, employees and others live in China.

US Navy ship operating in Mideast damaged

DUBAI (AP): A US Navy replenishment ship operating in the Middle East sustained damage after refueling vessels and the cause is under investigation, officials said. The USNS Big Horn was damaged after it resupplied the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group. The carrier group remains in the region amid heightened tensions over the Israel-Hamas war and Israel's ongoing strikes targeting Hezbollah in Lebanon.

A US Navy official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss matters yet to be made public, declined to elaborate on where the damage took place. A photo released by the US military dated Sept. 5 showed sailors aboard the Lincoln receiving supplies from the Big Horn, while another on Sept. 11 showed the Big Horn alongside the Lincoln. The Lincoln is patrolling the Arabian Sea. The official said the Big Horn's crew was safe and there was no sign of an oil leak from the vessel. Another US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity for the same reason, said the vessel was being supported by private tugboats to head into a port and an assessment of the damage was still ongoing.

Rumors about the Big Horn's condition began circulating after images posted to a website tracking shipping called gCaptain showed flooding purportedly on board the Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oiler. The website described the Big Horn as having "ran aground ... and partially flooded off the coast of Oman." Though the Lincoln is powered by a nuclear reactor, its strike group has vessels powered by fossil fuel that need to be resupplied at sea. The aircraft aboard the Lincoln also need jet fuel. The Big Horn and other ships like it also provide other supplies. The US official called the damage to the refueler an inconvenience, but said the fleet would continue to be able to operate without it. The strike group's destroyers can refuel in port and they can transport aviation fuel to the carrier to supply the on-board fighter jets and surveillance aircraft.

Oilers like the Big Horn typically have around 80 civilians and five military personnel on board. It remains unclear if there are any other replenishment ships like it immediately available in the Mideast. An AP survey of publicly released military images of similar replenishment ships run by the US Navy's Military Sealift Command showed none in the Mideast in recent months. The command declined to comment.

Erdogan calls for US to lift sanctions

ANKARA (Reuters): Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan called for US sanctions blocking some defence purchases by his country and for other "unilateral" measures that hinder the NATO allies' ability to hit long-term bilateral trade targets to be lifted.

Ties between the allies have been strained over a host of issues in recent years, ranging from policy differences in the eastern Mediterranean, Syria and Gaza to Ankara's purchase of Russian S-400 air defence systems, which prompted the US sanctions and Turkey's removal from the F-35 fighter jet programme in 2019. After that, Ankara worked to procure 40 Block-70 F-16 fighter jets and 79 modernisation kits from Washington. The deal was approved after Turkey's blessing of Sweden's NATO bid, which also led to a thaw in relations.

Ankara and Washington have a long-term goal of \$100 billion in bilateral trade, up from about \$30 billion in 2023. During a visit to New York for the UN General Assembly, Erdogan told Turkish and American businesspeople that though he believed the goal would be possible to meet, cooperation in defence industry had "fallen very short" of its potential due to the remaining restrictions. "For this, unilateral applications like additional tariffs in the iron, steel, and aluminum sectors, probes and the CAATSA sanctions need to be abandoned," he said, referring to the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

Ukraine calls for 'action' to force Russia into peace

UNITED NATIONS (AP): Ukraine's president dismissed the notion of peace talks with Moscow, calling instead for unspecified global "action" to force Russia into peace for invading his country and to comply with the UN Charter's requirement that every country respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all other nations. Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the UN Security Council that Russian President Vladimir Putin is committing "an international crime" and has broken so many international rules that he won't stop on his own. "And that's why this war can't simply fade away. That's why this war can't be calmed by talks," Zelenskyy said at a meeting on the sidelines of the annual gathering of world leaders at the General Assembly. "Russia can only be forced into peace, and that is exactly what's needed - forcing Russia into peace as the sole aggressor in this war, the sole violator of the UN Charter."

The high-level meeting on the more than 2½-year war in Ukraine was attended by ministers from 14 of the council's 15 member nations. Russia chose to send its lower-level UN ambassador. Vassily Nebenzia opened the meeting protesting that Zelenskyy was being given the UN spotlight again. He also criticized Slovenia - which holds the rotating council presidency this month - for allowing the Ukrainian leader's "chorus" to speak. He meant about 10 European Union and NATO members who aren't on the council but march "in lockstep" every time they come to the council "to malign the Russian Federation."

"When it comes to listening to these hackneyed statements, and these cookie-cutter statements, we have no intention of wasting time on that," Nebenzia said. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres briefed the council, reiterating the United Nations' strong support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity under the UN Charter. "Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 - following the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol a decade ago - is a clear violation of these principles," the UN chief said.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine knows some countries want to talk to Putin. But, he asked, "What could they possibly hear

from him - that he's upset because we are exercising our right to defend our people, or that he wants to keep the war and terror going just so no one thinks he was wrong?" China has repeatedly called for talks between Ukraine and Russia. Its foreign minister, Wang Yi, told the council that the suffering and destruction and increasing volatility in the region "must be turned around." Wang stressed that Chinese President Xi Jinping believes "the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected." China is pursuing peace talks and conducting shuttle diplomacy, Wang said, and its efforts have received wide international support. He pointed to a joint China-Brazil peace plan issued earlier this year.

Zelenskyy also went after countries that supply weapons and ammunition to Russia, telling the council Moscow has no legitimate reason to make Iran and North Korea "de facto accomplices." US Secretary of State Antony Blinken raised similar issues but also accused China, which has close ties to Russia, of providing Russia with machine tools, microelectronics and other items it is using "to rebuild, restock and ramp up its war machine and sustain its brutal war." Wang, who spoke after him, didn't directly respond but said: "I also wish to make it clear that on the Ukraine issue, any move to shift responsibility onto China or attack and smear China is irresponsible and will lead nowhere."

Blinken also accused Iran of providing armed drones to Russia since 2022 and transferring hundreds of short-range ballistic missiles a few weeks ago - which its new president, Masoud Pezeshkian, has denied. North Korea has also delivered trainloads of weapons and ammunition to Russia including ballistic missiles and artillery rounds, Blinken said. "The more Russia relies on their support, the more Iran and North Korea extract in return," Blinken said. "And the more Putin gives to Pyongyang and Tehran, the more he exacerbates threats to peace and security." To those who ask how the United States and others can help Ukraine defend itself and criticize countries supplying military materiel to Russia, Blinken said the answer is simple: "Russia is the aggressor, Ukraine is the victim."

NK vows response to US submarine's visit to SK

SEOUL (AP): The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to boost the country's nuclear war capability and take other steps to protest the recent arrival of a nuclear-powered US submarine in South Korea.

North Korea has repeatedly vowed to expand its nuclear arsenal, but the latest threat by Kim Yo Jong came after North Korea dialed up regional tensions by unveiling a uranium-enrichment facility and testing a new ballistic missile earlier this month. In a statement carried by state media, Kim Yo Jong said that the submarine's visit "clearly reveals the frantic military and strategic attempt of the US" She said North Korea's nuclear war deterrent must be bolstered "both in quality and quantity continuously and limitlessly" in response.

"The US strategic assets will never find their resting place in the region of the Korean Peninsula," she said. "We will continue to inform that all the ports and military bases of the ROK are not safe places." ROK stands for the Republic of

Korea, South Korea's formal name. Her comments suggested North Korea may test-fire a missile whose range covers a South Korean site where the US submarine is docked, some observers say.

South Korea's military said the USS Vermont, a nuclear-powered and fast-attack submarine, arrived at the southeastern South Korean port city of Busan to take on supplies and allow its crew to rest. Temporary deployments of powerful US military assets like aircraft carriers, nuclear-powered submarines and bombers to South Korea are not unusual, but Washington has boosted them over the last year in a show of force against North Korea's evolving nuclear threats. Pyongyang often responds furiously to such visits, calling them proof of hostile intentions, and reacts with missile tests.

On Sept. 13, North Korea's state media published photos of a secretive facility to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons. It was North Korea's first unveiling of a uranium-enrichment facility since it

showed one at the country's main Yongbyon nuclear complex to visiting American scholars in 2010. Last week, North Korea tested a newly built ballistic missile designed to carry what it calls "a 4.5-ton super-large conventional warhead" and a modified cruise missile. Since late May, North Korea has also floated thousands of trash-carrying balloons toward South Korea in a Cold War-style psychological campaign, prompting South Korea to restart anti-Pyongyang propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts at border areas. South Korea's military warned of unspecified military action if the North pushes its balloon campaign to a point that seriously threatens the safety of South Korean civilians.

Military spokesperson Lee Sung Joon didn't say what action South Korea could take, but he reiterated that the military isn't considering shooting down the balloons midair because they could be carrying hazardous substances. So far, North Korea's balloon activities haven't caused serious damage.

War comes home to Russia in tranquil lakeside town

LONDON (Reuters): Elena is scouring the town for window glass. Irina wants boards and beams to fix holes in her roof. Nearly a week after a Ukrainian drone blew up an ammunition depot in the Russian town of Toropets, triggering an explosion as powerful as a small earthquake, its people are struggling to repair homes and grappling with the shock of what hit them, judging by posts in a community chatroom.

In the days before the attack, the small lakeside town of just over 11,000 residents had hosted a sailing competition for teenagers from across Russia, earning a rare mention on state television. Weeks earlier, it marked the 950th anniversary of its founding with an arts and music festival and a special tasting of local fish soup. Toropets is a striking example of a quiet town far from the frontlines in Ukraine where the war, raging now for more than two and a half years, has suddenly come home to Russia.

Pictures captured by satellite imaging company Maxar reveal the scale of destruction near the weapons store, which lay between two lakes about 5 km (3 miles) from the town centre. Images taken before the explosion show an extensive complex of more than four dozen buildings spaced out several metres apart, with a crane offloading material from railcars nearby.

Six years ago, a then-deputy defence minister boasted of the facility's state-of-the-art concrete storage bunkers, designed to store missiles, ammunition and explosives. "It ensures their reliable and safe storage, protects them from air and missile strikes and even from the damaging factors of a nuclear explosion", the RIA state news agency quoted Dmitry Bulgakov as saying. He was arrested on bribery charges in July. The Maxar images, taken four days after the Ukrainian drone strike, show the complex in ruins, with a mas-

sive crater stretching nearly 82 metres (270 feet) wide. Several storage buildings and bunkers are completely obliterated, surrounded by naked tree trunks stripped of their foliage. A rail line running through a forested area nearby has also taken a hit, with several cars smashed to smithereens. When President Vladimir Putin launched his February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, he called it a "special military operation", not a war. The phrase, still used by the Kremlin, seemed designed to reassure Russians that normal life would carry on undisturbed while the army got the job done.

Over time, however, the impact on Russia's own security has become impossible to hide. Scores of people have been killed by shelling and drone attacks on the western Belgorod region. In August, Ukraine sent thousands of troops into neighbouring Kursk and carved out a slice of territory from which Russia has yet to eject them.

US woman dies in controversial suicide capsule in Switzerland

BERN (AFP): A 64-year-old US woman took her own life inside a controversial suicide capsule at a Swiss woodland retreat, with police saying several people had been arrested. The space-age looking Sarco capsule, which fills with nitrogen and causes death by hypoxia, was used outside a village near the German border.

The portable human-sized pod, self-operated by a button inside, has raised a host of legal and ethical questions in Switzerland. Active euthanasia is banned in the country but assisted dying has been legal for decades. On the same day it was used, Switzerland's Interior Minister Elisabeth Baume-Schneider told lawmakers that the Sarco was "not legal". Police in the northern Schaffhausen canton said several people had

been taken into custody and face criminal proceedings.

The Last Resort, an assisted dying organisation, presented the Sarco pod in Zurich in July, saying they expected it to be used for the first time within months, and saw no legal obstacle to its use in Switzerland. In a statement to AFP, The Last Resort said the person who died, who was not named, was a 64-year-old woman from the midwestern United States. She "had been suffering for many years from a number of serious problems associated with severe immune compromise", the statement said.

The death took place "under a canopy of trees, at a private forest retreat". The association's co-president Florian Willet was the only other person present, and described the woman's death as "peaceful, fast and digni-

fied", according to the statement. The cantonal public prosecutor's office "has opened criminal proceedings against several people for inducement and aiding and abetting suicide... and several people have been placed in police custody," a police statement said.

The public prosecutor's office had been informed by a law firm that an assisted suicide had taken place at a forest hut in Merishausen. The police, the forensic emergency service and the public prosecutor's office "went to the crime scene". The Sarco suicide capsule was secured and the deceased taken away for an autopsy. "We found the capsule with the lifeless person inside," said Schaffhausen's public prosecutor Peter Sticher.

He told Blick newspaper that several people were arrested "so that they were

not colluding with each other or covering up evidence". Sticher said the operators knew the risks of being arrested. "We warned them in writing. We said that if they came to Schaffhausen and used Sarco, they would face criminal consequences," he said.

The Sarco was invented by Philip Nitschke, a leading global figure in right-to-die activism. The 3D-printable capsule cost more than 650,000 euros (\$725,000) to research and develop in the Netherlands over 12 years. Future Sarcos could cost around 15,000 euros. The pods are reusable. In a statement, Nitschke said he was "pleased that the Sarco had performed exactly as it had been designed to do: that is to provide an elective, non-drug, peaceful death at the time of the person's choosing".

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Use of force undermines Israel's security

AT least 492 people, including 35 children and 58 women, have reportedly been killed, and more than 1,600 wounded in Israel's air strikes on alleged Hezbollah targets in Lebanon on Monday. That made it the deadliest day in the Israel-Hezbollah conflict since 2006.

Some claim that the air strikes, along with those on alleged Hezbollah members via pagers and walkie-talkies that reportedly killed dozens and wounded thousands, have pushed the militant group into the biggest crisis it has faced in four decades.

But more likely than not this is merely another escalation in the seemingly endless death loop of the Israel-Hezbollah conflict. As the violent exchange is closely tied to the Israeli military offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip, the current exchanges of fire may not end until peace is restored in the Palestinian enclave. Both Israel and the Hezbollah said this only marks the start of a new stage in their conflict. Israel is determined to push its offensive into the Bekaa Valley in northeast Lebanon, which is believed to be a Hezbollah stronghold. While Hezbollah leaders have openly said they will not stop until there is a cease-fire in Gaza. Considering both sides' apparent obsession with the bloodspilling logic of strike and counterstrike, however, neither should expect accomplishing its goal without paying a hefty price.

Israel's purpose may seem easily achievable — to diminish Hezbollah's ability to fire rockets and missiles across the Lebanon-Israel border, to push Hezbollah fighters back from the frontier, and to destroy the military infrastructure used by Hezbollah to attack Israeli communities. But even if it realizes these objectives, it will hardly suffice to create lasting peace for its vast border regions. Unlike Hamas, Hezbollah can find cover across Lebanon. Not to mention the militant organization is far bigger and better equipped than its Hamas sibling. Let alone its close connection and coordination with Israel's other foes in the region, including Iran and its proxies. Since the Oct 7 Hamas attacks on Israel, both Iran and Houthi forces in Yemen have launched sporadic strikes on Israeli targets. Hezbollah has claimed it is attacking in response to Israel's military operations in Gaza. In spite of Israel's belief that it is quite close to the set goal of eliminating Hamas, the truth is there will be no complete success — since Hamas elements are scattered across the area. So are the other anti-Israel forces.

Like the conflict in Gaza, Israel's objectives in its offensive against Hezbollah won't be quickly achieved. And that may prove damaging to the Israelis, too. Israel's campaign against Hamas began with considerable international sympathy, but it soon became a target of international condemnation thanks to the growing humanitarian crisis its military action has precipitated in Gaza. The same will be true of its ongoing strikes on Hezbollah.

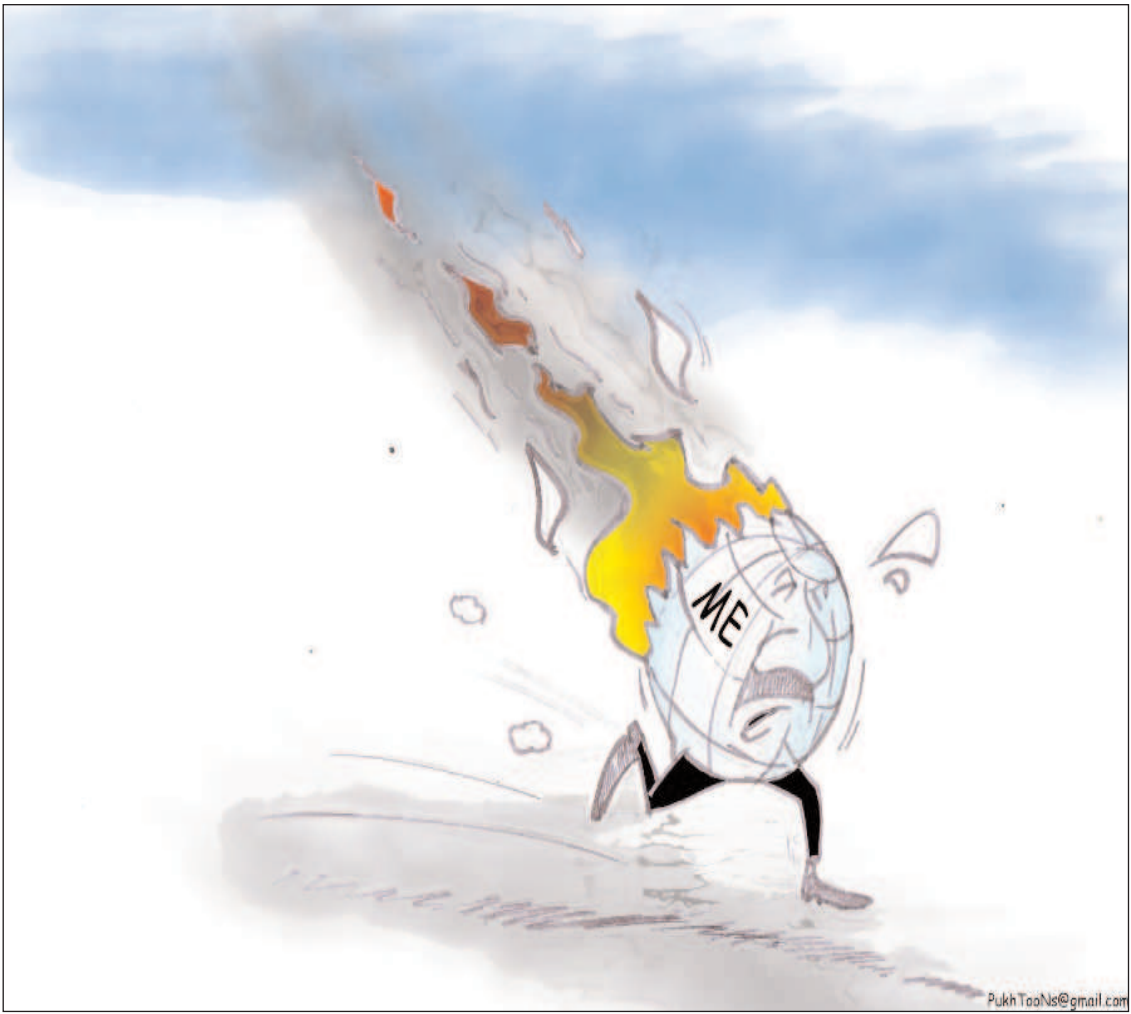
As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other Israeli officials conceded, they were bombing civilian infrastructure used by the militia to hide rockets, missiles, launchers and drones. They are not sure about the "secondary" damage to civilian lives. Considering the way militia forces in the region blend themselves into local communities, the way the current Israeli offensive is executed no doubt carries huge humanitarian risks. Hundreds of thousands of Israeli and Lebanese civilians have been displaced in the present round of violence. As the conflict drags on, countless more will be.

In a meeting with his Lebanese counterpart in New York on Monday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi reiterated Beijing's resolute opposition to "indiscriminate attacks targeted at civilians", citing the pager attacks, and he strongly condemned Israel's Monday air strikes, which he said "violated the basic principles of international relations".

"Countering violence with violence will not solve the problems in the Middle East and will only lead to an even greater humanitarian disaster." He again called for implementing the "two-state solution" for Palestine as a precondition for lasting peace in the region. In other words, the mutual hostility between Israel and its regional foes has to be addressed as an organic whole.

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Biden's flawed final speech at UN General Assembly

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

THE UN "general debate" began on Tuesday, marking the annual ritual of heads of state and government giving their take on world events, a tradition going back to the organization's founding in 1945. The 79th session opened with a pessimistic message from Secretary-General Antonio Guterres about the UN's inability to stop wars, decrying the impunity enjoyed by states that violate international law and citing the Gaza and Ukraine wars in particular. Without naming them, he was clearly pointing the finger at Russia and the US, two permanent members of the UN Security Council that have repeatedly used their veto power to stop the organization from taking decisive action to stop these two wars.

Also as per tradition, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was the first head of state to speak.

He too lamented the lack of global action, saying that the UN is paralyzed, with challenges piling up and world leaders "going around in circles," citing Gaza and Ukraine as prime examples of this paralysis.

Then it was US President Joe Biden's turn. He gave a different picture, asserting that the international system is working and that the US in particular is holding it together.

Many expected Biden's speech — his last before the UN — to be bold and path-making, but it failed to move the audience, in part because of the contrasts between the spoken words and the real actions of his administration.

Biden cited the famous lines from the Irish poet William Butler Yeats, describing a world where "Things fall apart; the center cannot hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the world."

But Biden then added: "Some may say those words describe the world not just in 1919 but in

2024. But I see a critical distinction. In our time, the center has held. Leaders and people from every region and across the political spectrum have stood together."

Biden was probably the only leader on the first day of speeches who stated that the international system is working. In other events and high-level gatherings held in New York these days, such as the "Summit of the Future," participants agree that the UN system is broken and in need of reform, or even an overhaul.

While Biden asserted that "we defended the UN Charter," others, including Guterres, said it has been broken into too many pieces.

The US president thought that the world has "turned the page on the worst pandemic in a century. We made sure COVID no longer controls our lives." But Lula said: "Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, no comprehensive treaty on pandemics has been adopted by the UN." This sentiment was echoed by others.

Most of the examples Biden cited to support his contention that the system is working were actions taken by individual states, not by the UN or the global community as a whole. On climate change, for example, he said: "My country made the largest investment in climate and clean energy ever, anywhere in history." But that is the US, not the UN. And so on with the other examples he cited.

Looked at from the point of view of a veto-wielding superpower, the system is working.

It can stop any action it does not like and go along with the decisions of which it approves. What could be better?

But the world looks different from the perspective of defenseless refugees in Gaza, huddled by the ruins of their homes, having lost

numerous family members and who could get killed at any minute by a far superior military force unchecked by the UN and supported by its most powerful members.

Biden did mention Gaza, five times, and sought to take credit for his administration's efforts to help. He acknowledged that "innocent civilians in Gaza are also going through hell. Thousands and thousands killed, including aid workers. Too many families dislocated, crowding into tents, facing a dire humanitarian situation." But he blamed only Hamas. The president mentioned that the US, with Qatar and Egypt, had put forward a "ceasefire and hostage deal" and that "now is the time for the parties to finalize its terms."

In essence, he abdicated responsibility for ending the carnage. These remarks unintentionally gave credence to a report published by The Wall Street Journal last week stating that the administration was ending its Gaza efforts.

The fact remains that it is the US that has continued to provide Israel with military assistance and the weapons it uses to conduct its war on Gaza. It has also vetoed all serious attempts at the UN Security Council to take action to end the war or censure Israel for its gross violations of international humanitarian law, although it did go along with some mild calls on the "parties" to negotiate an end to the war, to which Israel has chosen not to listen.

On the underlying Palestine question, Biden correctly suggested addressing the "rise of violence against innocent Palestinians on the West Bank."

He also called for setting "the conditions for a better future, including a two-state solution, where Israel enjoys security and peace and full recognition and normalized relations with all its

neighbors, and where Palestinians live in security, dignity and self-determination in a state of their own." While this is admirable, the US has cut its aid to the Palestinian Authority and to UNRWA, the two entities most responsible for providing basic services to the Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories.

Restoring aid to UNRWA to its previous level is essential to maintaining that thin lifeline to the besieged and harassed Palestinians in both Gaza and the West Bank. Similarly, empowering the PA is necessary to advance the two-state solution.

To restore its credibility, the Biden administration needs to demonstrate its resolve on ending the war in Gaza and easing the suffering of ordinary Palestinians in the West Bank, including Jerusalem.

At the very least, it should join the persistent efforts made by Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab League and the EU, supported by the overwhelming majority of nations around the globe, to revive the peace process. Without US support, Israel is likely to ignore these efforts and continue on the path of war and destruction.

The failure to stop the Gaza war almost a year after it started is the most glaring example of a failed international system. Guterres is correct that we need to end the rampant "world of impunity — where violations and abuses threaten the very foundation of international law and the UN Charter."

It is in the hands of the US administration to reverse this trend, starting with ending the war in Gaza. If Biden uses the remaining months of his presidency to do that, as many of his predecessors have done before, he will secure a legacy as a peacemaker, restoring some faith in the "international rules-based system."

New UN needed to avert breakdown of law and order

Mohamed Chebaro

NOTHING could have offered a worse backdrop to the opening of the 79th UN General Assembly in New York this week than the news of the massive bombing campaign by Israel against the Iran-aligned Hezbollah in Lebanon. The pictures and live streaming clearly showed Israeli shells and missiles raining down on southern Lebanon — strikes that, in their first 24 hours, killed more than 500 people and injured hundreds more.

This backdrop of yet another flare-up of violence means the risk of an all-out war in the Middle East can be added to the list of other conflicts, adversities and challenges that are raging in our world. It maybe proves that the international order is broken and organizations such as the UN are becoming increasingly redundant, with trust between the big powers at an all-time low. We are now living in a more divided world that is split between the Western countries and their allies on one side and Russia alongside many countries in the so-called global majority, including China, on the other.

All diplomats are most probably working around the clock in New York in an attempt to de-escalate this and other conflicts, but the international organization, it seems, has become entangled in the global rift and therefore has little or no impact, either on Israel or Hezbollah.

It is unclear what progress can be made to defuse the situation in Lebanon, as efforts to broker a ceasefire in Gaza, which Israel has relentlessly pounded since October last year, have come to nothing over the past 11 months.

It has become clear over the past two decades that the UN as an organization, despite the crucial work of several of its agencies, is becoming irrelevant due to its failure to orchestrate, design and even impose peace.

The last time the world came together to solve a crisis was maybe the financial meltdown of 2008 and those efforts were led mainly by the G20, assisted by several UN agencies and other groupings. There were two key subsequent crises that indirectly sowed the seeds of discord within the international order. Firstly, the Libyan revolution against Muammar Qaddafi in 2011 and the subsequent UN resolution authorizing the use of force to protect civilians, which left key powers, namely Russia, feeling cheated. Moscow viewed the UN-authorized Western airstrikes on Libya as the catalyst that led to the downfall of Qaddafi's regime.

Secondly, the inability of the UN and global powers to present a united front against the Syrian regime in that same period, even after the evident use of chemical and nonconventional weapons against its own people. That was another calamity that may have led to the further erosion of trust in the organization. The strong words of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who this week warned that impunity, inequality and uncertainty were creating an "unsustainable world," will no doubt go unheeded by states and people alike. The deepening geopolitical divisions, wars with no end in sight, climate change, nuclear threats and unregulated tech continue to

push humanity toward the "unimaginable — a powder keg that risks engulfing the world," Guterres added.

But it is not just Israel's war to dislodge Hamas from Gaza and its ramifications that are threatening peace and stability today. The Iran-backed "axis of resistance" in Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen and Syria have entered the fray and targeted Israel as a means of supporting Hamas. The Houthis of Yemen have been attacking shipping in the Red Sea with impunity, while the world has again failed to put forward a unified deterrence to help secure supply chains and world trade. The conflict in Sudan, which was high on last year's UNGA agenda, continues to burn, alongside the Ukraine war, without any end in sight.

And that is just part of the usual story delegates at this annual meeting are shackled with, as global humanitarian needs continue to grow and the funds to meet them shrink, meaning some 2 billion people live in conflict-affected areas. Many of these decide to search for a better life as refugees or migrants in more stable countries, where they often become a burden and risk instability as a result of their large inflow.

Even the two-day "Summit of the Future," held before the UNGA meetings, which was supposed to offer some respite and hope from the doom and gloom of our world, was nonbinding and lacked the impetus to rally nations to tackle the challenges of the 21st century, such as climate change, artificial intelligence, equality and women's rights. Like many other initiatives, its blueprint is likely to become yet another document filed in the UN's archives.

However, all is not lost just yet. While the world continues to hurtle toward greater discord and more conflicts like a train without any brakes, it is not unreasonable to demand a summit or a meeting that reviews the essence of the UN Charter. This document was endorsed at the San Francisco conference in 1945, but maybe it is time to see if those foundations, which served humanity after the Second World War, are still relevant today.

At the time the UN was born nearly 80 years ago, US President Harry Truman's reversal of "might makes right" into "right makes might" was enshrined in the UN Charter. But such noble principles no longer feature in a world torn between its ultra-liberal and despotic forces, amid a clear return to "might makes right" as the dominant narrative. If the UN, multilateralism and the craft of diplomacy are to have a second wind as a force for good, world leaders must renew their trust in the organization as a vehicle for ensuring peace, not just talking about it.

Most of the 8 billion inhabitants of the planet today would likely agree that we are witnessing the worst decline in the world order and governance since the establishment of the modern state system. The UN has, for the best part of eight decades, been a talking shop for competing forces. To avert global conflicts and their catastrophic consequences today, an effective world body is needed to promote peace and prosperity. The aging UN could renew itself if the superpowers reached such a conclusion.

Saudi Arabia's global power on the rise

Dr. Ramzy Baroud

The concept of "power" in this article's title refers to the recognition granted by various international forums to any country that possesses distinctive capabilities, thereby earning the label. Power is multidimensional. First, it denotes significant political influence. Second, it stems from economic strength that impacts multiple levels. Third, it encompasses a substantial spiritual role. This is not intended as mere flattery. However, even when viewed through this specific standpoint, it is essential to acknowledge when an entity succeeds where others, despite having all the necessary resources, have fallen short.

Recognizing people's true worth is a fundamental principle. In this context, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which celebrated its 94th National Day on Monday, has rightfully earned its position as a power to be reckoned with on the global stage. From the era of its founder, King Abdulaziz, to the leadership of King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi kings have rejuvenated the nation, developed its vision and enhanced its capabilities over the years.

However, Saudi Arabia's rise as a global power has been marked by many confrontations. Internally, the Kingdom's most dangerous of those confrontations was — and still is — with movements that resist change for the better in all fields, especially that of human development. These forces, cloaking themselves in religious rhetoric, posed significant challenges to the Kingdom's forward momentum.

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2000s the extent of the intellectual confrontations between progressive thinkers and those resistant to change. As for the Arab and Islamic levels, as well as the regional level, Saudi Arabia was destined to remain in near-constant confrontation with regional and international sides whose

only intent is to disrupt its security and destabilize its people.

Saudi leaders have, however, effectively countered these threats to

ship.

However, the worst attempts to drive a wedge between Saudi citizens and their Arab neighbors and the Islamic extension of their affiliation were — and still are — those that use the Palestinian cause, people and tragedy to serve the purposes of malicious powers whose last concern is the suffering of the Palestinians. This situation has become more pronounced in recent months, since Benjamin Netanyahu's brutal war on the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank began.

Saudi Arabia's firm position on Palestine needs no defense and it is enough for the Saudi people and leadership to adhere to the true saying: "Respond to evil what is best. We know well what they claim," because, sooner or later, the truth will prevail.

— Arab News

Keir Starmer is promising Britain doom and gloom, but patience is wearing thin

THREE months after a historic election victory, it felt like the downpour at the Labour Party's conference would never end.

Lawmakers and officials in Britain's new governing party have been trudging through a massive conference center in Liverpool, northwest England since Sunday in sodden suits, a rumbling River Mersey as their backdrop, for the group's first set-piece event as a governing party in 15 years.

It was supposed to feel like a celebration. Prime Minister Keir Starmer touted July's gigantic electoral landslide in his keynote speech on Tuesday, telling his party: "People said we couldn't do it, but we did."

But the gathering was dampened by more than the weather. Like Britain's rather fickle summer, Starmer's hon-ey-moon is a distant mem-ory.

A string of negative stories – about ministers accepting gifts and hand-outs, and reported con-flict within Starmer's top team – has clashed uncomfortably with a set of joyless policy deci-sions aimed at stabilizing Britain's strapped finances, many of which go further and deeper than some inside the party expected when they promised a platform of change during the sum-mer election campaign.

It means Britain's new prime minister is already deeply unpopular with the public, according to a batch of unflattering opinion polls that landed with a thud as Labour's conference began.

And while his law-mak-ers are broadly behind his disciplined agenda, questions are percolating there too about his political judg-ment and ability to keep his government on mes-sage.

"It has felt a bit blunt," a Labour Member of Parliament admitted after Starmer's speech Tuesday, summing up the sentiment across much of conference. "It should have been more excit-ing," a longtime Labour activist complained.

Starmer dangled a sliver of optimism in his speech Tuesday – prom-ising the country "light at the end of this tunnel" – and in an effort to under-line the rare display of cheer, the sun did finally emerge outside a short while later.

The speech was an important hurdle for Starmer, who needed to reclaim the reputation for focus, diligence and hon-esty that he spent four years building, only to see seriously fractured in three months.

But he nonetheless begins the unenviable mission of boosting

Britain's limp economic growth, and reviving its tired public services, with a fragile coalition of public support.

Starmer has insisted the latter issue will need a decade to truly fix. Unfortunately, the reali-ties of governing are beginning to bite the Labour Party – and it is likely he will need to show some returns far sooner.

Labour's conference was trailed by a series of stories that felt uncomfort-ably similar to the sleaze scandals that dogged previous Conservative adminis-trations.

Public records showed that Starmer had accept-ed tens of thousands of pounds in gifts from a key financial donor,

Rob Picheta

Rachael Maskell told CNN. "Politicians should pay their own way."

Maskell said the deci-sion to take gifts and donations showed "poor political and personal judgment." She is one of few Labour MPs to pub-licly criticize the front bench but said she is "not alone" among parliamen-tary colleagues – the group that can ultimately decide Starmer's fate were a movement to emerge against him.

The donations row was handled badly – Starmer naively fronted a recep-tion celebrating London Fashion Week just hours after news emerged that a donor had bought his wife clothes – but it was especially harmful because it coincided

fresh off a landslide elec-tion win – to be dumped from office two years ago.

Starmer will be des-perate to stop it from infecting his premiership too. He told conference attendees Tuesday that rebuilding the country would be "tough in the short-term," but "we're all in it together" – and that framing will likely be recycled in the coming weeks as he seeks to restore a reputation for integrity that was so valuable in July.

Far beyond the heavily secured gates of Labour's conference, the country is casting its judgment as well.

The combination of Labour's miserabilist message on public

leader –

himself will look like. The almost sole focus on Winter Fuel Payments has made the government look like it's unfair and out of touch."

And they have already been forced to lighten their tone, after the bar-rage of gloom threatened to undermine confidence in Britain's economy. Reeves, in her keynote speech on Monday, told attendees that "Britain's best days lie ahead," a useful pick-me-up after months weeks of somber addresses that blamed the previous Conservative governments for mis-managing public services and for a financial "black hole" that Labour said it discovered after taking office, but failed to hit a hopeful tone for the years ahead.

More painful measures are expected when Chancellor Rachel Reeves outlines the gov-ernment's budget next month. Starmer and Reeves have styled them-selves as tough, frugal guardians of the public purse, but they are facing pressure to improve their financial offer for Britain's public services, including a National Health Service (NHS) that was described in a damning review this month as being in "criti-cal condition."

In a helpfully timed piece of good news, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said Wednesday that it now expects Britain to log faster economic growth than the eurozone this year, predicting an expansion of 1.1%.

Nonetheless, results will not be quick. A Labour MP who is sup-portive of the govern-ment's economic agenda admitted to CNN: "It's going to be tough to begin with, and it's going to feel quite hectic."

Starmer, who left Liverpool for the United Nations General Assembly in New York, will consider the week a relative success; the party managed to refocus the political narrative on its core message after leaks and missteps threw it off course. Starmer's speech was light on fresh content but a heck-ler was calmly removed and the key messages were confidently deliv-ered.

But a premiership can only survive on doom and gloom for so long, and patience is already wearing thin among much of the wider party.

An MP whose surprise victory in July's election was illustrative of Labour's huge success in virtually every pocket of the country was already thinking about what they could run on in five years' time. "It's all very well saying it will take a decade," they said. "But where are the tangibles?"

Japan should still properly handle radioactive water

Zhou Xin

ON Aug 24, 2023, the Japanese government unilaterally started the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the ocean. On Sept 20, 2024, the Chinese government and the Japanese government reached a bilateral agreement on ocean discharge of Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water, which has immediately aroused the widespread attention of the press and the public.

The agreement is the latest achievement of several rounds of diplomatic consultations between China and Japan. A spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Ministry has introduced the contents of the agreement at the first time. How should we regard this agreement? First, reaching this agree-ment means neither China has changed its opposition to discharging nuclear-con-taminated water into the ocean, nor Japan could avoid its historical responsibility.

Since the Japanese gov-ernment unilaterally made the "unprecedented" decision of discharging nuclear-contaminated water in 2021, the Chinese government has been firmly opposed to the discharge. On Sept 20, the spokesper-son for Chinese Foreign Ministry affirmed that as one of the most important stakeholders, China is firmly opposed to this irrespon-sible move.

Without full consultation with neighboring countries, Japan unilaterally started the discharge of the nuclear-contaminated water into the sea, spilling the risk of con-tamination worldwide. No matter how the Japanese government whitewashes its decision, there is no doubt that the discharge is neither appropriate nor legal. China's position of opposing the discharge remains unchanged. Apart from China, Russia, ROK and many Pacific Island countries have expressed their worries or opposition. So China's position represents the voice of justice of the international community. This agreement clarified that Japan explicitly commits to fulfilling its obligations under international law, doing its utmost to avoid leaving negative impact on human health and the environment, and conducting continuous evaluations of the impact on the marine environment and marine ecosystem. This is a serious commitment to China and the international community that Japan must obey.

Second, China will participate substantively in a long-term international monitoring arrangement within the International Atomic Energy Agency framework covering key stages in the discharge of the nuclear-contaminated water and carry out independent sampling and mon-itoring as well as inter-labo-ratory comparisons (ILCs). This arrangement is hard to come by.

Because of the call of China and other stakehold-ers, the issue of discharging

Fukushima nuclear-contam-inated water has received great attention from the international community. The International Atomic Energy Agency has set up a resident office in Fukushima and monitors the water in the Fukushima nuclear power plant and the surrounding area, which is unprecedented in the histo-ry of IAEA. The issue was included in the project of priority and urgency by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation from 2025 to 2029. The agree-ment has clarified that China and all other stake-holders can participate sub-stantively in the long-term international monitoring arrangement and that these participating countries can carry out independent sam-pling and monitoring as well as ILCs. Chinese experts will participate in the monitoring of the facili-ties and key stages in the discharge of the nuclear-contaminated water, which

environment and food safe-ty risks in a responsible atti-tude.

Ecological environment protection and food safety are two major concerns of people's livelihood. The Chinese government has always put the people first and embraces the scientific spirit. In order to prevent food safety risks caused by nuclear-contaminated water from damaging people's health, the Chinese govern-ment has done a lot of hard and meticulous work, including taking emergent and precautionary measures on importing Japanese aquatic food, strengthening marine environmental mon-itoring, checking aquatic products in the market, and monitoring the radioactivity of aquatic products from the open sea and China's neigh-boring countries. According to a report of the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment, since 2021, there has been no abnorm-ality of radioactivity in the sea areas under the jurisdic-tion of China.

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could strengthen the external supervision of the dis-charge, ensuring that com-prehensive, real and credi-ble data can be obtained, so that China could prevent Japan from discharging the waste water that does not meet the regulation require-ments and standards into the ocean. Also, China and Japan will continue the con-structive science-based dia-logue so as to properly address concerns over the discharge of the nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean. It is not easy to implement these arrange-ments, especially when the United States and Western countries helped Japan "whitewash" the nuclear contaminated water despite their usual commitment to environmental protection, and some countries took a U-turn and began ignoring the domestic boiling anger. China has demonstrated the responsibility of a major country, continuously urged Japan to handle the issue in a responsible manner, actively promoted the establishment of long-term international monitoring arrangements and independent sampling monitor-ing, so as to safeguard the global marine environment and public health for a mar-itime community of a shared future.

Third, the Chinese gov-ernment will continue to handle marine ecological

series of prerequisites for gradually resuming imports of Japanese aquatic prod-ucts that meet the regulation requirements and standards have been mentioned.

From keywords includ-ing "long-term international monitoring", "independent sampling", "after China partic-ipates substantively", "scientific evidence", "begin adjustment", "gradu-ally resume" and "meet the regulation requirements and standards", we can see that the Chinese government attaches great importance to food safety. Policy adjust-ments need to be made with full scientific evidence and after consultations made by the diplomatic and scientif-ic teams. With scientific testing and strict supervi-sion of the Chinese govern-ment, aquatic products that are sold in the Chinese mar-ket will all be safe in radioactivity, no matter where they are imported from.

In the agreement, it is self-evident that the Chinese government firmly safeguards people's health and protects the ecology and environment, and has worked tirelessly for it. We insist on opposing Japan's discharging nuclear-con-taminated water into the ocean. And at the same time, we also need to treat this issue rationally, calmly and scientifically.

— China Daily

Celebrating a martyr's birthday in Gaza

Asem Alnabih

ON the morning of September 4, my eight-year-old niece Joody woke up bright-eyed and excited and suggested we celebrate her father's birth-day. It had been 25 days since we lost her father Moataz Rajab in the massacre the Israeli army carried out at the al-Tabin school in Gaza City. He was one of more than 100 civilian victims who had sought shelter at the school along with his family.

While Joody knew her baba was gone, it was clear she was trying to process a date in the cal-endar that had always been special to her and her siblings.

As the family – includ-ing my sister, Joody's mom – was still very much in mourning, no one knew for sure how to manage the situation. We exchanged glances, hop-ing one of us would step in and handle the matter.

Everyone deals with shock differently, and each of us knew this was Joody's way of coping with her father's death.

Her grandparents gave her a hug and a kiss on her forehead and tried

explaining that it is awk-ward to celebrate the birthday of someone who has passed away so recently.

Other members of the family also told her it would be odd to sing a birthday song for some-one who is sadly no longer among us. There was also no birthday cake to be found; bakeries in Gaza were struggling to make bread let alone pro-duce such "luxury" items.

We knew the best way to handle this was not to get emotional, but be calm and try to reason with Joody.

Disappointed, my niece nodded her head in agreement and went about her day. But an hour later, she came back running to her mother with a counterproposal. "What if we celebrate baba's birthday not by singing him a birthday song, but instead by read-ing the Quran?" a deter-mined Joody asked.

We find refuge in the Quran in good times and in bad times, so we all thought it made sense to remember Moataz by reading holy verses.

We also managed to

find a solution to the "birthday cake problem". We found a lady who had some flour and was will-

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BRI, CPECP projects to benefit China, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan Wednesday said that projects initiated under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPECP) will benefit both Pakistan and China, equally.

Addressing the opening session of the Global Sustainable Transport Forum 2024, which was held in Beijing China, the minister observed that trade corridors of CPEC with the support of China are the guarantor of our strong infrastructure and better transport system.

He further said that our safe future lies in green energy and clean technology and we have to integrate our ports and highways keeping in mind the future requirements.

Aleem Khan, in his address at the two-day Global Sustainable Transport Forum clarified that the improvement of the communication system not only promotes the economy but also the culture and society while the economic

improvement of transportation, employment provision and national development agenda are the impetus.

He said that Pakistan is a supporter of the promotion of Public-Private Partnership and green technology through bilateral cooperation with China.

Aleem Khan pointed out that after the Corona epidemic 2019, along with other changes global logistics have also been modified which took new dimension and integrated improvements in transport sectors through E-Commerce and digital methods.

He said that there is no doubt that Pakistan is facing major challenges of urban population growth and environmental degradation and we need to increase our resources.

The safety of the citizens must also be taken into consideration for the improvement of transportation system, he added.

He specially thanked China's Transport Minister Li Xiaopeng and appreciated the holding of this Forum which will provide the delegates of the participating countries with

opportunities to benefit from each other's experiences and to collaborate in future.

Deputy Prime Ministers of Nepal and Thailand also participated and addressed the Forum. This two-day Forum is hosted by the Minister of Transport of China, Li Xiaopeng who in his address expressed special thanks to Pakistan and assured further increase in the development of mutual cooperation and bilateral relations in all fields.

Meanwhile, addressing the Global Governance Session in Beijing, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that Pakistan is on the threshold of the second phase of CPEC as well as speedy work on the 5 "Es" of Economic Zones, Export, Energy, Equity and Environment has also been launched.

He said that Pakistan and China will conduct Business-to-Business and Joint Ventures for attractive investment while a new framework will have to be followed for the improvement of highways and ports. Abdul Aleem Khan said that Gwadar Port will be a

milestone for Pakistan and Central Asian countries.

He said that there is a great scope for improvement in the Communication sector as the dream of increased industrial development can be true with better road infrastructure.

Abdul Aleem Khan pointed out that the Orange Line and Metro were the first Mass Transit Projects with the support of China, digital connectivity was strengthened with the 800 km long cross-border optical fiber cable, while the public transport sector was made comfortable and convenient for women by Pink Bus Service.

Similarly, Karakoram Highway and Sukkur Multan Motorway were approved in CPEC project which was another feather in the cap of Pak China friendship.

While appreciating to the Chinese Authorities for organizing the Global Forum in Beijing expressed the expectation that the long association and deep friendship between the two countries of Pakistan and China will be further cemented in future.



HYDERABAD: Women laborers sorting fresh green chilies, ensuring top quality for sale at local Sabzi Mandi.

SNGPL: 61 connections disconnected

F.P. Report

LAHORE: In an ongoing effort to curb gas theft, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) intensified its operations across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, disconnecting an additional 61 connections and imposing fines totaling Rs 1.4 million.

In Lahore, SNGPL teams disconnected 14 connections for illegal gas usage and 1 for the use of a compressor.

In Faisalabad, 3 connections were cut for illegal usage, accompanied by a fine of Rs 0.05 million. The Sheikhupura team disconnected 4 connections due to illegal gas use, imposing fines amounting to Rs 1.37 million.

In Multan, 25 connections were severed for illegal gas usage, with an additional 6 disconnected for compressor use. The Sahiwal team disconnected 1 connection for illegal usage, while the Bahawalpur team severed 7 connections for compressor usage.

Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, MSC Maeva, Bentley-I, Al-Deebal and Scarabe carrying Container, Palm oil, LNG and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, Engro Elengy Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Clipper Trent and Hafnia Express scheduled to load/offload Rice and Gas oil are also arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours.

A total of ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a containership 'MSC Maeva' left the port on today morning, while three more ships, Maersk Durban, Roberta and Kition-M are expected to sail on Wednesday.

Cargo volume of 252,801 tonnes, comprising 201,613 tonnes imports cargo and 51,188 tonnes export cargo carried in 5,420 Containers (2,529 TEUs Imports & 2,891 TEUs Export) were handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Five ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Forza Roma and Hafnia Express & three more ships, SSL Brahmaputra, Cape Andreas and Maersk Cape Town are scheduled to load/offload Rice, Gas oil and Container are expected to take berths at FAP, FOTCO and QICT respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile two more container ships, Teno and San Francisco Bridge are due to arrive at port on Thursday.

Bayer Pakistan and AMAN announce collaboration to raise awareness

F.P. Report

KARACHI: On the occasion of World Contraception Day 2024, Bayer Pakistan and the Association for Mothers & Newborns (AMAN) committed to a collaboration utilizing their combined expertise and knowledge to increase awareness about modern contraceptive methods and their safe use, for the benefit of the general population of Pakistan.

An MoU signing ceremony was held between both parties, followed by the first of multiple planned scientific sessions for doctors to be held across the country, to create awareness on how modern contraceptive methods can contribute to women's wellness and child health. Celebrated globally and supported by a coalition of international organizations including Bayer, World Contraception Day focuses on the crucial role of informed decision-making in reducing unintended pregnancies, in a world where many women have limited control on their reproductive health.

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 764 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 764.28 points, a positive change of 0.94 percent, closing at 82,247.92 points against 81,483.64 points on the last working day.

A total of 422,163,158 shares were traded during the day as compared to 369,620,812 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 18.380 billion against Rs. 17.062 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 437 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 248 of them recorded gains and 126 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 63 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 51,886,989 shares at Rs8.92 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 29,716,479 shares at Rs 1.25 per share and Pace (Pak) Limited with 25,434,647 shares at Rs 5.91 per share.

PIA Holding Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 89.75

per share price, closing at Rs 987.29, whereas the runner-up was Hallmark Company Limited with Rs 84.90 rise in its per share price to Rs 933.90.

Ismail Industry Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 83.28 per share closing at Rs 1,813.39 followed by Mehmood Textile Mills Limited with Rs 60.40 decline to close at Rs 554.07.

Rupee sheds 04 paise against dollar: Pakistani rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 04 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.84 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.80.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279 and Rs 280.50 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by Rs 1.64 to close at Rs 310.95 against the last day's closing of Rs 309.31, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.93, whereas an

increase of Rs 1.03 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 372.04 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 371.01.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 01 paise each to close Rs 75.64 and Rs 74.05 respectively.

Gold prices up by Rs2,500: The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.2,500 and was sold at Rs.275,500 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs.273,000 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 2,144 to Rs. 236,197 from Rs. 234,053 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 216,514 from Rs. 214,550, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.100 and was traded at Rs.3,050 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.85.74 to Rs.2,614.88.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$25 to \$2,653 from \$2,628, the Association reported.

Stocks rally stutters but Hong Kong, Shanghai up on new China move

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Hong Kong and Shanghai extended gains Wednesday as China announced another interest rate cut the day after unveiling a series of measures to boost the country's ailing economy.

However, after a bumper start to the day -- building on Tuesday's rally and following a record performance on Wall Street -- most other markets fell as traders took a breather.

The shift by China to provide support to an economy battered by a long-running debt crisis in the property sector and weak consumer spending added to the upbeat mood among traders after the Federal Reserve's bumper rate cut last week.

On Wednesday, the People's Bank of China said it would snip the medium-term lending facility -- the interest for one-year loans to financial institutions -- from 2.3 percent to 2.0 percent. The rate was last lowered in July.

That came on top of Tuesday's decision to lower other rates, loosen rules on how much cash banks must keep in reserve, provide bigger incentives to buy homes and plans to consider a stock stabilisation fund. The moves suggest

Beijing is giving way to calls to boost the world's number two economy as it struggles to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, even after the removal of painful restrictions at the end of 2022.

Chaoping Zhu, global market strategist at JP Morgan Asset Management, said: "We believe these steps are in the right direction. The sense of urgency may convince investors that more policy support is on its way."

Hong Kong and Shanghai both rallied around one percent Wednesday, while Taipei also advanced but worries that a lot more work was needed to help the Chinese economy bounce back weighed on sentiment elsewhere.

Tokyo, Sydney, Seoul, Singapore, Wellington, Bangkok, Manila, Mumbai and Jakarta all fell along with London, Paris and Frankfurt.

Ray Atrill, head of forex strategy at National Australia Bank, said that while China's measures "collectively look highly meaningful, (they) will need to be complemented by a major shift in fiscal policy thinking if they are to be regarded as very much more than the prover-

bial 'pushing on a string'.

"This is in terms of their ability to drive a meaningful turnaround in domestic consumer confidence and spending, via instilling confidence that a floor under house prices and domestic equity prices -- the main two ways in which Chinese households hold their wealth -- is to hand."

Traders are also awaiting the release Friday of the US personal consumption expenditures index -- the Fed's preferred inflation metric -- hoping for an idea about its next interest-rate move.

The US central bank's jumbo cut last Wednesday ramped up hopes that it will embark on a series of reductions as prices come under control and the jobs market slows, with many observers confident the economy is on course for a soft landing. Officials are expected to continue easing policy through to 2026, according to the Fed's "dot plot" guidance on rates released last week.

The prospect of more cuts helped gold hit a new peak of \$1,670.57 as investors seek out better returns in the precious metal, which is also providing safe haven sanctuary from geopolitical tensions, particularly in the Middle East.

Ahmed Kapadia assumes role of newly elected PAA's Chairman

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Advertising Association (PAA) on Tuesday elected the new central executive committee (CEC) during its 9th Annual General Meeting (AGM). The committee delegation at the AGM headed by Jamil Syed, Executive Director (PAA) announced Ahmed Kapadia, Chairman Synergy Group as its elected Chairman for the new term (2024-2026), alongside Ameer ul Azeem (Future Vision), as Sr. Vice Chairman, Zeeshan Khan (TNI Communications) as Vice Chairman, and Wasiq Ali Khan (Manhill Advertising) as Secretary Finance.

The new CEC includes prominent advertising professionals featuring Aleem Durrani (Media Pulse) as Chairman for Zone "A", Shabbir Malik (Adage Communications), Chairman of Zone "B", Rizwan Ashraf (Velocity Marketing), Chairman for Zone "C", whereas Imran Irshad (M&C Saatchi World Services Pakistan),



Bilal Tanveer (Maxim Advertising), Mahmood Parekh (MCM Advertising), Salman Mansoor (Uptick Ventures), Ms. Seema Jaffer (Bond Advertising), Ms. Neesha Dara Khan (Manhattan International) and Omar Ahmed (Spectrum Communications) will serve as members of the newly elected CEC.

However, being a prime choice to lead the helm of PAA as Chairman, Ahmed Kapadia - the Chairman of Synergy Group (A leading enterprise in Pakistan's vibrant advertising and media industry) brings with himself a wealth of experience and a deep passion for

advertising to his new role. As a prominent figure within the advertising industry of Pakistan, Ahmed Kapadia has also recently won the coveted title of 'Dragon Master' by the Dragons of Pakistan Awards 2024.

As part of his distinguished approach, the newly elected PAA Chairman, Ahmed Kapadia stressed upon the importance of PAA memberships for all agencies and ensured that mandatory policies will be implemented in future to make it essential for all relevant authorities to acquire the membership and registering with PAA. In his conclusive remarks, he extended his

heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Chairman of PAA - Syed Jawaid Iqbal for his tireless efforts over the years, acknowledging the significant milestones achieved under his leadership.

On this occasion, the outgoing Chairman of the PAA, Syed Jawaid Iqbal (CMC Pvt. Ltd.), expressed confidence in Mr. Kapadia's leadership, stating that his highly competitive performance will ensure continued growth and progress for every advertising company across the nation, and wished the new CEC led by Ahmed Kapadia, all the best of luck in future endeavors of PAA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is published through this notice that I Said Baz Khan S/o Sardar Khan R/o Meer Banda Jarma Tehsil & District Kohat isThe owner of Plot no 320.Sector VIII, Size 6.5 Marla Phase(1) KDA Kohat Has Appointed has Mr Muhammad Noshad S/o Sher Muhammad R/o Gulshan Abad Tehsil & District Kohat Through (Special) Deed no 322 Bahi no 04 Volume no 491 Dated 22/07/2024 which is Registered in The office Kohat of Tehsildar/Sub Registrar The Attorney Holder now wants to Transfer The Above Said Plot if any Bank/ Institution/ Firm/ Person has any objection About The Transfer He Should Contact The.Housing officer UADA Within 15 Days in Writing with Proofs otherwise Plot will be Transfer and no objection will Be Accepted (Project Director Urban Area KDA Kohat)

Court Notice

In the court of Kiran Noor Civil Judge-IV Alaga Qazi Swat. Next hearing date 12/10/2024. Fazal Aleem Mian Vs. Umreen And Other. Notice to respondents (10) Mian Umar Ali, (11) Mian Bakht Ali, (12) Mian Rahat Ali s/o Mian Amir Zarin resident of Khwaza Khela Tahsil Khwaza Khela District Swat. Respondents. In above mentioned case the respondents can't be served in the ordinary way, it is therefore proclaimed that if said respondents will not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 9:00 a.m. dated 12/10/2024 ex-parte proceeding will be held against the mentioned respondents under my hand and seal of this court.

Pakistan's exports to US increase by 1.62 per cent

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to the United States (US) witnessed an increase of 1.62 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding months of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.The overall exports to the US were recorded at US \$949,855 million during July-

August (2024-25) against exports of US \$934.666 billion during July-August (2023-24), SBP data revealed.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to the US witnessed a nominal decrease of 0.45 percent during August 2024 as compared to the exports of \$476.017 million in July 2024, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries wit-

nessed an increase of 7.18 percent in the first two months, from US \$4536.015 million to US \$4862.017 million, the SBP data revealed.

On the other hand, the imports from the US into the country during the months under review were recorded at US \$370.661 million against US \$350.977 million last year, showing an increase of 5.60 percent in July-August (2024-25).

SPL holds successful 59th Annual General Meeting

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Security Papers Limited (SPL) held its 59th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at its head office, where shareholders approved the annual audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Mohammad Aftab Manzoor, Chairman of the Board, chaired the meeting, which was attended by other members of the Board of Directors and Senior Management.

During the AGM, share-

holders reviewed and approved the Company's impressive financial performance, marked by a 55% increase in profit before tax to PKR 2,392 million and record sales revenue of PKR 7,312 million. Notably, the profit after tax stood at PKR 1,489 million in 2024, representing 54% increase from last year.

The shareholders also approved the highest-ever dividend of PKR 12.50 per share, representing 125%. This includes an interim cash dividend already paid at the rate of PKR 2.50 per share, and a final cash dividend of PKR 10.00 per share.

The shareholders expressed satisfaction with the Company's performance and appreciated the management's efforts in achieving remarkable growth despite challenging economic conditions. SPL's focus on innovation, sus-

tainability, and social responsibility has enabled the company to navigate challenging business environments and capitalize on emerging opportunities, reaffirming its position as Pakistan's leading manufacturer of security papers.

Father's Name Correction

My father correct name is Shams ur Rehman while mistakenly written in my Peshawar Board document as Shams ur Rehman Shamsi please make the required correction in it, Shah Mansoor S/o Shams ur Rehman.

PFC team heads to Madina

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) delegation led by CEO Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Wednesday left for Madina, Saudi Arabia to explore marketing avenues and potential joint ventures with local counterparts in the Saudi furniture industry.

In a press statement prior to his departure, he said the initiative aims to

strengthen bilateral trade relations and enhance the presence of Pakistani furniture in the Middle Eastern market.

He emphasized the importance of collaboration between the two countries to boost economic growth and exchange innovative ideas in design and manufacturing.

He said delegation

would meet with key stakeholders and industry leaders to discuss strategies for mutual benefit, showcasing Pakistan's diverse furniture offerings and craftsmanship.

This trip will reflect the council's commitment to expanding its international footprint and promoting sustainable business practices in the furniture sector.



In brief

PPL to commence on Oct 4

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Punjab Premier League (PPL) is set to commence on October 4 in Gujranwala, with the Rawalpindi Markhors aiming to mark their success. "Our team will feature some of the finest cricketers from the Potohar region", Rawalpindi Markhors CEO Chaudhry Nadeem Manzoor Begga said on Wednesday. "The team's training camp, under the supervision of former Test cricketer and senior coach of the Rawalpindi Markhors, Hasan Raza, will begin on September 28," Nadeem told media at a press conference at National Press Club Islamabad. He expressed the hope that the League would become the biggest cricket event in Pakistan after the Pakistan Super League. Eight teams from across Punjab, spanning from Rahim Yar Khan to Attock, will be participating in the league. Nadeem said that Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and the surrounding areas had a large pool of talented cricketers, who would now have an opportunity to play at the provincial level. "We aim to steer the youth away from unproductive activities and move them towards sports, contributing to our mission of promoting a drug-free lifestyle," he said. Senior coach and former Test cricketer Hasan Raza said that the PPL would usher in a new era of cricket. "We will bring forward talent from the grass-roots level, offering cricket enthusiasts a chance to witness top-quality performances." "Rawalpindi and Islamabad have produced several legendary cricketers for Pakistan. We aim to turn Rawalpindi Markhors into a nursery for the national team, and within the next few years, a significant portion of the Pakistan cricket team will consist of Rawalpindi Markhors players," he added.

Mbappe suffers thigh injury

MADRID (AFP): Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe has sustained a thigh injury ahead of this weekend's La Liga derby with Atletico, his club said on Wednesday. The French superstar was taken off during the 3-2 win over Alaves on Tuesday and appeared to be suffering some discomfort. Spanish media suggest Mbappe will miss around three weeks injured. "Following tests carried out today by Real Madrid's medical services on our player Kylian Mbappe, he has been diagnosed with an injury to the biceps femoris in his left leg," said the Spanish champions in a statement. Mbappe scored a superb goal in the thriller at the Santiago Bernabeu with Alaves and has netted five times this season in seven league appearances. Asked about Mbappe's condition after the game, Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said: "He's fine, he's fine, a little overloaded, he asked me for the change to avoid problems." Madrid, a point behind leaders Barcelona ahead of the Catalans' match on Wednesday against Getafe, visit the Metropolitan stadium on Sunday to face rivals Atletico. Los Blancos have not been beaten in La Liga for 39 games, since a defeat at Atletico a year ago. The striker is also set to miss the visit to Lille in the Champions League next week and potentially October's Nations League matches against Israel and Belgium with France.

SAFF U17 Championship Pakistan reach semi-finals after defeating Sri Lanka

BHUTAN (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan's U17 football team grabbed a dominating 5-1 victory over Sri Lanka in their final group match and advanced to the semi-finals of the 2024 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U17 Championship in Bhutan. Subhan Kareem opened the scoring for Pakistan in the 20th minute, giving his team a 1-0 lead. Ten minutes later, Mohammad Talha doubled the advantage, making it 2-0. Subhan struck again in the 36th minute, netting his second goal of the match and putting Pakistan ahead

3-0 at halftime. As the second half began, Sri Lanka's defence faltered, leading to an own goal that pushed Pakistan's lead to 4-0. Abdul Ghani added to the scoreline in the 56th minute, extending Pakistan's lead to 5-0. Sri Lanka managed to score their lone goal in the 76th minute, but it was too little, too late to challenge Pakistan's dominant performance. In the previous game, Pakistan ended in a 3-3 draw against Bhutan. Both teams showcased impressive skills, keeping the fans involved in the game.

Pakistan's Khabib Khan initiated the game after smashing a goal in the 38th minute of the match. Subhan followed the footsteps of Khabib and doubled the lead by scoring in the 46th minute. In regard to this, Bhutan made a strong comeback and equalised the score. However, the Men in Green eyeing for victory regained the lead with Abdul Samad smashing the third goal in the 67th minute, which was countered by Bhutan ending the match in a draw. Earlier, Pakistan secured a 1-0 victory over Nepal in their first game.

Inter District Kabaddi C'ship started at Charsadda



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Inter-District Kabaddi Championship has started at Hajizai Bridge Shabqadar Charsadda. In the championship Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan, Swabi and Peshawar districts are participating. The official inauguration was done by MPA Muhammad Arif Ahmed Zai along with Additional Commissioner Shabqadar Shayan Ali, District Sports Officer Mashal Malik, AD Sports Arshad Khan Ex-DSO Tahsin,

General Secretary of Provincial Kabaddi Association Syed Sultan Bari, District Charsadda Kabaddi Association President Niaz Ahmed, General Secretary Mohibullah Malang Jan and other personalities were present. The Inter-District Kabaddi Championship organized under the auspices of the District Sports Office Charsadda is being organized on the special instructions of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur under the leadership of Advisor Sports

Syed Fakhr Jahan, deputy commissioner Qaiser Khan, and DG Sports with the aim of keeping the traditional games alive in the province. Inter-District Kabaddi Championship was organized in Hajizai Pul Shabqadar Charsadda in which teams from five districts are participating. The opening match was played between Charsadda and Mardan teams in which Charsadda won by 30-25 points. The closing ceremony of three days championship will be on September 27th.

Osaka wants 'no regrets' after hiring Serena's coach

BEIJING (AFP): Four-time major champion Naomi Osaka said on Wednesday she "didn't want to have regrets" after confirming she has teamed up with Serena Williams' renowned former coach Patrick Mouratoglou. Former world number one Osaka, now ranked 73, defeated Lucia Bronzetti of Italy 6-3, 6-2 in the first round of the WTA 1000 China Open with the Frenchman Mouratoglou in her players' box. The 26-year-old Osaka split from Belgian coach Wim Fissette this month as she attempts to return to the form that propelled her to the top of the women's game. Japan's Osaka said she "felt like I needed a change" and described Mouratoglou, who is best known as Williams' long-time former coach, as "a big persona". "I like the way he coaches. I think it's going to be really interesting," she said in Beijing after setting up a second-round meeting with 21st seed Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan. "I think I'm at a stage in my life that I don't want to have regrets. I'd rather pull the trigger on something and I don't want to say 'fail', but I feel like I really need to learn as much as possible in this stage of my career. "Patrick seemed like the guy with I guess the information that I want-

ed to learn from." Fissette had two stints coaching Osaka, from 2019 to the summer of 2022 and again when they reunited last year as Osaka launched her return to tennis after the birth of her daughter Shai in July 2023. Osaka has struggled to put together victories since she returned to the WTA Tour in January. She bowed out in the second round of the recent US Open and her best results since returning to action have been two quarter-final appearances. Osaka, who won the China Open in 2019, admitted being a little wary initially about Mouratoglou, given the 54-year-old's long and successful association with the legendary Williams. "I think the fact that he was Serena's coach for me made me want to avoid him just because his persona is so big," she said. "Then I met him, talked to him, worked with him on the court. He absolutely is a really good coach. I'm really glad that he's taking this project on as well." Osaka said she was "still a little nervous around him". "I kind of look to the floor when he looks at me. I think I do need a lot more time to spend together with him," she said. "I'm getting a little more comfortable day by day."



BEIJING: McCartney Kessler of the United States in action against Shuai Zhang of China in the first round on Day 3 of the China Open at National Tennis Center.

Nunes scores first Man City goal in League Cup win over Watford

MANCHESTER (Reuters): Matheus Nunes scored his first Manchester City goal in his 34th appearance as the hosts eased to a 2-1 victory over second-tier Watford to reach the fourth round of the League Cup on Tuesday. Jeremy Doku slotted in City's opener after five minutes and Nunes produced a clinical finish in the 38th minute to put Pep Guardiola's side in control at The Etihad. Watford have suffered some horrible Premier League maulings against City in recent seasons but they refused to capitulate and Tom Ince gave them an 86th-minute lifeline with a curler. Eight-time winners City avoided being dragged in to a penalty shootout though despite some late Watford pressure. Chelsea took their place in round four with a 5-0 hammering of fourth-tier leaders Barrow at Stamford Bridge -- Christopher Nkunku scoring a hat-trick for Enzo Maresca's side. Leicester City were also up against fourth-tier opposition but needed penalties to edge past Walsall after being held to a 0-0 draw at the Bescot Stadium. Aston Villa's Jhon Duran scored his fifth goal of the season with a penalty in his side's 2-1 win at Wycombe Wanderers. Newcastle United's clash with AFC Wimbledon was postponed after flooding damaged the Wimbledon pitch on Monday. City were back in action little more than 48 hours after their seismic clash with Arsenal in the Premier League and Guardiola rotated his squad with several regulars rested, handing a first start to 16-year-old Kaden Braithwaite. Nunes has struggled to establish himself at City following his 53 million pounds (\$71 million) move from Wolverhampton Wanderers just over a year ago, but took his chance to catch the eye on his first start of the season. His low finish from just outside the penalty area was superb and he could have had a hat-trick but for good saves in the second half by Watford keeper Jonathan Bond. "He has special qualities few players have. Unique. Space in transitions is unbelievable," Guardiola said. "Pleased for him and the goal. Still he has things to read and it's not easy to adapt. Really pleased for him, he's a lovely guy and lovely guys always deserve good things."

Tessori to be Chief Patron of Karachi Tape Ball Premier League

KARACHI (PPI): A simple yet elegant ceremony was held at Governor House, where a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Karachi Tape Ball Premier League and Governor House. The MoU was signed by Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori on behalf of Governor House, and Zohaib Nasir on behalf of the Karachi Tape Ball Premier League. As per the agreement, Tessori will be the Chief Patron of the Karachi Tape Ball Premier League and as the Patron of the Karachi Knights team. Legendary cricketers Haroon Rasheed and Tauseef Ahmed, along with other notable personalities, were also present at the event. Speaking to the media after the ceremony, Governor Sindh Kamran

Khan Tessori reminisced about his childhood memories associated with tape ball cricket. He remarked, "Today, we are embarking on a journey from the streets to the stadium through the Karachi Tape Ball Premier League. Various teams from the city will participate in this event, which will run from December 14 to December 29, 2024." Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori expressed his intent to ensure that all matches of the Karachi Tape Ball Premier League take place at the National Stadium, Karachin. He further announced that he has taken ownership of one of the league's teams, the Karachi Knights, to demonstrate his commitment to the promotion of

the sport. He emphasized that events like this will help nurture world-class talent. In preparation for this mega event, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori revealed plans to distribute 100,000 tennis balls among children in Karachi, aiming to encourage them to take an active interest in sports. He urged parents to bring forward their talented daughters, ensuring that efforts are being made to provide international-level opportunities for girls as well. He also praised cricket legend Javed Miandad for elevating Pakistan's name on the global stage and noted that the recognition given to gold medalist Arshad Nadeem has greatly boosted the morale of other athletes.

Shakib available for second India Test, says BD coach



KANPUR (Agencies): Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has no injury concerns and remains in line to play the second Test against India, coach Chandika Hathurusinghe said on Wednesday. Media reports suggested Shakib played the first of two Tests with a finger injury when India handed Bangladesh a 280-run thrashing in Chennai. Former Sri Lanka all-rounder Hathurusinghe said "there was no doubt" over Shakib's participation in the second Test, which begins on Friday. "At the moment I have not heard anything about any sort of injury -- neither from the physio nor from anyone else," Hathurusinghe told reporters in Kanpur, where

the Test will be played. "And he is eligible for selection. If there are any changes (in the team) then it's depending on the surface." The heat has been on Shakib, a 37-year-old former lawmaker who faces a case of alleged murder back home after Bangladesh was plunged into political crisis by student-led protests that led to the ouster of autocratic former leader Sheikh Hasina. The left-hander, who bats in the middle-order and bowls spin, played a key role in his team's historic Test series sweep in Pakistan. He then went back to England to play county cricket for Surrey instead of returning home ahead of the India tour.

Shakib made 32 and 25 with the bat in the first Test but went wicketless with the ball. "I'm not upset about his performance, but our overall performance. I am sure he also thinks he can perform better. We all know what he is capable of," Hathurusinghe said. "I think he batted really well in the second innings. He couldn't go on, not because of lack of pride but for the sheer quality of the opposition." Bangladesh were bowled out for 149 and then 234 to lose the match inside four days. India, led by Rohit Sharma, will be looking to extend their advantage at the top of the World Test Championship rankings after their emphatic first Test performance.

Shamar Joseph, Naseem Shah in SA20 auction shortlist

CAPE TOWN (Agencies): Fast bowlers Shamar Joseph, Naseem Shah, Josh Little and Josh Hull are among the overseas players who will be up for grabs in the upcoming SA20 auction. Nearly 200 players, including 115 South Africans have made the shortlist, but only 13 spots are to be filled up by the six franchises. Paarl Royals have the biggest purse of R11.95m to spend at the auction. MI Cape Town are next with R8.275m, followed by Pretoria Capitals' with a purse of R4.575m. Joburg Super Kings have R3.925m while back-to-back champions Sunrisers Eastern Cape have R2.845m in their bag. As

for Durban's Super Giants, they have R2.35m remaining in their purse. New Zealand opener Martin Gupthill, Sri Lanka wicketkeeper-batter Kusal Mendis and Afghanistan wristspinner Qais Ahmad are among other overseas attractions in the shortlist. "Some of the biggest names on the international T20 circuit have already signed up for season 3 and I am looking forward to see how the teams finalise their squads from this competitive auction list of players," Graeme Smith, the former South Africa captain and current SA20 commissioner, said. Reeza Hendricks, who was released by Super Kings, is perhaps the most

high-profile South African in the shortlist along with fellow opener Tony de Zorzi. All squads are required to have 19 players, with a minimum of ten South African players, a maximum of seven international players, a rookie, and a wildcard player. Barring Super Kings, all franchises have announced their wildcard picks. Notably, Paarl Royals picked former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik as their wildcard. Having retired from Indian and international cricket in June earlier this year, Karthik will become the first Indian to feature in the SA20. Super Kings have until December 30 to lock in

their wildcard player. The SA20 2025 auction will take place on October 1 and the tournament will begin on January 9, clashing with Australia's Big Bash League, UAE's ILT20 and New Zealand's Super Smash. Squads ahead of SA20 auction Durbans Super Giants: Brandon King (West Indies), Quinton De Kock, Naveen Ul Haq (Afghanistan), Kane Williamson (New Zealand), Chris Woakes (England), Preenelan Subrayen, Dwaine Pretorius, Keshav Maharaj, Noor Ahmed (Afghanistan), Heinrich Klaasen, Jon-Jon Smuts, Wiaan Mulder, Junior Dala, Bryce Parsons, Matthew

Breetzke, Jason Smith, Marcus Stoinis (Australia) Joburg Super Kings: Faf Du Plessis, Moeen Ali (England), Jonny Bairstow (England), Maheesh Theekshana (Sri Lanka), Devon Conway (New Zealand), Gerald Coetzee, David Wiese (Namibia), Leus Du Plooy (England), Lizaad Williams, Nandre Burger, Donovan Ferreira, Imran Tahir, Sibonelo Makhanya, Tabraiz Shamsi MI Cape Town: Rashid Khan (Afghanistan), Ben Stokes (England), Kagiso Rabada, Trent Boult (New Zealand), Azmatullah Omarzai (Afghanistan), Dewald Brevis, Ryan Rickelton, George Linde, Nuwan Thushara (Sri Lanka), Connor

Esterhuizen, Delano Potgieter, Rassie van der Dussen, Thomas Kaber, Chris Benjamin (England), Corbin Bosch Pretoria Capitals: Anrich Nortje, Jimmy Neesham (New Zealand), Will Jacks (England), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (Afghanistan), Liam Livingstone (England), Will Smeed (England), Migael Pretorius, Rilee Rossouw, Eathan Bosch, Wayne Parnell, Senuran Muthusamy, Kyle Verreynne, Daryn Dupavillon, Steve Stolk, Tian van Vuuren Paarl Royals: David Miller, Mubejeb Ur Rahman (Afghanistan), Sam Hain (England), Joe Root (England), Dinesh Karthik

(India), Kwena Maphaka, Lhuan-dre Pretorius, Bjorn Fortuin, Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Van Buuren, Keith Dudgeon, Ngaba Peter, Andile Phehlukwayo, Codi Yusuf, John Turner (England), Dayyaan Galiem, Jacob Bethell (England) Sunrisers Eastern Cape: Aiden Markram, Zak Crawley (England), Roelof van der Merwe (Netherlands), Liam Dawson (England), Otneil Baartman, Marco Jansen, Beyers Swanepoel, Caleb Seleka, Tristan Stubbs, Jordan Hermann, Patrick Kruger, Craig Overton (England), Tom Abell (England), Simon Harmer, Andile Simelane, David Bedingham.



In brief

Police impound snatched coaster

LAHORE (APP): The Motorway Police Central Zone impounded a snatched coaster at Thana Kot Radha Kishan. According to police spokesperson, the coaster passengers were robbed by four armed robbers at gun-point near Kot Radha Kishan and coaster was taken away. A case was registered at Thana Kot Radha Kishan. On receiving information, the Motorway Police blocked the National Highway. Seeing the patrolling officers near Jambar, the accused left the coaster and fled the scene. The Motorway police impounded the vehicle and handed it over to the local police.

Police bust car lifter gang

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi District Police have busted a car lifting gang and arrested its five members, said a police spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that New Town police netted five accused namely Jahangir, Khurshed, Kamran, Iftikhar and Khandan Khan, allegedly involved in car snatching cases. Police also recovered 10 stolen vehicles including four Toyota Corolla cars, two Mehran, a Cuore, two pick-ups, a Khyber car and two rickshaws, master key and other items from their possession. The vehicles were stolen from shopping malls and different parking areas with master key and using other methods. The arrested accused are record holders in car lifting cases, the spokesman said. City Police Officer, Syed Khalid Hamdani appreciated SDPO, SHO New Town, and the police team and directed to accelerate ongoing operation against bike and car lifters.

IRSA releases 184,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 184,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 151,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1535.86 feet and was 137.86 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 91,900 cusecs and 95,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1220.45 feet, which was 172.45 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 127,100, 108,900, 88,500 and 36,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 18,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,200 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Transgenders demands space in vehicles

ISLAMABAD (APP): Transgender community has demanded dedicated seating space in public transport to provide them with a safe environment during their travel. Transgender Rights activist Nayyab Ali talking to APP said that dedicated seating space on public transport vehicles should be allocated for transgenders community, adding that transgender individuals often face challenges related to transportation due to a variety of social, economic, and systemic issues. She claimed that many transgender people experience verbal abuse, harassment, or even physical violence when using public transport.

Ahsan Iqbal vows to eliminate terrorism as PML-N did in past

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday demonstrated great commitment to purging the country of extremist and terrorist elements, as the PML-N government had successfully done in the past.

"As a result of a lack of continuity in policies, we saw the reemergence of these networks [of terrorism]. The policy [during the PTI tenure] adopted of taking back some elements from Afghanistan has again posed a challenge, but now the PML-N government is determined to fight, defeat and eliminate them like we did before," he said.

The minister expressed these views while speaking at the inaugural session of a daylong international conference on 'Countering Terrorism in Pakistan: Progress and the Path Forward,' organized by Bahria University in collabora-

tion with the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) here.

Addressing the conference participants, the minister said the fight against terrorism was far from over, as several key challenges continued to impede the national path to peace and stability. "Terrorism is no longer confined to insurgencies or large militant groups. The rise of lone wolf attacks, along with cyber radicalization and the use of social media for extremist recruitment, have transformed the landscape," he said.

Ahsan Iqbal said a recent report showed that 80 percent of terrorist organizations now use digital platforms to recruit, communicate and radicalize individuals. "This presents a new front in the fight against terrorism, requiring us to invest in cybersecurity and digital literacy."

In a message to the youth, the

minister advised them to become aware of the potential dangers of the present times, specifically 'misinformation.'

He mentioned that the World Economic Forum (WEF) had recently declared 'misinformation' the biggest risk the world was confronting in the modern era of digitalization. He described fake news and misinformation as 'a new weapon' for destabilization, creating chaos and fanning extremist ideologies in society, adding, "We have to guard against misinformation."

The minister emphasized that not everything that appeared on social media could be taken as truth and that youth must develop the cognitive ability to verify the authenticity of the information they receive. "Now, data analytics with social media have become a very lethal weapon. You can be manipulated without knowing who is manipulating

you and in which direction."

He said any message that fostered hate must be rejected, as it was the starting point of extremism that could lead to terrorism. "This goes full cycle."

Recalling a conference on terrorism he attended in France, the minister shared that a German professor viewed humans as the best forms of creation saying, "If two viruses, i.e., hate and prejudice, are injected into the human computers, the human mind loses its rationality and turns individuals into beasts that see the world through the lens of their own bias."

Ahsan Iqbal said if minds become tinted with hate and prejudice, individuals began to see the world colored through the prism of their own biases, emphasizing, "So it is very important that if we are to maintain our rationality and sobriety, we must not let these viruses enter our minds."

The minister noted that military and law enforcement actions remained crucial, but alone were insufficient on their own. He stressed the need to go beyond the battlefield to counter terrorism by addressing the root causes of extremism, building societal resilience, and preventing future radicalization.

"As outlined in the national internal security policy, the battle against extremism and terrorism must be fought in the ideological domain. We need to invest in curriculum reforms that promote critical thinking, tolerance, and pluralism," he added.

He also emphasized the importance of recognizing community-based counter-terrorism strategies, adding, "Local communities and religious leaders must be empowered to counter radicalization at the grassroots level. The use of mosques, schools and media to promote

messages of peace, tolerance and national unity is critical."

He mentioned that programs like Paigham-e-Pakistan serve as powerful tools in this regard, providing a platform for Islamic scholars to condemn extremism and terrorism. The minister suggested measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of 'former extremists,' advocating for their transformation into useful members of society through vocational training after psychological counseling. He also called for strengthening cybersecurity infrastructure and training law enforcement personnel to counter cyber radicalization using modern techniques.

"Public-private partnerships with tech companies are essential for monitoring and removing extremist content from digital platforms while ensuring that legal frameworks keep pace with emerging cyber threats," he remarked.

Ayaz commends APNS role in promoting print media industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker, National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Wednesday commended the All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS) for its pivotal role in promoting the growth and development of the print media industry in the country.

On the occasion of National Newspaper Readership Day, he extended his congratulations to the APNS, journalists, and media professionals for their contributions

to the country's media landscape.

Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the critical role that print media continues to play in the age of digital information. He emphasized that the newspapers are a vital source of reliable and trustworthy news, which not only informs the public but also fosters social stability, peace, and development.

Ayaz Sadiq said that in an era where the misinformation can spread rapidly, the role of newspapers in providing fact-based news becomes

all the more significant.

He reaffirmed the Parliament's commitment to encouraging free and responsible journalism through legislation, stating that accurate and factual news is essential for raising political awareness and ensuring citizens are well-informed about their rights.

The Speaker called for all citizens to perform their responsibilities in line with the Constitution and laws of Pakistan, ensuring the nation's continued progress and development.



ISLAMABAD: Prize winners of English Speech Competition organised by Federal Directorate of Education pose for group photo with Principal Prof Shugufta Rauf at Model College for Girls G10/2.

Constitutional Courts essential to address existing legal challenges: Marri

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary Shazia Marri Wednesday said that establishing Federal Constitutional Court would effectively address the existing legal and judicial challenges in the country.

Addressing a press conference along with Senator Palwasha Khan, she said that formation of Federal Constitutional Court is mandatory and PPP has very clear stance on the issue.

Shazia Marri said that Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has been advocating for the establishment of a Federal Constitutional Court for quite some time and recently, the PPP has raised this demand of establishing Constitutional Courts with full force.

She urged the government to consult with all the stakeholders on the proposed constitutional package. "The PPP has been presenting its stance with conviction and has come to know about the ongoing constitutional amendments," she said.

Shazia Marri said the idea of a Constitutional Court has been mentioned in the Charter of Democracy (CoD) and it has been part of the PPP's manifesto since 2007.

She stressed the necessity of a

Federal Constitutional Court to ensure swift, speedy and fair justice. "The PPP workers sought justice for Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto after a wait of 45 years."

She criticized the current judicial system is often preoccupied with political and constitutional cases, which leaves little room for addressing the grievances of the general public.

Shazia Marri said the justice system in the provinces is also crumbling, and proposed that a constitutional court should be established in every province. "Each province should have representation in the Federal Constitutional Court," she added.

Criticizing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), saying, "There is a party that has 'justice' in its name but is running away from it. They only want justice for one person, whereas the PPP seeks justice for the common man." Shazia Marri called for a collective effort to provide relief to the public and stressed that lawmaking is the prerogative of the Parliament, as enshrined in the Constitution.

She said that that there is ongoing propaganda aimed at discrediting institutions, but reiterated that lies, no

matter how they are spun, remain lies. Marri also expressed support for reforms in the judiciary, including family courts, arguing that if proper reforms were enacted, there might not even be a need for a "Practice and Procedure Act."

On the occasion, Senator Palwasha Khan alleged the PTI for creating chaos in the country and called for adhering to the Charter of Democracy, calling it the unfinished work of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. "It is Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's responsibility to complete the mission of Shaheed Bibi," she said.

She questioned that why PTI, which supported the Charter of Democracy and the idea of a Federal Constitutional Court in 2006, is now opposing it! Palwasha stressed that the establishment of the court would not lead to the dominance of any one province but would instead strengthen the federation. She raised concerns about international media coverage of Imran Khan, specifically in Israeli newspapers. She noted that these articles have never been written about any other Pakistani leader and suggested that certain foreign powers, including Israel and India, are conspiring against Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza on Wednesday chaired an important meeting with Saddar Zone police officers at his office.

According to a police spokesperson, the meeting was attended by the Superintendent of Police (SP) Saddar Zone Hakam Khan, SDPOs, SHOs, and crime control teams.

He said the DIG reviewed the performance of all police officials in detail, awarding officers for good performance and issuing show-cause notices to those with poor performance. He said that

while issuing directions, the DIG emphasized that in the upcoming meeting, the performance of all officers will be reviewed, with no compromise on the rise of crime.

He said DIG Syed Ali Raza issued directives to police officials and crime control teams to prevent incidents of robbery, dacoity, and theft in their respective jurisdictions. "Under the supervision of the SHOs, these teams will work to arrest absconders, proclaimed offenders, target offenders, and missing gang members," DIG said.

Syed Ali Raza said the special teams will take effective measures to prevent criminal incidents, adding that the progress of crime control teams will be reviewed daily, he said.

All police officers are expected to be more proactive in combating criminal elements, he added.

The DIG further stated that police officers who perform well will be commended, while those showing negligence or poor performance will face departmental action, he said.

Ali Raza urged all police officers to provide facilities for citizens, stressing that the protection of citizens' lives and property remains the top priority of Islamabad Police, and any form of negligence or incompetence will not be tolerated.

IESCO notifies power shutdown programme

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

According to IESCO Spokesperson, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 7:00 AM to 12:00 Noon Islamabad Circle, Upper Topa, Patriata, PAF, COMSAT, Chhata Bakhtawar, Park Enclave, Lahtar, Tramree, ISI, Rahara, PHA, PHA II, Kurry Road, CM Pak Zong, Isolation Hospital Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Mahboob Shaheed, Park View, Pindi Board, Jail Park, Car Chowk, Gracey Line, VVIP, Major Riaz, Lala Zar, Lalkarti, Khawaja Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Gangal, Airport, Gulzar Quaid, Khanna Road, Tamsamaabad, Dhok Hakmdad, Tariq Shaheed, Bajnyal, Dhok Chaudhary, Hamayun, Bhadana Feeders, Jhelum Circle, Islampura, Kangar, Qazia, Captain Nisar Shaheed, Mangala Express, Madu Kalis, Col Muhammad Akram, Dinah, 3 Rohtas, Chamala Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Rawal, Sagarpur Feeders, From 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM Chakwal Circle, GPO Chowk, Jatla, Pera Fatial, Tau Muharram Khan Feeders and surrounding areas.

Illegal LPG, petrol sales endanger lives in twin cities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Citizens in Islamabad and Rawalpindi are raising concerns about the unregulated sale of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and petrol in local markets, as many fear that the lack of safety measures could lead to serious accidents.

They are calling for stricter enforcement by the authorities. Residents of Islamabad and Rawalpindi are worried about the unchecked sale of LPG and petrol in various areas. They claim that this illegal activity is putting lives at risk, as sellers operate without proper precautions in densely populated locations.

Talking to APP, Mudassar Iqbal, a local resident, mentioned that illegal agencies are operating openly in areas such as Bari Imam, Golra, and Korla. According to him, the unregulated sale of these petroleum products poses a serious threat to public safety, and immediate action is needed to prevent a potential disaster.

Another concerned citizen, Tasawar Abbas, expressed his frustrations, pointing out that numerous shops are involved in filling gas cylinders and mini rickshaws without following safety guidelines.

Despite this, the district administration appears to be ignoring the problem. Tasawar Abbas said that while occasional raids result in the closure

of some shops, they are quickly reopened within a few days, allowing the dangerous practice to continue.

He also claimed that the district administration is more focused on enforcing rules at the outdoor areas of hotels, possibly to satisfy higher authorities, while neglecting the more pressing issue of illegal petroleum sales.

In response to these concerns, a spokesman from the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration said that no one is allowed to operate without a permit and that agencies dealing in LPG and petrol should only be located far away from public areas. However, residents argue that the reality on the ground is different, with many illegal outlets operating in populated areas.

Recent actions by the district administration have led to the sealing of five illegal LPG points, and one person has been arrested for filling LPG in vehicles without authorization.

While these recent measures are a step in the right direction, many residents believe that stricter enforcement and regular inspections are needed to prevent further risks to public safety.

They have urged the Deputy Commissioner, Irfan Nawaz Memon, to crack down on illegal petroleum sales before a tragedy occurs.

Australian HC highlights shared history, future collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins, on Wednesday, in his address at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) delved into the theme 'Australia's Strategic Environment and Relations with Pakistan.'

In his speech at IPRI's forum 'Diplomatic Reflections', he highlighted the deep historical ties and future collaborative efforts between the two nations, a news release said.

Hawkins began by drawing attention to the rich history that binds Australia and Pakistan. He noted that the links between the peoples of Australia and today's Pakistan date back more than a century. From 1860 to 1920, approximately 2,000 cameleers from Balochistan played a crucial role in exploring Australia's deserts, transporting essential supplies to remote towns, building railways, and supporting gold mining. These Baloch cameleers also introduced

Islam to Australia, constructing the country's first mosque in Maree, South Australia, in 1884.

The High Commissioner also commemorated the Pakistani soldiers, then part of the British Indian Army, who served alongside Australian troops at Gallipoli during World War I.

Formal diplomatic relations between the two countries commenced with Pakistan's independence in 1948. Today, this partnership is underpinned by strong people-to-people links and a shared commitment to promoting gender equality and climate resilience.

Hawkins emphasized the importance of climate change and environmental hazards, noting that Australia, like Pakistan, views these issues as matters of national security. He highlighted the similarities between the two countries, both frequently affected by natural disasters such as forest fires and floods. The High Commissioner pointed out that Australia has

been assisting Pakistan in addressing these challenges through knowledge-sharing and expertise in sustainable agriculture and water management.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of agricultural cooperation between Australia and Pakistan under the auspices of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). Hawkins lauded the progress made from 1984 to 2024, with Australian expertise playing a pivotal role in promoting sustainable agriculture in Pakistan.

Addressing the critical issue of water management, Hawkins expressed concern over the water table in Sindh and Punjab provinces, which is depleting by one meter each year. He underscored the importance of effective water management and sustainable agricultural practices, emphasizing Australia's role in aiding Pakistan through knowledge-sharing initiatives. He also highlighted the need for more waste-

water treatment plants, to ensure the quality of water.

Hawkins concluded by stressing that with 77 percent of Pakistan's renewable water originating from outside its borders, better water management is vital for the country's future. He shared insights into Australia's experience, where farmers trade surplus water to optimize the use of this precious resource.

Talking about the strategic environment of Australia, Neil Hawkins said that Australia's goal was to achieve a strategic equilibrium where no country dominates or is dominated, where sovereignty is respected and for a predictable region that operates by rules and norms. He emphasized that all countries including Pakistan has a role in maintaining stability in our region. To help deter conflict, protect trade routes and promote a strategic equilibrium, he noted Australia was investing in some nuclear-powered but conventionally armed submarines.

IEA calls for participation

KABUL (BNA): Mawlawi Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, announced on Wednesday that Afghanistan seeks to engage with other countries on pressing economic issues by participating in the upcoming BRICS summit. The BRICS group, originally formed by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, represents some of the world's fastest-growing emerging economies.

Germany, Iran to invest in plans

KABUL (TOLONews): Several German and Iranian companies have shown interest in investing in energy production projects, particularly solar energy, during a meeting with the acting Minister of Energy and Water, the ministry spokesperson said. The spokesperson told TOLONews it was decided in the meeting that technical teams from both sides will work together to coordinate and specify the projects to initiate practical steps.

Afghani value rises, but market prices remain unchanged

KABUL (TOLONews): The Central Bank of Afghanistan reported that the value of the national currency has increased by 2.24 afghani against foreign currencies in the past month. On Wednesday, the exchange rate was 68.40 afghani for one US dollar. The bank attributes this rise in the afghani's value to the implementation of better monetary policies, the prevention of dollar smuggling, increased exports, and the use of the afghani in currency markets. Haseebullah Noori, the spokesperson for the Central Bank, stated: "Our recent data shows that in the past month, the value of

the afghani has increased by 2.24 afghani against the dollar, which is a significant achievement for the Central Bank."

However, some residents of the capital say that despite the increase in afghani value, the price of foodstuffs have not decreased.

Jamshid Ahmadzai, a resident of Kabul, said: "We observe that the dollar's value has decreased, but prices have not changed. We urge traders to make efforts in this regard."

Javid, a resident of Kabul, said: "Prices in the markets are very high, transactions are conducted in dollars, but there has

been no change in prices."

Meanwhile, several economic experts say that the increase in the afghani value against foreign currencies plays an important role in the country's economic growth and development.

Mohammad Nabi Afghan, an economic expert, said: "The positive point is that the government should work on maintaining the afghani's stability, which also impacts trade."

Statistics from the Central Bank of Afghanistan indicate that in the first six months of the current solar year, the value of the afghani has increased by three percent against other currencies.

Work begins on 2 public welfare projects

KABUL (BNA): The Ghazni Municipality has officially commenced the construction of two significant public welfare projects, a recreational park and a retaining wall. The projects, with a total cost of 16 million Afghanis, aim to enhance the city's infrastructure and provide local employment opportunities.

According to a statement from the Ghazni Municipality, Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Hamza, Mayor of Ghazni, presided over the inauguration ceremony. He highlighted the importance of these initiatives, noting that the projects are being implemented with financial support from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

The park, spanning 11,773 square meters of land, was purchased by the municipality at a cost of 173 million Afghanis. Additionally, a retaining wall will be constructed in the Ali Lala area, measuring 636 meters in length, one meter in width, and 2.5 meters in height.

The mayor emphasized that the projects will be completed within two months and will provide temporary employment to local youth during their execution.

Artists urge govt to organise art exhibitions

S H E B E R G H A N (Pajhwok): Some women artists in northern Jawzjan province have asked the government to organise art exhibitions in support of their profession especially painting and drawing.

Khushina Khurrami, one of the artists involved in drawing and painting for the past 11 years told Pajhwok Afghan News that she was a tenth class student of the school when she embraced this art.

She has no academic studies in painting or drawing art but she learned the skill in by attending short-term tuitions.

Khushina said: "I was very interested in this art because had the support of my family, I hope to meet my hopes, I spend most of my time in drawing on the walls."

So far I had painted, wrote and sold over 200 paintings of which most of them were the orders I got from people. Her paintings are mostly welcomed by the people in Jawzjan and Balkh provinces.

She explained that the message of most of her drawings was to promote peace, reciprocity, high thoughts, struggle for success, condemnation of violence against women at family and society level.

Referring to financial problems, she said: "Our business was very good in the past, were received many orders, I painted on the walls in school and we (artists) got a significant income too." Khushina said, in contributed 8,000 afis monthly to my family expenses, but now I can't pay even 1,000 afis.

She asked the government of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) to provide female artists more employment opportunities and arrange more exhibitions for their artistic work.

Gita, another artist of the same province has similar demand from the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) government, she said she painted and wrote dozens of boards during the past eight years of her career. Gita said: "I got no order from my customers recently, nor painted new boards ... now I can't paint or write on wall as I did it in the past." She has also called on the officials to provided artists employment opportunities and arrange art-exhibitions.

Provincial Information and Culture director Maulvi Saifuddin Motasim told Pajhwok: "To help such female artists within the framework of Sharia law, we use our efforts to arrange artistic exhibitions along with the help of other different organizations."

Minister holds investment talks with Iranian team

KABUL (BNA): Mullah Hidayatullah Badri, Acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum, held a significant meeting with Ahmad Mohseni, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and delegates from six prominent Iranian mining companies. The discussion centered on enhancing bilateral cooperation through investments in Afghanistan's rich mineral resources.

According to a statement released by the ministry, the Iranian companies expressed strong interest in exploring opportunities in Afghanistan's iron, coal, and oil sectors.

The delegation presented detailed information on their current mining activities and emphasized their readiness to invest in large-scale projects within Afghanistan.

They also committed to



offering specialized training programs for Afghan engineers to ensure the extraction of minerals follows international standards.

Mullah Hidayatullah Badri welcomed their investment interest, reaffirming Afghanistan's com-

mitment to fostering a favorable investment environment in line with the country's legal frameworks and mining regulations. He assured the Iranian delegation of the ministry's full support in facilitating these initiatives, aiming to boost Afghanistan's mineral

extraction capabilities and economic growth.

This development highlights the growing international interest in Afghanistan's vast untapped mineral wealth and the government's focus on strategic partnerships to leverage this potential.

Islamic Emirate denies US aid interference, urges continued help

KABUL (TOLONews): Abdul Latif Nazari, the Professional Deputy Minister of Economy, has once again denied any interference or misuse of US aid to Afghanistan, stating that the Islamic Emirate has no involvement in these aid efforts.

The Deputy Minister emphasized that global aid is reaching those in need within Afghanistan and asserted that such aid should continue. Abdul Latif Nazari stated, "The Islamic Emirate has no involvement in these aid efforts. These aids are

delivered to the needy under supervision and transparency. Our request is for an increase in aid to the people of Afghanistan."

Previously, reports surfaced that a group of Republican lawmakers in the US House of Representatives is introducing new legislation calling for a halt to aid to Afghanistan due to concerns about potential misuse of US financial assistance by the Islamic Emirate.

Abdul Nasir Reshtia, an expert on economic issues regarding aid to Afgha-

nistan, said, "It is expected that humanitarian aid will once again be used as a pretext, alleging that it is accessible to the Afghan government, leading to another violation of human rights in Afghanistan."

Another economic expert, Abdul Ghafar Nizami, commented, "In the short term, aid is beneficial to Afghanistan; however, it does not prove beneficial in the long run."

In the past three years, the international community has provided over \$7 billion in aid to Afghanistan, with the United States

being the largest donor. According to the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), the United States has contributed approximately \$2.9 billion in aid to Afghanistan. However, allegations of misuse and interference in this aid by the Islamic Emirate have been a frequent subject of criticism by some US officials.

In the current year, the United States has also allocated \$280 million to the World Food Program for aid to the people of Afghanistan.

Nimroz businesswomen seek support to market products

NIMROZ (TOLONews): Businesswomen in Nimroz are urging officials in the interim government to assist them in obtaining work permits and providing markets for their products.

The Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Nimroz said that the number of active businesswomen in the province has increased in recent months, and they now require support.

Fazl Mohammad Fazli, the head of industry and commerce in Nimroz, said: "During this period, some workshops have obtained licenses, and others are in the process of applying. We have assisted them and will continue to help as much as we can."

Malalai Mohammadi, one of the businesswomen in the province, has been running a workshop in Zaranj city for two years.

During this time, she has trained 35 other women in producing children's toys.

She says that due to the lack of a suitable market, she has lost her income and is asking for support from officials in the interim government.

Malalai Mohammadi, the workshop owner, said: "We ask the government to support women. This is an innovation. We also need cooperation from other provinces. Our budget is limited, for instance, for raw materials and standard machinery."



Suraya, a trainee, said: "We ask the government to support us. There are other women in this workshop who are in need and must be supported." According to statistics from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the province, more than 1,000 women and girls are engaged in business activities in Nimroz.

Palwasha Shams, the head of the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Nimroz, said: "A woman who wants to obtain a license must go to Kabul, which costs 50,000 or 60,000 Afghani. If a woman has 60,000 or 70,000 Afghani, she could start a large business instead of a small one. The

production sectors are closed to them, and they face restrictions. The Department of Labor and Social Affairs in Nimroz has restricted the production sector, and I think this limitation exists only in Nimroz. My request to the officials is to remove these restrictions so women can work freely in the production or education sectors."

Shahgul Gulzadeh, a businesswoman, said: "I ask the authorities to support this workshop so our products can reach other provinces."

Local officials in Nimroz say they support the business activities of women in the province.

According to them, obta-

ining a work permit is essential for these female entrepreneurs, and without it, they cannot operate legally.

Omar Zubair, head of the work and social affairs department in Nimroz, said: "Anyone who establishes a workshop, we grant them a license. First, they obtain a license from the ministry, and then they come here and legally start their workshop."

In the past three years, the business activities of women in Nimroz have significantly increased. These women have created workshops for handmade products, providing work and income opportunities for hundreds of other women and girls.

Concerns raised over outbreak of mystery disease



PARWAN (Ariana News): Hekmatullah Shamim, the spokesman of the governor of Parwan, says that more than 500 people in the province have fallen ill with an unknown infectious disease.

According to Shamim, in the last four days, more than 500 residents of Dara Kashfan area in Shinwar

district of Parwan have been infected with the disease and the number is rising.

According to local officials, two people have died due to this disease and 50 others are in a critical condition.

Shamim added that health teams have reached the area worst affected and

blood samples of infected people have been taken.

The governor's spokesman in Parwan quoted the public health directorate as saying symptoms of the disease are "physical disability, severe muscle pain, severe diarrhoea and severe fever".

No further details were provided.

Ministry stresses national language development

KABUL (TOLONews): Atiqullah Azizi, Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture at the Ministry of Information and Culture, has emphasized the development of national languages in the country.

During a regular meeting of the High Council of Languages, attended by members of the Ministries of Higher Education, Education, and the Academy of Sciences, Azizi stated that all languages have rights within the system and that work must be done on them.

Khobaib Ghafuran, spokesperson for the Ministry of Information and Culture, said, "In this

meeting, the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture reiterated that all languages have rights within the system and must be strengthened, as they are symbols of the identity of nations and ethnicities."

Meanwhile, some experts have emphasized the importance of national languages but have also called for the strengthening of other languages in the country.

Omar Mokhtar Nikzad, a university professor, stated, "Educational centers must be established so that we can strengthen these languages. The culture of our society, which today is a unique culture in the world,

also has some of the most unique and sweetest languages."

Sayed Shah Goharpour, another university professor, said, "In addition to having national languages that are enshrined in the Constitution of Afghanistan and spoken by the majority of the population, we have more than two hundred dialects across the geography of Afghanistan."

Previously, officials from the Ministry of Information and Culture, during a program outlining their one-year achievements, announced the establishment of the National Council of Languages in the country.

Mes Aynak project:

Minister discusses water supply solutions



KABUL (BNA): Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor, the Acting Minister of Energy and Water, met with officials from the Chinese company TOYAR to discuss the water supply needs for the Mes Aynak copper extraction project.

According to a statement from the ministry's media office, the meeting focused on exploring solutions for

providing water to support the project.

In the meeting, Minister Mansoor highlighted the ongoing depletion of groundwater resources and urged the company to prioritize the use of surface water to meet the project's demands, reducing the burden on underground water reserves.

Furthermore, Minister

Mansoor proposed that the company invest in the Panjshir-to-Kabul water transfer project. This investment, he explained, would not only secure water for the Mes Aynak mining operations but also address Kabul's growing demand for clean drinking water, taking a significant step toward improving the city's water supply.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the Global Sustainable Transport Forum-2024, through video message held in Beijing.

Naval Chief message on World Maritime Day

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: World Maritime Day, a significant reminder of maritime safety, security and environmental conservation is marked annually, urging nations to work together for sustainable maritime practices. This year, IMO has selected 'Navigating the Future: Safety First' as the theme for World Maritime Day, which is observed on the last Thursday of September each year.

This theme reflects IMO's work in the afore-said areas and its drive towards ensuring regulatory development processes are integrated with the fast paced technological changes and innovation. This year is also significant as it marks the 50 years since the adoption of 1974 SOLAS Convention, which is the key IMO treaty regulating maritime safety.

Since shipping transports about 90% of global trade by volume; it also obligates safe, secure and efficient international shipping industry for future sustainable green economic growth. It is therefore, evident that improving the safety of ships and reducing their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions must go hand in hand. Both are critical to achieving a sustainable and efficient maritime

industry. This year's theme is also closely linked to UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aligned with several of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To achieve them, we need to keep pace with the digitalization and automation that are revolutionizing the shipping industry. This calls for introduction of newer technologies for enhancing safety, security and efficiency, optimizing performance, reducing environmental impact and ensuring sustainability. These measures can greatly help in improving overall efficacy and competitiveness of the shipping industry, making it possible to design, construct and operate ships more efficiently, handle more cargo, reduce costs and enhance customer satisfaction.

The thrust on 'safety' in this year's theme has been an integral component of Pakistan Navy operations and processes, next only to their efficient conduct, which is continuously reviewed to address any gaps that may arise. Pakistan Navy has instituted exacting measures to ensure 'safety first' principle, onboard as well as ashore. Our efforts towards maritime safety bear testimony to our unwavering commitment and emphasis



on implementation of SOPs, in their true letter and spirit.

On this World Maritime Day, as we take stock of our shared maritime achievements, let us also look forward with determination and resolve to align our national objectives with the ongoing global shift towards sustainable and green marine practices. I urge all the stakeholders to embrace these evolving trends and reiterate Pakistan Navy's commitment in ensuring maritime safety and upholding environmental mandates.

Let us recommit to the principle of maritime safety and reaffirm our solemn pledge that in pursuing, 'Navigating the Future: Safety First', we shall spare no effort, neither in spirit nor in action. I look forward to a profound and cumulative response by all stakeholders.

Imran asks govt to announce appointment of next CJ

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Founder Imran Khan has asked the government to announce the appointment of the next Chief Justice soon.

During an informal conversation with journalists at Adiala Jail, Imran Khan stated that he fully supports Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, the most senior judge of the Supreme Court. The PTI founder said that the purpose of the constitutional court is to diminish the power of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the government is bent on destroying the entire judiciary.

Imran Khan further commented that to cover up election fraud, they want their own judges. They are trying to ensure that PTI does not rise in any way. He also mentioned that they are not being allowed to hold any public gatherings and if permission is not granted for the rally in Rawalpindi, they will protest.

Imran Khan had also stated the previous day that the Supreme Court's decision regarding reserved seats made everything clear. He added that excluding PTI from the elections and attempting to dismantle the party were deliberate efforts. Now everything has been exposed, and all the veils have been lifted. The Practice and Procedure ordinance violated the democratic process of case hearings.

Trump claims 'big threats' to his life by Iran

WASHINGTON (AFP): Donald Trump said Wednesday there were "big threats" on his life posed by Iran after the Republican presidential candidate's campaign team said US intelligence warned him of "real and specific" threats from Tehran.

"Big threats on my life by Iran. The entire US Military is watching and waiting," Trump said on his Truth Social platform. "Moves were already made by Iran that didn't work out, but they will try again. ... I am surrounded by more men, guns, and weapons than I have ever seen before," he said, following increased scrutiny of the US Secret Service since two attempts on Trump's life this year.

Trump's campaign team said in a statement Tuesday that US intelligence had warned the former president of "real and specific" threats from Iran to assassinate him. It was not immediately clear if the threats referred to by the campaign and Trump himself were new or threats that have previously been reported.

"President Trump was briefed earlier today by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence regarding real and specific threats from Iran to assassinate him in an effort to destabilise and sow chaos in the United States," campaign communications director Steven Cheung said in the statement. "Intelligence officials have identified that these continued and coordinated attacks have heightened in the past few months, and law enforcement officials across all agencies are working to ensure President Trump is protected and the election is free from interference," he added.

Israel sends scores of bodies to Gaza

Israel says carrying out 'extensive' strikes in Hezbollah strongholds

BEIRUT (Reuters, AFP): The Israeli military said it was carrying out "extensive" air strikes in south Lebanon and the eastern Beqaa Valley on Wednesday after Hezbollah fired a ballistic missile that reached the Israeli city of Tel Aviv. "The IDF (Israeli military) is currently conducting extensive strikes in southern Lebanon and the Beqaa area," the military said in a statement. It said it was striking 40 projectiles and weapons storage facilities. It also said that some 40 projectiles had crossed into northern Israel from Lebanon, setting off warning sirens in the area. "Several projectiles were intercepted," the military said.

The Israeli military said a drone crossing into Israeli territory from Syria was intercepted by fighter jets south of the Sea of Galilee, causing no damage or injuries. Earlier, Lebanon's Hezbollah said on Wednesday it fired a rocket targeting Mossad spy agency headquarters near Tel Aviv, which it blamed for the assassination of its leaders and the blowing up of communications devices used by its members.

There were no reports of damage or casualties and the military said there was no change to civil defense instructions for central Israel. Three people were killed and nine others injured in an Israeli strike on the Lebanese Shi'ite town of Maaysrah in the Christian-majority Keserwan region, the country's health ministry said. It was the first time the area was struck in recent hostilities between the Israeli military and Hezbollah. The Israeli military has been conducting its heaviest air strikes of the war this week, targeting Hezbollah leaders and hitting hundreds of targets deep inside Lebanon. An Israeli strike in Beirut on Tuesday killed senior Hezbollah commander Ibrahim Qubaisi, who headed the group's missile and rocket force. He is one of several key figures who have been assassinated since fighting broke out between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah nearly a year ago in parallel with the Gaza war.

buildings in Gaza says it has been notified of around 10,000 people missing during the near year-long Israeli assault on Gaza. Gaza health authorities list more than 41,000 Palestinians confirmed killed in the assault, which Israel launched after Hamas fighters attacked Israeli towns on Oct. 7 last year, killing 1,200 people and capturing around 250 hostages.

In recent days the conflict has spread to another major theater, with Israel launching the biggest airstrikes on Lebanon in nearly two decades, targeting the Hezbollah movement, which has been rocketing Israel in solidarity with the Palestinians. War in Gaza has not let up, even as the conflict in Lebanon has escalated. Many months of diplomatic efforts to reach a Gaza ceasefire have yielded little progress, with Israel refusing any deal to halt the fighting without the total defeat of Hamas.

Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed at least 14 Palestinians on Wednesday, medics said. In Rafah, near the border with Egypt, Israeli forces continued their operations in different areas of the city, amid clashes with Hamas-led fighters, according to residents and statements posted by militants.

Medics said at least eight Palestinians were killed in two separate Israeli strikes on two houses in Rafah. One of those strikes killed a woman and her children, they added. In another attack in Bureij, one of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, five Palestinians were killed in a house hit by an Israeli missile, medics said.

Israel has also sent tanks into the eastern area of Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip, and medics said a woman was killed in an air strike on a house in the town earlier on Tuesday.

Russia has secret war drones project in China

MOSCOW (Reuters): Russia has established a weapons programme in China to develop and produce long-range attack drones for use in the war against Ukraine, according to two sources from a European intelligence agency and documents reviewed by Reuters.

IEMZ Kupol, a subsidiary of Russian state-owned weapons company Almaz-Antey, has developed and flight-tested a new drone model called Garpiya-3 (G3) in China with the help of local specialists, according to one of the documents, a report that Kupol sent to the Russian defence ministry earlier this year outlining its work.

Kupol told the defence ministry in a subsequent update that it was able to produce drones including the G3 at scale at a factory in China so the weapons can be deployed in the "special military operation" in Ukraine, the term Moscow uses for the war. Kupol, Almaz-Antey and the Russian defence ministry didn't respond to requests for comment for this article. China's foreign ministry told Reuters it was not aware of such a project, adding that the country had strict control measures on the export of drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Fabian Hinz, a research fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, a London-based defence think-tank, said the delivery of UAVs from China to Russia, if confirmed, would be a significant development. "If you look at what China is known to have delivered so far, it was mostly dual-use goods - it was components, sub-components, that could be used in weapon systems," he told Reuters. "This is what has been reported so far. But what we haven't really seen, at least in the open source, are documented transfers of whole weapon systems."

Still, Samuel Bendett, an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), a Washington-based think-tank, said Beijing would be hesitant to open itself up to international sanctions for helping Moscow's war machine, and

that more information was needed to establish that China was playing host to production of Russian military drones. The White House National Security Council said it was deeply concerned by the Reuters report of the drones programme, which it said appeared to be an instance of a Chinese company providing lethal assistance to a U.S.-sanctioned Russian firm.

The White House has not seen anything to suggest the Chinese government was aware of the transactions involved, but China has a responsibility to ensure companies aren't providing lethal aid to Russia for use by its military, a spokesperson added. The G3 can travel about 2,000 km with a payload of 50 kg, according to the reports to the Russian defence ministry from Kupol, which was placed under U.S. sanctions in Dec. 2023. Samples of the G3 and some other drone models made in China have been delivered to Kupol in Russia for further testing, again with the involvement of Chinese experts, they said.

The documents don't identify the Chinese drone specialists involved in the project that it outlined and Reuters was unable to determine their identity. Kupol has taken delivery of seven military drones made in China, including two G3s, at its headquarters in the Russian city of Izhevsk, according to the two separate documents reviewed by Reuters, which are invoices sent to Kupol in the summer by a Russian firm that the two European intelligence sources said serves as an intermediary with Chinese suppliers. The invoices, one of which requests payment in Chinese yuan, don't specify delivery dates or identify the suppliers in China.

The two intelligence sources said the delivery of the sample drones to Kupol was the first concrete evidence their agency had found of whole UAVs manufactured in China being delivered to Russia since the Ukraine war began in February 2022. They asked that neither they nor their organisation be identified due to the sensitivity of the information.

Pak-Turkiye agree

(Continued from Page 1)

Later, on his X timeline, the prime minister said that he was honoured to meet his "dear brother" and "a great friend" of Pakistan.

"We assured each other of our consistent and continued support on core interests and also discussed regional developments, especially the situation in Gaza," he remarked.

The prime minister also thanked President Erdogan for your warm wishes on my birthday and your appreciation of our economic reform agenda. "I look forward to working with you to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between our two countries," he added.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and called on him to use his good offices for the implementation of the relevant

UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, and ensuring the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris.

The prime minister, in the meeting held on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, briefed the UN secretary-general on the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He underscored Pakistan's serious concerns over India's egregious actions in the IIOJK and stressed upon the need to resolve the dispute to ensure lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

Prime Minister Shehbaz welcomed the initiative by the Secretary General Guterres to organize the "Summit of the Future", and expressed his hope that its outcome would help the developing countries in bridging the financial gap for implementation of SDGs and climate goals.

He condemned Israel's genocidal campaign against the Palestinians, and called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire. The prime minister also urged the international community to hold Israel accountable and reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the establishment of a viable and sovereign State of Palestine. Prime Minister Shehbaz also underscored the need for stemming the rising tide of Islamophobia, and discrimination against Muslims worldwide.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to actively contribute towards international peace and security as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the year 2025-26. Secretary General Guterres thanked the prime minister for Pakistan's active engagement at the United Nations as well as for its role towards international peace and security in the form of its UN's peace-keeping force.

France minister vows new immigration 'rules'

PARIS (AFP): France's conservative interior minister on Wednesday vowed consequences after a Moroccan man suspected of murdering a 19-year-old university student and leaving her body in a Paris forest was arrested in Switzerland.

A source close to the case, speaking to AFP, identified the alleged attacker as a 22-year-old man of Moroccan nationality. Prosecutors have said the suspect had been previously convicted of rape and had been the subject of an order to leave France. The killing of the student is expected to further inflame political tensions in France where the newly installed right-wing government plans to crack down on immigration.

"This is an abominable crime," said Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau. Retailleau, who took over from his predecessor Gerald Darmanin on Monday, vowed to boost law and order, tighten immigration legislation, and make it easier to deport foreigners convicted of crimes.

"It is up to us, as public leaders, to refuse to accept the inevitable and to develop our legal arsenal, to protect the French," he added. "If we have to change the rules, let's change them." On Saturday, the body of a student was discovered in the Bois de Boulogne park in western Paris, not far from the Universite Paris-Dauphine she attended.

Authorities have only released the first name of the victim, Philippine. A Moroccan national was arrested on Tuesday in the Swiss canton of Geneva and was identified as a suspect in a murder committed in Paris, a spokeswoman for the Swiss justice ministry told AFP. "The Federal Office of Justice then ordered detention for extradition purposes on the basis of an arrest request from France," she added.

The student was last seen at the university on Friday. Witnesses had reported seeing a man with a pickaxe, said one police source. According to the prosecutors, in 2021 the man was convicted of rape committed in 2019 when he was a minor. He had been released in June having served out his sentence, then placed in an administrative detention centre, according to the source close to the case. In early September, a judge freed him on condition he reported regularly to the authorities.