

Help for Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has activated its Crisis Management Unit (CMU) to assist Pakistani nationals and their families affected by the crisis in Lebanon. The foreign Office spokesperson in a statement stated that the ministry in Islamabad and the Pakistani embassy in Beirut are continuing their efforts to assist Pakistani nationals impacted by the situation in Lebanon.



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DNA overhaul must to foster sustainable growth: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (APP): Reaffirming the government's resolve to implementing homegrown structural reforms, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Sunday emphasized the crucial need to bring fundamental changes in the DNA of country's economy, leading to an export-driven model, thereby fostering sustainable growth.

"We need to adopt new approach. If we are saying that this is going to be the last programme of IMF, we have just embarked on, we have to change the DNA of economy fundamentally," the minister said while addressing a press conference here. He was accompanied by Chairman Federal Board of Revenue, Rashid Mahmood Langrial. He said, there were two main reasons for going to International Monetary Fund (IMF) for Extended Fund Facility (EFF) which include bringing permanence to macroeconomic stability and executing critical reforms under home-grown economic agenda.

He said, macroeconomic stability, creates a foundation and "if foundation is not strong, we cannot construct a house. "If we have to go for inclusive and sustainable growth, it has to be on the background of the macroeconomic stability," he remarked.

The minister said the macroeconomic stability has continued during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, however it needed permanence to lead to sustainable growth. "Macroeconomic stability is not an end in itself, it is a means to an end," he remarked.

Hence, bringing structural reforms was not only a requirement by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but Pakistan needed it. He said, Pakistan was in defining moment, because it is going to determine the direction of the travel, and "we are very clear, about the direction of travel."

For homegrown economic reform agenda, he said, we will always consult our thinktanks in country and take foreign advice into consideration as we go forward. "it is neither offence nor defence. We need best brains who can guide and support us.

He said that it had been cleared by local as well as outside thinktanks that the moment Pakistan puts foot on paddle and growth rate crosses 4 percent, it runs out of dollars because of being import led economy, and resultantly the country is stuck in balance of payment position and therefore had to run back the lenders.

Hence, there is need to change it fundamentally towards an export led regime, he said adding even the loans and foreign direct investment (FDI) have to be export-led. He said, he had made it clear to the investors at a function by BYD that their initiatives related to electric vehicles and investments are welcome, but they have to manufacture and assemble them in Pakistan and export from here. Our export to GDP ratio is stuck at 10% and need to move it forward, he added.

He said the measures taken by the government were showing positive results as indicated by economic indicators adding the results coming out were not theory but could be witnessed practically by seeing results.

The minister said, there has been 29 percent increase in exports on year on year basis whereas inflation has decelerated from 38 percent to single digit and would going down further. He attributed these developments to leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and also lauded caretaker government for the purpose.

He said, following the decline in inflation, policy rate has also come down while Kibor also declined, which he said would have positive impact on industry. He said, large corporates were now borrowing at Kibor minus at around 15 to 16 percent.

Bodies of labourers killed in Panjgur sent to Multan

MULTAN (INP): The dead bodies of the seven labourers who were shot dead in Panjgur have been sent to Multan by helicopter.

On the instructions of the Chief Minister of Balochistan, a helicopter was provided to transfer the dead bodies to Multan. Earlier, the Balochistan government contacted the administration of Multan to make arrangements for receiving dead bodies.

Additional Chief Secretary, Commissioner, and Deputy Commissioner also reached the helipad.

However, the injured labourer has been shifted to Quetta CMH in the direction of Chief Minister Balochistan to provide better treatment facilities.

Gunmen Saturday night killed seven labourers and injured one in the Panjgur district of Balochistan. The incident occurred in the district's Khabadadan area.

The deceased are Sajid, Fiaz, Khalid, Shafeeq, Ifikhar, Salman, and Bilal, while the injured person's name is Ramzan. All the victims were residents of Shujabad tehsil of Multan district in Punjab.

Police and rescue teams reached the spot and shifted bodies and the injured to the hospital.

Law enforcers have launched a hunt for the killers.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi condemned the incident and extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

He said the perpetrators of such a brutal act will be dealt with an iron fist. The interior minister said he stood with the bereaved families in the hour of grief. He prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Condemning the brutal killings, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti said the killers will be brought to book at all costs.

PM congratulates Fazl on unopposed election as JUI-F chief

LONDON (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif on Sunday extended his congratulations to Maulana Fazlur Rehman on his unanimous and unopposed election as president of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) for the upcoming five-year term.

In his congratulatory message, the prime minister remarked that under Maulana Fazlur Rehman's leadership, JUI-F has always effectively represented the people.

The prime minister emphasized that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's election as the head of JUI-F will foster democratic values, also acknowledging his significant role in reinforcing the supremacy of Parliament in the country.

The prime minister expressed confidence that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's leadership and vision would undoubtedly elevate JUI-F to new heights.

Meanwhile, the prime minister also congratulated Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri on his election as the General Secretary of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl).

Pakistan flays Israel's growing adventurism

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns the growing Israeli adventurism in the Middle East. Its unbridled attacks on civilian populations and disregard of international law have reached alarming levels.

For the last several days, Israeli forces have engaged in unacceptable violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon,

relentlessly targeting civilian population centers, and undermining its stability and security. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of Israeli aggression and the people of Lebanon.

Yesterday's reckless act of killing the Secretary General of Hezbollah in Lebanon constitutes a major escalation in an already volatile region.

Pakistan continues to stand in solidarity with the people of Lebanon. We urge the United Nations Security Council to restrain Israel from its adventurism in the region and violations of international law; and to restore peace in the Middle East.

Lebanon's Hezbollah confirmed on Saturday that its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was killed in Israeli strikes that wipe out many Beirut buildings.

Russia downs over 100 Ukrainian drones in one of the largest barrages

KYIV, Ukraine (AP): More than 100 Ukrainian drones were shot down over Russia Sunday, officials said, sparking a wildfire and setting an apartment block alight in one of the largest barrages seen over Russian skies since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Russia's Ministry of Defense reported that it had shot down 125 drones overnight across seven regions.

The southwestern region of Volgograd came under particularly heavy fire, with 67 Ukrainian drones reportedly downed by Russian air defenses.

Seventeen drones were also seen over Russia's Voronezh region, where falling debris damaged an apartment block and a private home, said Gov. Aleksandr Gusev. Images on social media showed flames rising from the windows of the top floor of a high-rise building. No casualties were reported.

A further 18 drones

were reported over Russia's Rostov region, where falling debris sparked a wildfire, said Gov. Vasily Golubev.

He said that the fire did not pose a threat to populated areas, but that emergency services were fighting to extinguish the blaze, which had engulfed 20 hectares (49.4 acres) of forest.

Elsewhere, 16 civilians were injured in an overnight barrage on the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia after Ukrainian military leaders warned that Moscow could be preparing for a new military offensive in the country's south.

The city was targeted by Russian guide bombs in 10 separate attacks that damaged a high-rise building and several residential homes, regional Gov. Ivan Fedorov wrote on his official Telegram channel. More people could still be trapped beneath the rubble, he said.

Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy also said that the Zaporizhzhia attack had damaged the city's transport links. "Today, Russia struck Zaporizhzhia with aerial bombs. Ordinary residential buildings were damaged and the entrance of one building was destroyed. The city's infrastructure and railway were also damaged," Zelenskyy said in a post on X.

The Ukrainian leader appeared Sunday at a memorial service to make the 83rd anniversary of the Babyn Yar massacre, one of the most infamous mass slaughters of World War II.

Babyn Yar, a ravine in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, is where nearly 34,000 Jews were killed within 48 hours in 1941 when the city was under Nazi occupation.

"Babyn Yar is vivid proof of the atrocities that regimes are capable of when led by leaders who rely on intimidation and

violence. At any time, they are no different," Zelenskyy said in a statement. "But the world's response should be different. This is the lesson the world should have learned. We must guard humanity, life, and justice."

The Ukrainian military warned Saturday that Russian forces may be preparing for offensive operations in the wider Zaporizhzhia region. Vladyslav Voloshyn, spokesperson for Ukraine's southern military command, said that Russia was amassing personnel in this direction.

Ukraine's air force also reported that 22 Russian drones were launched over the country overnight. It said that 15 were shot down in Ukraine's Sumy, Vinnytsia, Mykolaiv, and Odessa regions, and that five more were destroyed using electronic defenses.

The fate of the remaining two drones was not specified.



BEIRUT: Site of the Israeli air strike that killed Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, in Beirut's southern suburbs on Sunday.

Israel pounds Lebanon, pressuring Hezbollah after killing its leader

JERUSALEM/BEIRUT (Reuters): Israel struck more targets in Lebanon on Sunday, pressing Hezbollah with new attacks after killing the Iran-backed group's leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and a string of its other top commanders in an escalating military campaign.

The attacks have dealt a stunning succession of blows to Hezbollah after almost a year of cross-border fire, killing much of its leadership and revealing gaping security holes. Israel's defence minister is now discussing widening the offensive.

Following the death of Nasrallah - killed in a massive airstrike in Beirut on Friday - Hezbollah fired new fusillades of rockets into Israel, while Iran said his death would be avenged.

Israel's intensifying bombardment has increased fears the conflict could spin out of control, potentially drawing in Iran as well as the United States, Israel's closest ally, which said on Sunday it has authorised its military to reinforce in the region while also urging a diplomatic resolution.

Nasrallah had not only made Hezbollah into a powerful domestic force in Lebanon during his 32 years as leader, but helped turn it into the linchpin of Iran's network of allied groups in the Arab world.

Nasrallah's body was recovered intact from the site of Friday's strike, a medical source and a security source told Reuters on Sunday. Hezbollah has not

yet said when his funeral will be held.

Supporters of the group and other Lebanese who hailed its role fighting Israel, which occupied south Lebanon for years, mourned him on Sunday.

"We lost the leader who gave us all the strength and faith that we, this small country that we love, could turn it into a paradise," said Lebanese Christian woman Sophia Blanche Rouillard, carrying a black flag to work in Beirut.

The fighting between Hezbollah and Israel, their latest round of warfare in four decades of on-off conflict, has been waged in parallel with Israel's war in Gaza against Hamas since the Iran-backed Palestinian group's attack on Israel last Oct. 7.

Israel's stated goal is to make its northern areas safe from Hezbollah rocket fire and allow thousands of displaced residents to return, but its strikes have also had a devastating impact on civilians in Lebanon.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said more than 1,000 Lebanese were killed and 6,000 wounded in the past two weeks, without saying how many were civilians. The government said a million people - a fifth of the population - had fled their homes.

The Health Ministry said 14 medics had been killed in airstrikes over the past two days.

In Beirut, some displaced families spent the night on the benches at Zaitunay Bay, a string of restaurants and cafes on Beirut's waterfront. On Sunday morning,

families with nothing more than a duffle bag of clothes had rolled out mats to sleep on and made tea for themselves.

"You won't be able to destroy us, whatever you do, however much you bomb, however much you displace people - we will stay here. We won't leave. This is our country and we're staying," said Francoise Azori, a Beirut resident jogging through the area.

The U.N. World Food Programme began an emergency operation to provide food for those affected by the conflict.

On Sunday Israel's military said the air force had struck dozens of targets including launchers and weapons stores while its navy said it had intercepted eight projectiles coming from the direction of Lebanon and one from the Red Sea.

More blasts rocked Beirut and drones could be heard flying over all parts of the Lebanese capital overnight and throughout the day on Sunday.

Nasrallah's death capped a traumatic fortnight for Hezbollah, starting with the detonation of thousands of communications devices used by its members. Israel was widely assumed to have carried out that action but has not confirmed or denied it did.

Israeli airstrikes across Hezbollah strongholds in south Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley near the Syrian border, and in Beirut's southern suburbs have meanwhile killed a string of the group's other most senior commanders.

On Sunday Israel said it had killed Nabil Kaouk, a prominent Hezbollah leader. Hezbollah confirmed his death.

ESCALATION RISKS

Concerns have grown about the prospect of a wider conflict. Israel has mobilized reserve brigades and says it is ready for all options, including a ground operation.

Hezbollah has said it will cease fire only when Israel's offensive in Gaza ends. Hamas and other Hezbollah allies issued statements mourning his death.

Diplomatic efforts have shown little sign of progress. Lebanon's Information Minister Ziad Makary said during a cabinet meeting on Sunday that efforts for a ceasefire were still underway.

The U.S., which has praised the killing of Nasrallah as a measure of justice for victims of Hezbollah attacks, on Sunday urged a peaceful resolution. White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said all-out war with Hezbollah or Iran would not help residents of northern Israel return to their homes.

"We believe that a diplomatic path is the right course," he said.

In Iran, which helped create Hezbollah in the early 1980s, senior figures mourned the death of a senior Revolutionary Guards member killed alongside Nasrallah, and Tehran called for a U.N. Security Council meeting on Israel's actions.

Pope wraps troubled Belgium visit

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP): Pope Francis wrapped up a troubled visit to Belgium on Sunday by doubling down on his traditional views on women and abortion and demanding that Catholic bishops stop covering up for predator priests — a scandal that has devastated the church's credibility around the globe.

Francis revisited the key thorny topics of his trip to Belgium during his in-flight press conference coming home, praising Belgium's late King Baudouin as a "saint" for having abdicated for a day in 1990 rather than sign legislation legalizing abortion.

"You need a politician who wears pants to do this," Francis said, using a Spanish expression. "You need courage," he said, adding that Baudouin's beatification process was moving along.

Francis drew criticism from some in Belgium for having prayed at Baudouin's tomb and for calling the abortion law "homicidal," given that abortion remains a political issue in Belgium, with new proposals to extend the legal limit on an abortion from 12 to 18 weeks.

Pakistan grieved

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Sunday expressed profound sadness and sorrow over the loss of lives and devastation caused by the heavy rains and flash floods in Nepal. "Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have lost loved ones and livelihood in the floods. Pakistan stands in solidarity with the government and people of Nepal in this moment of tragedy," a brief statement issued by the Foreign Office spokesperson said.

Reducing food waste religious, moral duty: Maryam

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on Sunday that reducing food waste was a religious and moral duty of all Pakistanis. In a message on the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, she said: "Food wastage is a global problem, which damages the economy and environment alike." She added, "It is depressing to note that millions of people around the world are suffering from hunger, while millions of tonnes of food is wasted globally."

The chief minister said, "Pakistan is also suffering from food wastage and shortage to some extent. Planning is needed to save resources from being wasted." Maryam Nawaz said, "Help the hungry people by reducing food wastage" adding that "An effective awareness campaign is necessary to prevent food wastage." She noted, "School nutrition programme in Punjab is a historic initiative to address malnutrition in children."

The CM said, "Proportionate consumption of food is inevitable, highlight the value of food in your community." She hoped, "Together we can save the natural resources of Pakistan."

Robber killed in encounter with police

LAHORE (APP): A suspected robber involved in dozens of incidents of robbery, abduction for ransom and murder was killed in an encounter when he was taken to Kahna on Sunday for recovery. The alleged bandit was identified as Jamil alias Jeela.

According to police, the accused was being taken to the hideouts of his accomplices when the police party was ambushed by the outlaws. Police retaliated the fired. As a result of exchange of fire, the under custody robber was killed in firing of his accomplices. Police shifted the body to hospital and launched a search operation for the arrest of the fleeing burglars. The deceased robber was involved in more than 72 incidents like murder, attempted murder and robbery, the police claimed.

Fake woman cop arrested at CCPO office

LAHORE (APP): A fake woman police officer reached the CCPO office on Sunday while wearing an ASP uniform. However, she was wearing fancy shoes along with the uniform, which made the police at the CCPO office suspicious. When she was questioned about her particulars, it was found out that she was a fake police officer. Civil Line Police took the woman into custody and registered a case. Father of the fake woman officer is a resident of Defence.

Over 200,000 criminals arrested in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Punjab police has arrested over 200,000 criminals across the province this year.

A Punjab police spokesperson said that this year over 100,000 proclaimed offenders were arrested across the province. Among the arrested, 16,700 were in Category A, and 84,807 were in Category B. Additionally, nearly 53,000 court absconders were apprehended, including 4,395 in Category A and 48,571 in Category B. During operations, more than 25,000 target offenders (habitual criminals) were also arrested, with 10,822 in Category A and 14,358 in Category B.

Over 80 proclaimed offenders, wanted in serious crimes, were also arrested from foreign countries and brought back to Pakistan. In the provincial capital, over 48,000 criminals were arrested, including 19,766 proclaimed offenders, 17,859 court absconders, and 10,609 target offenders (habitual criminals). IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar commended the police for their successful operations and directed them to intensify the crackdown.

Mohsin Naqvi meets Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi Sunday met Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren and congratulated him on China's National Day.

Chinese Consul General thanked Mohsin Naqvi for amendments made by the Ministry of Interior benefiting Chinese businessmen.

The interior minister said that under President Xi Jinping's leadership,

China has made significant progress. He called China Pakistan's most trustworthy and loyal friend, acknowledging China's historical role in stabilizing Pakistan's economy. China's speedy development is a role model for every nation around the world, he remarked.

Mohsin Naqvi emphasized Pakistan's pride in its time-tested friendship with China, citing the

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a milestone. He reaffirmed that Pakistan-China friendship will remain strong and enduring.

Zhao Shiren called Pakistan China's best friend and assured continued cooperation. During the meeting matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations were discussed. Senior consular officials were also present in the meeting.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren. —APP Photo

Police Colony Employees Cooperative Housing Society meeting ends

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The general body meeting of Police Colony Employees Cooperative Housing Society, scheduled for Sunday,

September 29, concluded without any meaningful discussion or resolution on the agenda items.

As soon as the meeting began, several members pointed out that the quorum was not met.

Subsequently, members and shareholders expressed reservations about the management committee's failure to solicit opinions.

Consequently, the meeting ended without any action being taken.

Minister issues instructions for Sikh pilgrims

LAHORE (APP): In the light of reports regarding exploitation of pilgrims visiting Pakistan to celebrate the birthday of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak Dev, the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC) and Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora have advised all pilgrims to carry cash in the US dollars and avoid paying any fees to group organisers who demand 'charges' for their pilgrimage.

He stated that PSGPC has received multiple complaints regarding unfavorable exchange rates for Indian currency during the visits of pilgrims to Pakistan.

The provincial minister further stated that due to the lack of formal diplomatic relations between India and

Pakistan, private money exchangers set their own exchange rates, resulting in significant losses for the visiting pilgrims.

It is noteworthy that groups from India are scheduled to arrive in Pakistan on November 14 and will return on November 23, following the celebration of Baba Nanak's 555th birthday at Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib, on November 15. During this period, they will also visit various other gurdwaras.

Ramesh Singh Arora advised the pilgrims to carry internationally recognized currency during their visit to Pakistan. "I advise Indian pilgrims to bring internationally recognized currency, especially US dollars, as they provide a more favorable exchange rate globally. This will help them avoid losses

while shopping, traveling, or giving offerings," he said.

He also addressed the issue of some group organizers demanding money in exchange for Pakistan pilgrimage visas, clarifying that they have received such complaints. However, he emphasised that the invitation sent clearly states that it is free of charge. He urged everyone to reject such demands.

On the other hand, Saifullah Khokhar, Additional Secretary (Shrines) of the Evacuee Trust Property Board, expressed concern over the money demands by group organizers, stating that their sincere objective is to eliminate such corruption. He assured that announcements will be made during the religious gathering in Nankana Sahib to ensure that innocent pilgrims are not exploited.

Punjab reports 79 new dengue cases

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Health Department on Sunday confirmed detection of 79 new dengue cases across the province, raising alarm over the spread of the virus.

Rawalpindi remained the most affected area, with 69 new cases reported, while Lahore recorded 3 cases. One case each was also reported in Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Attock, Mianwali, Sargodha, and Bahawalpur. Over the past week, 587 new cases have emerged, bringing the total number of infections in Punjab to 1,631 in 2024.

A spokesperson for the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department said that all necessary measures were in place to manage the outbreak. The government hospitals were stocked with essential medicines and treatments for dengue patients. The Health Department issued a public advisory, urging citizens to maintain clean and dry surroundings to curb the virus's spread. Public cooperation is crucial as health teams continue their efforts across the province to contain the outbreak.

World Heart Day celebrated

LAHORE (APP): The World Heart Day was observed here and across the globe on Sunday to create awareness about prevention and control of cardiovascular disease.

This year theme of the day is 'Use Heart for Action'. The day featured events aiming to raise awareness of cardiovascular diseases (CVD).

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), CVDs are the number one cause of death globally. Noted cardiovascular surgeon Dr. Parvaiz told APP that a healthy diet with a low quantity of fat, and weight reduction, can play an important role in the decrease in heart problems. People should avoid junk food, smoking and alcohol to live a healthy life," he said.

To a query Dr. Parvaiz told APP that people should have a balanced diet. To understand the importance of the heart in the human body and to keep it energised, people should increase consumption of fruits and vegetables, pulses, whole grains, nuts, limit the intake of sugar, limit salt consumption from all sources, he stressed.

PTI failed to invade Rawalpindi: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that after a flop show in Kahna, Lahore, the PTI failed to invade Rawalpindi.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, she said in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the situation was very alarming, with rampant kidnappings and the TTP setting properties ablaze. "Educational institutions are being closed, and the province's debt has skyrocketed to Rs630 billion," she said and urged KP CM Gandapur to stop playing the role of a "second-rate Maula Jatt" and instead focus on the welfare of the people of his province. She also questioned how much blood of innocent Punjabis would continue to be shed in Balochistan.

Azma said that in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the number of universities was being reduced from 32 to 12 due to a shortage of funds. "The number of non-functional schools has reached 543, and over 30,000 teaching positions are vacant. These people are wasting their province's resources on

rallies and protests. In contrast, Punjab is increasing its number of universities, building new IT universities, providing meal to children, and hiring thousands of teachers," she added.

"The blood of Punjabis is not cheap. Whenever someone from another province comes to Punjab, we welcome and protect them with open arms. Sadly, terrorism has increased in Balochistan. Together, we will defeat the conspiracy to pit Punjabis and Balochis against each other," she maintained.

She added that Gandapur wanted to incite violence between Pakhtuns and Punjabis. Why don't they protest in KPK? Protesting there would prevent the waste of public resources, she suggested. "People of Punjab have completely rejected them. Sheikh Waqas and Barrister Saif admitted that people in Punjab didn't come out to support them. Barrister Saif doesn't leave his house, hiding in his bunker, but keeps issuing statements," she added.

The Punjab information

minister added that people of Punjab are happy with their Chief Minister and do not want to be a part of any trouble-making scheme. She also mentioned that Gandapur talked about firing bullets in Punjab. "I want to tell him that bullets are already being fired in KP, where the Taliban roam freely. In Gandapur's area, D.I. Khan, son of a DSP was kidnapped and killed, and TTP members are setting properties on fire, yet no one is held accountable. The KP CM has never called a meeting on law and order," she maintained.

She pointed out that Aleema Khan had told a judge that she wanted to participate in protests, and she was escorted there with full protocol. "Their facilitators should realize that these people use human rights and democracy as a cover for terrorism. From the attack on parliament to May 9, whenever they've had the opportunity, they've resorted to terrorism. They want to sabotage the upcoming SCO summit with their disruptive tactics," she added.

CCPO orders timely submission of challans

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana presided over a meeting at his office to review progress on pending road certificates and challans.

He directed supervisory officers to ensure the timely submission of all pending certificates and challans to the courts. He emphasised the need for all officers to work as a team to efficiently handle the workload to better serve the people.

The CCPO ordered the divisional SPs (Investigation) to improve

their performance and instructed senior officers to supervise the investigation staff, ensuring proper record completion for all ongoing investigations. He stressed that there should be no legal deficiencies in the challans and police files.

Mr Kamyana ordered to maintain close liaison between the police and prosecutors. The CCPO also ordered for strict action against fake medico-legal certificates. He instructed supervisory officers to regularly check crime diaries and follow up on pending cases on daily

basis. He urged the Divisional SPs to focus on the quality of investigations, conducting them professionally and on merit.

The CCPO also reaffirmed that providing legal relief is the primary responsibility of the police.

DIG (Investigations) Zeeshan Asghar, DIG (Organized Crime Unit) Imran Kishwar, DIG (Operations) Faisal Kamran, SSP (Investigations) Muhammad Naveed, SSP (Operations) Tassawar Iqbal, Divisional SPs (Investigations) and SP (AVLS) attended the meeting.



KARACHI: Machinery in use to repair the pipeline of Pak-Arab Refinery Company Ltd at Korangi Road. —APP Photo

Rana Mashhood urges youth to play role

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan on Sunday urged the talented youth of the country to persist in their efforts to build a prosperous and stable Pakistan.

Talking to the media here, he emphasised the importance of hard work and dedication, encouraging young people to actively contribute to society and create opportunities for themselves and others. He added that by focusing their

skills and pursuing their goals, the youth can significantly contribute to creating a better future for Pakistan.

Rana Mashhood while delivering encouraging news for the youth, announced that a successful deal has been reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which has led various countries to express their readiness to invest in Pakistan.

Rana Mashhood elaborated that had this deal not materialized, Pakistan could have faced a dire situation

similar to that of Syria, Libya, or Iraq. He praised the Prime Minister for his relentless efforts to promote a positive image of Pakistan on the global stage, viewing this as a crucial step toward the country's development.

The PMYP Chairman commended the hard work of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, highlighting her dedication to public service. He noted that she is tirelessly working for the peoples' welfare while upholding her father's legacy.

Governor House helpine 1366 providing maximum facilities

KARACHI (PPI): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori emphasized the crucial role played by industrialists, traders, and businesspersons in the development of Pakistan's economy, particularly highlighting the contribution of the Memon community.

Speaking at the International Memon-to-Memon Business Conference, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan

Tessori noted that industrialists and business leaders from the Memon community are at the forefront of Pakistan's progress toward becoming a prosperous and developed nation.

The conference, attended by delegates, prominent industrialists, traders, and businesspeople from around the world, provided a platform for discussing economic growth and investment opportunities.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori acknowledged the significant contribution of the Memon community in social and welfare projects across multiple countries, including Pakistan. He further praised the leadership of the community for organizing such a remarkable event to bring together leading Memon business figures from around the globe.

Governor Sindh Kamran

Khan Tessori also assured that all investors attending the conference would be provided with every possible facility through Governor House's helpline 1366, dedicated to supporting investors and ensuring smooth business operations.

In his media address following the event, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori reiterated the indispensable role of the Memon community in

Pakistan's economic growth, stating, "Without the Memon community, Pakistan's progress would have been far slower."

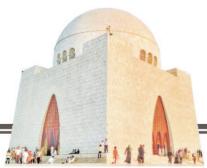
He emphasized the need to present Pakistan's economy in a better light globally and urged overseas Pakistani businesspeople to act as ambassadors for the country. "We must make Pakistan the first choice for foreign investors," he said, inviting international

investors to explore the opportunities in the country.

In response to a question regarding Karachi's security situation, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori acknowledged that crime exists everywhere, including Karachi, but assured that the police are performing their duties diligently. He called for collective efforts to further improve the situation. Addressing a ques-

tion on Independent Power Producers (IPPs), he remarked, "They have earned enough, and now it's time to give back to the country and its people."

At the conclusion of the event, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori presented shields to local and international business leaders, including Aqeel Karim Dhedhi, in recognition of their contributions to the economy.



Governor, CM condemns killing of innocent labourers

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori while condemning the killing of 7 labourers in Panjgur, has said we will have to rigorously deal with those, who are killing people on the basis of race, province, religion and beliefs. He said that the labor-

ers were brutally killed, who traveled to feed their families.

Tessori said that those, who brutally kill workers should be severely punished.

'Every citizen of Pakistan has the right to go and work in any city he wants,' he said.

The Governor also expressed his condolences to the bereaved families of the victims.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has condemned, the killing of innocent laborers in Panjgur, here on Sunday.

He said that such incidents were a conspiracy to increase hatred and harm to national unity, according to a CM's spokesman.

The Chief Minister said this nation had seen major incidents of terrorism but did not allow to affect the national unity.

He also expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased labourers.



KARACHI: Machinery in use to repair pipeline of Pak-Arab Refinery Company Ltd at Korangi Road.

‘The Carnivore’ launched

KARACHI (APP): After the resounding success of its branches in Islamabad, Lahore and Riyadh The Carnivore – Baked Meat Restaurant opened its doors here earlier on Sunday in a grand launch event.

Among the notables spotted at the event were Consul General Italy Danilo Giurdanel, Vice Consul General Kuwait Abdullah M. Almansour, Hon. Consul General Morocco Ishtiaq Baig, Sheema Kermani, Ameena Saiyid, Seemi Pasha, Angie Marshal, Tapu Javeri, Asim Battal, Aziz Hasan, Shamyil Mooraj, Kamran Sani, Marzi, Munaf, Ahmed Godil, Javed Iqbal, Satish Anand, Jawed Khan, Nina Kashif, Obaid Sheikh, Rasikh Ismail, Sabira Tapal, Sajeeruddin, Hasan Rizvi, Maya Khan, Zubia Motiwala, Shuja Sami, Captain Aqeel, Asad Siddiqui, Usman Mazhar and Ahmed Chinoy.

PIA flight makes emergency landing in Jinnah Airport

KARACHI (INP): A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight travelling from Muscat to Peshawar encountered a technical fault, leading to an emergency landing at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport.

The Airbus A320, experiencing a sudden malfunction, dropped rapidly from 36,000 feet to 8,000 feet within minutes. The pilot immediately declared an emergency to Air Traffic Control (ATC) and radar, ensuring the safe descent and landing of the plane.

Airport officials confirmed that the emergency landing was successfully executed, and no passengers were harmed.

Investigations into the cause of the technical fault are ongoing.

Govt pursuing zero tolerance policy

KARACHI (PPI): The government is pursuing zero tolerance policy towards smuggling, hoarding, power and gas pilferage.

The measures under the Special Investment Facilitation Council, effective from September last year, have resulted in scores of

arrests and recoveries of billions of rupees. Smuggling of overall 13,089 metric ton fertilizer and its illegal movement was foiled.

Preventing the smuggling of essential items, authorities seized 35,124 metric tons of sugar and 3,552 metric tons wheat and

flour. To control the black market of Textile, 154,022 rolls of cloth were seized.

Seventeen million liter Iranian oil was also seized during the crackdown against smuggling, which stabilized the fuel market. During operations against gas theft, law enforcement agencies disconnected over three thousand domestic gas connections. These initiatives by the government in collaboration with the SIFC reflect the government's commitment to upholding the rule of law and protecting Pakistan's economy.



PAKISTAN AIR FORCE

OPEN TENDER NOTICES

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

DP AIR C/O PAF BASE NUR KHAN RAWALPINDI								
S. NO	IT No.	NSN / PT No / Noun	Line Item	U/I Qty	CAT	Opening Date	Time Period for Performance of Contract	Closing + Opening Time
01	436952/P-43	Proc of Vision equipment for Establishment of Multi Domain OPS room (NDOR) at PAF, ACE	03	EA-Var	Pak Rs	15-10-24	Within 02-03 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
02	448399/P-44	Main and Nose Tyres for T-37 Aircraft	02	Various	FE	30-10-24	As per IT documents	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
Contact Person / Ph No for Detail: For S. No 1 ADP-43 (Pre) 051-9281363, For S. No 2 ADP-44 051-9281364								

CORRIGENDUM OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE						
S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in Opening Date		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
			FOR	READ		
01	415206/P-41 (Cancellation)	Proc of Main and Nose Tyres for T-37 Aircraft	02-10-24	Cancelled	Daily Express & The Frontier Post Dated: 02-09-24	Cancelled in toto
02	415109/P-41 (Extension)	GOH of MI-171 Helicopter	24-09-24	09-10-24	Daily Ausaf and Pakistan Observer Dated: 26-08-24	Opening date has been extended
03	436895/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Baseband development Lab Kit	24-09-24	09-10-24	Daily Express & The Frontier Post Dated: 09-09-24	Opening date has been extended
04	436900/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of TDL MCOC Hardware	24-09-24	09-10-24	Daily Express & The Frontier Post Dated: 09-09-24	Opening date has been extended

CORRIGENDUM OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE						
S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in INCOTERM		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
			FOR	READ		
01	415203/P-41 (Amendment)	Proc of Tyres for IL-78 AAR	CPT	CIP Islamabad	Daily Express & The Frontier Post Dated: 02-09-24	Incoterm has been amended. Opening date will remain the same i.e. 01-10-24.

1. Instructions / Guidelines for participating in Tenders and complete specifications can be downloaded from PAF website i.e. www.paf.gov.pk under the heading "Media" "PAF Ads" 'General Instructions DP (Air) Suppliers' (for guidelines to participate in tenders).

2. ITs documents can be obtained in soft copy via request letter through e-mail address to (pa05@paf.gov.pk).

3. Firms, un-registered/un-indexed with DGDP interested to participate in the competition on Earnest Money are required to provide financial capability (minimum 6 months Bank Statements) proof of go down and manufacturer / stockist, 02 photocopies of NIC of the owner in case of FOR tenders and agency agreement with OEM along with the request. Request for issuance of IT will be entertained 07 days before opening date of tender.

4. A treasury Challan of Rs 2,000/- debitable to Main Head XLVII Main Head XII Sub Head A is required to be submitted by the un-registered/un-indexed firms along with the request.

5. Tender Notice is also available on PPRA website i.e. www.ppra.org.pk.

NO 102 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG)	021-99547235/7242
Well Type Alluminizing Furnace (SE AS Req), Steel Rack Small, Steel Rack Large, Fire Suppression System (Ea As Req), Bakelite Sheet (SF As Req), Engine Harness Protective Duct (MR As Req), 9MC 201 Potentio Meter, Muffler Air Exhaust 4, UV Light Meter (DM-365XA) (Ea As Req), Note:- For further Information or any technical assistance, please contact on Phone No 021-99547242, Mobile No 0307- 3267493, (For specifications consultant) Ext 7242, 7286, 7235	
AHQ (U) PESHAWAR (LOG)	091-950-6890
SPDT Electromech Relay 4 GH 12, Oil Engine (API: C14, SAE 15W40), Mechanical Assy A/C Hud Camera, DC Line Filter (EMI/EMC), 22 Pins Connector (Male), 12 MM Lens Marshal Electronic, Absorptive Nd Filter (Ea As Req), NOTE:- Commercial and Technical quotations must be submitted as per single stage two envelope procedure. Detail specification may be obtained from Log Sqn AHQ (U), Peshawar, Tel: 091-9506895, Mobile: 0323-9403226	
PAF HOSPITAL ISLAMABAD (LOG)	051-9505818
Local Purchase of items: Hand Piece Probe, Board Assembly, Local Repair of items: Anesthesia Work Station (infernum), Video Colposcope, Shortwave Diathermy, Air Compressor, Only seperately Quotes - Technical / Financial acceptable. Detail of Items / Specification / Scope of work may be obtained from Log Flt PAF Hospital Islamabad during working hours. For queries Tel No 051-9505818 may be contacted	

PAF BASE, MM ALAM (LOG)	0459-232051
Sealed tenders are invited for Supply of items: - 1. AC Split 1.5 Ton and 2 Ton Split Floor standing unit Note: Detail specification may be obtained from Officer-in-charge Log Sqn PAF Base MM Alam Tel: 03223145052, Validity of rates minimum up to 90 days are to ensure; Quotation, having validity less than 90 days, will be rejected. EDD & Warranty period should be clearly mention on quotation, For any query, please contact Tel No. 0459-232051 (Ext 2273/5677), Mobile: 0322-3145052	
AHQs (U) ISLAMABAD (LOG)	051-9505556
High Power Combiner, (NOTE:- Separate Quotation (Technical And Financial) For Each Line Item Is Required) (As Req), For details / specifications / scope of work please contact Log Sqn on Mobile No: 0323-9408714, Phone No. 051-9505556, Email : Lsaq05@Paf.gov.Pk	
PAF BASE NUR KHAN (LOG)	051-952-3875
PAD Track SHOE, Environmental Hut, HYD Fluid (ROYC0777), Solvent Dry Cleaning (1CAN=5GAL), Batteries Maintenance Free All Make/Model Upto 220 AMP, Hiring Crane 25/30 Ton Boom 100 Feet With Straps, Hooks & All Accessories At Rawla Kot Azad Kashmir With Transportation (Rawalpindi To Rawlakot & Back), SEALANT (PR1440B 1/2) (Ea As Req), Note: - Technical Specifications for LP items and Scope of work for Local repair can be obtained from Logistics Squadron (Mobile:- 0323-9415715), For further information please contact on phone No (051) 952-3875	

PAF BASE MUSHAF (SARGODHA) (LOG)	048-5552277
Local Purchase of Paint Thickness Measuring Equipment, Local Repair of MRI System (SOW: Routine Preventive Periodic Maintenance is Required), Local Pruchase of All Types of Smart & Non Smart LEDs (32 inches to 95 Inches), Local Pruchase of Tonner Accurio Print 2100, Local Purchase of Double Magazine Pouch (M-16MAGZ) (Ea As Req), Note: Detailed Specifications can be obtained from Log Sqn Mushaf (Sargodha) on telephone 048-555-2278	
NO 107 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG)	021-99547321
6625NLS-IS-205M4 Air Motor (ENT Diagnostic Unit), 6625PK0217120 Temperature Sensor (Infant Incubator), 6625NL-20150103 Main Board (Ultrasound Machine Bioxy Probe), 6625NL-17014 Battery (Suction Machine), 120-08011-0000 LSI DME Range CKT (KTU-709 Tacan Transceiver), 5825NL-BW-S6W5 Attenuator 6DB5 WAT TNC SMAM/F, NOTE: For further technical Information, specification and company make, model, please contact Tel No. 021-9954-7321, 9954-7379	

PAF BASE SHAHBAZ (LOG)	0722-670454
Stainless Steel Barrel, Stainless Steel Jerry Cane, Printer Color Laser Jet M5225CP, Technical & commercial quotations must he packed separately and sealed properly. Specs may be obtained from Log Sqn at 0323-9439712; 0309-8925565 & Office No 0722-670454 Ext 2257	
PAF BASE BHOLARI (LOG)	03239431714
Jammer Cell (Mob) Phone (Qty 02), DC Power Supply (CPX220)(Qty 01), Tow Bar (PT No 01-1201-0010) Tronair (Qty 01 Ea, Head Tow Bar (Pt No 01-0545-0011), Tronair (Qty 01 La), Insulation Multimeter (Fluke 1587) (Qty 01 Ea), Transportation Trolley (Qty 02 Ea) (L53", W=30", H=18" Four Wheeler with manual Brakes) (As Req), Add: (Officer In charge, Logistics Squadron, PAF Base Bholari Hyderabad (Send Via Leopard Courier Service or Pakistan Post Only Preferably 'Single Stage Two Envelope procedure vide PPRA Rule 36(b)) For details / specifications please contact on Tel: 022-9501500 Ext 2287 and Cell No 03239431714. (All parts Nos as required or equivalent)	
NO 103 ALC PAF BASE NUR KHAN	051-952-7081
Reach Truck (Snorkal), Servicing required. Operating Card U/S, 5961NL-SE-USB-SERV-24G USB Over IP, AIR 40A ESC AIR 40, E62-TTL- 1W Data Link E-62, EWMRSA0882 Matek Regular, U5-400KV Motor U-5 (Brushless 400KV), UB8501H-HDMI-E HDMI to Ethernet Encoder, 15000084 DC Jack 2 Pin, 20DBGPS GPS Mount, E15-USB-TTL USB to TTL Module for Datalink, E-SG-1 321 RF Switch ON/OFF 3-Position Switch, EW-FX-HDMI-PAPER HDMI cable for HD Video, NHEW-200MCX65 Top Battery Cover, N-MMCX-RG316-6IN N Type Male to MMCX Cable, PE3662LF-36 N Type to SMA Male Cable, S30PBATRLMIC RMELIC Battery, TRD695DSZ-BLK-1 Ethernet CORD 12", 5962PK0019308 GPS Module with Pedestal, CP-AL-000025 DJI Light bright Air End, RG223-N Input Coaxial Cable, 362000007-0 Rmelic R447 NB 20 CH RXR, HT5FI800B Battery, 264317-3 Aviator Google Banana Mount, 265030-3 Helmet Mount Bracket Kit, SM-C-806612 Purge Valves, MS9021-002 Purge Valve O-Ring, 5002539 Screw, 0008-B00004 Compact Flash, 0008-B00647 Compact Flash Reader, B-109804 HDMI Cable, 0330-100350 DTC Reader Carc, 0330-100351 DCT Port Ver 2.1 PCB, 0008-130760 USB Cable, B-103721 AVM Switch, 0008-130660 VGA Cable, 0330-200300 DVR Reader, B-098198 KVM Adopter, 0168-B00003 Mount Bracket GPS MAP 296 (EA As Req), For any query or additional information, please contact on Tele No. (051-952-7081-82)	
NO 105 AED PAF BASE MALIR	TEL EXT 7323
Bomb Lifting / Mobility Device (As Req), Note : Quotations must be inclusive of all taxes, Tel Ext. 7323	
PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG)	835-3870
LP of Split AC 2 Ton and 1.5 T Reversible / Non Reversible /Cool only (DC Inverter), LP of FIXED IP CAMERA, LP of 4-120 MM PTZ CAMERA, LP of PTZ IP BASED CAMERA, Note: Quotation Submitted As Per PPRA Rule (36B), For Further Information, Contact on Under mentioned Numbers Landline No – 835-3870 / Contact No: - 0323-9435715	

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. General terms and conditions are mentioned in tender form (F-528A). Forms and tender notices complete details can be downloaded from PAF website "www.paf.gov.pk" or can be obtained from respective Bases/ Log Sqns on working days.

2. The firm must be GST and professional Tax registered having NTN.

3. Last date of submission of tenders: **15 OCTOBER, 2024 (1000 hrs).**

4. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1100 hours.

5. No advance payment will be made and payment will be subject to acceptance of the items by user activity.

6. Officers Commanding of the mentioned Bases/ Units reserve the right to reject any part or the entire tender on technical grounds.

7. Quotations must be valid for 90 days.

8. Sales Tax as applicable must be mentioned separately.

9. Guarantee / Warranty term / period should also be mentioned.

10. The agreement will be governed by official secret act. 1923.

<http://www.paf.gov.pk>



Knowledge, strategy vital to face existing challenges: Ahsan

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said on Sunday that combination of knowledge and strategy was imperative to face challenges of the modern times.

Addressing the annual alumni convention at Jamia-tur-Rasheed here, he said that Islam had started an era of knowledge and Holy Quran was revealed on Last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), which proved the importance of knowledge. He said that Holy Quran provided a complete code of life. He said it was very unfortunate that Muslim Ummah rank very low in world index of knowledge.

He said, "A country with a population of 10 million has made 2 billion population of Muslims helpless. We see

daily on television that how Israel is inflicting violence on Muslim population." Ahsan said that it was high time to think over it what had made a country with 10 million population so powerful. The minister said, "We are lacking in knowledge and implementation." There was a time when Muslims were ruling in almost all fields of life, but after decline of Baghdad and Muslim Spain, things changed, he recalled. Biggest challenge was to bring back Muslims towards knowledge and research, he added.

The minister said that incompetent persons always cause failure, and to be dependent on western countries was not the right approach at all. He said that successful nations always emerge from peace and stability, adding that

chaos and weak financial resources lead to further problems. He said there was dire need to promote peace and firmly hold the vision under which Pakistan was created. Ahsan Iqbal said it was very important for Muslims to strategise things. He said that today's biggest threat was misinformation and social media was being used for spreading it and added that if respect of state institutions would be compromised, it would only weaken the country.

Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan was the only Islamic country with an atomic power, adding that enemy of Pakistan could not digest this thing. He said that with the grace of Allah Almighty, Pakistan's armed forces were fully capable to foil nefarious designs of anti-state elements.

CM condemns killing of innocent labourers

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Sunday strongly condemned the shooting incident in Panjgur that resulted in the deaths of seven innocent laborers.

Expressing her deep sorrow over the tragic loss of life, she conveyed her heartfelt condolences to the grieving families affected by this senseless act of violence.

The CM expressed her solidarity with the families during this difficult time, affirming that the government stands with them and would support them in their time of need.

Mewanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has underscored the pressing issue of food wastage, highlighting it as a significant global challenge that negatively impacts both the economy and the environment.

In her message on the International Awareness Day for Food Loss and Waste being observed on Sunday, the CM emphasizing the need for urgent action to address this critical concern.

The CM highlighted that millions of people worldwide suffer from hunger while millions of tons of food go to waste. She noted that Pakistan was also grappling with food loss and scarcity to some extent.

The chief minister declared that reducing food waste was not only a moral and religious obligation but also essential for effective resource management. She stressed the need for careful planning to prevent resources from being wasted, which could help support those affected by hunger.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren.

79 new dengue cases reported

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Department on Sunday confirmed detection of 79 new dengue cases across the province.

Rawalpindi remained the most affected area, with 69 new cases reported, while Lahore recorded 3 cases.

One case each was also reported in Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Attock, Mianwa-

ali, Sargodha, and Rahimyar Khan. Over the past week, 587 new cases have emerged, bringing the total number of infections in Punjab to 1,631 in 2024.

A spokesperson for the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department said that all necessary measures were in place to manage the outbreak. The government hospitals were stocked with essential medicines and treatments for dengue patients.

The Health Department issued a public advisory, urging citizens to maintain clean and dry surroundings to curb the virus's spread. Public cooperation is crucial as health teams continue their efforts.



PAKISTAN AIR FORCE

OPEN TENDER NOTICES

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

DP AIR C/O PAF BASE NUR KHAN RAWALPINDI							NO 101 ALC, PAF BASE FAISAL (LP) 021-99547040		PAF BASE SHAHBAZ (LOG) 0722-670454	
S. NO	IT No.	NSN / PT No / Noun	Line Item	U/I / Qty	CAT	Opening Date	Time Period for Performance of Contract	Closing + Opening Time	Stainless Steel Barrel, Stainless Steel Jerry Cane, Printer Color Laser Jet M5225CP, Technical & commercial quotations must be packed separately and sealed properly. Specs may be obtained from Log Sqn at 0323-9439712; 0309-8925565 & Office No 0722-670454 Ext 2257	
01	436952/P-43	Proc of Vision equipment for Establishment of Multi Domain OPS room (NDOR) at PAF, ACE	03	EA-Var	Pak Rs	15-10-24	Within 02-03 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs		
02	448399/P-44	Main and Nose Tyres for T-37 Aircraft	02	Various	FE	30-10-24	As per IT documents	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs		
Contact Person / Ph No for Detail: For S. No 1 ADP-43 (Pre) 051-9281363, For S. No 2 ADP-44 051-9281364										
CORRIGENDUM OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE										
S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in Opening Date		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS		REMARKS			
			FOR	READ						
01	415206/P-41 (Cancellation)	Proc of Main and Nose Tyres for T-37 Aircraft	02-10-24	Cancelled	Daily Express & The Frontier Post	Dated: 02-09-24	Cancelled in toto			
02	415109/P-41 (Extension)	GOH of MI-171 Helicopter	24-09-24	09-10-24	Daily Ausaf and Pakistan Observer	Dated: 26-08-24	Opening date has been extended			
03	436895/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Baseband development Lab Kit	24-09-24	09-10-24	Daily Express & The Frontier Post	Dated: 09-09-24	Opening date has been extended			
04	436900/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of TDL MCOC Hardware	24-09-24	09-10-24	Daily Express & The Frontier Post	Dated: 09-09-24	Opening date has been extended			
CORRIGENDUM OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE										
S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in INCOTERM		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS		REMARKS			
			FOR	READ						
01	415203/P-41 (Amendment)	Proc of Tyres for IL-78 AAR	CPT	CIP Islamabad	Daily Express & The Frontier Post	Dated: 02-09-24	Incoterm has been amended. Opening date will remain the same i.e. 01-10-24.			
<p>1. Instructions / Guidelines for participating in Tenders and complete specifications can be downloaded from PAF website i.e. www.paf.gov.pk under the heading "Media" "PAF Ads" 'General Instructions DP (Air) Suppliers' (for guidelines to participate in tenders).</p> <p>2. ITs documents can be obtained in soft copy via request letter through e-mail address to (pa05@paf.gov.pk).</p> <p>3. Firms, un-registered/un-indexed with DGDP interested to participate in the competition on Earnest Money are required to provide financial capability (minimum 6 months Bank Statements) proof of go down and manufacturer / stockist, 02 photocopies of NIC of the owner in case of FOR tenders and agency agreement with OEM along with the request. Request for issuance of IT will be entertained 07 days before opening date of tender.</p> <p>4. A treasury Challan of Rs 2,000/- debitable to Main Head XLVII Main Head XII Sub Head A is required to be submitted by the un-registered/un-indexed firms along with the request.</p> <p>5. Tender Notice is also available on PPRA website i.e. www.ppra.org.pk.</p>										
NO 102 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG) 021-99547235/7242							PAF BASE, MM ALAM (LOG) 0459-232051			
Well Type Alluminizing Furnace (SE AS Req), Steel Rack Small, Steel Rack Large, Fire Suppression System (Ea As Req), Bakelite Sheet (SF As Req), Engine Harness Protective Duct (MR As Req), 9MC 201 Potentio Meter, Muffler Air Exhaust 4, UV Light Meter (DM-365XA) (Ea As Req), Note:- For further Information or any technical assistance, please contact on Phone No 021-99547242, Mobile No 0307- 3267493, (For specifications consultant) Ext 7242, 7286, 7235							Sealed tenders are invited for Supply of items: - 1. AC Split 1.5 Ton and 2 Ton Split Floor standing unit Note: Detail specification may be obtained from Officer-in-charge Log Sqn PAF Base MM Alam Tel: 03223145052, Validity of rates minimum up to 90 days are to ensure; Quotation, having validity less than 90 days, will be rejected. EDD & Warranty period should be clearly mention on quotation, For any query, please contact Tel No. 0459-232051 (Ext 2273/5677), Mobile: 0322-3145052			
AHQ (U) PESHAWAR (LOG) 091-950-6890							AHQs (U) ISLAMABAD (LOG) 051-9505556			
SPDT Electromech Relay 4 GH 12, Oil Engine (API: C14, SAE 15W40), Mechanical Assy A/C Hud Camera, DC Line Filter (EMI/EMC), 22 Pins Connector (Male), 12 MM Lens Marshal Electronic, Absorptive Nd Filter (Ea As Req), NOTE:- Commercial and Technical quotations must be submitted as per single stage two envelope procedure. Detail specification may be obtained from Log Sqn AHQ (U), Peshawar, Tel: 091-9506895, Mobile: 0323-9403226							High Power Combiner, (NOTE:- Separate Quotation (Technical And Financial) For Each Line Item Is Required) (As Req), For details / specifications / scope of work please contact Log Sqn on Mobile No: 0323-9408714, Phone No. 051-9505556, Email : Lsaq05@Paf.gov.Pk			
PAF HOSPITAL ISLAMABAD (LOG) 051-9505818							PAF BASE NUR KHAN (LOG) 051-952-3875			
Local Purchase of items: Hand Piece Probe, Board Assembly, Local Repair of items: Anesthesia Work Station (infernium), Video Colposcope, Shortwave Diathermy, Air Compressor, Only seperately Quotes - Technical / Financial acceptable. Detail of Items / Specification / Scope of work may be obtained from Log Flt PAF Hospital Islamabad during working hours. For queries Tel No 051-9505818 may be contacted							PAD Track SHOE, Environmental Hut, HYD Fluid (ROYC0777), Solvent Dry Cleaning (1CAN=5GAL), Batteries Maintenance Free All Make/Model Upto 220 AMP, Hiring Crane 25/30 Ton Boom 100 Feet With Straps, Hooks & All Accessories At Rawla Kot Azad Kashmir With Transportation (Rawalpindi To Rawlakot & Back), SEALANT (PR1440B 1/2) (Ea As Req), Note: - Technical Specifications for LP items and Scope of work for Local repair can be obtained from Logistics Squadron (Mobile:- 0323-9415715), For further information please contact on phone No (051) 952-3875			

<http://www.paf.gov.pk>

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

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- The firm must be GST and professional Tax registered having NTN.
- Last date of submission of tenders: **15 OCTOBER, 2024 (1000 hrs)**.
- Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1100 hours.
- No advance payment will be made and payment will be subject to acceptance of the items by user activity.
- Officers Commanding of the mentioned Bases/ Units reserve the right to reject any part or the entire tender on technical grounds.
- Quotations must be valid for 90 days.
- Sales Tax as applicable must be mentioned separately.
- Guarantee / Warranty term / period should also be mentioned.
- The agreement will be governed by official secret act. 1923.



Police, CTD carry out search operation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police conducted a grand search and combing operation on Sunday in the jurisdiction of Secretariat police station. According to police statement, under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city.

Following these directions Superintendent of Police City zone Khalid Mehmood Awan, a grand search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Secretariat police station by ICT Police teams including Counter Terrorism Department and lady police teams, he said.

He said during the search operation, 53 suspicious individuals, 15 houses and 06 hotels were checked. Five suspicious individuals and seven unregistered vehicles were taken to the police station for legal proceedings, he added.

DIG Syed Ali Raza said that the search and combing operations were conducted to heighten security in the federal capital, he said. All zonal officers were directed to continue these operations in their respective areas as well, he added.

Citizens are also requested to cooperate

with the police during the checking and report any suspicious activity or information through the emergency helpline "Pucar-15" or via the "ICT-15" app for immediate assistance.

Police nab 25 criminals, narcotics, weapons seized: Islamabad Police apprehended 25 criminals involved in different criminal activities, including drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons in different raids during last 24 hours.

A public relations officer told APP on Sunday that police teams also recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession.

In this regard, the Islamabad Police Aabpara, Sumbal, Tarnol, Sangjani, Industrial Area, Noon, Shams Colony and Koral police station teams took legal action against accused involved in drug peddling, selling liquor and possessing illegal weapons, he said.

Police teams arrested 13 accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons and recovered 1,375-gram heroin, 3,500-gram hashish, 110-gram Ice, 10 Liters of liquor, two daggers and five pistols with ammunition from their possession. Moreover, 12 absconders were also arrested during the last 24 hours, he added.

Gilani condemns attack on laborers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, on Sunday, strongly condemned the tragic shooting incident in Panjgur, where miscreants opened fire on laborers. Expressing deep sorrow over the loss of lives, he extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased laborers and prayed for the departed souls.

He said that the unjustified killing of innocent laborers is against all human values, and those responsible for this heinous act deserve no leniency. "In this moment of grief, I stand in solidarity with the bereaved families," he said.

Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan, leader of the House Senator Ishaq Dar, and leader of the opposition Senator Shibli Faraz also condemned the brutal attack in Panjgur, expressing their outrage over the tragic incident.



ISLAMABAD: Participants take part in 8th edition of ‘Save Tomorrow’ Run & Walk.

Three dacoit gang busted

ISLAMABAD (APP): ICT Police conducted a grand and major search and combing operation within the jurisdiction of the Industrial Area Police Station, arresting three members of a gang involved in robberies. The operation was conducted under the special directions of IG Police

Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, as part of an intensified crackdown on criminal elements aimed at eliminating crime in the capital.

He said the Industrial Area Police team arrested the suspects during the operation, who were involved in street robberies across sectors I-8, I-9, I-10, H-8, and IJ Principal Road.

He said that 16 snatched mobile phones, worth millions of rupees, were recovered, along with a motorcycle used in the incidents and arms with ammunition.

The arrested suspects were identified as Kamran Zeeshan, and Saad Mahmood. He said the accused have revealed that they have committed several incidents.

He said that DIG Syed Ali Raza appreciated the police team for their successful operation and assured that all legal formalities would be completed to ensure the accused are brought to justice.



PAKISTAN AIR FORCE OPEN TENDER NOTICES

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

DP AIR C/O PAF BASE NUR KHAN RAWALPINDI									
S. NO	IT No.	NSN / PT No / Noun	Line Item	U/I / Qty	CAT	Opening Date	Time Period for Performance of Contract	Closing + Opening Time	
01	436952/P-43	Proc of Vision equipment for Establishment of Multi Domain OPS room (NDOR) at PAF, ACE	03	EA-Var	Pak Rs	15-10-24	Within 02-03 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs	
02	448399/P-44	Main and Nose Tyres for T-37 Aircraft	02	Various	FE	30-10-24	As per IT documents	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs	

Contact Person / Ph No for Detail: For S. No 1 ADP-43 (Pre) 051-9281363, For S. No 2 ADP-44 051-9281364

CORRIGENDUM OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE						
S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in Opening Date		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
			FOR	READ		
01	415206/P-41 (Cancellation)	Proc of Main and Nose Tyres for T-37 Aircraft	02-10-24	Cancelled	Daily Express & The Frontier Post Dated: 02-09-24	Cancelled in toto
02	415109/P-41 (Extension)	GOH of MI-171 Helicopter	24-09-24	09-10-24	Daily Ausaf and Pakistan Observer Dated: 26-08-24	Opening date has been extended
03	436895/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of Baseband development Lab Kit	24-09-24	09-10-24	Daily Express & The Frontier Post Dated: 09-09-24	Opening date has been extended
04	436900/P-43 (Extension)	Proc of TDL MCOC Hardware	24-09-24	09-10-24	Daily Express & The Frontier Post Dated: 09-09-24	Opening date has been extended

CORRIGENDUM OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE						
S. NO	IT NO.	NOUN	Amendment in INCOTERM		PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
			FOR	READ		
01	415203/P-41 (Amendment)	Proc of Tyres for IL-78 AAR	CPT	CIP Islamabad	Daily Express & The Frontier Post Dated: 02-09-24	Incoterm has been amended. Opening date will remain the same i.e. 01-10-24.

- Instructions / Guidelines for participating in Tenders and complete specifications can be downloaded from PAF website i.e. www.paf.gov.pk under the heading "Media" "PAF Ads" 'General Instructions DP (Air) Suppliers' (for guidelines to participate in tenders).
- Its documents can be obtained in soft copy via request letter through e-mail address to (pa05@paf.gov.pk).
- Firms, un-registered/un-indexed with DGDP interested to participate in the competition on Earnest Money are required to provide financial capability (minimum 6 months Bank Statements) proof of go down and manufacturer / stockist, 02 photocopies of NIC of the owner in case of FOR tenders and agency agreement with OEM along with the request. Request for issuance of IT will be entertained 07 days before opening date of tender.
- A treasury Challan of Rs 2,000/- debitable to Main Head XLVII Main Head XII Sub Head A is required to be submitted by the un-registered/un-indexed firms along with the request.
- Tender Notice is also available on PPRA website i.e. www.ppra.org.pk.

NO 102 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG) 021-99547235/7242
Well Type Alluminizing Furnace (SE AS Req), Steel Rack Small, Steel Rack Large, Fire Suppression System (Ea As Req), Bakelite Sheet (SF As Req), Engine Harness Protective Duct (MR As Req), 9MC 201 Potentio Meter, Muffler Air Exhaust 4, UV Light Meter (DM-365XA) (Ea As Req), Note:- For further Information or any technical assistance, please contact on Phone No 021-99547242, Mobile No 0307- 3267493, (For specifications consultant) Ext 7242, 7286, 7235

AHQ (U) PESHAWAR (LOG) 091-950-6890
SPDT Electromech Relay 4 GH 12, Oil Engine (API: C14, SAE 15W40), Mechanical Assy A/C Hud Camera, DC Line Filter (EMI/EMC), 22 Pins Connector (Male), 12 MM Lens Marshal Electronic, Absorptive Nd Filter (Ea As Req), NOTE:- Commercial and Technical quotations must be submitted as per single stage two envelope procedure. Detail specification may be obtained from Log Sqn AHQ (U), Peshawar, Tel: 091-9506895, Mobile: 0323-9403226

PAF HOSPITAL ISLAMABAD (LOG) 051-9505818
Local Purchase of items: Hand Piece Probe, Board Assembly, Local Repair of items: Anesthesia Work Station (infernum), Video Colposcope, Shortwave Diathermy, Air Compressor, Only seperately Quotes - Technical / Financial acceptable. Detail of Items / Specification / Scope of work may be obtained from Log Flt PAF Hospital Islamabad during working hours. For queries Tel No 051-9505818 may be contacted

PAF BASE, MM ALAM (LOG) 0459-232051
Sealed tenders are invited for Supply of items: - 1. AC Split 1.5 Ton and 2 Ton Split Floor standing unit Note: Detail specification may be obtained from Officer-in-charge Log Sqn PAF Base MM Alam Tel: 03223145052, Validity of rates minimum up to 90 days are to ensure; Quotation, having validity less than 90 days, will be rejected. EDD & Warranty period should be clearly mention on quotation, For any query, please contact Tel No. 0459-232051 (Ext 2273/5677), Mobile: 0322-3145052

AHQs (U) ISLAMABAD (LOG) 051-9505556
High Power Combiner, (NOTE:- Separate Quotation (Technical And Financial) For Each Line Item Is Required) (As Req), For details / specifications / scope of work please contact Log Sqn on Mobile No: 0323-9408714, Phone No. 051-9505556, Email : Lsaq05@Paf.gov.Pk

PAF BASE NUR KHAN (LOG) 051-952-3875
PAD Track SHOE, Environmental Hut, HYD Fluid (ROYC0777), Solvent Dry Cleaning (1CAN=5GAL), Batteries Maintenance Free All Make/Model Upto 220 AMP, Hiring Crane 25/30 Ton Boom 100 Feet With Straps, Hooks & All Accessories At Rawla Kot Azad Kashmir With Transportation (Rawalpindi To Rawlakot & Back), SEALANT (PR1440B 1/2) (Ea As Req), Note: - Technical Specifications for LP items and Scope of work for Local repair can be obtained from Logistics Squadron (Mobile:- 0323-9415715), For further information please contact on phone No (051) 952-3875

NO 101 ALC, PAF BASE FAISAL (LP) 021-99547040
(Miscellaneous Items): - Wood Partal (Imported), Ply Wood, Sheet Lamination Lasani, Paper Corrugated All Sizes, Silicate, Wire Stitching, Paper Reel, Polyethene Plastic, Polyethene Bag All Sizes, Polyethene width 12 ft, Polyethene width 14 ft, Bubble Sheet, Rubber Sheet, Wrapping Tape, Sheet Thermopore, Foam Packing 6x4x4, Foam Sheet 6x3x2, Tape Masking, Tape Transparent, Tape Adhesive, (Stationery Items): PPC Paper 70/75 GSM, DO Paper 80 GSM, (NOTE): - Two envelopes (01 Technical and 01 Commercial) for each line item is required with detail specification. (Picture / Diagram/ Make / Manufacturer / Model; sites installation information) of above-mentioned items can be collected from No 101 ALC, PAF (LP Section) 021-99547040

NO 120 ALD, PAF (SARGODHA) 048-555-2956
PACKING / PRESERVATION & MISC ITEMS: Bubble Sheet, Carton Box (Different Sizes), Foam Sheet (Different Sizes), Nail Steel, Paint (All Colours), Ply Wood, Wood Nail, Polythene Bags Luck (All Sizes), Polythene Sheet, Sheet Lasani, Tapes (Masking, Insulation, Transparent, Adhesive, Packing), Thermopore, Thinner, Glue White, Paint Remover, Brush Painting, Strech Film Wrapping, Adhesive Bond, POL: Gear Oil, Grease, Brake Dot-3, Oil Eng (SAE 20W-50, SAE 10W-40), Steering Oil Dexron, Hyd Oil, Cleaning Material: Bleaching Powder, Cloth Polishing 18x18, Crosol Liquid, Glint Glass Cleaner, Metal Polish, Plastic Polish, Floor Polish, Powder Cleaning, Rags Coloured, Soap Toilet, Soap Yellow 160z Bar, Soda Ash, Cloth Muslin, Stocknett, Stationary Items: DO Paper A-4 80GSM, PPC A-4 Size, PPC Legal 90 GSM, Envelopes (SE-5, SE-6, SE-7, SE-8, SE-8A), Erasser Soft, File Clip Plastic, Gum Liquid, Note Sheet Green, Register Rulled (2 QRS, 3 QRS, 4 QRS), Stamp Pad Blue, Tag Cotton Small, Thread Ball White, Stapple Pin 24/6, Ink Stamp Pad, Blanko with Thinner, Wrapping Sheet, DO Envelopes, Batteries & Filters: All Sizes Batteries, Oil and Air Filters all Ranges (As Req), Note: Detailed Specifications can be obtained from No 120 ALD, PAF on telephone 048-555-2956, 03239421296, 03218669836

PAF BASE MUSHAF (SARGODHA) (LOG) 048-5552277
Local Purchase of Paint Thickness Measuring Equipment, Local Repair of MRI System (SOW: Routine Preventive Periodic Maintenance is Required), Local Pruchase of All Types of Smart & Non Smart LEDs (32 inches to 95 Inches), Local Pruchase of Tonner Accurio Print 2100, Local Purchase of Double Magazine Pouch (M-16MAGZ) (Ea As Req), Note: Detailed Specifications can be obtained from Log Sqn Mushaf (Sargodha) on telephone 048-555-2278

NO 107 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG) 021-99547321
6625NLS-IS-205M4 Air Motor (ENT Diagnostic Unit), 6625PK0217120 Temperature Sensor (Infant Incubator), 6625NL-20150103 Main Board (Ultrasound Machine Bioxy Probe), 6625NL-17014 Battery (Suction Machine), 120-08011-0000 LSI DME Range CKT (KTU-709 Tacan Transceiver), 5825NL-BW-S6W5 Attenuator 6DB5 WAT TNC SMAM/F, NOTE: For further technical Information, specification and company make, model, please contact Tel No. 021-9954-7321, 9954-7379

PAF BASE SHAHBAZ (LOG) 0722-670454
Stainless Steel Barrel, Stainless Steel Jerry Cane, Printer Color Laser Jet M5225CP, Technical & commercial quotations must be packed separately and sealed properly. Specs may be obtained from Log Sqn at 0323-9439712; 0309-8925565 & Office No 0722-670454 Ext 2257

PAF BASE BHOLARI (LOG) 03239431714
Jammer Cell (Mob) Phone (Qty 02), DC Power Supply (CPX220)(Qty 01), Tow Bar (PT No 01-1201-0010) Tronair (Qty 01 Ea, Head Tow Bar (Pt No 01-0545-0011), Tronair (Qty 01 La), Insulation Multimeter (Fluke 1587) (Qty 01 Ea), Transportation Trolly (Qty 02 Ea) (L53", W=30". H=18" Four Wheeler with manual Brakes) (As Req), Add: (Officer In charge, Logistics Squadron, PAF Base Bholari Hyderabad (Send Via Leopard Courier Service or Pakistan Post Only Preferably 'Single Stage Two Envelope procedure vide PPRA Rule 36(b)) For details / specifications please contact on Tel: 022-9501500 Ext 2287 and Cell No 03239431714. (All parts Nos as required or equivalent)

NO 103 ALC PAF BASE NUR KHAN 051-952-7081
Reach Truck (Snorkal), Servicing required. Operating Card U/S, 5961NL-SE-USB-SERV-24G USB Over IP, AIR 40A ESC AIR 40, E62-TTL- 1W Data Link E-62, EWMRSA0882 Matek Regular, U5-400KV Motor U-5 (Brushless 400KV), UB8501H-HDMI-E HDMI to Ethernet Encoder, 15000084 DC Jack 2 Pin, 20DBGPS GPS Mount, E15-USB-TTL USB to TTL Module for Datalink, E-SG-1 321 RF Switch ON/OFF 3-Position Switch, EW-FX-HDMI-PAPER HDMI cable for HD Video, NHEW-200MCX65 Top Battery Cover, N-MMCX-RG316-6IN N Type Male to MMCX Cable, PE3662LF-36 N Type to SMA Male Cable, S30PBATRLMIC RMELIC Battery, TRD695DSZ-BLK-1 Ethernet CORD 12", 5962PK0019308 GPS Module with Pedestal, CP-AL-000025 DJI Light bright Air End, RG223-N Input Coaxial Cable, 362000007-0 Rmelic R447 NB 20 CH RXR, HT5FI800B Battery, 264317-3 Aviator Google Banana Mount, 265030-3 Helmet Mount Bracket Kit, SM-C-806612 Purge Valves, MS9021-002 Purge Valve O-Ring, 5002539 Screw, 0008-B00004 Compact Flash, 0008-B00647 Compact Flash Reader, B-109804 HDMI Cable, 0330-100350 DTC Reader Carc, 0330-100351 DCT Port Ver 2.1 PCB, 0008-130760 USB Cable, B-103721 AVM Switch, 0008-130660 VGA Cable, 0330-200300 DVR Reader, B-098198 KVM Adopter, 0168-B00003 Mount Bracket GPS MAP 296 (EA As Req), For any query or additional information, please contact on Tele No. (051-952-7081-82)

NO 105 AED PAF BASE MALIR TEL EXT 7323
Bomb Lifting / Mobility Device (As Req), Note : Quotations must be inclusive of all taxes, Tel Ext. 7323

PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG) 835-3870
LP of Split AC 2 Ton and 1.5 T Reversible / Non Reversible /Cool only (DC Inverter), LP of FIXED IP CAMERA, LP of 4-120 MM PTZ CAMERA, LP of PTZ IP BASED CAMERA, Note: Quotation Submitted As Per PPRA Rule (36B), For Further Information, Contact on Under mentioned Numbers Landline No – 835-3870 / Contact No: - 0323-9435715

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- General terms and conditions are mentioned in tender form (F-528A). Forms and tender notices complete details can be downloaded from PAF website "www.paf.gov.pk" or can be obtained from respective Bases/ Log Sqns on working days.
- The firm must be GST and professional Tax registered having NTN.
- Last date of submission of tenders: **15 OCTOBER, 2024 (1000 hrs).**
- Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1100 hours.
- No advance payment will be made and payment will be subject to acceptance of the items by user activity.
- Officers Commanding of the mentioned Bases/ Units reserve the right to reject any part or the entire tender on technical grounds.
- Quotations must be valid for 90 days.
- Sales Tax as applicable must be mentioned separately.
- Guarantee / Warranty term / period should also be mentioned.
- The agreement will be governed by official secret act. 1923.

Tribal Youth Convention and Sports Gala held in Peshawar with Pakistan Army’s support



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a display of unity and patriotism, a Tribal Youth Convention and Sports Gala was successfully organized in Peshawar, attracting a large number of youth and students from the merged tribal districts.

The event, held with the support of the Pakistan Army, featured a variety of sports activities and witnessed overwhelming participation from young attendees.

The convention was seen as a powerful response to the negative propaganda of anti-state elements, with participants strongly rejecting the rhetoric of groups like PTM and reaffirming their unwavering commitment to stand alongside the Pakistan Army.

The atmosphere was filled with energy and enthusiasm as the youth pledged solidarity with the armed forces.

Lieutenant General Umar Ahmed Bukhari, Corps Commander Peshawar, graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, he praised the youth for their spirit and encouraged them to focus on their education to play a crucial role in the country's progress.

"Through higher education, you can contribute significantly to national development," he stated.

The participants paid

rich tributes to the Pakistan Army for its steadfast dedication, sacrifices, and its vital role in establishing peace and security in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the merged districts.

They acknowledged the Army's efforts in bringing stability to the region, calling its contribution exemplary.

The event saw students eagerly competing in various sports, including tug-of-war, volleyball, football, and pistol shooting.

The spirit of friendly competition and teamwork was on full display throughout the day.

In recognition of outstanding performances, Lieutenant General Umar Bukhari distributed certificates and cash prizes to students who excelled in the sports competitions.

The youth expressed their gratitude to the Pakistan Army, emphasizing their strong bond with the military.

"The tribal people have immense love for the Pakistan Army," said one participant. Another added, "The Army's efforts in promoting education in the merged districts are nothing short of exemplary."

The event concluded with a strong message of unity and a collective resolve from the tribal elders and youth to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Pakistan Army in securing the nation's future.



PESHAWAR: Former Governor and Patron in Chief Haji Ghulam Ali addressing a meeting of Sarhad Business Alliance. Chairman SBA Syed Zahir Ali Shah is also present.

SBA declares election winners defeated despite victory

We have won in 98% of the chambers: Ghulam Ali

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Sarhad Business Alliance (SBA) has declared the winners of the recent elections at the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry as "defeated," asserting that their victory was based on fraudulent votes, mismanagement, and manipulation through Form 47.

SBA leaders stated that the real defeat lies in the fact that over 1300 members did not cast their votes, which reflects their clear rejection of the ruling group.

SBA will strengthen its organizational structure and return to the field with renewed vigor.

SBA's Patron-in-Chief and Former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali emphasized that the mission of the SBA is to promote the development and prosperity of the business community.

"We have won in 98% of the chambers across the province. Our focus is on the welfare of the business community," said Haji Ghulam Ali.

In a high-level meeting at the office of Dr. Mohib Ullah Afridi in Chamkani, SBA officials discussed the results of the recent Sarhad Chamber elections. They presented a detailed report on the misuse of power by the opposing group, including the use of bogus votes, and the unlawful tactics employed on election day, such as creating power outages to hinder SBA voters and blocking their ability to vote.

Despite these tactics, the SBA was able to secure more than 600 votes in just two months of campaigning, and the results would have been even clearer had the election been free and fair.

The SBA noted that the ruling group, which has held control for over twenty years, failed to gain the trust of over 1900 members who chose not to vote for them.

They emphasized that if fraudulent votes were excluded, the total number of legitimate votes for the winners would have been reduced to 400 or 500.

The opposition's desperate attempts to form alliances after the election only proved their lack of experience and support from the business community.

SBA members pledged to continue advocating for the business community of Peshawar, ensuring that every market receives representation in the organization.

They vowed to engage the over 1300 voters who did not cast their votes to rally them under the SBA's mission and address the issues faced by different sectors.

During the meeting, former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali thanked the business community for their unwavering support and reiterated that the SBA's primary goal is to serve the business community, regardless of political power.

He emphasized the importance of a positive approach and the need to work together to resolve the challenges faced by traders.

He also praised the efforts of the SBA's candidates, polling agents, and core committee members, reaffirming their commitment to strengthen the SBA and continue their fight for the betterment of the business community.

KPITB's Dastak Portal wins Gold at Pasha ICT Awards 2024

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a significant achievement, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board (KPITB) has won the Gold Award at the Pasha ICT Awards 2024 for its public service delivery portal, "Dastak", under the category of Digital Government, Government and Citizen Services.

Competing against 1,200 entries from across Pakistan, KPITB's victory places Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province at the forefront of the country's digital revolution.

The Dastak portal is rapidly automating public service delivery for the KP Government, providing citizens with easy access to a wide range of services. Integrated with KPITB's Paymir payment gateway, Dastak enables users to make secure digital payments for various public services, contributing to the province's push toward e-governance and improved citizen engagement.

On the occasion TMO Chamkani, Aurangzeb Khan briefed the Secretary LG on revenue generation of the TMA Chamkani and other branches.

The Secretary LG also visited the AD office where he was provided information on the working strategy and facilities being provided to the people including birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate and other public documents.

The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to the participants.

30 journalists and media influencers to provide them with hands-on training in cutting-edge digital media techniques.

The workshop aimed to equip participants with the skills to create digital content, practice mobile journalism, and explore monetization strategies through social media.

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) Pakistan successfully conducted a two-day workshop in Peshawar under the theme "Untangle Media Potential." The workshop brought together

Sherarz Hasnat and social media marketing specialist Ahmad Ali, shared valuable knowledge on digital content creation and highlighted global opportunities and grants accessible through social media.

During the sessions, participants actively engaged in group activities, presentations, and practical exercises focusing on modern digital tools.

The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to the participants.

KPITB's success at the Pasha ICT Awards underscores its commitment to digital innovation and highlights Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's leadership in the transformation of public services through technology.

CM's statement tantamount to treason: Arbab Khizar

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) leader Arbab Khizar Hayat has strongly condemned a recent statement made by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, calling it tantamount to treason.

According to Arbab Khizar, Gandapur's remarks about "firing upon the state" fall under the category of incitement to rebellion.

In a sharp rebuke, Arbab Khizar accused Gandapur of attempting to sow discord between the nation's people and its institutions with his inflammatory rhetoric about violence and revolution.

"Ali Amin wants to ignite bloodshed in the country by talking about revolution," he stated.

The PML-N leader also warned that any move towards Adiala Jail, a reference to a potential protest or confrontation, would come at a high cost for both Gandapur and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

He further cautioned the Chief Minister to be mindful of his actions, saying, "Ali Amin should take heed, or he may find himself barred from entering areas across the Attock River."

Arbab Khizar also criticized PTI's alleged attempts to create chaos, referencing the events of May 9, when violent protests erupted nationwide. He stated that PTI is seeking "political martyrdom" but would not achieve it, as the party has already suffered a "political death"-only its burial remains.

Concluding his remarks, the PML-N leader predicted that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is on its last legs and will not last much longer.

Secy LG for providing maximum relief to people

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR (APP): Secretary Local Government (LG), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dilawar Khan has said that under the CM' KP agenda, officers are in fact servants of the people and we are making tangible efforts to provide needed facilities to the people at their doorstep.

The TMA officials should make the official affairs easy for the general public, he said and urged the public to acquire the birth certificate of their children well in time to avoid complications in delayed submission of application. This, he said, would save their time and the children will get their official identity within time.

He was on a visit to TMA Office Chamkani the other day where he met with BCA and demolishing staff and inspected their uniform, recently provided to them.

On the occasion TMO Chamkani, Aurangzeb Khan briefed the Secretary LG on revenue generation of the TMA Chamkani and other branches.

The Secretary LG also visited the AD office where he was provided information on the working strategy and facilities being provided to the people including birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate and other public documents.

Workshop on 'Untangle Media Potential' held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A two-days workshop for journalists and youth held to equip them with today's skills so that they create digital contents, practice mobile journalism and explore monetization strategies through social media.

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) Pakistan successfully conducted a two-day workshop in Peshawar under the theme "Untangle Media Potential." The workshop brought together

From Swat to sports: Pakistan's resilience against malicious narratives

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

IN recent days, Pakistan once again found itself in the crosshairs of a conspiracy aimed at undermining its image on the global stage. This time, the target was diplomats visiting the beautiful region of Swat, an area that has recovered admirably from years of conflict and terror. However, in a disturbing attempt to destabilize Pakistan's hard-earned peace and international reputation, these diplomats faced an attack, which they narrowly escaped. This incident, though tragic in its intent, was a clear failure of those who seek to defame Pakistan. The resilience of our security forces and the prompt action taken ensured that the damage was minimized, but the real danger lies not only in the physical attack but also in the narrative that our enemies aim to craft from it.

Never underestimate the enemy, for it is in the very nature of an adversary to seek harm and exploit weaknesses. History has repeatedly shown that moments of complacency or overconfidence can lead to devastating consequences. When past experiences offer clear warnings, any lapse in vigilance can serve as a prelude to tragedy. The enemy, whether overt or concealed, constantly looks for opportunities to strike, and dismissing their potential can pave the way for unforeseen disaster. True wisdom lies in understanding this inherent risk and maintaining a steadfast awareness of the threat they pose, ensuring that no opportunity for harm is left unguarded. This reminder resonates especially now, with the heightened threat of conspiracies aiming to destabilize Pakistan as the Champions Trophy draws near.

With the highly anticipated ICC Champions Trophy set to be held in Pakistan after few

months, the timing of this attack is no coincidence. Pakistan will host the Men's Cricket Champions Trophy from 19 February to 9 March 2025, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced. This event is critical for Pakistan's efforts to reestablish itself as a safe and welcoming destination for international sports. However, this is not the first time the Champions Trophy was scheduled in Pakistan. The ICC Champions Trophy was initially planned to be played in Pakistan in 2009 but had to be moved to England due to security concerns. The tournament's relocation followed the tragic attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore, which had led to Australia, England, and New Zealand refusing to tour Pakistan due to security fears.

The propaganda machine has already begun to churn, with adversaries suggesting that if diplomats are not safe in Pakistan, how can interna-

tional cricket teams be? This is a malicious and calculated move. It is a reminder of the 2009 incident when the Sri Lankan cricket team was attacked in Lahore, an event that halted international cricket in Pakistan for many years. That heinous assault on innocent sportsmen was not just an attack on a team; it was an attack on the spirit of the nation, and it achieved its goal of isolating Pakistan from the global sporting community for a long time. The ghosts of that tragedy still haunt us, and our enemies are attempting to exploit them once again.

In the lead-up to the Champions Trophy, Pakistan's enemies-both external and internal-are working overtime to spoil the event and create an environment of fear. Some of our neighboring countries, which have historically been hostile towards us, have already expressed reluctance to participate in the tournament. It is not far-fetched to suspect that these same

nations may be behind efforts to sabotage this prestigious event by staging incidents like the one in Swat, in a bid to convince the world that Pakistan is unsafe.

They know well that if international teams begin to withdraw, it will cast a shadow over the tournament and deal a blow to Pakistan's efforts to showcase its hospitality, security, and passion for the sport.

The question that arises now is: how do we stop such conspiracies in the future? First and foremost, it is crucial that our security agencies remain ever vigilant.

The attack in Swat should be a wake-up call that the enemies of Pakistan are relentless, and we cannot afford to let our guard down. We must continue to strengthen our intelligence network, ensuring that any threat to our national security, no matter how small, is neutralized before it can cause harm. Additionally, it is vital that we engage in a

robust diplomatic effort to counter the false narratives being spread by those who seek to defame us. Our diplomats must work tirelessly to reassure the international community, particularly the cricketing nations, that Pakistan is not only safe but is also capable of hosting major international events with the utmost professionalism.

At the same time, the media plays a crucial role in shaping perceptions. It is imperative that our media outlets act responsibly and avoid sensationalizing incidents that play into the hands of our enemies. Instead, the focus should be on highlighting the progress Pakistan has made in the realm of security and stability. The world needs to see the real Pakistan-a nation that is hospitable, resilient, and eager to engage with the international community on all fronts, including sports.

Moreover, the unity of our people is our greatest strength. As we approach the

Champions Trophy, it is essential that Pakistanis from all walks of life come together to ensure that this event is a success. We must support our government and security forces in their efforts to provide a safe environment for both our own citizens and the visiting teams. The enemies of Pakistan thrive on division and chaos; we must not give them that satisfaction.

In conclusion, the recent attack on diplomats in Swat is yet another chapter in the ongoing conspiracy to defame Pakistan. However, as history has shown, Pakistan is not easily defeated.

The enemies who orchestrated this attack have failed, just as they will fail in their attempts to derail the Champions Trophy. With unity, vigilance, and determination, Pakistan will continue to rise above these challenges and prove to the world that it is a nation of peace, resilience, and unmatched hospitality.



In brief

APJEU elections
Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Kohat All Pakistan Judicial Employees union elections were held under the supervision of Election Commissioner Aqueq Hussain in the library hall of District Bar kohat in which the officials of the subordinate courts used their votes. Masroor Iqbal was elected president, Muhammad Tariq Naib president while Safiuddin Tayyab Saleem Farhan Ahmed and Faisal Mehmood were elected as the other office-bearers. Speaking on the occasion, newly elected President Masroor Iqbal said, "Inshallah, we will all work together and will not do injustice to anyone." He also thanked all supporters.

Child dies, youth injured

DIR LOWER (APP): A ten-year-old child was killed and a youth critically injured when a station-wagon plunged into a ditch in Talash Dheri area of Lower Dir on Sunday. Local police said the car on the way to Timergara fell into a ditch due to overspeed resulting in death of a child and critical wounds to a youth. The deceased child was identified as Idrees, son of Niaz Ahmad, resident of Bandagai, Talash while the injured youth was 18-year-old Irfanullah. The child's body and injured were shifted to THQ Talash from where the injured youth was shifted to Timergara hospital due to his critical condition. The recovery team of Rescue 1122 Dir Lower later retrieved the wreckage of the car from the ditch.

Copter crashed victims buried

BATKHELA (APP): Two youth killed in a helicopter crash in Lower Waziristan, the other day were laid to rest in Batkhela tehsil of Malakand district on Sunday. According to Batkhela police, Assistant Project Engineer Mari Petroleum Company, Talha Khan belonged to Khar area of Batkhela while Engineer Taimur Khan was a resident of Matkai area Totakan, Batkhela. Both the deceased were laid to rest at their ancestral graveyard in presence of a large number of people from every walk of life.

Suspect held after encounter

DG KHAN (APP): Police claimed on Sunday to have arrested a suspect after an encounter. Drama police were on a routine patrolling near Basti Grand when it spotted three suspects on a motorcycle and signalled them to stop but they sped away. The police chased the suspects when they opened fire at the police. In retaliation, the police had to return fire and as a result of which a suspect identified as Altaf aka Altafi, resident of Chabri Zereen received bullet injuries.

Free medical camp held

TANDO ALLAHYAR (PPI) Medical and Engineering Graduates Welfare Association of Sindh organized a one-day free medical camp at village Mahru Keerio of taluka Tando Allahyar Sunday. Doctors having expertise in different diseases checked up a large number of poor patients at the camp at Muzamil Floor Mills of the village and provided them treatment with medicines free of cost, said Engr Abdul Jabbar Solangi, the Chairman of Medical and Engineering Graduates Welfare Association of Sindh.

PTI govt fails to address masses problems: Muqam

Says no room for terrorism in Pakistan

SWAT (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Sunday said that Pakistan Tahrir e Insaaf Government has failed to address masses problems despite third consecutive government of the party that deceived masses on the name of so called change.

Addressing party workers at Sangota here, the Minister said that unnecessary exercises and experiments have ruined health and education sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Instead to focus on resolution of people problems, governance and improvement in health and education sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said that tax payers money was being used on the uncalled for agitation and irrational politics by the PTI leadership, increasing problems of common man.

He advised CM KP to hold public meetings at southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where law and order situation was deteriorating and that people can not go out of homes after evening.

Instead to focus on improving law and order situation in southern districts, he said that maladministration and poor gov-

ernance besides corruption cases have started surfacing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that recent corruption allegations by the Provincial Ministers and advisers against each others has exposed the anti corruption claims of the rulers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Engr Amir Muqam who is also the President of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa lacked vision for people welfare and that agitation politics was his main focus.

He said that PTI protest rallies and hooliganism was tantamount a treason against the state. He claimed that KP Government resources were used in PTI public gatherings at Lahore, Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

He claimed the people of Pakistan knew about protesters who was working on a foreign agenda.

He said that CM KP had no authority to hold talks with Afghan Government on any issue rather it was mandate of the Federal Government. Engr Amir Muqam said that Govt has adopted zero tolerance against terrorism and no one would be allowed to disrupt peace of Swat again.

He said people of Swat had rendered great sacrifices

in war against terrorism and their sacrifices as well of the security forces paved the way of returned of peace in Swat valley.

He said that law and order was the top priority of the Government and targeted action would be taken whenever terrorists were found in the country.

Engr Amir Muqam said that he had also survived life attempts and continued raised voice for peace in the country including Swat.

He asked CM KP to compete with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif in terms of good governance and people service.

Engr Amir Muqam said that PTI workers are being misled on hallow slogans again and advised them to take distance of CM agitation politics.

He said that roads infrastructure in Swat were deteriorated due to poor policies of PTI Government, marring tourism, trade and development. Engr Amir Muqam congratulated Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for his successful visit of the UNGA.

He said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has won hearts and minds of Pakistanis, Kashmiris and Palestinians for successful highlighting Kashmir and Palestine issues at UNGA.

Sindh governor visits Arshad Nadeem's residence

KHANEWAL (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori visited the residence of Olympian Arshad Nadeem in Mian Channu on Sunday and appreciated him for bringing laurels to the country.

Speaking to the media, he expressed his confidence in the capabilities of people of Pakistan. He said that Pakistanis were on a par with the people of any other country in terms of potential and skills. "Our country is full of talented individuals who are second to none in the world," he remarked, highlighting that the nation has the capacity to achieve more successes. Tessori stressed that Pakistan belongs to everyone, and through collective efforts,

the country would progress. "This is our nation, and together we will take it forward towards development and prosperity," he added.

Governor Tessori expressed gratitude to the people of Mian Channu for their warm welcome and hospitality, acknowledging the affection he received during his visit. "I am deeply thankful to the people of Mian Channu for the heart-felt reception," he said.

During his address, Tessori reiterated his commitment to the people of Sindh, stating that the doors of the Governor's House were always open for the public. "The Governor's House in Sindh is accessible to everyone. We are here to serve people," he added.

In a statement regarding the development of Punjab, Governor Tessori praised provincial leadership, particularly Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for her efforts. "Maryam Nawaz is doing an excellent job in advancing the development of Punjab," Tessori added.

About the security situation in Balochistan, the governor pointed to the involvement of external elements in creating instability in the province. "Foreign forces are behind the incidents in Balochistan," he said, and underscored the need to remain vigilant.

Tessori also took a firm stand against the country's adversaries, warning that the country's enemies would be dealt with sternly.



MULTAN: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi talking to media persons at the residence of Naseem Laber.

Small Industry – Unlocking South Punjab's economic potential

MULTAN, Sep 29 (APP): Having a long history of calligraphy, pottery, handicrafts and agricultural, South Punjab can be turned into treasure trove of opportunities for businesses especially small industries with its diverse sectors ready to boost the region's economic growth.

From agriculture to handicrafts and diminishing cottage industry, the region is teeming with potential for development and offers an array of business avenues for value addition that could uplift local communities and contribute to country's economic progress.

At the heart of the opportunity is the region's agricultural strength. Agro-based businesses such as fruit and vegetable processing, dehydration units and spice grinding mills are particularly viable. These industries could capitalize on South Punjab's rich produce and help reduce post-harvest losses that currently affect farmers due to lack of

processing facilities.

"Huge quantities of vegetables and fruits perish due to their short shelf life. Their proper preservation and value addition can help earn substantial revenue," remarked President Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Mian Rashid Iqbal.

"Dehydration units could convert excessive vegetables into powder as these powder form vegetables were highly popular in international markets," he stated. "With the right facilities, local farmers could benefit from enhanced incomes through value-added products like jams, pulps and powders etc."

Rashid Iqbal also mentioned to livestock sector as another pillar of South Punjab's economy. "Milk and meat processing, as well as production of organic dairy products offer numerous business opportunities for small-scale entrepreneur."

However, he voiced con-

cerns about the exploitation of farmers by multinational companies that buy milk at very low prices but sell it at a premium. "By establishing local processing plants, farmers could retain more profit like our neighboring country where cattle farmers work in clusters to process and sell milk."

The President MCCI stressed the need for government's intervention to support local farmers and reduce reliance on multinational companies.

Fish farming, particularly fish cage culture, is also untapped resource in South Punjab. With three rivers and dozens of canals, the region offers ideal conditions for fish farming, which could remarkably improve living standards of farmers besides bolstering national economy. The introduction of fish farming on a larger scale would provide a sustainable livelihood for many, allowing rural communities to thrive.

In addition to agriculture



KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Division Mutasim Billah Shah visited different areas to check the law and order situation in Kurram district.

JI workers protest against inflation

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The Lower Dir chapter of Jamaat-i-Islami on the call of its central chief Hafiz Naem ur Rehman, on Sunday staged a protest sit-in against the inflation, soaring power tariff and taxes at the Timergara Shaheed Chowk for three hours.

Hundreds of the JI workers from different areas participated in the protest.

The protesters blocked the Timergara bypass road and chanted slogans against the government and the Peshawar Electric Supply Company.

The rally was addressed by the JI district chief Izzat Mulk Afkari, deputy chief Arshad Zaman, former tehsil nazim Sultanat Yar, president Anjuman Tajiran Timergara Haji Anwarud Din, Shad Nawaz Khan and others.

The speakers said that power consumers were unable to pay the soaring electricity bills due to government failure to end contracts made with the IPPs.

PFA seize 20-kilogram expired snacks

MULTAN (INP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) seized 30-litre non-standard solutions and 20-kilogram expired snacks on Sunday, and disposal of 20-litre adulterated milk over violation of the related laws.

Two restaurants at Head Muhammadwala were fined Rs 75,000 over the law violations, including the absence of medical certificates for food handlers, the use of substandard china salt in food preparation, and accumulation of contaminated water in washing areas.

Two confectionery units at Bahawalpur bypass were imposed Rs 42,000 fine collectively after dead insects were found in flour and prepared mixtures, and they were found not using clean water in production. Also, two dairy points in Gulshan market were fined Rs 55,000 due to poor milk quality.

At Adda 12 Mile point in Kabirwala, a spice unit was fined Rs 10,000 for failing to provide medical certificates for workers and neglecting machine cleanliness.

A grocery store was fined Rs 6,000 for selling expired food items.

Fake faith healer sentenced to 30 years imprisonment

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The court of district and session judge Ajmal Khan Wazir, on conviction sentenced a man identified as Muhammad Nisar, posing as a pir (faith healer), to 30 years imprisonment and Rs 1.2 million as fine for sexually assaulting an 18-year-old girl here the other day.

Talking to this reporter, the district police officer Saleem Abbas Kulachi said that the accused reached his logical end due to the professionalism and hard work of the Khall police.

The DPO said the affected girl lodged a complaint with the Khall police on May 25, 2023, against the accused Muhammad Nisar, a resident of Umarali village in Wari, Upper Dir, stating that he sexually assaulted her and extorted money from her to made her lover to meet her who worked abroad.

The investigation under the supervision of police officer Hayat Muhammad proved that the accused had taken the girl to an empty plot in Peshawar and sexually assaulted her. The station house officer, Khall police station, Bahadar Zeb said the accused got money from the victim girl thrice and when he failed to do the job, he asked the girl to accompany him to Peshawar for doing the job through black magic.

He said the accused continued to rape the victim girl for two consecutive days in her sister's empty house. Later the fake faith healer threatened to make the girl's nude videos viral on social media by blackmailing her, on which the girl approached the local police.

The Khall police arrested the accused and properly investigated the case that proved him guilty, on which the court sentenced him to 30 years imprisonment and Rs 1.2 million fine. Meanwhile the Munda police during a car search arrested an accused Ishtiaq, a resident of Baron

Balambat and recovered four stolen goats from his possession.

An official said the accused was taking the goats to the Bajaur district but was caught red handed. He said the accused had confessed to his crime and admitted that he had taken and purchased such goats in the recent past as well. In another case the Munda police arrested a man Muhammad s/o Yousaf, a resident of Dama Dola Bajaur, and recovered 5006 grams of charas from his possession.

The Chakdara police also arrested a drug seller identified as Abdur Rashid, a resident of Chitral and recovered 2400 gram of charas and 180 grams of ice from his possession during a check at Pul Chowky here on Saturday. The Mayar police also arrested a proclaimed offender Zahir, a resident of Salarzo Bajaur, wanted by police for the last 14 years, who had killed one Hamzullah 32 in Mayar bazaar. The accused had left the area.

After this, the bell rings regularly between classes, a reliable timekeeper that has become an intrinsic part of the school day.

Though the exact timing of breaks varies by school as some offering a recess after six lectures, others after seven. It is purely local administrative matter decided by the heads of the government schools.

"Whenever I hear the school bell ring nearby, it reminds me of my own school days," says Muhammad Ramzan, a shopkeeper who operates a general store close to one such school.

His sentiment is shared by many in the community, including Kashif Khan, Rao Aleem, Abbas Khan and some others. They stated the sound of bell brings back memories of childhood and the joy of school life.

Shoukat Khan, a teacher at a government school, praises the tradition, stating, "The beauty of the manual bell is still maintained in our schools. It brings a sense of rhythm and anticipation to the students' day." He notes that the final bell, marking the end of the school day is perhaps the most cherished. "The last bell brings immense joy to the faces of students. It's not just a signal that classes have ended, it's time for beginning of their much awaited playtime or return home."

In a region where traditional values hold great importance, the manual bell serves as a reminder of the enduring beauty of simplicity. Its sound resonates not only within school walls but also in the hearts of those who grew up hearing it, carrying with it memories of their formative years, said Ghulam Muhammad Kashif, another citizen.

Landlord shot dead in Chistian

CHISHTIAN (INP): Unidentified gunmen shot dead a landlord here on Wednesday and fled the scene, police said.

According to details, unknown culprits sprayed

bullets at the landlord in Chak No 126 Murad of Chishtian. As a result of firing, Liaqat Ali 55, was critically injured but succumbed to his wounds while being shifted to hospital. The

deceased was Nambardar of his village. Police said that the incident seems to be outcome of personal grudge. A case was registered into the incident and investigations were kicked off.

hub for local talent by bringing together craftsmen from across the region."

Moreover, she revealed establishment of two industrial estates at Khanewal and Mian Channu on 65 and 70 acres respectively, offering small plots up to two Kanals where new businesses were established by local people. "It is part of the government's policy to facilitate local entrepreneur to flourish their businesses."

She pointed out that mechanization was impacting traditional crafts but with innovative designs and culturally relevant products, these industries can still find a market.

In view of immense potential in South Punjab, there is an urgent need to bring the region into main stream and technological fold, providing local people modern technology and markets access to flourish their businesses and generate more employment opportunities.



TEHRAN, IRAN: Posters of Hassan Nasrallah, (R) the slain leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah, are seen at a religious-cultural production mall on Sunday, in Tehran, Iran.

Taiwan on alert over ‘multiple waves’ of missile firing

TAIPEI (Reuters): Taiwan's Defence Ministry said on Sunday it was on alert after detecting "multiple waves" of missile firing deep in inland China, days after Beijing said it had carried out a successful test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Democratically governed Taiwan, which China views as its own territory, keeps a close watch on Chinese military drills given Beijing's regular activities around the island, but only rarely releases details of what it sees taking place inside China.

The ministry said that starting from 6:50 a.m. (2250 GMT on Saturday) it had detected "multiple waves of firing" by China's Rocket Force and army in the provinces and regions of Inner Mongolia, Gansu,

Qinghai and Xinjiang, which all lie at least 2,000 km (1,200 miles) from Taiwan.

Taiwan's forces are "continuously monitoring relevant developments, and air defence forces have maintained a high level of vigilance and strengthened their alert", the ministry added in a statement.

China's Defence Ministry did not answer calls seeking comment outside of office hours. The Rocket Force is in charge of China's conventional and nuclear missile arsenal.

On Thursday, Taiwan's Defence Ministry raised the alarm over a renewed surge of Chinese military activity around the island and live fire drills, accusing Beijing of policy instability.

China's military responded by saying its activities around Taiwan were "legitimate" and its drills would continue.

A day earlier, China said it had successfully conducted a rare launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM, into the Pacific Ocean.

In August 2022, China fired missiles into the waters around Taiwan during war games to express anger at a visit to Taipei by then-Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi.

Taiwan operates powerful radar stations on some of the peaks of its central mountain range that can look far into China, according to security sources.

Nepal closes schools as deaths from heavy rains hit 129

KATHMANDU (Reuters): Nepal has shut schools for three days after landslides and floods triggered by two days of heavy rain across the Himalayan nation killed 129 people, with 62 missing, officials said on Sunday.

The floods brought traffic and normal activity to a standstill in the Kathmandu valley, where 37 deaths were recorded in a region home to 4 million people and the capital.

Authorities said students and their parents faced difficulties as university and school buildings damaged by the rains needed repair.

"We have urged the concerned authorities to close schools in the affected areas for three days," Lakshmi Bhattarai, a

spokesperson for the education ministry, told Reuters.

Some parts of the capital reported rain of up to 322.2 mm (12.7 inches), pushing the level of its main Bagmati river up 2.2 m (7 ft) past the danger mark, experts said.

But there were some signs of respite on Sunday morning, with the rains easing in many places, said Govinda Jha, a weather forecaster in the capital.

"There may be some isolated showers, but heavy rains are unlikely," he said. Television images showed police rescuers in knee-high rubber boots using picks and shovels to clear away mud and retrieve 16 bodies of passengers from two buses swept away by a massive

landslide at a site on the key route into Kathmandu.

Weather officials in the capital blamed the rainstorms on a low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal extending over parts of neighbouring India close to Nepal.

Haphazard development amplifies climate change risks in Nepal, say climate scientists at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

"I've never before seen flooding on this scale in Kathmandu," said Arun Bhakta Shrestha, an environmental risk official at the centre.

In a statement, it urged the government and city planners to "urgently" step up investment in, and plans for, infrastructure, such as

underground stormwater and sewage systems, both of the "grey", or engineered kind, and "green", or nature-based type.

The impact of the rains was aggravated by poor drainage due to unplanned settlement and urbanisation efforts, construction on floodplains, lack of areas for water retention, and encroachment on the Bagmati river, it added.

The level in the Koshi river in Nepal's southeast has started to fall, however, said Ram Chandra Tiwari, the region's top bureaucrat.

The river, which brings deadly floods to India's eastern state of Bihar nearly every year, had been running above the danger mark at a level nearly three times normal, he said.

Huge fire ravages Jeddah's oldest market

JEDDAH (Arab News): A devastating fire ravaged large parts of Jeddah International Market, which at more than 50 years old is one of the oldest markets in the governorate.

No casualties have been reported in the blaze at the famous market, which broke out at 6 a.m. on Sunday, according to the Civil Defense.

More than 20 firefighting units were pressed into service to contain the rapidly spreading flames as the market in the Al-Rawdah district was partially engulfed in smoke.

The blaze was brought under control after nearly 12 hours, but not before a large number of stalls and shops were razed to the ground, with their owners left standing helplessly in the parking lot.

No one was at the market when the incident occurred in the early hours of the day.

Moammar Al-Awidy, an owner of a cafe and an electronics shop, told Arab News that he received a call from one of his employees at 8 a.m. with the shocking news.

"I rushed to the market but could not get anywhere because local authorities advised us to stay away from the area due to the possibility of smoke poisoning. Although there were no fatalities or injuries, the northern side of the market was seriously affected," he

said.

Al-Awidy said that, according to witnesses, the suspected main reason for the fire was a new store undergoing decoration near gate No. 4. "It started there and spread to the nearest stores and other Asian restaurants."

Witnesses said flames spread quickly to several stores in the market, home to private boutiques, restaurants and market stalls.

Witness Omar Ba-Jamal, who works in a phone accessories shop, said: "The fire was moving very fast. We were all watching, but we were scared the fire could spread to other stores at

any time since there are restaurants with kitchens nearby."

Fahad Al-Ahmdy, who works at a jewelry store, said: "I arrived at 9 a.m. as usual for work and, on my way, I noticed the flames in the sky but never thought it was our market. It was like a disaster movie happening in front of my eyes; I have never seen anything like it. Unfortunately, our store was affected by the fire."

Arab News contacted Col. Mohammed Al-Qarni, the official spokesman for the Civil Defense in the Makkah region. He said: "We are still fighting the fire," and recommended that we

watch out for their official statements on X.

The market, popularly known as Jeddah International Market, was established in 1981 and features unique classical designs on the outside, while the inside has luxurious decorations, waterfalls and water fountains that resemble small lakes.

It includes approximately 200 shops that serve market visitors and features shops with a long history of trading in the most famous local and international brands, such as electronics, jewelry, clothing and watches, as well as a few Asian restaurants. Recently the market included gold shops.



Far right wins Austria election, boosting European rightwing surge

VIENNA (Reuters): Austrian voters handed a first ever general election victory to the far-right Freedom Party on Sunday, vote projections showed, underlining rising support for hard-right parties in Europe fueled by concern over immigration levels.

The Eurosceptic, Russia-friendly FPO held a slim lead in opinion polls for months over Chancellor Karl Nehammer's ruling conservative Austrian People's Party (OVP) in a campaign dominated by immigration and worries about the economy.

Led by Herbert Kickl, the FPO was projected to secure 29.1% of the vote, ahead of the OVP on 26.2%, and the centre-left Social Democrats on 20.4%, a projection by pollster Foresight for broadcaster ORF showed after polls closed.

A separate projection by pollster Arge Wahlen also had the FPO coming first, winning by around 4 percentage points, a bigger winning margin than final polling had indicated.

"What's at stake is whether the FPO will appoint the chancellor or not," Kathrin Stainer-

Haemmerle, a political science professor at the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences.

"Should that happen, then I have to say the role of Austria in the European Union would be significantly different. Kickl has often said that (Hungarian Prime Minister) Viktor Orban is a role model for him and he will stand by him."

The winner will not have an absolute majority, but will claim the right to lead a coalition.

The projections were met with cheers at an FPO event in Vienna, with party staff and activists jubilant.

Kickl's victory may prove pyrrhic, as the 55-year-old is a polarising figure under whom other party leaders have refused to serve.

He has given no indication so far he could step aside to ensure his party leads the government.

An FPO victory would make Austria the latest EU country to register surging far-right support after gains in countries including the Netherlands, France and Germany.

The FPO, which is critical of Islam and pledges tougher rules on asylum

seekers, won a national vote for the first time in June when it beat the OVP in European elections.

The OVP, which like the FPO backs tougher immigration rules and tax cuts, is the only party open to forming a coalition with the far-right party. However Nehammer says his party will not join a government with Kickl in it.

Sarah Wolf, a 22-year-old graphic designer and Austrian Communist Party supporter in Vienna, said ahead of the vote she was worried what an FPO victory would mean.

"What most scares me if the FPO really does get the most votes is we get something like Viktor Orban: a slow, gradual reduction in media diversity, democracy and understanding," she said. "There are just so many really dangerous signs."

Viktor de Lijzer, a 17-year-old soldier who supports the FPO, said the party was best placed to fix what he saw as too much criminal violence spurred by immigration.

President Alexander Van der Bellen, who oversees the formation of governments, has voiced

reservations about the FPO because of its criticism of the EU and its failure to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The party opposes EU sanctions on Moscow, citing Austria's neutrality.

He has hinted he might thwart Kickl, saying the constitution does not require him to ask the first-placed party to form a government, even though that has long been the convention.

The FPO, which wants to stop granting asylum altogether and build a "fortress Austria" preventing migrants from entering, was initially led by a former Nazi lawmaker in the 1950s.

It has sought to moderate its image, but new controversy about its past surfaced at the weekend, when a video published by newspaper Der Standard showed members of the party attending a funeral where a song popular with the Nazi SS was sung.

A Jewish student group in Vienna then filed a complaint against FPO members accusing them of breaching anti-Nazi laws.

The FPO did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Ex-Defense Minister Ishiba chosen to become prime minister

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's governing party on Friday picked former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba as its leader, setting him up to become prime minister next week.

The party leadership is a ticket to the top job because the Liberal Democratic Party's governing coalition controls parliament.

Considered a defense policy expert, Ishiba secured a come-from-behind win against Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, a staunch conservative who hoped to become the country's first female prime minister.

The LDP, which has enjoyed nearly unbroken rule since World War II, may have seen Ishiba's more centrist views as crucial in pushing back challenges by the liberal-leaning opposition and winning voter support as the party reels from corruption scandals that drove down outgoing Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's popularity.

After his victory was announced, Ishiba stood up, waved and bowed repeatedly and pledged to "devote all my body and soul" to regain public trust.

"We must be a party that allows members to discuss the truth freely, a party that is fair and impartial and a party that is humble," he told a news conference later Friday.

He stressed Japan needs to reinforce its security, noting recent violations of Japanese airspace by Russian and Chinese warplanes and repeated missile launches by North Korea.

He pledged to continue Kishida's economic policy aimed at pulling Japan out of deflation and achieving real salary increases, while tackling challenges such as Japan's declining birthrate and population, as well as resilience in one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

"I will achieve a society in which women and young people can have hope, hard-working people feel rewarded, and anyone can excel," Ishiba said.

He is expected to call a general election within weeks to capitalize on his win, but it is unclear when. He only said that he would seek the public's mandate at an appropriate time after forming his new administration.

Ishiba has proposed an Asian version of the NATO military alliance, and said Friday that the idea is to form "an organic connection" of existing U.S.-led defense networks such as the ANZUS alliance with Australia and New Zealand and its alliances with South Korea and the Philippines.

"We have to think how we can achieve peace and stability in this region," he said.

He also suggested a more equal Japan-U.S. security alliance, and said having Japanese Self Defense Forces training bases in the United States would "contribute to the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. security alliance," though he did not elaborate.

He is a supporter of Taiwan's democracy. He also advocates the estab-

lishment of a disaster management agency in one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

Ishiba, first elected to parliament in 1986, has served as defense minister, agriculture minister and in other key Cabinet posts, and was LDP secretary general under former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

But he has long been viewed with wariness by powerful conservatives in his party. The 67-year-old former banker was running in the party leadership race for a fifth time and had said this was going to be his "final battle."

A hawk on defense issues, Ishiba has riled some party leaders by supporting measures to improve gaps between men and women and legalizing same-sex marriage.

A record nine lawmakers, including two women, ran in the vote decided by LDP members of parliament and about 1 million dues-paying party members. That's only 1% of the country's eligible voters.

Some experts believe that party turmoil could mean that Japan will return to an era similar to the early 2000s, which saw "revolving door" leadership changes and political instability.

A succession of short-lived governments hurts Japanese prime ministers' ability to set up long-term policy goals or develop trusted relations with other leaders.

On Tuesday, Kishida and his Cabinet ministers will resign. Ishiba, after being formally elected in a parlia-

mentary vote, will then form a new Cabinet later in the day, he said.

Kishida congratulated Ishiba on his victory and said his election is the first step for a new LDP.

"The LDP will be reborn and will live up to the people's expectations and achieve results," he said. As Japan faces security tensions in the region and elsewhere, Japan must step up its own defense power and its ties with the United States, he said.

South Korea, which has substantially improved ties with Japan over the past year in the face of an increasingly assertive China, said in a Foreign Ministry statement that it was looking forward to "continuing active exchanges with the new prime minister."

The main opposition group, the liberal-leaning Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, has struggled to build momentum despite the LDP scandals. Experts say its newly elected leader, centrist former Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, is pushing a conservative shift for the party to attract swing voters.

"I think the LDP made a wise decision," said Takeshi Irita, a 64-year-old engineer. "He is among the most realistic and stable ones and his mindset is relatively closer to the public."

Hideko Arakawa, an 84-year-old retiree, said she has high expectations because of Ishiba's expertise as a veteran lawmaker. "I hope he strives to make changes in Japan," she said.

Supplies, emergency workers rushed to North Carolina

PERRY, Fla. (AP): Gov. Roy Cooper said Sunday that the death toll of 11 in North Carolina is expected to rise from Hurricane Helene as rescuers and other emergency workers reach areas currently isolated by collapsed roads, failing infrastructure and widespread flooding.

"This is an unprecedented tragedy that requires an unprecedented response," Cooper said at a press conference Sunday. He added that "we know there will be more" deaths and he asked residents to avoid traveling on roadways in western North Carolina not only to avoid dangers but to keep roads clear for emergency vehicles. More than 50 search teams have fanned out across the region in search of stranded people.

"Many people are cut off because the roads are impassable," he said. Supplies were being airlifted to the region around Asheville, a city tucked in

the western North Carolina mountains known for its arts, culture and natural beauty.

The rescue efforts included saving 41 people in one mission north of Asheville and an infant. The teams were finding people through both 911 calls and messages on social media, North Carolina Adjutant General Todd Hunt said.

Hurricane Helene roared ashore in Florida's Big Bend region as a Category 4 hurricane late Thursday with winds of 140 mph (225 kph).

From there, it quickly moved through Georgia, where Gov. Brian Kemp said Saturday that it "looks like a bomb went off" after viewing splintered homes and debris-covered highways from the air.

Weakened, Helene then soaked the Carolinas and Tennessee with torrential rains, sending creeks and rivers over their banks and straining dams. More than

60 people have been killed. Several million people were without power as of Sunday afternoon.

In Texas, Jessica Drye Turner begged for someone to rescue her family members stranded on their rooftop in Asheville, surrounded by rising flood waters. "They are watching 18 wheelers and cars floating by," Turner wrote in an urgent Facebook post on Friday.

But in a follow-up message, which became widely circulated on social media on Saturday, Turner said help had not arrived in time to save her parents, both in their 70s, and her six-year-old nephew. The roof had collapsed and the three drowned.

"I cannot convey in words the sorrow, heartbreak and devastation my sisters and I are going through nor imagine the pain before us," she wrote.

Western North Carolina was isolated because of

landslides and flooding that forced the closure of Interstate 40 and other roads. There have been hundreds of water rescues, none more dramatic than in rural Unicoi County in East Tennessee, where dozens of patients and staff were plucked by helicopter from a hospital rooftop Friday.

The storm was expected to hover over the Tennessee Valley on Saturday and Sunday, the National Hurricane Center said.

It unleashed the worst flooding in a century in North Carolina. One community, Spruce Pine, was doused with over 2 feet (0.6 meters) of rain from Tuesday through Saturday. The death toll in Buncombe County is at 10, and Sheriff Quintin Miller indicated at a Sunday morning media briefing it will likely go higher. He said authorities are struggling to notify families of the dead because the lack of telephone, cellphone and internet.

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Israeli assassinations won't bring peace

IN February 1992, when Israeli helicopter gunships opened fire on a convoy of vehicles in southern Lebanon, killing Hezbollah leader Abbas Al Musawi, many in Israel thought the country had reached a defining moment in its conflict with the organisation. Reading one contemporary Israeli newspaper's front-page coverage of the assassination, the parallels with the killing of Al Musawi's successor – Hassan Nasrallah – reveal much about the Israeli outlook.

Al Musawi's death, Hadashot said "opened a new era in the fight against Hezbollah". There were "no more limitations" on Israeli actions and "the era of tussling with Hezbollah on its convenient ground, along the [Lebanese] security strip, is over". Fast forward to 2024, and in his first statement since Nasrallah's killing in a devastating air strike on Friday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the country was on the cusp of "what appears to be a historic turning point" in the fight against its "enemies".

Here, the similarities end. Although the Israeli strike on Al Musawi claimed the life of his wife and four-year-old son, Israel's dropping of a so-called bunker buster bomb on Hezbollah's HQ in the densely populated Beirut suburb of Dahieh was certain to cause much loss of civilian life. The fact that a country whose military and intelligence service can plant explosives in their enemy's pagers and walkie-talkies has resorted to mass-casualty attacks reveals that restraint and non-combatants do not figure in its calculus. What has played out to such devastating effect in Gaza over the past year is now taking place in Lebanon.

Will this use of unrestrained force deliver the security that Israel's leaders say they want? It is highly unlikely. As Al Musawi's killing led to the rise of Nasrallah – a young, committed hardliner – the killing, jailing or sidelining of pragmatic Palestinian figures helped create the conditions for the militarists of Hamas to take power. Friday's bombing of residential areas of Beirut adds to the displacement and impoverishment of the surviving civilians and the continuing destabilisation of Lebanon as a state. The bereavement, injury, trauma and financial ruin heaped upon Lebanon's people – many of whom do not support Hezbollah – likely mean another generation will not see peace with their southern neighbours as something that is possible.

However, this does not detract from the devastation Hezbollah has wrought upon Lebanon and Syria, which requires attention and accountability.

Its political agenda and role of a state-within-a-state has usurped the sovereignty of successive Lebanese governments, leaving the decision about whether to wage war in the hands of a foreign-backed militia.

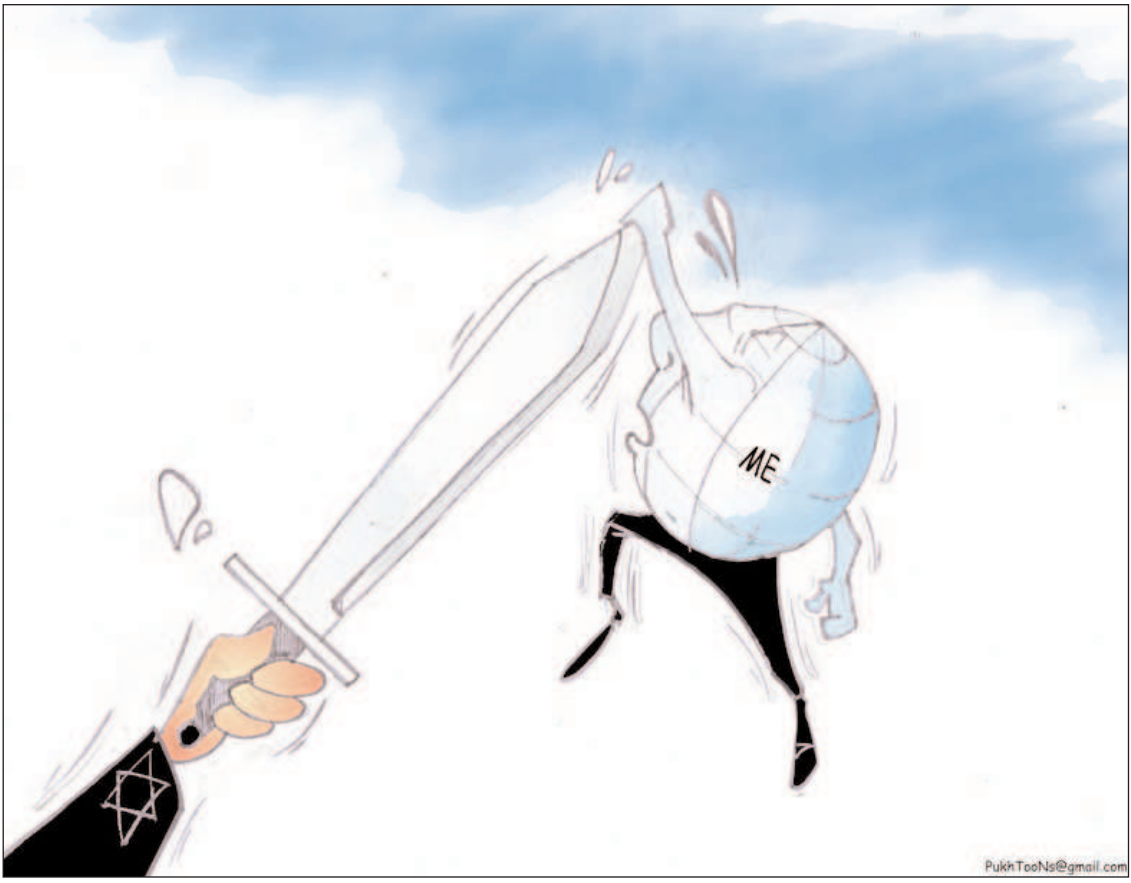
Is there a way out of this spiralling conflict? There is – but it rests on having leaders willing to take steps towards peace with the peace-makers of the region. Israel must also begin contemplating their eventual withdrawal from occupied Arab lands in return for security guarantees. Continued occupation and war are not solutions.

Shortly after Friday's air strike, the preparations for which were being finalised as Israeli leaders took part in the UN General Assembly in New York, a strong message from the Arab world was delivered. Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, speaking before a UN Security Council meeting on Gaza, said: "I can tell you here very unequivocally, all of us are willing to right now, guarantee the security of Israel in the context of Israel ending the occupation and allowing for the emergence of a Palestinian state, independent state."

No one is suggesting that such progress is imminent or easy. But without a clear-eyed understanding of the root cause behind this quagmire of conflict in the Levant, more decades could pass with each assassination being held up as the one that won the war. Without a settlement of the Palestinian question, and a sidelining of extremists from all sides, there will be no peace and it is civilians who will keep paying the highest price.

Important Notice

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Israel's assassinations can't kill resistance

Belén Fernández

After assassinating Hezbollah secretary-general Hassan Nasrallah in a devastating air strike on Beirut's Dahiyeh neighbourhood, the Israeli army took to the platform X to boast triumphantly that Nasrallah would "no longer be able to terrorize the world".

Granted, the objective observer would be forgiven for failing to detect how it is that Nasrallah is supposedly responsible for terrestrial terror when he is not the one who has been presiding over genocide in the Gaza Strip for nearly a year. Nor, obviously, is he the one who just killed more than 700 people in Lebanon in less than a week.

Israel takes the credit for all of that, just as it takes the credit for pulverising numerous residential buildings and their inhabitants in the quest to kill Nasrallah – as good an example as any of "terrorising the world".

And while Israel is marketing Nasrallah's elimination as a decisive blow to the organisation, a brief glance at history reveals that such killings unsurprisingly do nothing to root out resistance and instead intensify it.

Case in point: Abbas al-Musawi, Hezbollah's co-founder and second secretary-general, was assassinated in 1992 in southern Lebanon by Israeli helicopter gunships, which also killed his wife and five-year-old son. On this occasion, too, Israel was quick to congratulate itself on its bloody feat – yet the celebration was woefully premature. Following al-Musawi's assassination, Nasrallah was elected secretary-general and went on to turn Hezbollah into a formidable force not just in Lebanon, but throughout

the region.

Under his leadership, Hezbollah expelled Israel from Lebanese territory in 2000, thereby putting an end to a brutal 22-year occupation, and successfully fought back during the 34-day war on Lebanon in 2006, dealing the Israeli military humiliating blows.

Meanwhile, Israel's continuing obsession with killing Hezbollah figures did little to weaken the group. The 2008 joint Mossad-CIA assassination in Syria of Hezbollah military commander Imad Mughniyeh, for example, simply propelled the man to ever more mythical status in the Hezbollah Hall of Fame.

Then, of course, there are the myriad assassinations of Palestinian leaders going back decades – none of which have deterred the Palestinians from wanting to, you know, exist.

The Associated Press notes that several leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were killed in their Beirut apartments in 1973 by Israeli commandos "in a nighttime raid led by Ehud Barak, who later became Israel's top army commander and prime minister".

As per the AP report, Barak's team "killed Kamal Adwan, who was in charge of PLO operations in the Israeli-occupied West Bank; Mohammed Youssef Najjar, a member of the PLO's executive committee; and Kamal Nasser, a PLO spokesman and charismatic writer and poet".

This took place one year after Ghassan Kanafani – respected Palestinian author, poet, and spokesperson for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) – was assassinated

by the Mossad in Beirut along with his 17-year-old niece.

These and other assassinations of prominent Palestinian figures hardly stifled the Palestinian resistance movement. As the first and second Intifadas demonstrated in the 1980s and 2000s, Palestinians can launch mass popular uprisings even without political or military leaders to organise them. And as Israel endeavoured to violently root traditional resistance groups, new ones emerged. This was the case with Hamas, which the Israeli occupation authorities in Gaza were only too happy to encourage in the beginning as a counterweight to the PLO.

Eventually, Hamas too found itself on the receiving end of Israel's assassination strategy, which as usual failed to achieve its purported objectives.

In 1996, the Israelis killed Hamas engineer Yahya Ayyash by planting explosives in his mobile phone – a precursor, perhaps, to Israel's recent terrorist undertaking in which it detonated pagers and other electronic devices across Lebanon.

Then there was the March 2004 assassination by helicopter strike in Gaza City of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a wheelchair-bound cleric and a founder of Hamas. His successor Abdel Aziz Rantisi was killed less than a month later in an Israeli air strike.

And yet despite enduring three apocalyptic wars in addition to regular Israeli military assaults and constant assassinations, Hamas managed to build enough capacity to carry out the October 7 attack on Israel.

Now, the July 2024 assassination of Hamas's political chief Ismail Haniyeh – one of the main negotiators for a ceasefire deal in Gaza and regarded internationally as a "moderate" – has done nothing to diminish Palestinian resistance to genocide, but plenty to underscore Israel's commitment to derailing any opportunity for a pause in mass killing.

As for Nasrallah's demise, it bears reiterating that Hezbollah's very existence is a result of Israel's propensity for mass murder – specifically the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon that killed tens of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians.

The invasion, dubbed "Operation Peace for Galilee", was ostensibly meant to stamp out anti-Israeli resistance in Lebanon but naturally only supercharged it.

The casus belli invoked to justify the operation was an assassination attempt against Shlomo Argov, the Israeli ambassador to the UK. Argov survived, a luxury that was not afforded the Lebanese and Palestinian casualties of "Peace for Galilee".

If even an unsuccessful assassination attempt against an inconsequential diplomat has been known to provide Israel with a pretext for mass slaughter, it is a wonder that the Israeli administration does not stop and think about what sort of retaliation might be prompted by the actual assassination of a larger-than-life Arab icon – particularly against the backdrop of a relentless genocide of fellow Arabs.

Then again, laying the ground for perpetual and ever more psychopathic warfare is undoubtedly the whole point.

Aside from Israel, Lebanon needs to be protected from another enemy: itself

Faisal J. Abbas

The assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah will undoubtedly be a game-changer, not just for Lebanon, but for the whole region as well.

Will this be the end of the Iran-backed Hezbollah and its tight grip on Lebanon, which has lasted for decades? Time will tell. However, given the fact that Israel has also assassinated a large number of Hezbollah's top-ranking generals and division leaders means that, even if the group were to live on, it would most likely be a caricature of its former self.

This is especially true when we take recent events into consideration. The carefully planned attacks that took place before Nasrallah's assassination – such as when pagers and walkie-talkies exploded in the hands of 3,000 Hezbollah commanders and soldiers this month and the series of targeted assassinations that took out the likes of Fouad Shukur – clearly indicate that Israel has superior intelligence capabilities or that Hezbollah has been infiltrated, or most probably both.

This makes it unlikely that Hezbollah is capable of responding meaningfully or painfully as Israel will likely know about any attack in advance. (The fact that the most gruesome attack Hezbollah has successfully carried out this year

destroyed only a chicken coop in northern Israel in July might support this argument.)

The other alternative is that this will mean an all-out war of revenge backed by the party's biggest supporter, the Iranian regime. However, the most recent events show no evidence that this will be the case. In New York last week, the Iranian president hinted that he was willing to talk with the US, while the leadership in Tehran is yet to avenge the killing of more senior officials that are closer to its heart, such as Maj. Gen. Mohammed Reza Zahedi, the Quds Force's top commander in Syria and Lebanon, who was killed in the attack on Iran's consulate in Damascus in April, and even the 2020 assassination of General Qassem Soleimani.

Meanwhile, the statement of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei that all Muslims should "stand by the people of Lebanon and the proud Hezbollah with whatever means they have and assist them in confronting the ... wicked regime (of Israel)" could either be perceived as mere lip service or could actually trigger a retaliation.

What is tragic for both normal Palestinians and Lebanese, who have nothing to do with either Hamas

or Hezbollah, is that such rhetoric only strengthens Israel, no matter what happens.

If Iran, and its militias, fail to respond, it means Israel also wins psychologically yet again. If Hezbollah retaliates as a group, or if any of its followers worldwide acts individually, this would distract global public opinion from the mounting accusations of war crimes committed in Gaza and Lebanon, and allow the Israeli government to repeat, yet again, that it is only defending itself.

In parallel, the biggest threat to Lebanon is not only the indiscriminate bombing of civilians and infrastructure by Israel, but the potential outbreak of a new civil war.

Given that the country has a leadership vacuum, a weak army, and an outburst of contrasting emotions – given the divisive nature of the late Hezbollah leader – another civil war is not an unlikely scenario.

We need to remember that to his avid followers, the late Nasrallah was considered a hero and even a saint. To his opponents, he was a traitor who served the interests of Iran, not Lebanon. In a country already plagued by sectarianism, lawlessness, and plenty of guns, such a contrast between glee and grief is a recipe for disaster.

Nasrallah's death is a wake-up call for Arab world

Hani Hazaimeh

In a stunning turn of events, the assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli airstrike should serve as a crucial moment of reflection for the Arab world. This moment is not only about Hezbollah or Nasrallah himself, but also about the deeper realization that Iran – the key backer of Hezbollah – is an unreliable ally whose interests starkly diverge from those of the broader Arab and Muslim world.

For decades, Iran has positioned itself as the self-styled defender of Palestinian rights, and the vanguard of resistance against Israel. Through proxy groups such as Hezbollah, Tehran has wielded influence in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, claiming to be at the forefront of the fight against Western and Israeli aggression. But behind the facade of resistance lies a pattern of betrayal, where Arab and Muslim interests have consistently been sacrificed on the altar of Iran's own geopolitical ambitions.

much of the Arab world. Likewise, in Yemen, Tehran's backing of the Houthis rebels has led to a devastating war with Saudi Arabia, resulting in a humanitarian catastrophe that has harmed the Arab and Muslim world's most vulnerable populations. These regional entanglements have not only failed to bring about the promised victories over Israel, but also alienated Iran's allies and led to increased suffering among its so-called beneficiaries. In each case, Iran's support has come at a high cost for Arab states, with little to show in terms of tangible gains against Israel or Western hegemony.

The killing of Hassan Nasrallah should be a moment of reckoning for Arabs across the region. For too long, many have been misled by Iran's narrative of resistance. But the reality is that Tehran's interests lie not in the liberation of Palestine or the betterment of Arab nations, but in expanding its influence and securing its own

Nasrallah's assassination marks the latest episode in a series of Iranian failures to protect or advance the interests of its allies. From Syria's civil war to the collapse of Iraq's fragile institutions, Iran has often leveraged its regional partners as pawns, sacrificing their well-being for its strategic interests. Take Syria, for example: Iran's unwavering support for Bashar Assad has contributed to one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time, with over half a million dead and millions displaced. This support has cemented Assad's regime, but has alienated Iran from much of the Arab world. Likewise, in Yemen, Tehran's backing of the Houthi rebels has led to a devastating war with Saudi Arabia, resulting in a humanitarian catastrophe that has harmed the Arab and Muslim world's most vulnerable populations. These regional entanglements have not only failed to bring about the promised victories over Israel, but also alienated Iran's allies and led to increased suffering among its so-called beneficiaries. In each case, Iran's support has come at a high cost for Arab states, with little to show in terms of tangible gains against Israel or Western hegemony.

Time and again, Iran and its allies, including Hezbollah, have made fiery declarations of their intent to "wipe Israel off the map." Yet, in every significant confrontation, these threats have amounted to little more than rhetorical bluster. Iran's military and proxy forces have been largely defensive, often failing to follow through on their vows of decisive action against Israel.

Hezbollah, while maintaining its strength as a militia, has not posed a genuine existential threat to Israel. The organization, under Nasrallah's leadership, has relied on sporadic skirmishes and isolated rocket attacks – all of which Israel has swiftly and forcefully repelled. This pattern of inaction extends beyond Hezbollah. In the broader Arab world, there is a growing awareness that Iran's promises of "resistance" have only deepened regional instability, resulting in endless cycles of conflict and devastation, particularly in Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. Nasrallah's incendiary speeches painted a picture of eventual triumph over Israel, but on the ground Hezbollah's actions yielded little progress in the Palestinian cause, only further isolating Lebanon in its perpetual state of conflict.

Nasrallah's assassination marks the latest episode in a series of Iranian failures to protect or advance the interests of its allies. From Syria's civil war to the collapse of Iraq's fragile institutions, Iran has often leveraged its regional partners as pawns, sacrificing their well-being for its strategic interests. Take Syria, for example: Iran's unwavering support for Bashar Assad has contributed to one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time, with over half a million dead and millions displaced. This support has cemented Assad's regime, but has alienated Iran from

strategic foothold in the Middle East.

Iran's manipulation of sectarian divides – primarily between Shiite and Sunni communities – has further fragmented the Arab world, making it easier for external powers to exploit those divisions. By backing militias and non-state actors such as Hezbollah, Iran has sought to undermine Arab sovereignty and create chaos, all the while claiming to champion the Palestinian cause.

It is time for Arabs and Muslims to reassess who their true allies are and where their own best interests lie. Nasrallah's death should serve as a reminder that while Iran talks a big game, its actions have often left its allies – and the broader Arab world – weaker, more divided, and further from achieving true peace and stability in the region.

Rather than continuing to be swayed by Tehran's hollow promises, the Arab world must take charge of its own destiny. Iran's involvement in Arab affairs has neither brought liberation nor victory; it has brought instead destruction, division, and instability. The assassination of Nasrallah might be the final straw that brings misled Arabs to their senses, encouraging them to pursue alliances that are based on mutual respect, shared interests, and the real prospect of peace.

The Arab world must prioritize unity, both within and among nations, to face its challenges. Only through collective strength, rather than reliance on external powers with their own agendas, can the region hope to chart a course toward peace, stability, and justice for Palestinians and all Arabs alike.

The time has come to acknowledge that Iran is not the solution to the Arab world's challenges – it is part of the problem.

What next after Nasrallah’s assassination?

Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib

The Israeli military said on Saturday that it had killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in an airstrike on the organization’s underground headquarters in southern Beirut the previous night. The question is, what happens in the wake of Nasrallah’s death? Where will his assassination take Lebanon and the region?

What will be the effect on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Iran — and what role will the US try to play to juggle all the events? Netanyahu knows that in the lead-up to the US elections there is a power vacuum. He has an opportunity until Nov. 5, hence he will use it to the maximum. Following the successful pager attack, the Israeli leader went after Nasrallah. Now that this threat to Israel has been eliminated, what will Netanyahu do? Will he be deterred? This is unlikely because he will see an opportunity to change the current status quo, and impose new conditions on countries in the region, definitively on Lebanon.

The events can either lead to a de-escalation and a regional deal, or to further escalation. It all depends on the ability of the US to restrain Netanyahu. Typically, Washington should leverage the assassination to pressure Netanyahu to end the war on Lebanon and, ideally, on Gaza. However, the current administration is focused on the election

and will not take any decision. Lebanon has no deterrence. For Israel, Iran deterrence is also punctured. Hezbollah was Iran’s front line against Israel. Therefore, we need to closely watch how Netanyahu behaves in the next two months.

The assassination is likely to embolden Netanyahu,

llah is a major achievement that Netanyahu can sell to his people as a victory, and use that to end the war and do a hostage deal with Hamas. However, he does not seem interested in stopping. He will try to use the next two months to reap maximum benefits. So far Netanyahu has faced resistance from his neighbors.

General Assembly, he vowed not to stop until total victory was reached. Therefore, it is unlikely that he will portray the killing of Nasrallah as the victory, and use it to move to a diplomatic solution. Israel has used each war to gain more land, and increase its hegemony. This is the war in which Netanyahu wants

differences aside, and crafts a solution. The region can no longer wait for the US. The US will not do anything before the election — if it decides to do anything at all. To wait for the election will be too late. The damage that Netanyahu can inflict in the next 40 days could be irreversible. The threat represented by Netanyahu should push everyone to come together. They should do that quickly. Lebanon cannot endure another 40 days of Netanyahu’s actions, and neither can Gaza or the region.

The problem in our region is we always wait for a solution from outside. It is time to realize that the US is busy with its election and is unlikely to pressure the Israeli leader. Netanyahu, on the other hand, with a taste of victory, will want more and more. Turkiye, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, and Egypt should come together and decide to put an end to this madness. The starting point would be Iran. Tehran should rein in its proxies creating chaos in the region in return for security guarantees from its neighbors. After all, for Iran the proxies act as a deterrence in a hostile neighborhood.

The region should take its fate into its own hands — it cannot wait for the US to pressure Israel. It should act now before we have a new catastrophe and a new displacement like 1967.

The killing of a prominent figure such as Nasrallah is a major achievement that Netanyahu can sell to his people as a victory, and use that to end the war and do a hostage deal with Hamas. However, he does not seem interested in stopping. He will try to use the next two months to reap maximum benefits. So far Netanyahu has faced resistance from his neighbors. King Abdullah of Jordan and President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt have categorically refused any Palestinian displacement to their countries. This is why the campaign that Israel conducted to eradicate “terror groups and cells” in the West Bank was stopped.

who now sees the opportunity to impose a new paradigm. It is unlikely that Israel will stop the bombing of Lebanon. Israeli army chief Herzi Halevi said that they would eliminate anyone who constitutes a threat. It is also unlikely that Hezbollah is totally destroyed. Israel wants the group to raise the white flag, which they will not.

The killing of a prominent figure such as Nasra-

King Abdullah of Jordan and President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt have categorically refused any Palestinian displacement to their countries. This is why the campaign that Israel conducted to eradicate “terror groups and cells” in the West Bank was stopped.

Unless there is someone to steer events, an unbridled Netanyahu will drive the region into more chaos. In his speech at the UN

to establish Israel as the regional hegemon that no one can challenge, especially since Iran remained all but idle in this fight. Now, with the killing of Hezbollah’s leader, Iran is emasculated. Will anyone stand in Netanyahu’s way? Unlikely. He will use this opportunity to impose new conditions on everyone.

However, this grim scenario can be avoided if the region comes together, puts

The peace appeals of Israel’s Western enablers are a cynical charade

Andrew Mitrovica

You cannot negotiate a ceasefire, let alone peace, with a man who prefers to wage war.

That is the conundrum facing a host of suddenly fretting Western leaders, led by retiring US President Joe Biden, who insist — publicly, at least — that they are working hard to prevent another, cataclysmic war from engulfing the Middle East.

Let’s pretend for a moment that their “concerns” are sincere. Then, these same Western leaders ought to acknowledge finally that they are, in large measure, responsible for that pressing conundrum.

Long before October 7, 2023, Biden and company have, at every turn, enabled, armed, and provided diplomatic cover for their “man” in Tel Aviv — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his extremist government.

Netanyahu has reciprocated by telling the chumps in Washington, London, Paris, Berlin, Brussels, and Ottawa who, at every turn, have enabled, armed and provided him and his fanatical coalition government with diplomatic cover to — let me put this as politely as I can — take a hike.

True to obstinate form, Netanyahu has rebuffed efforts to arrange for a 21-day ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah with a view to crafting a more sustainable truce.

A strutting Netanyahu made his opposition to any brokered settlement plain in a typical “I am the toughest dude on the block” address to the United Nations General Assembly on Friday where he warned Iran that the “long arm of Israel” can “reach... the entire Middle East”.

The chumps in Washington, London, Paris, Berlin, Brussels, and

Ottawa have feigned surprise and disappointment at Netanyahu’s grating intransigence. Now, belatedly, Biden et al want to play “peacemaker” when, all along, they have remained true to the West’s defining Middle East doctrine: Kill first, think later.

They have been joined lately in this predictable bit of chicanery by Western news organisations who, despite their history of blatant support for the disas-

sands of innocents, well, so be it. The Lebanese “asked for it” and they’re going to get a stinging taste of “Israel’s wrath”, too.

Netanyahu isn’t going to “change course” because he is incapable of changing course. He knows that war is his golden ticket to remaining prime minister and, by convenient coincidence, helps him stave off those troublesome pending criminal indictments.

Time may also be his

Netanyahu isn’t going to “change course” because he is incapable of changing course. He knows that war is his golden ticket to remaining prime minister and, by convenient coincidence, helps him stave off those troublesome pending criminal indictments. Time may also be his ally. Netanyahu is banking on former US President Donald Trump soon returning to the Oval Office. If that happens, America’s vacuous rhetorical reservations vis-à-vis his genocidal destruction of Gaza and planned invasion of Lebanon will evaporate. Netanyahu is loath, as well, to hand Trump’s opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, a foreign policy “victory” on the eve of the presidential election.

trous “kill first, think later” policy, wish Netanyahu would cease what he has been doing with their explicit and hearty approval.

And if he can’t be stopped, some of them want him toppled to prevent “Lebanon from turning into Gaza”.

It’s too funny. Netanyahu — the saint turned apparent sinner — isn’t going anywhere. The bulk of Israelis support what their beloved prime minister has done and is doing in Gaza and the occupied West Bank with an evangelical thirst and zeal.

If it is necessary to bludgeon Lebanon until it resembles Gaza and cause the deaths of tens of thou-

ally, Netanyahu is banking on former US President Donald Trump soon returning to the Oval Office. If that happens, America’s vacuous rhetorical reservations vis-à-vis his genocidal destruction of Gaza and planned invasion of Lebanon will evaporate.

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Harris keeps repeating, like a metronome, that she and the president are “working around the clock” for a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel. It is a ridiculous pantomime and, I suspect, realises it.

The chumps in

Washington, London, Paris, Berlin, Brussels, and Ottawa embraced Netanyahu — knowing, full well, that their disagreeable man in Tel Aviv has had a lifelong allergy to diplomacy.

Still, they held him tight to their welcoming bosoms. And they told him, again and again, that he could, in effect, kill as many Palestinians as he wanted to, for as long as he wanted to, whenever he wanted to.

Lebanon’s fate was

retary-general of Hezbollah, proving the West’s kill first, think about the consequences later strategy for the combustible region still reigns.

The deaths of more than 41,000 Palestinians and counting — most of them children and women — haven’t prompted Biden and friends to halt arming, defending, and giving Israel diplomatic shade at the United Nations.

Only last week, Germany, the UK, and Canada abstained from a UN motion — sponsored by the State of Palestine — demanding that Israel end its illegal occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The US voted against.

The resolution was based on a ruling by the International Court of Justice in July that said Israel’s presence in the Palestinian territory is unlawful and must end.

The supposed “split” between Israel and its steadfast allies in the West is an exercise in cynical, self-serving posturing. It is a mirage designed to suggest that Western capitals are concerned about the destiny of people they have never been that concerned about. The truth is just as Western presidents and prime ministers have been content to permit Israel to vent, unrestrained, its “killing rage” and bomb Gaza into dust and memory, they will allow Netanyahu to do the same to Lebanon in due and deliberate course.

Lebanese civilians are as forgettable and disposable as Palestinian civilians. Their lives, their hopes, their dreams don’t matter. All that matters is Israel’s “right to defend itself”.

So, Benjamin Netanyahu will continue to strut as Palestinian and Lebanese innocents continue to die.

This might be Israel’s ultimate strategic gamble

Yossi Mekeleberg

Lebanese ally, an ad-hoc coalition led by the US would not once again come to its aid.

A common mantra over the years has been that neither Israel nor Hezbollah, despite the constant exchanges of vitriol and mutual provocations, has the appetite for a full-scale confrontation, mainly because the damage inflicted on both sides during the 2006 war left them under no illusion about the consequences of another such conflict.

At the same time, the so-called “ring of fire” of pro-Iranian militant movements that exist on Israel’s borders has remained a constant and unnerving threat to its security.

Unlike the Palestinian issue, which includes a territorial dispute and an occupation, since Israel withdrew from Lebanon in 2000, following the ill-conceived invasion of its northern neighbor 18 years earlier, there has been no Israeli military presence there.

The prioritization by Hezbollah of enmity with Israel is a cynical means of preserving its own power and control over much of Lebanese politics and society, with the group presenting itself as the champion of the Palestinian cause.

The war in Gaza is mired

using thousands of exploding pagers and walkie-talkies — if we make the extremely reasonable assumption that it was carried out by Israeli authorities — is the prelude to a wider military operation than the one already taking place.

Or perhaps Israel acted out of fear that Hezbollah was about to discover the explosives planted in the devices and detonated them, following this up with a military operation that included the elimination of many senior Hezbollah commanders in an effort to translate a successful covert operation into a military, and eventually a political, achievement. While the extensive use of Israel’s air force was only to be expected, there remains the threat that this might be followed by the use of ground troops. Following the killing of Nasrallah, further escalation, perhaps beyond Lebanon, is a possibility, which only a swift response by the international community can avert.

Certainly, Israel’s military plans rely heavily on a best-case scenario that is far from guaranteed. While there is no love lost between Hezbollah and the Lebanese people, or many people across the region, if

The discovery in 2018 of Hamas-like tunnels running from Lebanon deep into northern Israel, along with Hezbollah’s plans to take over parts of that territory, sparked concerns that the fate of Israelis living close to the border might be similar to those who lived along the border with Gaza. Those concerns increased following the attacks by Hamas on Oct. 7 last year. One of the unknowns in all this is whether the attack in Lebanon two weeks ago using thousands of exploding pagers and walkie-talkies — if we make the extremely reasonable assumption that it was carried out by Israeli authorities — is the prelude to a wider military operation than the one already taking place.

in some sort of stalemate, and efforts to reach a ceasefire agreement with Hamas that would include the release of hostages and the delivery of desperately needed humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza is obviously not a priority for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

As a result, some in his government, led by Defense Minister Yoav Galant and senior military personnel, have forcefully declared that an opportunity exists to hit Hezbollah and hit it hard. The objective would be to diminish the group’s offensive capabilities by creating a military buffer zone that can ensure the security of northern Israel, and the rest of the country, with the additional aim of delivering a hammer blow to Tehran’s hegemonic aspirations.

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One of the unknowns in all this is whether the attack in Lebanon two weeks ago

Israel is indeed intent on using force in Lebanon in the way it has been doing in Gaza, it is hardly likely to drive a wedge between the people of the country and Hezbollah.

Moreover, massive civilian casualties would certainly deepen and broaden the criticisms by the international community, including among those countries Israel would need support from most in case of a regional conflict, who are already critical of the manner in which the war on Gaza has been conducted.

There is also a danger of “mission creep,” especially if an incursion by ground troops intended to be short-term drags on and lasts for months or even years, leaving Israel to deal with damaging guerrilla warfare.

Above all, it might bring us a step closer to fulfilling Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar’s dream of a regional war. This might also suit Netanyahu’s administration, in the belief that it would drag the US and its allies into a war with Iran that might result in the destruction of Tehran’s nuclear and other military capabilities. But these are extreme scenarios with potentially dangerous and unforeseen consequences, although after Friday night’s events we might be one step closer to them.

This is what a post-American Middle East looks like

Christopher Phillips

The outbreak of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah begins to look depressingly familiar. Many have noted similarities with the 2006 war, while Lebanese and Israeli civilians fear a return to the sustained destruction of that 34-day conflict.

However, there is already a significant difference from 2006: the scale of the violence. In 2006, the total number of deaths in Lebanon was 1,100, while 43 Israelis were killed, according to Amnesty International. The same organization noted that last Monday, 558 Lebanese, including 50 children and 94 women, were killed. Already the casualty figures for the first week of conflict are getting close to the numbers killed in just over a month in 2006.

The same shift in scale has been visible in the Gaza conflict. The Oct. 7 attacks saw 1,139 killed in Israel, including 695 civilians — the deadliest attack in Israel’s history. Since then, according to the UN, more than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed. By way of comparison, in the various Gaza conflicts and attacks between 2008 and 2023, over 6,400 Palestinians and 308 Israelis died.

So, why is the scale in both conflicts so much greater? There are many possible explanations: The extent of trauma in Israel after Oct. 7 prompted its government to react more violently than in the past; Benjamin Netanyahu’s right-wing government is arguably the most hawkish in Israel’s history; the uncompromising nature of

Hamas’ leadership; and Hezbollah’s willingness to strike deeper into Israel. All have likely played some role in escalating the violence.

But another factor is also at play: the role of the US. In the 2006 war, and again in Israel’s various conflicts in Gaza such as in 2008-09, 2012 and 2014, Washington sanctioned Israel’s assaults, but eventually weighed in to pressure its ally into a ceasefire. Today, however, the influence of the US is far less pronounced. As has been noted by many commentators, the last decade or so has seen the development of a “post-American Middle East,” with Washington stepping back from its self-appointed role as “regional policeman.” The US remains the most powerful external player, but Russia and China now

have increased influence. Washington’s powerful regional allies — Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Egypt, the UAE and Israel — increasingly act independently of the US, while its enemy Iran has expanded its network of allied militia, such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis.

For many, this comparative retreat of the US is long overdue, especially after its destabilizing interventions following 9/11 in 2001. But there was another aspect to its hegemony: As the only superpower, the US was often able to pressure, cajole, and mediate both allies and enemies in the region at times of crisis. In the case of Israel’s wars, it invariably sided with Israel, but nevertheless

appeared able to eventually help bring about ceasefires. In contrast, the aftermath of Oct. 7 has seen President Joe Biden repeatedly fail to restrain Netanyahu, despite the White House’s repeated efforts.

Many have been frustrated at Biden’s unwillingness to halt arms sales to Israel to force Netanyahu’s hand, but in the past such drastic moves were not necessary for Washington to exercise influence. Biden’s weakness may partly be down to an ailing president fearful that too much criticism of Israel will aid Donald Trump’s electoral chances in November. But it may also reflect Netanyahu’s recognition that Washington is not willing to put in the military and

economic capital to police the Middle East as it once did. With less fear of censure and consequence from Washington, Netanyahu’s government appears less restrained than Israeli leaderships of the past.

This places the rest of the region in something of a predicament. Many, even among America’s allies, welcome Washington’s stepping back from the region, and few want a return to the military interventions of the early 2000s. There is little indication that either Kamala Harris or Trump wish to reclaim the role of the Middle East’s policeman, while the empowerment of China, Russia, and the regional powers would likely make it far harder to do even if desired.

The post-American Middle East is, therefore,

likely to continue for the foreseeable future, and with it could come an environment in which the more powerful players, such as Israel, feel less restrained. How other governments can respond to this is unclear. They could lobby the US to play a more active role once again, as has been the strategy of some since Oct. 7, but without much success. They could urge other external powers to step into the role of “regional policeman,” but Russia lacks the capacity, China lacks the will and, as was seen before, most in the Middle East are not keen on having an outside hegemon anyway.

Another option is for regional powers to work together to develop more robust stabilizing mechanisms. If Israel, or others,

cannot be restrained by outsiders, are there diplomatic or economic levers regional states could deploy together, such as occurred during the 1973 oil embargo? Of course, such united action requires most Middle Eastern states to put aside their differences in the interests of stabilizing the Levant and preventing further deaths.

In the short term this appears highly improbable. In the long term, though, greater regional cooperation might be something leaders could consider to diminish instability. The scale of conflict seen in Lebanon and Gaza could prove a regular feature of the post-American Middle East, and regional leaders hoping to prevent this may need to explore methods of containing this among themselves.



MCCI president vows to strengthen liason with govt

MULTAN (APP): Newly-elect president Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) Mian Bakhtawar Tanvir Sheikh said on Sunday that unemployment rate was continuously rising in the country which affecting all strata of society, suggesting that the voice of business community should be reached to decision-makers and steps should be taken towards improving the ease of doing business.

He expressed these views while addressing the Annual General Meeting (AGM) here at MCCI.

Earlier, following the announcement of final results by the election commission, Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh, along with Senior Vice President Khawaja Muhammad Mohsin Masood and Vice President Azhar Javid Khan, assumed their offices.

“We will strengthen our

liaison with the government, especially to push for changes in tax laws and for easier taxation for the business community,” he remarked. They said that they would work on infrastructure, economic, and industrial development to make Southern Punjab an exemplary region.

The industrial trade, particularly the SME sector, was struggling significantly, Bakhtawar said and added that in this regard, his team would make vigorous efforts for economic and social development in the region, as well as to improve business conditions, and would proceed with mutual consultation and guidance from senior members.

He noted that the outgoing team, led by Mian Rashid Iqbal, had performed excellently and managed responsibilities with a suitable strategy,

particularly in executing CSR activities effectively.

Outgoing President Mian Rashid Iqbal presented a performance report for the two years and stated that the presidency was no less than a challenge.

This was the first time that the tenure of staff and executive committee members was extended, allowing to serve the chamber and its members for two years, he added.

Understanding business issues and making extraordinary efforts to resolve them is a challenging task.

He mentioned that he and his team worked hard to serve the business community and to access decision-makers to address their problems.

“Our team faced many difficulties during these two years, including the unstable political situation, inflation, rising dollar prices, and increases in

electricity, gas, and fuel costs, which led to the closure of various businesses and industries,” the outgoing president said.

Despite many challenges, the team’s dedication and effort in tackling all issues for the industrial, economic, and agricultural development of the region was commendable.

The event was well-attended by Mian Tanveer A. Sheikh, Khawaja Muhammad Yousuf, Mian Fareed Mughais, Khawaja Muhammad Usman, Khawaja Muhammad Hussain, Khawaja Muhammad Ilyas, Faisal Saeed, Syed Iftikhar Ali Shah, Khawaja Muhammad Farooq, Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, Mrs. Romana Tanveer Sheikh, Faheem Sattar, Ramadan Bhatta, Secretary General Muhammad Shafiq, along with former presidents, senior members, and scores of general body members.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb addressing a press conference.

Atiq elects as PCMEA’s new chairman

ISLAMABAD (INP): Mian Atiq Ur Rehman has been elected Chairman of the Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PCMEA), with Zahid Nazir as Senior Vice Chairman of the Southern Zone and Riaz Ahmed as Vice Chairman of the Northern Zone.

In recognition of his long-standing contributions, senior leader Abdul Latif Malik has been appointed as the Patron-in-Chief of the association.

According to a statement issued by the association, all officials were elected unopposed for a two-year term. The executive committee members for both Northern and Southern Zones were also selected. Mian Atiq Ur Rehman, Zahid Nazir, and Riaz Ahmed expressed gratitude for the trust placed in them and pledged to address the challenges facing the handwoven carpet industry.

Former Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf presented his two-year performance report and received praise for his efforts in highlighting industry issues at the governmental level.

The newly elected team committed to continuing this advocacy and enhancing the global presence of Pakistan’s handwoven carpet industry through upcoming international events.

Preparations for the 40th International Carpet Exhibition are in full swing, with expectations that the event will boost the industry and contribute to the national economy through foreign exchange earnings.

SNGPL cracks down on gas theft:

84 connections disconnected

F.P. Report

LAHORE: In an ongoing operation against gas theft, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has intensified its efforts, conducting raids across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad. The company has disconnected 84 illegal gas connections and imposed fines amounting to Rs 2.7 million.

In Lahore, the team disconnected 19 connections for illegal gas use and 14 for compressor use, imposing fines of Rs 1.25 million

for gas theft cases. The Gujranwala team cut off 2 connections for illegal gas use and 1 for compressor use, with fines amounting to Rs 0.27 million. In Faisalabad, 3 connections were disconnected for illegal gas use, and fines of Rs 0.04 million were imposed.

Sheikhupura’s regional team disconnected 2 connections for illegal gas use, imposing fines of Rs 0.39 million. In Multan, 14 connections were cut for illegal gas use and 9 for compressor use. In Sahiwal, the team disconnected 2 con-

nections for illegal gas use, imposing Rs 0.14 million in fines. The Bahawalpur team disconnected 3 connections for compressor use and 1 for illegal gas use.

In Rawalpindi, 2 connections were severed for illegal gas use and 4 for compressor use. The Mardan team disconnected 4 connections for illegal gas use, imposing Rs 0.4 million in fines. In Peshawar and Karak, 4 connections were cut for illegal gas use, with Rs 0.276 million in fines imposed for gas theft.

PIAF chairman greets LCCI newly-elected office-bearers

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol has greeted newly-elected office-bearers of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and PPPA’s landslide victory in the LCCI elections, hoping the new leadership would safeguard interests of business community.

He said the LCCI body would continue to raise voice for the solution of business community’s problems. He said that our all candidates, after the hot contest with rivals, clinched all seats, as our candidates were highly qualified, young and dedi-

cated enjoying the highest degree of integrity. He congratulated the newly-elected LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Khalid Usman and Vice-President Shahid Nazir, saying the PPP Alliance victory with a thumping majority is an endorsement of the economic policies of the Alliance.

PIAF Chairman said that the victory of the Alliance’s candidates is a victory of the entire business community that would help them get their issues resolved with a new vigour and strength. He said that the number of votes cast in favour of the PPP Alliance is enough to prove that the

business community has always been with the Alliance, adding this was the biggest victory by the Alliance. He paid rich tributes to the leadership Mian Anjum Nisar for putting in their all energies to ensure a comfortable victory. He said that all efforts would be made to facilitate the members of LCCI for smooth functioning of their businesses.

Faheem Saigol said rivals could not find good candidates against high profile candidates. He urged the government to focus on arresting the downward graph of dwindling export on an urgent basis and provide a package of incentives to boost exports.

He said the top leadership firmly believed in the rule of law, promotion and strengthening of democracy and upholding the glory of constitutions. He said all decisions were taken with the consensus in the interest of the business community and always all-out efforts were made to help address the genuine grievances being confronted by the traders.

He said the PIAF (Anjum Nisar group) always focused on attaining economic prosperity of the country through advocating the just cause of the traders. The PIAF would continue to follow its agenda mainly aimed at accelerating the pace of economic activities and expedite the process of rapid industrialization in the country.

He said that our candidates’ victory with a thumping majority was an endorsement of the economic policies of the PIAF (Anjum Nisar group).

Aga Khan University Hospital rallies community for heart health

F.P. Report

KARACHI: In celebration of World Heart Month, the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) hosted two major community events, “Mini Marathon” and “World Heart Day Ride”, led by Dr Saulat Fatimi, Section Head of Cardiothoracic Surgery at AKUH, in collaboration with the cycling group Docs on Wheels. Together, these events aimed at promoting heart health and wellness among people.

The 3.2 km “Mini Marathon”, held on 22 September, was made successful by a turnout of over 400 participants including the leadership, doctors, nurses, staff, and enthusiastic students of the Aga Khan University (AKU).

The participants came together donned in red, the colour symbolizing heart health, to show their commitment to promoting healthy living. A poster competition was also organized, and prizes were distributed among the best-ranked artists.

Dr. Sulaiman Shahabuddin, President and Vice-Chancellor of Aga Khan University, shared his enthusiasm about the event’s impact, stating, “At the Aga Khan University Hospital, we are deeply committed to the health and well-being of our community. Events like these are not just activities; they are a rallying call to action for everyone to embrace a more active and informed lifestyle.”

Continuing the promotion of the cause, AKUH

also organized a “World Heart Day Ride” on 29 September to mark World Heart Day and promote cardiovascular wellness.

The event kicked off at the crack of dawn at the AKU Sports and Rehabilitation Centre, with participants arriving in a wave of red attire. The ride attracted a diverse group of around 600 cyclists, including students, doctors, nurses, hospital leadership, and members of civil society, all united in the cause of raising heart health awareness.

The cyclists rode a carefully planned route, passing from Karsaz Road to Shahrah-e-Faisal, then to Digh Road, and finally returning to the AKU campus.

Dr Saulat Fatimi said, “Around half of the people with heart diseases are

diagnosed after their death. Our motive behind activities such as mini marathons and cycling events is to create awareness about how to care for your heart and be mindful of regular heart health checkups.”

Both events concluded with a hearty breakfast at the AKU Sports Centre.

These events are in line with AKUH’s enduring commitment to fostering healthy living within the community. For years, AKUH has been at the forefront of organizing events that promote wellness and good health. By continuously engaging the public in such activities, the hospital reaffirms its dedication to not only treating but also preventing diseases, including heart conditions, through lifestyle empowerment.

APBF calls for announcing special package for SMEs

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has asked the government to announce special incentives for SMEs in view of saving economy, as the small industry represents more than 90 percent of around 3.2 million business enterprises in Pakistan, contributing 40 percent to the GDP, employing more than 80 percent of non-agricultural workforce, and generating 25 percent of export earnings.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the economic crisis has forced the global investors to put their new investment plans on hold, foreign direct investment was 11 percent lower than the investment registered last year. He said there is no visible improvement in employment, while the small and medium industries, which are the main providers of jobs, are struggling because of lack of funds and demand. The job losses at the original equipment manufacturers not significant but at auto vendors, where bulk of auto-related jobs exist are operating with minimum possible staff.

He noted that inflows of Foreign Direct Investment in the country have declined by almost 12 percent during the first two months of this fiscal year (FY24-25). The State Bank of Pakistan reported that the country fetched FDI amounting to \$1.13 billion during July-Aug of FY24-25 compared to \$1.23 billion in the same period of last fiscal year (FY23-24), depicting a decline of almost 12 percent. During the period under review, FDI inflows were \$1.86 billion against \$790 million. On month-on-month basis, the net foreign direct investment settled at \$231 million in July 2024, compared to \$180 million during July 2023. The FDI inflows in this period are highest since June 2021.

APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi also suggested the ministry to devise strategies for promotion of Pakistani products, calling upon trade officers to take advantage of opportunities offered by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Ibrahim Qureshi said that previously, foreign investors mostly poured money into the sectors which did not pose a risk to

their profit margins due to rupee depreciation such as the power sector. It is hoped that Pakistan’s economy will now gain growth momentum, which should encourage foreign investors to invest in new projects, he added.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said that a slowdown in the economy had badly impacted business confidence. It is must for the authorities concerned to first create an enabling environment for the local businessmen desiring to make new investment. He stated that Pakistan has remained a potential market for foreign investors, who still have plans to make fresh investment in the country, but they have continued to wait for the return of economic stability. He highlighted uncertainty in the rupee-dollar parity as one of the major concerns of foreign investors.

Maaz Mahmood advocated the need for raising the country’s tax base so that tax-to-GDP ratio improves from current poor level. He urged the trade officers to explore opportunities to diversify exports of goods and services in their respective areas, ask-

ing them to meet the challenges faced by Pakistan in European markets.

Maaz Mahmood said that poor economic and political climate have been additional factors in bogging down the business and investment in the country over the last one year.

International labour & trade unions delegation meets minister

LAHORE (APP): A 12-member delegation of International Labour and Trade Unions called on Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain at a local hotel on Sunday.

The delegation was headed by Shoya Yoshida, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, Asia-Pacific, Singapore.

During the meeting, mutual cooperation was agreed upon for the preparation of skilled manpower and the promotion of technical education. The possibilities of trade with various countries were also reviewed.

The minister briefed the delegation about the investment opportunities and the measures taken to promote technical education.

He stated that special incentives are available for investors in Punjab’s Special Economic Zones (SEZs) including a 10-year income tax exemption and a one-time duty-free machinery import facility. He shared that 19 Centers of Excellence are being established in different cities by TEVTA with the support of the Asian Development Bank. A Garment City is being developed on 630 acres in Sheikhupura, where the government would build

industrial unit structures and offer them to investors on rent.

The minister highlighted the ongoing improvements in industrial infrastructure and the upgradation of TEVTA institutions. He also shared that Punjab’s Skill Development Policy 2024 has been submitted for cabinet approval. He added that solar study programs have been introduced in TEVTA institutions for the first time. Additionally, several Chinese companies have expressed interest in investing in Punjab.

Ch. Shafay Hussain emphasized that promoting solar energy and electric

vehicles is the Punjab government’s top priority.

The delegation expressed its commitment to working with Punjab to promote mutual trade and technical education.

The delegation included Mr Laxman Basnet, General Secretary of the South Asian Trade Union Confederation from Nepal; Mr Geir Tonstol, Country Director of the International Labour Organization in Pakistan; Eugenio Mozarelli, Country Manager of the Italian Trade Union Cooperation Agency from Rome, Italy; and Mr Imad Ashraf, Country Head of the American Solidarity Center in Pakistan.

BMP for pursuing reforms, stability as IMF loan alone can’t accelerate growth

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry’s Businessmen Panel (BMP) has warned that extensive borrowing, including the recent IMF \$7 billion financing for Pakistan, is unlikely to put the country’s economy back on track, placing significant responsibility on the government to pursue reforms for long-term stability.

The FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that with continuous hike in cost of production in the country, what the Pakistan’s economy really needs is persistent and sound economic management, asking the authorities for undertaking economic reforms and improving the regulatory environment for

better Ease of Doing Business level to boost foreign investment so that financial stability can be achieved in the long-run.

He said that Pakistan’s industry had been harmed by the high cost of doing business, which discouraged investment in capacity and capability and called for easing the burden of heavy taxes on the power sector.

Mian Anjum Nisar stated that the constant increase in power tariffs on the pretext of fuel adjustment had increased electricity prices and added to the already high cost of trade and industry. Seeking comparable energy tariffs for domestic industries in order to capture the global market, he stated that due to high electricity rates, power theft became rampant as the tariff was unaffordable to consumers.

Pakistan had reached a staff-level agreement with the IMF in July for the 37-month loan, the 25th since 1958, but delays in securing a final approval created market uncertainty.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, currently attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York, hailed the decision, insisting that the government was committed to implementing reforms demanded by the deal. He said he also hoped that this would be Pakistan’s last IMF program.

Economic analysts said that while Pakistan has stabilised after a prolonged period of volatility, much work needs to be done. The agreement, in the short term, will create space for the government, but if the medium-term outlook is to improve, then the govern-

ment needs to pursue structural reforms that create both fiscal space for Islamabad and assuage concerns about debt sustainability, they said.

Pakistan’s debt, which poses the biggest strain on its \$350bn economy, requires \$90bn in repayments over the next three years, with the next major tranche due in December.

Foreign reserves with the central bank currently stand at \$9.5bn, sufficient to cover just over two months of imports.

The senior economists said that the loan primarily aims to ease Pakistan’s debt repayments.

While much needed, a program built around rollovers, expensive borrowing from commercial banks to fill in financing gaps is hardly to bring any sustainable solutions to

Pakistan’s economic and financial challenges, they added.

Pakistan is the IMF’s fifth-largest debtor, owing more than \$6bn as of September 25, according to the lender’s data, after Argentina, Egypt, Ukraine and Ecuador.

Analysts say one challenge before Pakistan will be to build a broad political consensus around the reforms needed under the IMF deal, including taxes, raising energy tariffs and allowing market forces to determine the Pakistani rupee’s value.

Political stability will define the fate of the program and the economy. Implementation of the reforms agenda outlined in this program, such as no subsidies from provinces, taxes on the agriculture sector, privatisation a very

high level of commitment from different political parties ruling in respective provinces, they said.

Government policies, including artificially protecting the value of the rupee, as well as a catastrophic flood in the country in late 2022 meant that by May 2023, inflation soared to as high as 38 percent, while foreign reserves fell to \$3bn.

Without addressing fundamental dysfunctions, the country will almost certainly falter. Long-term possibilities are immense, but they remain untapped, they said, referring to the political schisms in the country and the risks they pose to a unified approach towards reforms.

He urged the power ministry to identify system constraints and communicate targets to all concerned

departments in order to launch a wartime effort to upgrade the transmission system. He urged the completion of all ongoing power projects well ahead of schedule. He stated that business-friendly policies must be adopted, similar to those adopted by other neighbouring countries in the region.

He suggested that the amount specified in trade policy be used to promote exports by providing incentives to trade and industry and by exploring new markets. According to him, Pakistan’s electricity prices were already on the high side, which was the primary reason for the country’s price hikes. He stated that providing affordable electricity would assist in lowering production costs, thereby benefiting the public. He stated that rising

imports and a widening trade deficit posed a serious threat to economic growth and must be addressed urgently.

He accused all previous governments for extensive borrowing of forex during last five years to meet local expenditure, which had increased the burden of foreign debt of Pakistan substantially, instead of making serious efforts to enhance the ranking of Ease of Doing Business Index of Pakistan, as it is must to attract foreign as well as local investment and high economic growth.

The BMP chief stressed the need for reducing cost of doing business, besides evolving a new price control mechanism, as huge taxation, rising oil prices and constant jump in electricity and gas tariffs have lifted the inflation.



In brief

Irfan Asghar bags title

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani player Group Captain (R) Irfan Asghar has won the 6th Asian Master Squash Championship 2024 held at Macau, China. He dominated the final by defeating Korean Ryun Hoe Koo by scoring 3-0 to clinch the title. Final score remained as 11-6, 11-4 and 14-12, said a press release. Both times (in 2010 and 2024), it is Group Captain (R) Irfan Asghar who has won the title for the country. Presently, he is Director Academics, Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) and emerged as a role model for the potential young players of the Pakistan. This is a big win for Pakistan and Irfan Asghar.

Ahmad secures 2nd place

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ahmad continues to elevate his golfing career with a remarkable runner-up finish at the ADT Players Championship, presented by The R&A, held from 25th to 28th September at Angkor Golf Resort, Cambodia. According to information made available here by Pakistan Golf Federation on Sunday, Ahmad completed the tournament with a sensational score of 19-under par (269 total), thanks to his consistent and impressive rounds: 1st Round: 70 2nd Round: 65 3rd Round: 67 4th Round: 67

This achievement not only highlights Ahmad's skill and perseverance but also propels him to 2nd place on the Asian Tour's International Series Morocco, earning an additional USD 20,300, further cementing his standing in the international golf scene. Speaking about his success, Ahmad said, "I'm grateful for this opportunity and thrilled to have performed at such a high level. I hope to continue building on this momentum as I aim for future victories." With this stellar performance, Ahmad continues to position himself as one of the top emerging players in the region. His journey is one to watch as he competes for even greater accolades on the international stage.

Martin wins MotoGP

LOMBOK (AFP/APP): Jorge Martin won a crash-filled Indonesia MotoGP on Sunday to extend his championship lead, while closest rival Francesco Bagnaia limited the damage by claiming the final podium place. The win leaves the Pramac rider 21 points ahead of his Italian Ducati rival, who finished third behind Spaniard Pedro Acosta in sweltering conditions at the Mandalika track on Lombok island. In front of a crowd of 60,000 in motorbike-mad Indonesia, the 26-year-old put his tumble in Saturday's sprint behind him, cancelling out the gains his title rival Bagnaia made after securing victory in that race. "Thank you Indonesia. I am very happy. This is not just a victory. After what happened last season, after yesterday's crash, to perform this way was quite difficult," Martin said. "I trust in myself but I thought I would crash at every corner. There was a lot of pressure from Pedro so I am really happy."

Panthers crush Markhors to life Champions One-Day Cup

F A I S A L A B A D (Monitoring Desk): Lake City Panthers became the winners of the inaugural Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup as they beat UMT Markhors by five wickets in the final here at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad on Sunday evening. Out of a PKR49 million prize pot, the Shadab Khan-led Lake City Panthers bagged prize money of PKR30 million while the UMT Markhors collected the runners-up prize of PKR15 million. Panthers bundled out the Markhors, after they opted to bat first, for a mere 122-run total in 33.4 overs and then took just 18 overs to chase it down with five wickets in the bag as

skipper Shadab Khan hit the winning six. Abdul Wahid Bangalzai top scored for Panthers with 41 off 43 balls hitting five fours and two sixes. Earlier, three wicket hauls by Arafat Minhas (3-1) and Mohammad Hasnain (3-38), who also finished with a tournament tally of 17 wickets, backed up by player of the match performance by Sajid Khan (2-24) dented the Markhors progress with the bat as they collapsed from 82-2 in 18.2 overs to 122 all out in 33.4 overs. Shadab and Ali Raza also picked up one wicket each. After Markhors copped two early blows with the scorecard reading 26-2 in 5.3 overs, Haseebullah (27, 48b, 3x4s) stitched a 56-run

third-wicket partnership with Fakhar Zaman who top scored for the Markhors with 46 off 49 balls clubbing five fours and one six. Off-spinner Sajid got rid of both the set batters in 19th and 21st overs to spark a batting collapse as Markhors lost their last eight wickets in 15.2 overs. Apart from Haseebullah and Fakhar, only Bismillah Khan (16, 37b, 2x4s) reached double figures for Markhors. In turn, Panthers' opening batters raced to 51 in 7.4 overs before Umar Siddiq departed for 19 with the help of three fours. Sajid (15, 13b, 2x4s, 1x6), promoted to bat at No.3, was the second batter to be dismissed as Markhors struck regular blows to



reduce the Panthers from 51-1 to 94-5 in 15 overs. Usman Khan, who finished as the top run-scorer of the tournament with 272 runs in six games, only contributed 13 off eight balls hitting a four and a six. Rizwan Mehmood (16 not out, 12b, 3x4s) and Shadab (14, 9b, 1x4, 1x6) stitched a 29-run stand for the sixth wicket to take their team home safely. For Markhors, Mohammad Imran Jnr and

Akif Javed picked up two wickets each while Shah Nawaz Dahani dismissed one batter. Scores in brief Final - Lake City Panthers beat UMT Markhors by five wickets UMT Markhors 122 all out, 33.4 overs (Fakhar Zaman 46, Haseebullah 27; Arafat Minhas 3-1, Mohammad Hasnain 3-38, Sajid Khan 2-24, Ali Raza 1-19, Shadab Khan 1-20) Lake City Panthers 123-

5, 18 overs (Abdul Wahid Bangalzai 41, Umar Siddiq 19, Rizwan Mehmood 16 not out, Sajid Khan 15, Shadab Khan 14 not out; Mohammad Imran Jnr 2-11, Akif Javed 2-42) Bahria Town Player of the match: Sajid Khan (Lake City Panthers) Mentors' choice Emerging Player of the Tournament: Ali Raza - Lake City Panthers (Four wickets) Trans Group Wicket-

keeper of the Tournament: Usman Khan - Lake City Panthers (7 dismissals) Inverex Solar Energy energetic Batter of the Tournament: Usman Khan - Lake City Panthers (272 runs) Trans Group best Bowler of the Tournament: Mohammad Hasnain - Lake City Panthers (17 wickets) Bahria Town Player of the Tournament: Mohammad Hasnain - Lake City Panthers (17 wickets).

Mohammad Yousuf resigns from PCB selection committee

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): The restructured selection committee for the Pakistan men's side has been pared down further, with Mohammad Yousuf announcing his resignation from the role. Yousuf, who was one of five remaining voting members on the committee, said in a post on X (formerly Twitter) that he was quitting for "personal reasons". "Serving this incredible team has been a profound privilege, and I am proud to have contributed to the growth and success of Pakistan cricket," Yousuf said. "I have immense faith in the talent and spirit of our players, and wish our team all the best as they continue to strive for greatness."

Shortly after, a PCB statement thanked Yousuf for his services, saying he had "voluntarily stepped down...to focus on other key responsibilities within the cricket board". Yousuf remains a batting coach at the PCB's National High Performance Centre. The restructuring of the committee was part of a broader effort to streamline the selection process. Yousuf, a former international cricketer, had been a part of the committee since its formation. His resignation leaves the committee with four members. The PCB has not yet announced a replacement for Yousuf.



Comings and goings in Pakistan's selectorial setup are not new but it has become especially volatile over the past few months. Wahab Riaz was appointed chief selector late last year, overseeing series defeats against Australia and New Zealand, and a dramatic row with Haris Rauf

that saw the fast bowler's central contract ripped up and then restored a few weeks later. In March, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi announced a new selection committee with seven members and no chief selector. But after Pakistan's disastrous first-round exit at the T20 World Cup in June, Wahab and Abdul Razzaq were sacked by the PCB and not replaced, whittling the committee's voting members down to the captains and coaches, and Asad Shafiq and Yousuf. Yousuf's departure, with no word on whether he will be replaced, means Shafiq is the only voting member outside of the captains and coaches still part of the selection committee. The committee's next task will involve the announcement of the squad for the remainder of Pakistan's Test series against England, having made public the squad for the first Test in Multan, which begins on October 7.

Pak Boards team wins match in 37th National Jr Hockey C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the ongoing 37th National Junior Hockey Championship 2024, the Pakistan Boards Hockey team secured a thrilling 1-0 victory over Sindh B in a closely contested match. The match was held at the Pakistan Sports Complex, where both teams showcased exceptional skill and sportsmanship. The Chief Guest for today's match was the Chief Executive Officer of the Inter Board

Coordination Commission (IBCC), Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah, accompanied by the Vice President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation, Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Jamali. The esteemed guests were warmly welcomed by the Assistant Tournament Director, Mr. Muhammad Aslam Khan Niazi, along with the field jury and umpires. Before the match, the Chief Guest, Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah, was introduced

to both teams, followed by a group photograph with the players. Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah commended the teams for their enthusiasm and dedication to the sport and wished them success in their future endeavors. The player of the match was Pakistan Boards' Muhammad Ali, who scored the decisive goal, leading his team to victory. The goal came in the closing moments of the match, securing a memorable win for the side. Both teams played with excellent

defensive and attacking strategies, but Pakistan Boards ultimately prevailed. After the match, the Vice President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation, Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Jamali, also interacted with the players and praised their performance. This victory strengthens Pakistan Boards Hockey Team's position in the championship, and their upcoming matches are sure to be highly anticipated.

Peiris spins NZ to innings defeat



GALLE (AFP): Debutant off-spinner Nishan Peiris took six wickets Sunday to seal Sri Lanka's first series win against New Zealand in 15 years with a crushing victory by an innings and 154 runs in the second Test in Galle. New Zealand were all out for 360 in their second innings before tea on day four after being asked to follow-on. Peiris, 27, and fellow spinner Prabath Jayasuriya shared 18 wickets in the match, the latter taking 6-42 in the first innings to bundle out the tourists for just 88 after the hosts had amassed a mammoth 602-5 declared. New Zealand's lower order did put up some fight after resuming at 199-5,

with Tom Blundell, Glenn Phillips and Mitchell Santner all making half-centuries. Peiris, who had taken three second-innings wickets on Saturday, trapped Blundell lbw for 60 early in the first session, ending a 95-run stand with Phillips. Santner helped craft a 64-run partnership for the seventh wicket before the gutsy Phillips fell on 78 when he mistimed a shot to long-on, giving Peiris his maiden five-wicket haul. Santner put together a stubborn ninth-wicket stand of 53 with Ajaz Patel before the latter was sent back, bowled by Jayasuriya, on 22. Sri Lanka sealed the victory when Santner's gritty

resistance was finally broken, stumped by Kusal Mendis for 67 off Peiris. Sri Lanka could have wrapped up the match and series in the morning session but for a succession of dropped catches. Kamindu Mendis spilled Patel on two at second slip and let Santner off on 36 in the covers. Peiris shelled another chance from Santner not long after. Sri Lanka won the opening match by 63 runs and tseries win is their first against New Zealand since a 2-0 win at home in 2009. The result leaves New Zealand winless from six Test appearances at Galle, with Sunday's 360 their highest innings total at the venue.

Alcaraz wins in 56 minutes as 'China's Nadal' extends fairytale

BEIJING (AFP): Carlos Alcaraz barreled into the China Open quarter-finals on Sunday in just 56 minutes as 595th-ranked Zhang Shuai extended her historic run. Rain in Beijing played havoc with the schedule but four-time Grand Slam champion Alcaraz made rapid progress under the roof of the Diamond Court with a 6-1, 6-2 demolition of Tallon Griekspoor. The 39th-ranked Dutchman looked shellshocked. "I just want to keep going, to keep getting more and more wins," said Alcaraz after racking up his 200th tour-level victory. Alcaraz, the second seed behind Jannik Sinner, faces seventh-seeded Karen Khachanov next after an ominous warning of intent from the 21-year-old Spaniard. Alcaraz, beaten in the second round of the recent US Open, conceded that the "last couple of tournaments didn't feel as good as I wanted". "Right now I feel ready, I feel good. I feel like my tennis came again," he said. The Russian Khachanov booked his place with a hard-fought 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (11/9) victory over Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo. In the only other match completed on the day in the men's draw,

Pakistan's unseeded Asim Khan wins



ISLAMABAD (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan's squash star Muhammad Asim Khan defeated England's defending champion Nick Wall to win the Charlottesville Open tournament on Sunday, making it his maiden PSA Tour World events title. Khan's impressive run in the tournament began after he beat Brazil's Diego Gobbi in the first round of

the tournament before upsetting second seed Yahya Elnawasany in the last eight. He then beat fifth seed Cesar Salazar in the semifinals to secure a berth in the final against Wall. In the final, Khan downed Wall 3-1: 12-14, 12-10, 11-5 and 11-6 to lift the trophy. "I didn't expect any of this," Khan said after the match. "I've been playing

squash for the last few years - four or five years - and I was struggling a lot, not winning any matches in big tournaments like this." Khan said he was confident heading into the match after beating the second seed. He praised Wall for being "an experienced player and a very skillful player." "I tried to move him to the front court and the back court and I'm happy that I managed to do that," Khan said. Pakistan has always been counted among the world's top squash-playing nations, introducing legendary players of the sport such as Jahangir Khan, Jansher Khan, Azam Khan, and Qamar Zaman to the world. Between themselves, Jansher Khan and Jahangir Khan won the World Squash Open title 14 times for Pakistan during the '80s and the '90s.



In brief

Parliamentarians plant trees

RAWALPINDI (APP): Tahira Aurangzeb, MNA along with Parliamentary Secretary Information and Culture Shazia Rizwan participated in the plantation campaign in Rawalpindi PHA Park by sapling trees here on Sunday. Both the parliamentarians took part in a plantation drive on the special instructions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. Speaking on this occasion, Tahira Aurangzeb underlined the need of planting maximum trees to prevent the effects of climate change at the global level. She urged the citizens to take part in plantation drive, saying it is important for all to ensure taking environment-friendly measures. "Planting trees is not only religious, but also a national duty", she said. Parliamentary Secretary Information and Culture Shazia Rizwan said that according to the vision of CM Maryam Nawaz, environment-friendly measures were being ensured.

PFA seizes 1,500 kg Chinese salt

RAWALPINDI (APP): In a significant operation to protect public health, the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has confiscated 1,500 kg of banned Chinese salt. Acting on the orders of the Director-General, PFA teams carried out a raid in Bagh Sardaran and intercepted a rickshaw transporting the hazardous salt. The seized consignment, valued at 1.5 million rupees, was being transported from Pirawadhi to Faisalabad. The PFA officials immediately destroyed the confiscated salt on-site and filed a case against those involved for violating the ban. The Director-General of the Food Authority stated that selling such dangerous items puts public safety at serious risk. He assured that strict action will be continued against those who disregard health regulations.

Three dacoit gang busted

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police conducted a grand and major search and combing operation within the jurisdiction of the Industrial Area Police Station, arresting three members of a gang involved in robberies. According to a police statement, the operation was conducted under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, as part of an intensified crackdown on criminal elements aimed at eliminating crime in the capital. He said the Industrial Area Police team arrested the suspects during the operation, who were involved in street robberies across sectors I-8, I-9, I-10, H-8, and IJ Principal Road. He said that 16 snatched mobile phones, worth millions of rupees, were recovered, along with a motorcycle used in the incidents and arms with ammunition. The arrested suspects were identified as Kamran, Zeeshan, and Saad Mahmood. He said the accused have committed several incidents.

188,200 cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 188,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 172,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1537.39 feet and was 139.39 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 102,700 cusecs and 85,000 cusecs respectively.

Siddiqui calls to streamline 'Judicial Processes'

ISLAMABAD (APP): PML-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui Sunday urged all political parties to join forces to create meaningful change and emphasized that collective action was crucial to tackle the deep-seated issues plaguing the judicial system.

"By working together, Pakistan can create a more robust and effective judicial framework that promotes justice, equality, and prosperity for all," he said while talking to a Private news channel.

"Around 85 countries have adopted constitutional reforms, offering valuable lessons for nations looking to strengthen their governance," he further

mentioned.

"These reforms focus on enhancing accountability, transparency, participation, and predictability essential elements of good governance," he said.

"By learning from others' experiences, countries can create more effective and just systems," he added.

Responding to a query, Senator Irfan Siddiqui has called out Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), urging them to pursue legal channels if they had any grievances, rather than pressuring institutions and exploiting citizens for political gain.

He emphasized the importance of respecting democratic institutions and the rule of law. PTI Should

knock on the doors of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and courts for promoting a peaceful and constitutional approach to resolving disputes, he stressed.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui also praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's powerful speech at the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), where he addressed pressing global issues. PM Sharif's speech was notable for its emphasis on key issues such as Israel's military actions in Gaza, the unresolved Kashmir dispute, the global climate crisis and the international community's failure to uphold justice and human rights.

Punjab govt guarantees foreign investor safety

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant move to bolster economic growth, Punjab Secretary for Industries and Food, Ehsan Bhutta, has reiterated the provincial government's dedication to creating a conducive environment for foreign investors.

Secretary Ehsan Bhutta talking to PTV news channel reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing a secure and supportive business environment.

Bhutta emphasized that a robust security framework is being implemented to safeguard investors' interests, fostering an environment conducive to growth and progress.

Bhutta outlined a comprehensive strategy to boost foreign investors' confidence, including streamlined regulatory frame-

works, efficient dispute resolution mechanisms, and enhanced security protocols. This multi-faceted approach aims to mitigate risks and provide a secure environment for investors to operate.

The Secretary stressed that the security of foreign investments is a top priority for the Punjab government, adding, to achieve this, the government is collaborating with international organizations and leveraging cutting-edge technology to monitor and address potential security threats.

He said that Under Chief Minister Punjab' leadership government will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that your investments are protected and thrive in our province.

He stated that the government believes in a prosperous Punjab and progres-

sive Pakistan, highlighting their dedication to creating a favorable business environment.

With robust Security framework we will implement international standards in Punjab to safeguard investors' interests, he added.

Responding to a question, Secretary emphasized that crackdowns against unchecked prices of food items are also a priority for the government.

"Alongside ensuring foreign investor safety and security, we are equally committed to protecting the interests of our citizens," he said.

"The government will not tolerate artificial price hikes and hoarding, and strict action will be taken against those found involved in such practices," he added.

Railways offer concession for disabled persons

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is offering a 50 percent concession in rail fares to facilitate disabled persons traveling in all express and passenger trains, except the Green Line.

"The concession is granted upon the presentation of the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) bearing the disability logo," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

He said that a 50 percent discount is also offered to the attendant accompanying visually impaired persons. About the facilities at Railway Stations and Reservation Offices, he said that wheelchairs are available at all major stations to assist disabled passengers.

Additionally, the official said that exclusive reservation and booking counters have been designated for disabled persons at reservation offices.

The free-of-cost access to executive washrooms and restrooms has been provided at a few major stations for special persons. The official said that the facility of executive washrooms at 12 major stations is also being developed and will have free access for

disabled passengers. To a question, the official said that Khushal Khan Khattak Express was discontinued in March 2020 owing to COVID-19, as train operation was suspended.

He said that Pakistan Railways is operating 98 trains on a daily basis with 1,180 serviceable coaches. The department owns 1,680 passenger coaches on books out of which 72 percent of coaches have surpassed their useful life.

The official said the overage coaches require extra resources, and maintenance costs to keep them fit for operation. At present, 2 Up and 2 Down trains are running between Peshawar and Karachi, he added.

He said that two passenger trains Bolan Mail and Monjodaro Express are operating on the Larkana section to cater to the transportation needs of the area while the restoration of Khushal Khan Khattak will be examined once the availability of coaches is improved along with consideration of the operating cost and commercial viability.

Railways achieve 'improved operation ratio'

with 98 trains running daily: Pakistan Railways has achieved 'improved operation ratio' with an effective reform strategy, focusing on cost cutting, optimizing train loads out sourcing commercial operation of passenger, freight trains and capitalizing freight market.

"At present, Pakistan Railways (PR) is running 98 daily passenger services on different routes across the country," a senior official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said that the term profit or loss is related to body corporate. The profitability of any railroad is worked out on the basis of operating ratio.

The official said that any railroad operating below 100 percent is considered financially viable and Pakistan Railways was able to achieve operating ratio of about 98 percent for the financial year 2023-24. He said that Pakistan Railways has skewed expense as it is running 57 percent of its passenger trains under Public Service Obligation (PSO) to cater the transportation need of masses of remote areas and thus has to absorb operating cost for all such trains.



ISLAMABAD: CDA workers busy fixing a tree stand to enhance beauty of Federal Capital in front of Parliament House. —APP Photo

25 hurt in students clash at Quaid-e-Azam University

ISLAMABAD (APP): More than 25 students were injured in a violent clash between two student groups at Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad last night and university administration has lodged a complaint against members of both groups involved in the incident, sparking concerns over campus safety.

A violent confrontation took place between the Punjabi Students group and Pakhtun Students group at Quaid-e-Azam University late on the night of September 28, 2024. The clash, which erupted near the university hostels, saw dozens of students from both sides engaging in a physical fight, a police officer said while talking to APP on Sunday.

According to a report filed by the English campus manager of Quaid-e-Azam University, Lieutenant Colonel Nadeem Abbas, the incident began when a guard from hostel number 5 informed him of an altercation in the square above Karachi Heights. Upon investigating, it was found that some Punjabi students had assaulted Muzammil Marwat, a member of the

Pakhtun Students group, who suffered serious head injuries during the attack.

Following the initial confrontation, tensions escalated as students from both groups began to gather in large numbers. Around 70 to 80 students from the Punjabi Students group, led by Punjab Council Chairman Rana Hassan, assembled near hostel number seven. They were reportedly armed with sticks and iron rods.

Meanwhile, around 300 students from the Pakhtun Students group gathered at the New Cafeteria under the leadership of Pakhtunkhwa Community Students Chairman Asad Turi. Many of them were also seen carrying sticks and iron rods. Turi reportedly addressed his group raising violent slogans, after which the students marched towards hostel number seven, where they clashed with the Punjabi Students group.

The violent exchange between the two groups lasted for approximately 40 minutes. During this time, over 25 students were injured. The university administration called the police to intervene, and the situation was eventually brought under control.

tually brought under control.

The police registered a case at Secretariat police station under FIR No-458/24 on September 29. The case was filed under sections 324, 506, 148, and 149 of the law, which deal with causing harm, issuing threats, and unlawful assembly. Both groups now face legal action as authorities investigate the full extent of the incident.

The clash has raised concerns among the student body and the administration about the rising tensions between student groups on campus. This is not the first time such an incident has occurred at Quaid-e-Azam University, and many are calling for stricter measures to prevent future violence.

The university has yet to release an official statement on the matter, but students and staff alike are urging for calm and peaceful dialogue to resolve the underlying issues between the groups. Moreover, the campus remained on high alert as authorities work to restore order and ensure the safety of all students.

Police nab 25 criminals, narcotics, weapons seized

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police apprehended 25 criminals involved in different criminal activities, including drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons in different raids during last 24 hours.

A public relations officer told APP on Sunday that police teams also recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession. In this regard, the Islamabad Police Aabpara, Sumbal, Tarnol, Sangjani, Industrial Area, Noon, Shams Colony and Koral police station teams took legal action against accused involved in drug peddling, selling liquor and possessing illegal weapons, he said.

Police teams arrested 13 accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons and recovered 1,375-gram heroin, 3,500-gram hashish, 110-gram Ice, 10 Liters of liquor, two daggers and five pistols with ammunition from their possession. Moreover, 12 absconders were also arrested during the last 24 hours, he added.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, said that the Islamabad Police are actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives.

Gilani strongly flays attack on laborers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, on Sunday, strongly condemned the tragic shooting incident in Panjgur, where miscreants opened fire on laborers.

Expressing deep sorrow over the loss of lives, he extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased laborers and prayed for the departed souls.

He said that the unjustified killing of innocent laborers is against all human values, and those responsible for this heinous act deserve no leniency. "In this moment of grief, I

stand in solidarity with the bereaved families," he said.

Deputy Chairman Senate Syed Aal Khan, leader of the House Senator Ishaq Dar, and leader of the opposition Senator Shibli Faraz also condemned the brutal attack in Panjgur, expressing their outrage over the tragic incident.

PMD issues dengue outbreak warning

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department has issued a warning of potential dengue outbreak in month of October indicating that the ideal conditions for the disease have emerged.

The department said that dengue may see a significant rise in October, particularly in ten major cities across Pakistan, including Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Hyderabad, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Larkana, and Multan. The other regions affected by post-monsoon rainfall are also at risk.

Over the past decade, dengue fever has severely impacted the health of pop-

ulation, particularly during the post-monsoon season.

The period from September 20 to December 05 has become increasingly dangerous for dengue spread, with environmental factors playing a significant role. According to the PMD, dengue transmission is triggered when temperatures remain between 26 C and 29C for three to five weeks, with humidity levels of around 60 percent.

Similarly, rainfall exceeding 27mm, combined with a time lag of up to three weeks, further increases the risk. The disease-carrying mosquitoes are most active two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset,

with breeding coming to a halt only when temperatures drop below 16 C.

Based on a detailed analysis of historical data and the current climate outlook, the PMD experts have warned that conditions have become highly conducive to dengue onset since mid-September.

The PMD has urged all relevant stakeholders, including national health agencies and dengue control centers, to take immediate preemptive measures in the affected districts. The authorities have been advised to remain vigilant and regularly consult the PMD website for updates and guidance on controlling the outbreak.



ISLAMABAD: Disabled individuals participate in the 8th edition of the 'Save Tomorrow' Run & Walk, highlighting the issue of drug abuse in society, hosted by the Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation (KKAFF) at Fatima Jinnah Park (F-9) in the Federal Capital. —APP Photo

UN calls IEA to remove ban

KABUL (Ariana News): UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has called for the IEA to remove restrictions on women and girls in the country. In a post on X, Guterres said: "What is happening in Afghanistan can be compared with some of the most egregious systems of oppression in recent history. "I join all countries & organizations demanding that the de facto authorities (IEA government) remove all discriminatory restrictions against women & girls immediately."

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Rabi ul Awal 25 1446 — Monday, September 30, 2024

Progress in reconstruction

KABUL (BNA): Officials from the contractor company overseeing the reconstruction of the Salang Highway have confirmed that the rehabilitation process is progressing rapidly. Mubarez Barakzai, a representative of the Salang Highway Reconstruction Contractor Company, said that the construction of the CTB, filter layer, and sub-base sections have been successfully completed, with the CRCV phase expected to be finalized shortly.

FAO: Efforts made to prevent livestock losses in Afghanistan

KABUL (TOLONews): The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has announced that over one million doses of the Lumpy Skin Disease vaccine have been administered to livestock across Afghanistan.

According to the organization's officials, this process is ongoing in various parts of the country, and efforts are being made to provide more vaccines to livestock owners.

Richard Trenchard, the head of the FAO in Afghanistan, said: "We did the first round of vaccination. Seven million heads of livestock were vaccinated."

Meanwhile, some livestock owners in Kunduz have called for speeding up the vaccination process in the province to save their animals from death.

Gul Mohammad, one of the livestock owners, said: "We are very happy that

these vaccines are being administered, and the process is still ongoing. These vaccines should also reach us."

Another livestock owner, Sirajuddin, added: "The number of vaccines should be increased because people's livelihoods depend entirely on farming and livestock. The animals of the people must not perish."

Akhtar Mohammad, another livestock owner, said: "It's great that this virus is being prevented, and if it is not addressed in time, it could even spread to humans. Currently, many diseases are spreading among livestock."

Previously, some livestock owners in various provinces expressed concern about the outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease, stating that if the responsible organizations in the capital do not address this issue, the risk of animals dying and humans being affected by the disease will be very high.

UNAMA's new Political Deputy arrives in Kabul



KABUL (Khaama Press): The United Nations has announced that Georgette Gagnon, UNAMA's new political deputy, has arrived in Kabul to begin her duties.

This Canadian lawyer was appointed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres earlier this month as the political deputy of the United Nations Mission in Afghanistan.

In a statement released on Sunday, the UN stated that Ms. Gagnon brings 28 years of experience in peace processes and leading strategic initiatives in human rights and development in post-conflict areas to Afghanistan.

From 2010 to 2015, she also served as the Director of Human Rights for UNAMA in Kabul.

Since 2021, Ms. Gagnon has served as

the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative in Libya for the UN Support Mission and as the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs.

She has also been a director and senior advisor on protecting civilians, human rights, and the rule of law, working with the UN, national governments, and NGOs in Africa, Syria, and the Balkans.

Ms. Gagnon holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from York University in Canada and a Master's degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex in the UK.

This Canadian lawyer assumes her role as the political deputy of UNAMA in Kabul at a time when the Taliban introduced new laws enforcing stricter limitations on women under the so-called 'Promotion of Virtue' regulations.

In response to the Taliban's restrictions and widespread human rights violations, especially against women, Germany, Canada, Australia, and the Netherlands have spearheaded efforts to bring the Taliban to the International Court of Justice. Dozens of countries, including the UN Secretary-General, have supported this initiative.

Ms. Gagnon's arrival in Kabul signifies a critical moment for international efforts to address human rights violations in Afghanistan.

Gurbaz students lack access to secondary education

KHOST CITY (Pajhwok): Some residents of remote areas in Gurbaz district in southern Khost province say education beyond class 6th is not available to their children.

They claim their children only have access to primary education and there are no intermediate or high schools in their areas.

Maidan area is one of remote areas of Gurbaz district which has only one primary school.

Students of this school, which is functioning in tents, say they have no future plan after graduating from class 6th.

Ibrahim, a student of this school, told Pajhwok Afghan News intermediate or high schools were far away from their area and they could not easily go there.

He said: "Our economic situation is not so good to go to the faraway school every day in cars. After class 6th, we will either work in the mountains or in shops."

Rahman Sediq, another student, told Pajhwok if he wants to study above sixth grade, he must walk for hours every day.

He asked the concerned officials to set up intermediate or high schools in their area.

He added: "We lack intermediate and high schools here. Those who want to fol-

low their studies above the sixth grade must go to a district center, or the provincial capital."

At the same time, tribal elders of the area also say the lack of secondary schools and the long distance have limited the access of students and youth to education.

Sekhi Khan, a tribal elder, said their children lacked access to secondary education.

He said: "We want the government to pay attention to our area and convert primary schools into intermediate and high schools."

Meanwhile, local officials say the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has taken measures to strengthen the education sector in remote areas of the country in addition to resolving other problems of people.

Information and Culture Director Shabir Ahmad Usmani told Pajhwok efforts were underway to set up primary local classes in remote areas.

He assured students in remote areas of Gurbaz district would be provided with secondary education.

Most villages of Gurbaz district are situated near the Durand Line and are dozens of kilometres away from Khost city, the provincial capital.

Cultural activities flourish in Badakhshan

BADAKHSHAN (TOLONews): A number of residents and cultural activists in Badakhshan, during the launch of a poetry collection, said that cultural activities in the province have increased compared to the past.

According to locals, in recent months, they have witnessed the organization of literary-cultural programs and the launch of several works.

Habib Yamganpur, the author of a book, said: "This collection includes 26 or 27 poems written in the forms of ghazal, ruba'i, do-bayti, and mukham-mas."

Qudratullah Alimyar, a cultural activist, said: "Cultural activities are better than before, and in the past two years, many books have been published and launched with the support of the government."

Several other cultural activists in Badakhshan, during the program, called on the caretaker government to pay serious attention to the culture and literature of the country.

Manochehr Khorasani, a cultural activist, said: "Cultural activities have grown, and in the past few months, we have witnessed the launch of several works."

The Directorate of Information and Culture of Badakhshan pledged that efforts are being made to facilitate the publication of works by poets and writers in the province.

Hekmatullah Mohammadi, head of Information at the Directorate of Information and Culture of Badakhshan, said: "We are working with the leadership of the government to publish the efforts of poets and writers and to organize such programs."

According to statistics from the Badakhshan Directorate of Information and Culture, more than 300 poets and writers are currently registered with the directorate.

Two Afghan citizens executed in Iran

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Iran Human Rights Organization has reported the execution of at least 14 individuals, including two Afghan citizens, in the central prison of Shiraz (Adelabad) over the past week.

In a statement released on Saturday, September 28, the organization called on the international community not to remain silent about the death penalty in Iran.

The organization emphasized that these 14 individuals were sentenced to death for drug-related charges or "premeditated murder."

According to the report, the Iranian government executed 19 people in Adelabad prison from September 16 to the previous Wednesday.

The statement mentioned that the two Afghan citizens were named Abdullah and Mobasher.

This comes amid a significant increase in executions in Iran over the past few months.

Iranian authorities have not officially commented on the matter yet.

According to statistics from the Hengaw Human Rights Organization, 347 people were executed in Iran from the beginning of 2024 until August of this year.

It is worth noting that human rights organizations have consistently urged Iran to halt all executions of those sentenced to the death penalty.

The rising number of executions in Iran continues to draw widespread condemnation from human rights groups.

The international community faces increasing pressure to intervene and advocate for the abolition of the death penalty in Iran to protect the rights and lives of those at risk.

Minister reaffirms pledges to address media challenges



KABUL (BNA): Mullah Khairullah Khairkwa, Acting Minister of Information and Culture, during a formal meeting with journalists and media executives in Herat, reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to resolving the challenges faced by the media sector in the province.

As reported by Bakhtar News Agency, several media representatives presented a detailed overview of the current situation of the media landscape in Herat, with a particular emphasis on economic challenges. They called for enhanced access to timely information for journalists and financial support to sustain media operations.

The Acting Minister recognized the vital role that media plays in promoting transparency and the dissemination of national achievements.

He urged local media outlets to actively contribute to showcasing the

country's development efforts and emphasized that the Ministry is fully dedicated to addressing the needs and concerns of Herat's media sector.

Shamel Ahmad Mashal, Head of the Committee for Media Support and Oversight in Herat, noted that access to information in the province is superior to other regions and urged

the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology to consider reducing frequency fees for media outlets to ensure their continued operation.

In addition, Mawlawi Ahmadullah Muttaqi, Director of Information and Culture in Herat, reiterated the department's role as a hub for journalists and reaf-

firmed the Ministry's commitment to providing support and addressing the challenges faced by media professionals.

The Committee for Media Support and Oversight reports that currently, 65 media outlets, including visual, audio, and print, are operational in the western region of Afghanistan.

IE emphasizes uninterrupted consular services for overseas

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reaffirmed that access to consular services is a fundamental right of Afghan nationals living abroad, emphasizing that this right should not be linked to the formal recognition of the government.

According to a statement from the Ministry, the Islamic Emirate of

Afghanistan (IEA) is committed to ensuring that consular services are provided to Afghan citizens abroad through diplomatic channels.

The Ministry highlighted, "As outlined in the Vienna Convention, consular services are independent of diplomatic recognition. Linking consular affairs to political

considerations not only creates challenges but also undermines the rights of the people."

The Ministry further added, "We will continue our efforts and dialogue with relevant countries to ensure that consular services are initiated in a manner that is mutually acceptable and grounded in established principles."

Blacksmiths in Badghis urge protection against imports

FEROZKOH (Pajhwok): Blacksmiths in western Badghis said they are concerned about dwindling profit, urging the caretaker government to restrict the import of similar products in order to safeguard domestic production.

These artisans, who primarily craft iron tools such as axes, sickles, stoves, shovels, and knives, lament that their trade had been once thriving and financially rewarding.

Abdul Qayyum, 60, a blacksmith in Qala-i-Naw, the capital of Badghis province, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "I have been associated with blacksmithing for nearly forty years. In the past, we would travel to villages, and our work flourished. Now, however, business has sharply declined, and many shops have closed."

He expressed deep concern about the continued decline of the industry, attributing it to the influx of imported goods that are displacing locally made products.

"We hope the government will encourage the use of our products and take steps to halt the import of items that can be produced domestically," he stated.

Abdul Ghafar, another blacksmith, echoed these sentiments, noting, "Our sales have plummeted because lower-quality imports flood the market at cheaper prices, leading consumers to choose them over our products. We are capable of making axes, knives, shovels, hammers, and more."

He lamented he once earned 4,000 to 5,000 afghanis daily, but now struggled to earn even 1,000 afghanis a day, making it challenging to support his family.

He called on the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to cease the import of competing products manufactured within the country.

In response, Matiullah Muttaqi, the director of information and culture in Badghis, assured Pajhwok that the leadership of the



Islamic Emirate has issued specific directives to promote domestic products.

"We have fulfilled our responsibilities, and during our visits to local producers, especially in handicrafts, we work diligently

to encourage them," he emphasized, reiterating the caretaker government's commitment to supporting domestic production and taking measures to limit the entry of similar imported products.

Construction of 9 schools in Helmand started



KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of Education has officially announced the commencement of construction for nine standard schools in Helmand

province, with a total investment of 172 million Afghanis. As per the Ministry's report, these educational institutions will be constructed with modern infrastructure and financial backing from an educational partner organization. The schools are to be established in the districts of Marjah, Greshk, Babaji, Nawa, Khanashin, Dishu, Bahramcha, Garmisr, and Nahr-e-Seraj.

During the groundbreaking ceremony of one of these schools in Marjah district, officials highlighted the critical role of education in fostering societal progress and national development.

They called on local residents to ensure their children attend schools to benefit from quality education. The residents expressed their gratitude for the Ministry's dedicated efforts to expand educational services, particularly in remote and underserved regions of the country.

KP CM's march on Islamabad, Punjab aims to repeat May 9 mayhem: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday said Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur had made his intention clear to create another May 9 like chaos in the country by announcing his plans to march on Islamabad and Punjab by force.

The minister, in a news statement, condemned the alleged remarks made by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM about use of force in the protests, calling it an admission of his own failure to govern the province effectively.

"The Chief Minister's threat of firing bullets for a bloodshed is a clear manifestation that he is incapable of running the

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. His threats to march on Islamabad and Punjab with force are nothing but an attempt to repeat the May 9."

He further criticized the KP Chief Minister's transition from verbal abuse to hurling threats of violence, warning that this approach would only harm him, not anyone else.

"There is nothing democratic, political, or parliamentary about the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) provincial government's statements, actions, or conduct," the minister added.

Tarar lamented that the provincial leadership of PTI had never focused on competing with the center and Punjab in areas such as education, healthcare, employment, or economic improvement.

He urged that if PTI wanted to bring about a revolution, it should focus on transforming these sectors for the betterment of the people.

"Corruption and incompetence have reached their peak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The real competition should have been in providing relief to electricity consumers, as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz led government has done in Islamabad and Punjab," he said, adding it should have been about building hospitals and educational institutions to serve the people.

Tarar accused the PTI of trying to disrupt the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in a similar fashion it had attempted to sabotage President Xi Jinping's visit

to Pakistan with its previous sit-ins in Islamabad in 2014.

He said the economic stabilization had perturbed the PTI, which had brought Pakistan to the brink of default.

The substantive drop in the inflation from 32 per cent to 9.6 per cent had literally irked them, he added.

"Violence, threats, and guns will not reduce inflation or unemployment," he said, while regretting the sheer corruption in KPK during the last 11 years of the PTI tenure.

Tarar said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's firm stance in support of Palestinians and against Israel at the United Nations General Assembly had caused a real inconvenience to the "Israeli agents" in Pakistan.



FLORIDA: A drone view of a damaged business around Cedar Key Fishing Pier following Hurricane Helene in Cedar Key, Florida, US.

Every bullet, shell, baton to be responded, says CM Gandapur

PESHAWAR (INP): Commenting on the incidents of clashes between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers and police in Rawalpindi a day ago, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said his party would reply to every bullet, shell and baton that would be used against its supporters.

In a statement on Sunday, the firebrand PTI leader claimed bullets were fired on three of their workers and whereabouts of one of them could not be traced.

"More than 50 PTI workers have been injured in shelling as shells and bullets were fired every three kilometres on us," he said.

The KP Chief Minister Gandapur said this after returning to Peshawar as the PTI protest in Rawalpindi was "called off" amid violent clashes between protesters and riot police near Liaquat Bagh.

The Gandapur-led convoy remained stuck at the interchange for several

hours due to closure of roads as the authorities had placed containers at Burhan Interchange in an attempt to thwart PTI's protest.

Addressing the participants, the KP chief executive directed them to return to Peshawar and castigated the government for not granting PTI its "constitutional right".

Vowing to come back with "all resources", he regretted that the police fired teargas and rubber bullets at the protesters.

On the other hand, Gandapur said, scores of police officials were caught by the party activists but he rescued them.

"They [police] have set a precedent of firing bullets [...] We also have guns," he stated.

Meanwhile, he saluted the residents of KP and Rawalpindi Division over their support for the former ruling party.

PTI workers demand Gandapur's resignation

Gandapur's announcement to postpone the protest on Saturday drew

strong opposition from the protesters as they refused to return and demanded his resignation.

The PTI workers surrounded the KP chief minister's vehicle and staged a protest against the party leadership at Burhan Interchange.

However, the protest was called off after PTI leader Azam Swati's intervention.

Speaking to the protesters, the former federal minister said they had cancelled the Rawalpindi protest on Imran Khan's instructions. "We have to follow his [PTI founder] directives."

Earlier, the Punjab government had imposed Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) in Rawalpindi Division for two days, banning all political gatherings, sit-ins, rallies, protests, and similar activities.

PTI initially planned to hold a public rally at Liaquat Bagh but converted the event into a demonstration on the directives of the

former prime minister.

It also withdrew its application seeking a no-objection certificate (NOC) to hold a rally from the Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Salman Akram Raja were also detained on their way to Rawalpindi near Sector H-13 only to be released shortly.

In a statement issued earlier, the PTI said Gohar and Salman were travelling to Rawalpindi when the police stopped their vehicle near Sector H-13 and took them into custody. "They [law enforcers] took both the leaders away in a van."

Following his release, the PTI chief — while speaking to Geo News — said that the police asked them to go back "instead of heading to Rawalpindi".

On the other hand, Rawalpindi police spokesperson said that the city was on "high alert" and police personnel were deployed at the city's entry and exit points.

US airstrikes on Syria kill 37 Daesh, Al-Qaeda men

BEIRUT (AP): In Syria, 37 militants affiliated to the extremist Daesh group and an Al-Qaeda-linked group were killed in two strikes, the United States military said Sunday.

Two of the dead were senior militants, it said.

US Central Command said it struck northwestern Syria on Tuesday, targeting a senior militant from the Al-Qaeda-linked Hurras Al-Deen group and eight others. They say he was responsible for overseeing military operations.

They also announced a strike from earlier this month on Sept. 16, where they conducted a "large-scale airstrike" on a Daesh training camp in a remote undisclosed location in central Syria. That attack killed 28 militants, including "at least four Syrian leaders."

"The airstrike will disrupt Daesh' capability to conduct operations against US interests, as well as our allies and partners," the statement read.

There are some 900 US forces in Syria, along with

an undisclosed number of contractors, mostly trying to prevent any comeback by the extremist Daesh group, which swept through Iraq and Syria in 2014, taking control of large swaths of territory.

US forces advise and assist their key allies in northeastern Syria, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, located not far from strategic areas where Iran-backed militant groups are present, including a key border crossing with Iraq.

MQM-P threatens to quit govt, resign from assembly

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement — Pakistan (MQM-P), an ally of the federal government, has issued a strong warning, threatening to leave the government and resign from the assembly.

Expressing his frustration the MQM-P's member of the National Assembly (NA), Mustafa Kamal stated that the party has not received the respect it deserves from the PML-N government in the last eight months — since coming into power.

Kamal criticized the federal government for directing MQM-P to negotiate with the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) regarding the quota system despite their agreement being made with the PML-N.

He emphasized that MQM-P does not have a mayor and that the federal government must take responsibility for engaging with PPP on their behalf.

Kamal further mentioned the sacrifices made by MQM-P workers to restore peace in Karachi, noting that many lives were lost in the process.

He warned that if MQM-P steps back from its current role in the government, it might become difficult to maintain peace in Karachi.

Kamala may win seniors

WASHINGTON (CNN): We've heard a lot about the groups of voters that Kamala Harris seems to be struggling with — or at least not doing as well as Joe Biden did with them four years ago. Yet, the vice president has a small national edge over Donald Trump. How is that possible?

It turns out that Harris is also doing particularly well for a Democrat among groups with whom recent presidential nominees of her party have fared poorly.

One such group is senior citizens. Harris may be the first Democrat to carry voters aged 65 and older since Al Gore in 2000.

Take a look at the recent national polls. The CNN/SSRS poll out this week found Harris leading the former president 50% to 46% among senior citizens.

Iran calls for emergency UNSC meeting after Nasrallah assassination

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Amid escalating Lebanon crisis, Iran has called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council in protest against the assassination of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli air strike in Beirut.

In a letter to the Security Council, Iranian Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani called on the 15-member body to "take immediate and decisive action to stop Israel's ongoing aggression and prevent... from dragging the region into full-scale war."

"Using US-supplied thousand-pound bunker busters," he wrote, Israel killed Nasrallah and Iranian Gen. Abbas Nilforushan, among others. He warned Israel not to attack any of its diplomatic or consular premises, or its representatives.

"Iran will not hesitate to exercise its inherent rights under international law to take every measure in defence of its vital national and security interests," Iravani wrote.

Several world powers also warned of the assassination's potential repercussions, as the spectre of all-out war looms over the Middle East.

United Nations Chief Antonio Guterres said he was "gravely concerned by

the dramatic escalation of events in Beirut in the last 24 hours."

Palestinian militant group Hamas called Nasrallah's killing "a cowardly terrorist act."

"We condemn in the strongest terms this barbaric Zionist aggression and targeting of residential buildings," Hamas said in a statement.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas offered his "deep condolences" to Lebanon for the deaths of Nasrallah and civilians, who "fell as a result of the brutal Israeli aggression," according to a statement from his office.

The foreign ministry of Iran said Nasrallah's work will continue after his death. "His sacred goal will be realized in the liberation of Quds, God willing," spokesman Nasser Kanani posted on X.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei announced five days of public mourning.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on X that Lebanon was being subjected to a "genocide."

In a post on X, Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel called the killing a "cowardly targeted assassination" that "seriously threatens regional and global peace and security, for which Israel bears full responsibility with the

complicity of the United States."

As expected, US leaders welcomed Nasrallah's demise.

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy said in a post on X that he had spoken with the Lebanese premier. "We agreed on the need for an immediate ceasefire to bring an end to

the bloodshed. A diplomatic initiative is the only way to restore security and stability for the Lebanese and Israeli people," he said.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot demanded Israel "immediately stop its strikes in Lebanon" and said it was opposed to any ground operation in the country.

Kashmiris protest killing of Hezbollah chief

SRINAGAR (Aljazeera): Hundreds of protesters have rallied in Indian-administered Kashmir denouncing the Israeli assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, with top pro-India politicians suspending their campaigning for the ongoing regional elections.

Over the weekend hundreds of protesters took to the streets holding up pictures of the Lebanese leader and chanting slogans including "Oh martyrs of Palestine, we are with you!" They raised signs and banners with messages denouncing Israel and the United States.

The Lebanese armed group confirmed on Saturday that Nasrallah was assassinated in the southern Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh on Friday, dealing a huge

blow to the group engaged in cross-border fighting with Israel since October.

Abbas Ali, 25, a college student who protested in the main city of Srinagar on Saturday, told Al Jazeera that Nasrallah had stood against oppression and injustice.

"We despise the world leaders who remain silent as the bloodshed in Gaza and Lebanon continues," Ali told Al Jazeera.

"This protest is not just for our dear leader Hassan Nasrallah but also for the oppressed people of Palestine, for Lebanon and for everyone suffering at the hands of oppressors, particularly Israel. Kashmir has always stood for justice for the Palestinian people and will continue to do so, despite the fear and injustice we face ourselves.

We cannot be silenced forever."

Amal Mirza, 20, who took part in protests in the Saida Kadal locality of the city, told Al Jazeera: "Whatever Israel is doing, we will not stay silent."

"We are not afraid of dying, but of staying silent. We stand with the oppressed."

All Jammu and Kashmir Shia Association (AJKSA), a union of Shia groups, has called for a protest on Sunday evening at Imam Bargah Zadibal in Srinagar.

"We honour Syed Hassan Nasrallah's life, and legacy, remembering his unwavering resolve, strategic leadership, and compassion. His martyrdom will not diminish our resolve to strive for justice and equality," senior Shia leader Imran Ansari said.

US says all-out war not the way to return people to homes

WASHINGTON (Reuters): Israel will not be able to safely get people back into their homes in the north of the country by waging an all-out war with Hezbollah or Iran, White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said on Sunday.

Israel struck more targets in Lebanon on Sunday, pressing Hezbollah with new attacks after killing the Iran-backed group's leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

Israel's stated goal is to make its northern areas safe from Hezbollah rocket fire and allow thousands of displaced residents to return.

"An all-out war with Hezbollah, certainly with Iran, is not the way to do that.

If you want to get those folks back home safely and sustainably, we believe that a diplomatic path is the right course," Kirby told CNN. The U.S. is Israel's long-time ally and biggest

arms supplier.

The United States is watching to see what Hezbollah does to try to fill its leadership vacuum "and is continuing to talk to the Israelis about what the right next steps are", he said.

Lebanon's Health Ministry says more than 1,000 Lebanese were killed and 6,000 wounded in the past two weeks. The government said a million people — a fifth of the population — had fled their homes.

Pakistan, China, Russia, Iran view Afghanistan-based terror groups as global 'threats'

WASHINGTON (Monitoring Desk): The foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Russian Federation issued a joint statement in their third four-way meeting on Afghanistan on Friday, September 27, 2024.

They described the United States and NATO as the main culprits behind the current crisis in Afghanistan and demanded immediate measures to

improve the security and humanitarian situation in the country.

In their statement, the top diplomats stressed their strong support for the national sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, saying all members of the international community will enjoy the benefits of a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, a country that should serve as a platform for international cooperation, not a field for geopolitical competition.

Terrorist threats and regional security

The foreign ministers of Iran, Russia, China and Pakistan voiced deep concern over the security situation due to terrorism in Afghanistan as well as the presence and activities of terrorist groups such as Daesh, al-Qaeda, East Turkestan Islamic Movement, Tahrreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Jaish al-Adl, Baluchistan Liberation Army and other similar groups. They emphasized that these groups are

considered a serious threat to the security of the region and the whole world.

They called for strengthening anti-terrorism cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral levels, adding that Afghanistan should be assisted in taking comprehensive measures to deal with the causes and agents of terrorism and eradicate the phenomenon as soon as possible.

Criticism of the US and NATO

Referring to the destructive role of the US and NATO in Afghanistan, the

foreign ministers said that the NATO member states must take the main responsibility for the current situation in Afghanistan and must create opportunities for the economic improvement of Afghanistan. They should immediately lift unilateral sanctions against Afghanistan and unblock the country's frozen assets in favor of the Afghan people.

Supporting the formation of an inclusive government and the return of refugees

The statement underlined the importance of creating an inclusive government in Afghanistan that reflects the interests and aspirations of all sections of the Afghan society. The foreign ministers urged the Afghan authorities to facilitate the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland and prevent further migration.

Appreciating Iran and Pakistan and requesting international support

The foreign ministers appreciated the efforts of the regional countries,

especially the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, to host millions of Afghan refugees and asked the international community and donors to provide the necessary financial support and assistance to those countries.

Urging against the politicization of humanitarian aid

They underlined the significance of countering efforts to politicize the provision of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. The foreign ministers also called for the continuation of get-

ting aid to Afghanistan in order to strengthen its capacity for sustainable development and self-reliance.

Expanding economic cooperation and regional connectivity

In the end, the foreign ministers said they are ready to expand economic and trade cooperation and promote regional connectivity with Afghanistan. They also noted that these measures will help with Afghanistan's active integration into regional economic cooperation.

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ADMISSION SCHEDULE	
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Display of provisional merit list of candidates	22 October 2024
Last date for submission of queries regarding provisional merit list	24 October 2024
Display of Final Merit list of candidates	25 October 2024
Interview of the short-listed candidates	
Open merit	28 October 2024
Reserved Quota seats	29 October 2024
Self-finance	30 October 2024
Last date for Fee Submission	06 November 2024
Commencement of Regular Classes	11 November 2024

- Applicant must read the Admission Policy of KMU and the Prospectus in order to understand the Rules and Regulations regarding, admission procedure, distribution of seats, examination / tuition fees and admission cancellation policy etc.
- Admission forms, Bank deposit slips along with prospectus is available on the official website (www.bsadmissions.kmu.edu.pk).
- No separate call letters shall be issued for offer of admission/interview/fee deposit and all such information shall be displayed/uploaded on the official website (www.bsadmissions.kmu.edu.pk).

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- The interested candidates should have properly fill the online admission form available on KMU Website (<https://bsadmissions.kmu.edu.pk>) and upload relevant documents on or before the closing date.
- The candidate shall have to deposit the application processing fee through bank challan generated after online registration and upload a scan copy of the deposit slip with application.

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