

Court acquits Natasha F.P. Report

KARACHI: A sessions court in Karachi on Thursday acquitted bail accused Natasha Danish in the Karsaz traffic accident case. The accused was reached to an out-of-court settlement with the victims' family. Natasha was booked and arrested for recklessly driving a SUV and killing a man and his daughter in an accident on August 19 this year.



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DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meeting with Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Pakistan, Qatar vow to deepen strategic ties

DOHA (APP): Pakistan and Qatar on Thursday reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening strategic bilateral ties, underscoring the importance of shared economic goals and regional stability.

The bilateral relations were discussed in the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, followed by a one-on-one meeting encompassing a wide array of bilateral interests, according to a PM Office press release.

The leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of Pakistan-Qatar relations, exploring potential avenues for enhanced cooperation in trade, potential areas of investment, energy, and culture. Both the leaders also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest particularly the ongoing genocidal war by Israel against innocent Palestinian people and escalation of tensions in the region.

Prime Minister Shehbaz, who is on a two-day official visit here, commended Qatar's stance on Palestinian issue expressed by the Amir during the 79th UNGA held on September 24, 2024. He appreciated mediation efforts by Qatar for immediate cease-fire and unimpeded supply of humanitarian aid. Prime Minister Shehbaz also invited Amir of Qatar to visit Pakistan. The prime minister's visit marks another milestone in the ever-strengthening partnership and expanding collaboration between

Pakistan and Qatar.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani wherein they discussed avenues to further strengthen bilateral relations, particularly focusing on enhancing cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, energy, and cultural exchange.

In the "very extensive and productive" meeting, two leaders agreed on the importance of continuing high-level exchanges to promote understanding, foster cooperation, and identify new areas for growth, according to a PM Office press release. The prime minister, who is currently on a two-day official visit to Qatar, acknowledged Qatar's contributions to Pakistan's economic growth and expressed his gratitude for Qatar's continued support in various sectors. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to deepening economic ties and emphasized the potential for expanded collaboration.

He also thanked his Qatari counterpart for hosting a large number of Pakistani diaspora acting as a human bridge between the two brotherly countries. The leaders discussed global and regional issues, underscoring the need for peaceful solutions and mutual cooperation to address challenges.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also commended Qatar's principled stance on the Gaza conflict and its persistent efforts to promote peace and stability in the region. He praised Qatar's

humanitarian initiatives and diplomatic engagements aimed at resolving the conflict and easing the suffering of the people of Gaza, and also the role as a facilitator of dialogue and an advocate for a just resolution to regional conflicts, recognizing its efforts as vital to promoting lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Qatari prime minister highlighted Pakistan's strategic importance in the region and expressed his enthusiasm for strengthening ties with Pakistan in line with Qatar's vision for economic growth and regional stability. He also showed his resolve to work with Pakistan for peace in the region including Afghanistan. Additionally, Prime Minister Shehbaz extended an invitation to Qatari investors to explore Pakistan's diverse economic sectors, including agriculture, information technology, and tourism.

He outlined the Pakistani government's commitment to providing a conducive environment for foreign investors and discussed potential incentives to facilitate their entry into the Pakistani market. The prime minister expressed his deep appreciation to the Amir of Qatar and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation. He emphasized that the visit would further solidify the strong bonds of friendship, mutual respect, and cooperation between Pakistan and Qatar, bringing mutual benefit to both nations.

Zardari suffers foot fracture on arrival in Dubai

DUBAI (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari, suffered a foot fracture last night upon disembarking a plane at Dubai Airport, a President House Spokesperson said on Thursday.

He was immediately taken to the hospital for initial medical assistance. After examination, doctors applied a plaster to his foot, the spokesperson said adding that the plaster will remain for four weeks. President Zardari has been advised to rest completely at home.

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari paid tribute to the personnel of the Pakistan Army who were martyred in an anti-terrorist operation in Bannu. The president saluted martyred Major Atif Khalil, Naik Azad Ullah, and Lance Naik Ghazanfar Abbas on behalf of the entire nation and said that the soldiers of the Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom while fighting bravely against terrorists, according to a President House press release.

"The entire nation stands united in support of its forces against terrorists. Pakistan's security forces are on the all-time alert to safeguard the country," the president said and prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyrs' rank in paradise and for strength for the bereaved families to bear the loss.

According to ISPR, the security forces carried out an intelligence-based operation in the Bakka Khel area of Bannu. During the intense exchange of fire, Major Atif Khalil, a resident of Sudhanuti district, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, embraced martyrdom along with Naik Azad Ullah and Lance Naik Ghazanfar Abbas.

Petrol price increased by Rs1.35 F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Against the market expectations, the federal government has increased the price of petrol by Rs1.35 per litre for the next fortnight, ending on November 15.

According to a notification issued by the Finance Division, the new price of petrol will be Rs248.38 per litre, up from Rs247.03 during the last fortnight. "The Oil [and] Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has worked out the consumer prices of petroleum products, based on the price variation in the international market," read a statement released by the Finance Division on late Thursday. Similarly, the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) was increased from Rs251.29 to Rs255.14 per litre — an increase of Rs3.85 per litre.

Meanwhile, prices of other petroleum products have been reduced. The new price of kerosene will be Rs161.54, down by Rs1.48 from Rs163.02 per litre. Likewise, the price of light-diesel oil has been reduced by Rs2.61 from Rs150.12 to Rs147.51 per litre.

Petrol is mainly used in private transportation, small vehicles, rickshaws, and two-wheelers. Higher fuel prices significantly impact the budgets of the members of the middle and lower-middle classes, who primarily consume petrol for commuting.

Lone bidder offers Rs10b for stake in PIA

KARACHI (Reuters): The final bidding process for the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines opened on Thursday, with just one participant for a stake in the national carrier. Saad Nazir, chairman of real-estate development company Blue World City confirmed to Reuters that his group placed a bid at a ceremony at a hotel in Islamabad.

The real estate group has placed a bid of Rs10 billion, way below the Privatisation Commission's expectation of Rs85.03bn. The bid has apparently put the privatization of the national carrier in jeopardy. The lone bidder has refused to increase the bid, stating that government may continue to run the entity on its own if it did not want to sell it.

As per the procession, the Commission would inform the federal cabinet about details of the bidding. If it is rejected, the bidding process will be initiated anew. Cash-strapped Pakistan is looking to offload a 51-100% stake in debt-ridden PIA (PIAHa.PSX), opens new tab to raise funds and reform bleeding state-owned enterprises as envisaged under a \$7 billion International Monetary Fund programme.

The government had pre-qualified six groups in June, but only Blue World City met a Tuesday deadline to submit final documents to participate in the process. Officials from three groups that chose not to bid told Reuters on condition of

anonymity that there were concerns about the government's ability to stand by agreements made for the flag carrier in the long term.

One executive voiced concern about policy continuity once a new government came in. The government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has relied on a coalition of disparate political parties. The disposal of PIA is a step former governments have steered away from as it has been highly unpopular given the number of layoffs that would likely result from it.

Underpinning these concerns over policy continuity and honouring contracts was the government's termination of power purchase contracts with five private companies earlier this month, as well as the process of re-negotiating other sovereign guaranteed pacts. Changes in Pakistan's decade-old agreements with private IPP projects, largely financed by foreign lenders, to address chronic power shortages, "raises the risk of investing as well as doing business in Pakistan, even in the presence of sovereign contracts as well as guarantees," said Sakib Sherani, an economist who heads private firm Macro Economic Insights. Other concerns raised by potential bidders included inconsistent government communication, unattractive terms and taxes on the sector, in addition to PIA's legacy issues and reputation.

Pakistan has absolutely no interest in talks TTP: FO

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office has strongly rejected any offers or advice with regards to dialogue between Pakistan and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch reiterated that Pakistan has absolutely no interest in talks with terror groups, which are responsible for the killing of our civilians and security personnel. She said Pakistan believes that such recommendations are affront to the people who have lost their loved ones due to the activities of TTP.

The Spokesperson said Afghan authorities have the primary responsibility to take action against the terror groups especially the TTP that are based in Afghanistan. She said we have also provided the Afghan authorities with concrete evidence in this regard.

The Spokesperson said Pakistan has brought to the

attention of the world community towards India's extra territorial and extra judicial activities. She hoped the international community will urge India to restrain from these activities in Pakistan and around the world. Responding to a question, the Spokesperson said Chinese nationals are our valued guests who are making invaluable contributions to the development of Pakistan.

She said we are committed to providing full security to Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan. She said this commitment has been conveyed at the senior most levels of the Chinese leadership.

Spokesperson Baloch, when commenting on the "unfortunate incidents" of attacks on Chinese citizens in Pakistan, said that the FO is aware of the concerns of the Chinese government and embassy. She added that Islamabad is committed to providing full security to Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in

Pakistan. She said this commitment has been conveyed at the senior-most levels of the Chinese leadership.

Chinese nationals, she also added, are "our valued guests" who are making invaluable contributions to the development of Pakistan. Her remarks came weeks after a Chinese delegation and their security convoy were targeted near the airport signal in Karachi earlier this month.

A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a convoy of Chinese engineers. As a result, three persons, including two Chinese nationals, were killed, and 16 others, including another Chinese national, injured. The attack also caused significant damage to more than 15 vehicles. The responsibility claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army's Majeed Brigade through social media. Later, police registered a case at the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) against the BLA chief and facilitators.

ATC grants Imaan Mazari, husband granted bail

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) granted bail to human rights lawyer Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and her husband Hadi Ali on a bail bond of Rs20,000, it emerged on Thursday.

Earlier, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) struck down the three-day physical remand handed down by ATC on Tuesday. It also ordered the duo to be sent to jail on a 14-day judicial remand. Thursday's case was heard by Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz, while the couple's lawyers Qaiser

Imam and Zainab Janjua appeared in the court.

The court directed the prosecutor to read the remand application, after which Justice Farooq asked whether he thought the remand order was fine. The prosecutor affirmed that it was. "According to the Lahore High Court guidelines, remand orders are like this," the chief justice said. Imam chimed in to say that the physical remand was suspended Wednesday but the status has not been cleared yet.

"We should issue a short order to send them on judicial remand," Farooq said,

following which the court ordered Imaan and Ali to be sent to jail on judicial remand. The court then struck down the couple's physical remand, saying "the ATC's judge did not give concrete reasons for the physical remand." The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) condemned the couple's arrest on "vague charges of 'creating a security risk'."

"Both are committed, well-respected human rights defenders, whose arbitrary arrest is symptomatic of the rapidly shrinking space for activists in Pakistan.

KP CM inaugurates solarization project for public sector colleges

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, inaugurated the solarization project for government colleges in the province. Initially under this project, installation of a 10 KVA solar system has been initiated in 80 government colleges, with already completed in 10 of them.

The Chief Minister formally launched this important project in a ceremony held here at Government College Peshawar on Thursday. Provincial cabinet members, members of the provincial and national assemblies, relevant government officials, college faculty members, and a large number of students attended the ceremony. The project includes the installation of a 10 KVA solar system

in each college, with a total cost of Rs 2.41 million per college. The solar system is expected to reduce electricity consumption by 1,100 to 1,200 units per month per college, saving around Rs 55,000 in monthly electricity bill for each college.

The installation costs of the solar systems is also expected to be recouped within approximately three years. Similarly, each solar installation is expected to reduce the national grid load by 120 KW of electricity per month per college. If the system is installed in 290 colleges in the province, the national grid would save a total of up to 34.8 MW of electricity per month. On this occasion, the Chief Minister also distributed awards among students who achieved top positions in the MDCAT and board exams.

Addressing the ceremony, the Chief Minister said that students are the future of the nation, and it is this young generation who will eventually lead the country in the near future. This is why, he said that the provincial government is taking every possible step to provide students with an ideal learning environment. The solarization project for colleges is also a part of these efforts, aimed at to ensure that students do not face issues like power outages during peak study hours in colleges.

He urged students to work hard and cultivate qualities that would help elevate the nation. "We aim to create a system where no one is left behind and everyone is provided with equal opportunities," he said. He further stated, "we can become great nation only when we think big". He encouraged

students to move forward with sincerity and hard work, and do not let failure to deter them. "If you encounter failure at any point in your career, it doesn't mean you should give up; instead, continue with even more dedication and perseverance," he added.

Ali Amin Khan Gandapur reiterated that, despite limited resources, his government would continue efforts for the welfare of students, adding that we are increasing the number of scholarships to provide more students with opportunities for quality education and research. The Chief Minister maintained that Pakistan is our country, and it is our responsibility to set it on the path to progress and development. Referring to the words of the founding chairman, Imran Khan, he said, "Break the idols of 'ego' and 'fear' within you."



He emphasized that God will bless us with His bounties when we trust in Him and dedicate ourselves to serving others. The Chief Minister concluded by underlining the importance of true freedom, adding that when people

demand their rights, they are often imprisoned and face injustice. "We want to establish a system where no one has the power to violate the constitution or commit injustice or oppression against anyone," he added.



City infrastructure and controlling pollution CM informs Canadian envoy of Sindh govt initiative

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in his meeting with the Canadian High Commissioner Ms Leslie Scanlon, said that his government, through the Karachi transformation project, was improving the infrastructure to make the city liveable and attracting investment.

The meeting also included the Director General for South Asia in Ottawa, Canada, Ms. Marie Louise Hannan, and Mr. Daniel Arseneault, the Political, Economic, and Commercial Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy. The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Secretary, Raheem Shaikh.

During the meeting, Ms Scanlon remarked that Karachi is a beautiful megapolis with abundant investment opportunities. She noted that Canadian food chains currently operating in Islamabad and Lahore plan to open franchises in Karachi. Shah emphasized that Karachi is the industrial hub of the country, and both the provincial and federal governments are working to establish more special economic zones. He mentioned

that the city's infrastructure, including industrial areas, is being developed using resources from the World Bank's Karachi Transformation Project, along with Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives.

Murad Shah outlined several key infrastructure projects, including the completion of the Malir Expressway, the dualisation of the Northern Bypass, and the construction of a road connecting the Seaport to Korangi Causeway, which will link to the Malir Expressway. Additionally, he mentioned the opening of a new link road that connects the National Highway with the Motorway, facilitating easier transportation of goods to the interior of the country.

During the discussion, the Chief Minister highlighted his government's investment in seawater desalination for drinking water and the treatment of domestic waste to meet both domestic and industrial needs. They also addressed issues of marine and environmental pollution, with Mr Shah stating that treatment plants are being established to responsibly discharge treated sewage and industrial waste into the sea.

He shared that his government has planted millions of mangroves along the coastline, enabling the earning of carbon credits, and expressed plans for the development of another deep-sea port at Ketu Bandar. Regarding the coal-fired power plant in Thar, Mr Shah said that international environmental protection

standards have been adopted to produce energy from coal, which has made Thar coal the cheapest energy source in the country.



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CUSTOMERS NOTICE MERGER OF 39 MCB BANK BRANCHES INTO MCB ISLAMIC BANK LTD.

MCB Islamic Bank Limited ("MCB Islamic Bank"), a wholly owned subsidiary of MCB Bank Limited (MCB Bank) is taking over thirty-nine (39) branches of MCB converted into Islamic Banking branches and merging them into MCB Islamic Bank in accordance with the Scheme of Compromises, Arrangements and Reconstruction ("Scheme") between MCB Bank and MCB Islamic Bank sanctioned by the Honourable Lahore High Court. By virtue of the Court Order, the banking business along with assets, liabilities and operations of the following 39 branches will be converted into Islamic banking branches and transferred to MCB Islamic Bank. The transfer of 39 branches will take effect from close of business on November 15, 2024.

Please be informed that this activity will necessitate service outage over the weekend, starting from **Saturday, November 16, 2024, at 6:00 AM** until **Monday, November 18, 2024, at 8:00 AM**. During this period, **Saturday open branches and all Digital Banking Channels**, including **ATMs, Debit Cards, Internet Banking, and Mobile Banking**, will not be accessible. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.

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FBR launches new system

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Under the direction of the Chairman FBR and as part of FBR's comprehensive digitalization efforts to optimize tax administration and boost revenue collection, FBR has launched an advanced Stock Register system via the Information Center 2.0

platform.

This robust digital infrastructure grants tax officers

real-time, in-depth access

to registered persons' data, Income Tax (IT) and Sales Tax (ST) regulations.



No. DB-4(1)/Main/2023
Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Energy, Petroleum Division
Directorate General of Petroleum Concessions
Petroleum House, G-5/2

Invitation to Bid for Management & Operation of Pakistan Petroleum Exploration & Production Data Repository in Collaboration with the Directorate General of Petroleum Concessions.

Applications are invited for the Management & Operation of Pakistan Petroleum Exploration & Production Data Repository from well reputed and experienced companies/organizations.

2. Bid Documents can be obtained from the office of the Directorate General of Petroleum Concessions, Petroleum House, G-5/2, Islamabad during office hours on a written request and payment of a non-refundable fee in favour of DGPC of US \$100 (or equivalent in Pak Rupees) through Bank Draft. Bidders may request a clarification on any aspect of tender document till **25th November, 2024**.

3. Interested companies should drop sealed applications along with bid documents in the Bid Box placed at DGPC, Petroleum House, G-5/2, Islamabad, not later than 11:00 a.m. (PST) on **5th December, 2024. Bids will be opened on the same day at 12:00 noon (PST) by the committee.**

4. Bids submitted by all applicants will be considered as irrevocable and unconditional. In case any applicant states otherwise, his bid will not be accepted and will be treated as "non-responsive".

5. The successful applicant will be selected in accordance with the rules/process defined in the bid documents. The authority reserves the right to exercise the power to accept or reject any application. In the event of refusal to such award, the Authority shall as far as possible provide reasons therefore. The Authority also reserves the right to cancel or annul the bidding process without specifying any reason.

6. In the event, any of the bidder(s) attempts to influence the DGPC in any manner whatsoever, it shall result in the disqualification of such bidder(s).

PID (I) 2961/24

(Riaz Ali)

Director General Petroleum Concessions
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Website: www.mpr.gov.pk

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)

OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A PART OF PCAA'S PROFESSIONAL TEAM SITUATION VACANT NOTICE NO. 13/2024

Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority requires services of qualified individuals to fill the following vacant posts on regular/ contract basis where selection will be made purely on suitability and merit:-

S. NO.	Post	No. of Positions	Prescribed Qualification & Experience	Quota & Pay Scale	Age Limit
1.	Joint Director Aero Medical (EG-05)	One (01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MBBS from a HEC Recognized University / InstituteMust have valid PMDC RegistrationMust have done Basic Diploma in Aviation Medicine from a recognized instituteMinimum 12 years of experience as Medical Practitioner including 04years experience in Aviation Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Merit-01Lump sum Pay: Rs.343,628/- per month (negotiable) with 5% annual incrementContract for three (03) years (extendable)	Maximum 53 years (including all age relaxations)
2.	Joint Director AAR (ANS Inspector) (EG-05)	Four (04)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minimum 14 years of Education from HEC recognized UniversityMinimum 15 years of ATC operational experience in Civil AviationHave or Held Air Traffic Controller License (ATCL) with at least 2 ATS units rating (1 rating as Area or Approach surveillance controller)Working experience in CAA Regulatory as ANS Inspector framework will be preferred	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Merit-01Punjab - 02KPK-01Lump sum Pay: Rs. 343,628/- per month (negotiable) with 5% annual incrementContract for three (03) years (extendable)	Maximum 50 years (including all age relaxations)
3.	Joint Director IT (Application) (EG-05)	One (01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bachelor /Master (16 years of education) degree in Computer Science/ Software Engineering / MIS/ IT or equivalent with minimum 2nd division from HEC Recognized UniversityMinimum 15 Years of Experience in software development with minimum 07 years of experience in Aviation industryProficiency in developing web applications using ASP.NET, including both Web Forms and MVC architecture. Understanding of ASP.NET Core is preferredExpertise in designing scalable, high-performance software architectures for ASP.NET applications.In-depth knowledge of database management systems and data integration techniques in the context of ASP.NET developmentMust have experience in aviation audit systems and recommended practices of aviation industry.Manage project work streams and provide guidance to business users	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Merit-01Lump sum Pay: Rs. 343,628/- per month (negotiable) with 5% annual incrementContract for three (03) years (extendable)	Maximum 50 years (including all age relaxations)
4.	Deputy Director Aero Medical (EG-03)	One (01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MBBS from a HEC Recognized University / InstituteMust have valid PMDC RegistrationMust have done Basic Diploma in Aviation Medicine from a recognized instituteMinimum 06 years of experience as Medical Practitioner including 03 years experience in Aviation Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Merit-01Lump sum Pay: Rs. 247,952/- per month (negotiable) with 5% annual increment(Contract) for three (03) years (extendable)	Maximum 50 years (including all age relaxations)
5.	Deputy Director IT (Systems) (EG-03)	One (01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bachelor / Masters (16 years of education) degree in Computer Science / IT /Telecom / Electrical/ Electronic or equivalent with minimum 2nd division from HEC Recognized UniversityMinimum 06 Years of Experience in system engineering, Hyper-Converged infrastructure and storage managementMicrosoft/ VMware/ Amazon or equivalent Certification will be preferred	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Merit-01Lump sum Pay: Rs. 247,952/- per month (negotiable) with 5% annual incrementContract for three (03) years (extendable)	Maximum 40 years (including all age relaxations)
6.	Deputy Director Legal (EG-03)	One (01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Graduate and L.L.B with at least 2nd Division or equivalent CGPA from HEC Recognized UniversityPracticing Lawyer with 09 years practice with the certificate of the President BAR of concerned District Court to the effect that the holder of License is an active Practicing Lawyer ORGovernment servant in the service of Federal or Provincial Government, Semi-Government, Autonomous Body or Corporation established by law, having at least 05 years of experience as a Law Officer including Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Merit-01Lump sum Pay: Rs. 247,952/- per month (negotiable) with 5% annual increment(Contract) for three (03) years (extendable)	Maximum 40 years (including all age relaxations)
7.	Deputy Director Finance (EG-03)	One (01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CMA Qualified /CA Finalist / ACCA Member with article completed from a reputable firm ORMBA (Finance)/M.com with at 2nd Division from recognized universitySix (06) years of experience in Finance / Accounts in a well reputed organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Merit-01Lump sum Pay: Rs. 247,952/- per month (negotiable) with 5% annual increment(Contract) for three (03) years (extendable)	Maximum 40 years (including all age relaxations)
8.	Assistant Director AAR (Civil) (EG-01)	One (01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">16 Years of Education in the subject of Bachelor of Civil Engineering from any HEC Recognized University with 2nd DivisionMust have valid PEC RegistrationThree (03) years experience in aerodrome master planning, Pavement Design, evaluation and maintenance will be preferred	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Merit-01Pay Scale: Rs.56,280-5630-168,880	Maximum 28years (age relaxation shall be applicable as per applicable Rules)

Application Procedure:

- Interested candidates are required to fill & submit Online Job Application Form available at www.caapakistan.com.pk within fifteen days from the date of this advertisement.
- Candidates will be required to upload scanned copies of certificate / degree of the required qualification of the concerned post as mentioned above and CNIC while applying for the job.
- In case a candidate does not upload the above documents with the online application form, his/her application will be rejected.

Terms of Reference:

- Candidates not fulfilling the above requirements or submitting incomplete application shall not be considered.
- Test / Interview will be conducted at Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta for which separate notices will be issued (depending on the number of candidates).
- The candidates to be called for the interview have to produce original documents for necessary verification while appearing for the interview.
- No TA / DA is admissible for test / interview.
- Appointment will be subject to CAA's medical fitness standards.
- Selected candidates will be required to serve anywhere in Pakistan as per requirement of PCAA.
- Government servants / employees of autonomous bodies / corporations will be required to submit NOC from current employer before interview.
- Application received after due date will not be considered / entertained.
- Misinformation and any attempt to influence the selection process will be considered as a definite disqualification for current as well as future recruitment in CAA, even if the candidate is otherwise qualified.
- In case, any educational documents or any other document provided by the applicants is found incorrect / fake / bogus at any stage, the services of selected candidate will be terminated immediately.
- PCAA encourages equal employment opportunity to women and people belonging to minorities.
- PCAA reserves the right to cancel the partial or whole recruitment process at any stage.

OFFICER INCHARGE HUMAN RESOURCES

HEADQUARTERS PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY, B-6, KDA SCHEME-1 KARSAN, KARACHI, Tel: 021-32521367 (Ext:3118)



German Bank KFW keen to establish two training centres in energy sector

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: German Investment & Development Bank (KFW) has shown interest in the establishment of two training centres in solar energy and micro hydel technology at Government College of Technology (GCT) Peshawar and Government College of Swat.

These projects had already been approved by the Economic Affairs Division (EAD). The project is consisted of a grant to Rs.74.70 million under which 450 youth would be imparted hands-in training annually.

In this connection, a joint meeting of the representatives of German Investment & Development Bank KFW

and KP Industries Department was held with Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries & Commerce Abdul Karim Tordher and Special Assistant to KP CM on Technical Education Tufail Anjum here on Thursday.

Besides, Head of Division of KFW Ms. Esther Gravenkotter and other representatives, the Secretary Industries KP Aamir Aafaq, Special Secretary Anwar Khan, Managing Director (MD) Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Mansoor Qaiser and directors, other officers also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, matters relating to various projects in Pakistan particularly the establishment of training centres

for renewable energy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and taking them forward and completion of their various phases also come under discussion between the representatives of the German Bank and Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking to the German delegation, the Special Assistant Abdul Karim Khan and Secretary Industries welcomed projects initiated with the financial assistance of Germany and KFW and confident that German cooperation of German agency in the transfer of technology and we renewable energy would prove useful for the uplift of the sector the technical education in the province.

They assured that the provincial government

would extend all possible cooperation to the German agency under the official standard operation procedures (SOPs).

The special assistants asked the representatives of the German bank for extending assistance in other sectors like teaching of German language, imparting skills to youth and establishment of micro hydel projects on canals and presentation of possible recommendations in this regard.

They expressed their hopes that mutual cooperation between German bank and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will continue in future and the government of Germany will continue its cooperation in the promotion of technical education and vocational training in the province.

New NFC Award demanded for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A provincial seminar on the upcoming National Finance Commission (NFC) Award was organized on Thursday, at the SSAQ Seminar Hall, University of Peshawar. The seminar was organized by the Development Insights Lab (DIL) and the Center for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA). The seminar aimed to address Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's rights and considerations in the NFC award process. Dr. Fahim Nawaz, Deputy Coordinator of DIL, and Dr. Syed Hussain Shaheed Suherwardi moderated the session, with participants from political circles, academia, media, and student bodies. Muhammad Anwar, Executive Director of CGPA, and Dr. Sajjad Ahmad Jan, Coordinator of DIL, briefed attendees on CGPA and DIL's initiatives.

The event featured insightful presentations, including "The Evolution of the NFC Award in Pakistan and International Best Practices of Resource Distribution" by Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Associate Professor at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). Dr. Muhammad Saleem, CEO of Juniper Policy Consulting, presented "The 7th NFC Award and its Implications for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the Backdrop of the 25th Constitutional Amendment." Both sessions highlighted the importance of addressing regional needs and were followed by an engaging Q&A session with participants.

The seminar's Chief Guest, the Honorable Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Chancellor of the University of Peshawar, emphasized the critical role of collaboration between academia and civil society in advocating for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's equitable share in the NFC Award, particularly after the integration of the Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) into the province. He encouraged political representatives to stand united, suggesting that a cohesive approach would strengthen KP's position in the NFC.

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rate the ex-FATA's 6.6% share into KP's existing 14.6% allocation and to raise the security share from 1% to 3% to address law and order challenges affecting the province. Political representatives-Mr. Ahmad Karim Kundi (PPP), Mr. Taimur Saleem Jhagra (PTI), Mr. Inayatullah Khan (JI), Ms. Naema Kishwar (JUI), Mr. Khushdil Khan (ANP), and Mr. Sikandar Hayat Sherpao (QWP)-advocated for a fairer distribution to meet KP's changing demands.

Governor Kundi highlighted the severe economic impact of terrorism on KP's economy and tourism, urging an increased resource focus to bolster the province's security and development. He underscored the importance of political unity, stating, "If

Pashtun leaders can come together for PTM, they can unite for their own rights as well."

University of Peshawar Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Naeem Qazi commended the creation of the Development Insights Lab, expressing hope that it would aid in evidence-based policy-making and thanked political representatives for their support of this new initiative. He noted the pressing need to finalize the NFC Award to ensure national and provincial development.

The seminar concluded with a strong call for an NFC Award revision that aligns with the needs and contributions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, fostering a collaborative effort to secure KP's rightful share in national resources.

Freedom Network frames 2024 as deadly year for journalists

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: As many as six media workers lost their lives which shows the 2024 is one of the deadliest year for journalists in Pakistan, with multiple targeted killings including a YouTuber and 57 violations recorded besides the provinces doing little to ensure combat impunity for crimes against media and its

practitioners, on Thursday. This was announced by media watchdog Freedom Network "Impunity Report 2024." The report also notes that the federal and Sindh provincial laws aimed at protecting media professionals have not been able to combat impunity for these crimes. The annual report reveals alarming statistics as 11 assassination attempts, including five murders of

journalists and a digital media practitioner, happened between November 2023 and August 2024. Almost 57 violations, including threats, assaults and legal harassment, were also recorded during the reporting period. Despite the enactment of Sindh Protection of Journalists and Other Media Practitioners Bill 2021 and the federal Protection of Journalist and Media

Professional Act 2021, both the federal and Sindh governments have failed to enforce these laws, leaving journalists vulnerable without any use of the legal framework protections. Freedom Network Executive Director Iqbal Khattak said while launching the special report on eve of International Day to End Impunity (IDEI) falling globally including Pakistan.

Kashmir Black Day observed in Pakistan High Commission Canada

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The High Commission of Pakistan in Canada solemnly observed Kashmir Black Day, today, to mark the illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir by India on October 27, 1947. This day serves as a reminder of the ongoing plight of the Kashmiri people under Indian occupation and their continuous struggle for the right to self-determination, as enshrined in international law and various UN Security Council resolutions. The observance included a ceremony held at the Chancery including documentaries' screening and a photographic exhibition which was attended by members of the Pakistani community, human rights advocates, and supporters



of the Kashmiri cause. On this occasion, messages of solidarity from the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out, reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and relevant UN resolutions.

In his remarks, Acting High Commissioner Mr. Faisal Kakar reiterated Pakistan's steadfast support for the Kashmiri people in their just struggle against

oppression and human rights violations committed by Indian forces. He emphasized that Pakistan would continue to advocate for the Kashmir cause at all international fora, including the United Nations, urging the international community to play its role in ending the decades-long illegal occupation and atrocities against the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

India has stifled the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiris to determine their own destiny. Over the last seventy-seven years,

India has not only reneged on its obligations to the people of Jammu and Kashmir but has shown disregard to multilateralism by backtracking on the UNSC resolutions.

Contrary to Indian claims, Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized dispute that has been on the agenda of the UN Security Council for over seven decades. Kashmir Black Day is, therefore, a somber reminder of the urgency to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Faisal added.

Various events were also arranged by the Consuls General Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver on the human rights situation in IIOJK.



PESHAWAR: Elders of Waziristan Waseh Ullah Wazir and others addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club.

PHC seeks response for establishment of DPCs

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Syed Arshad Ali ordered provincial government for submission of response regarding constitution of District Protection Committees (DPCs) till 17th December, on Thursday.

The writ petition filed by Women and Human rights activist Mehwish

Muhib Kakakhel against Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa seeking establishment of DPCs which is the soul of Gender Based Violence Act.

The petition stated that women who are victims of domestic violence have no other avenue for redressal of their cases as police do not lodge their FIRs unless they are subjected to severe injury. DPCs provide mediation between the parties and certain

domestic violence complaints can be resolved through it.

Most of the victims who need medical, psychological, legal, shelter, security, police or any other help required, would be provided by these committees. Women would continue facing domestic violence unless and until district protection committees under The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) are estab-

lished, the writ argued.

Meanwhile, the respondents requested for provision of two month for establishment of district protection committees wherein the court has ordered the respondents to confirm from the relevant authorities about the establishment of the committees in order to ensure the timely establishment of the committees and to submit a report before the court on 17 December, 2024.

Fazal visits Livestock Research Station

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Livestock Fazal Hakeem Khan Yousafzai visited Livestock Research Station Surizai Peshawar, inaugurated various laboratories, participated in animal auction.

Provincial Minister for Livestock Fazal Hakeem Khan Yousafzai directed to pay attention for the preparation of balanced diet to increase animal production and better breeding of its breed so that the results of research can reach the landowner.

Provincial Minister Fazal Hakeem Khan Yousafzai made a detailed visit to Livestock Research Station Surizai Peshawar. Where he inaugurated the Embryo Transfer Laboratory to increase animal breeding on modern scientific basis. On the occasion it was told that Construction of laboratory will cost 52 million rupees.

Provincial Minister for Livestock also inaugurated the Rose Garden, apart from this he inspected the Feed Mill, Dairy Technology Laboratory where he reviewed the various sections and was given a detailed briefing on the performance.

Afzal Chan calls on Governor Kundi

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday called on senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Nadeem Afzal Chan here at the Governor's House.

Red Crescent KP Vice Chairman Farzand Ali Wazir also attended the meeting.

During the discussion, they exchanged views on the activities of the PPP in Pakistan's current political landscape, challenges faced by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

and other key issues. The meeting included a deep discussion on the deteriorating security situation in the province, with all parties expressing concern over the issue.

They discussed the role of the government and political parties in ensuring stability in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Chan informed the Governor Kundi on the activities of the PPP in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including party organizational efforts and steps to address public concerns.

Governor Kundi emphasized the importance of a united effort among all political parties to tackle the issues of the province and secure its development and stability. Nadeem Afzal Chan commended Governor Kundi's role in promoting a positive image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa across Pakistan, saying that the PPP leadership viewed his appointment as a significant step towards progress and development in the province.

Aircraft engineers stands firm against PIA privatization

Safullah

PESHAWAR: The Society of Aircraft Engineers of Pakistan (SAEP) has declared its unwavering commitment to protecting Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), asserting that the airline is a vital national asset. During a recent discussion at the Constitution Forum, prominent members of the society voiced concerns over the potential privatization of PIA, emphasizing that such a move would adversely affect both passengers and the nation as a whole.

Abdullah Jadoon Khan, President of SAEP, stated, "We will not give up on PIA. It is our duty to protect this asset, which continues to provide affordable tickets for passengers and repatriates deceased bodies back to Pakistan without

charge." He criticized the airline's administration for making poor decisions that have led to operational setbacks, including the grounding of two aircraft in Karachi and two others that remained stranded in Indonesia for 26 months.

The society's leaders highlighted the financial struggles faced by PIA employees, noting that the salaries of aircraft engineers have not seen an increase in eight years amidst the devaluation of the rupee. "These challenges are compounded by the closure of international routes, which is unfair to the dedicated officers and staff working tirelessly for PIA's prosperity," said Engineer Shamim Shah Afridi, Vice President of SAEP.

The SAEP is a robust organization with over 600

members across all airports in Pakistan, dedicated to maintaining and improving PIA's operations. Following a recent oath-taking ceremony in Karachi, Jadoon and Afridi expressed their determination to resist privatization efforts and to continue advocating for the airline's interests.

"The Society of Aircraft Engineers of Pakistan plays an essential role in PIA's development," Jadoon reiterated, affirming their collective resolve to protect the national airline against privatization and other detrimental policies.

As discussions continue regarding the future of PIA, the Society remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding the airline's identity and ensuring it remains a source of pride for the nation.

50th mandatory training course concludes

PESHAWAR: The 50th Mandatory Training Course for government employees eligible for promotion to Grade 17 in the Provincial Management Service (PMS) and Provincial Planning Service (PPS) successfully concluded today at the Staff Training Institute Peshawar.

The comprehensive training program, spanning 14 weeks for PMS and nine weeks for PPS, was designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of government employees in preparation for their new roles and responsibilities in public service.

The closing ceremony was held at the Staff Training Institute, where Director Dildar Muhammad Danish distributed certificates to the participants who successfully completed the course.

A total of 46 employees participated in this course, including 41 PMS officers for the 14-week program and five PPS officers for the nine-week program. Notably, two female employees also completed the 14-week training.

KMU organize seminar on role of women in science

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar, in collaboration with Dosti Welfare Organization and the Pakistan Chapter of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), held a seminar titled "The Role of Women in Science." Themed "She Leads in STEAM," Women and Science" the event focused on exploring the contributions, challenges, and future opportunities for women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). Speakers highlighted that women are achieving remarkable milestones in fields ranging from medicine to technology and engineering, showcasing their crucial role in the nation's progress.

The event's chief guest, Prof. Dr. Rubina Nazli, Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of Basic Medical Sciences at KMU, spoke on the pivotal roles women hold in science and technology. She noted that women possess the potential to reach groundbreaking achievements, even reaching as far as the moon. Prof. Dr. Nazli added that with 60% of KMU's student body being female, the university actively supports and fosters women's education and their significant contributions to STEAM fields.

Mizan Ur Rehman, CEO of P21 STEM, discussed the evolution of STEMP education, which originated in the 1970s, and its continued adaptation across science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. He highlighted that while science and mathematics emphasize foundational learning, technology

and engineering require hands-on, practical skills. He urged aligning educational systems with the P21 STEM model to better equip students for addressing global challenges, particularly in the healthcare sector.

The seminar included a panel discussion featuring influential speakers from various fields who shared their insights on women's contributions in diverse sectors. Panelists included social activist Masarrat Misbah, environmental specialist Prof. Dr. Saima Hashim, ORIC Director at Gandhara University Prof. Dr. Sofia Kabir, Shaheed Benazir Women University ORIC Director Dr. Nargis Jamila, Educationist Prof. Shagufta Javed, Engineer Abdul Mohiz, KMU Director of Academics Prof. Dr. Zilli Huma, Dr. Raeesa Bano (Registrar of Women



In brief

AD&SJ convicts murderer F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: Additional Sessions Judge Takhtbhai Shehzad Akhonzada convicted murderer for lifetime imprisonment and imposed Rs1million fine, on Thursday. According to prosecution, on May 22, 2018, the accused, Shahab, opened fire inside a house in Takkar Kalay, killing schoolteacher Mairaj Muhammad on the spot and seriously injuring three family members. Following this, an FIR was filed against Shahab based on a report by the deceased Mairaj Muhammad's injured son, Sikandar, and the accused was subsequently arrested. AD&SJ Shehzad Akhonzada sentenced the culprit for lifetime imprisonment in murder case and ordered to pay a one million rupee fine for injuring three people. In the event of non-payment, he will have to serve an additional eight and seven months in jail, respectively. Senior lawyer Muhammad Naeem Khan Advocate represented the prosecution, while the accused was represented by female lawyer Shakeela Zaman Advocate.

Polio vaccination records inspected F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: In the 5-day anti-polio campaign, polio drops will be administered to more than 4,33,000 children under the age of 5 years, on Thursday. On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindh, the polio teams are being closely monitored. In this regard, CEO Health Dr. Kashif Mehmood Kamboh checked the records of the polio teams working in the field to monitor the polio campaign in different places of the district and instructed that any child under the age of five should not be deprived of two drops of polio. He said that it is our determination to make Pakistan polio free. To save their children from disability, parents must cooperate with the teams of the health department who are giving drops.

FCPS holds ceremony F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Frontier Corps Public School (FCPS) Landi Kotal Cantt held annual prize distribution ceremony was held while Commandant Khyber Rifle Col Asim Aziz Keyani was chief guest, Chairman FCPS Lieutenant Col Zain-ul-Abedin, Tehsil Chairman Shah Khalid, a number of tribal elders, parents and students were among the participants of the ceremony. Addressing on the occasion Col Asim Aziz Keyani highlighted the importance of education and said it was the need of time to teach the learners while keeping in view essentials of time. Besides formal education, teaching of norms and values to the students, a must, he added and said the student community is the asset of the country that needs exhaustive care. He urged the parents and teachers to join hands together to up-bring the new generation with responsibility so that they could become responsible and useful citizens of the country. He congratulated the best students for their extraordinary performance and asked the rest of learners to follow in the footsteps of the former to become successful ones in their life. Earlier, the school Principal Fazal Rehman presented the annual report of the institution. The school students, dressed in colorful clothes, presented songs and tableaux that amused the participants.

Fake finger-marking in polio campaign KP CS directs registration of cases against culprits



F.P. Report

KOHAT: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry has strictly directed the authorities concerned to take strict action against those who do fake finger-marking in the polio campaigns and also formally register criminal cases against them under the relevant law. He declared that eradicating the fatal disease of polio is a big challenging task for us and any compromise is impossible on it.

He gave these directions while presiding over a high-level meeting on Polio at Commissioner House Kohat on Thursday. The meeting beside the Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan, Federal Secretary National Health Nadeem Mehbub, Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah, DIG Kohat Sher Akbar and Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram was also attended by the authorities concerned of other related departments and institutions.

The meeting was briefed in detail about the Polio situation in Kohat division especially on the recent confirmed polio case

in the tribal area of Darra Adam Khel Paya. The meeting also discussed the polio security plan in detail and several important decisions were taken in this regard.

The Chief Secretary has directed to inquire into the recent polio case in the tribal area and punish those responsible severely as it is a matter of precious human lives. He further directed that it should also be detected who was the guarantor behind those who did fake finger-marking.

Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry maintained, any negligence in polio duty is intolerable therefore the monitoring process of polio teams should further be tightened and the district administration officers should ensure its own monitoring on it. He while reiterating the government's resolve to eradicate polio at all costs said that a close watch should also be kept on the vaccines used for polio eradication to ensure that they are not expired so that the deadly disease of polio can be effectively controlled.

Later, the Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Federal Secretary National Health, Inspector General of Police Pakhtunkhwa also planted saplings in the lawn of Commissioner House Kohat.

Protestors blame DSP for backing land mafia

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: A widow women and her relatives staged protest against DSP Sadar Rana Jameel Qaisar and 'Qabza' Mafia at busiest Fawar Chowk in the city. The protesters were chanting slogans against DSP and Land Mafia.

According to details, Najam-ul-Hassan Shah, Rana Rafiq and Qari Afzal allegedly grabbed illegally Five Marla home in Akhtar Town Hafizabad owned by Noor Asia widow of Nazir Ahmad on behest of DSP Sadar Rana Jamil Qaisar.

Noor Asia said that when he rushed to DSP Sadar to seek justice and to take actions against land mafia, Rana Jamil Qaisar threatened consequences. She said that accused were also threatening to kill her. She appealed the Chief Minister Punjab, IG Police Punjab to take actions against accused and retrieved her house as well as provide protection from accused.

DC visits under construction road: Deputy Commissioner visited under construction road from Head Sagar to Head Khanki with the cost of Rs. 8.20 billion to link district Hafizabad to Divisional Headquarter Gujrat and to provide better communication facilities to people of area.

Deputy Director Development and officers of highway department informed the DC that Punjab government was spending Rs. 8.20 billion for construction 4.5 km long carpet Road from Head Sagar to Head Khaniki to

provide shortest route to commuters of Hafizabad and other surrounding areas.

DC Directed the officer of highway department to ensure completion and use of quality material in execution of the project so that people could get benefits of government expenditures soon. Later, DC visited Basic Health Unit Nadala Kham and reviewed revamping work and directed the officers concerned to complete on going schemes of revamping of 10 BHUs at a cost of Rs. 186 million of the district for improving treatment facilities. DC also checked availability of medicines and other treatment facilities to patients in the BHU besides anti-polio counter and checked record to administer polio drops to children.

PTI leader booked in criminal offense: Police have registered a case against 12 people including father and brothers of PTI MNA Aniq Mehdi Hassan Bhatti. According to FIR, more than 10-armed people including Ex-MNA and leader of PTI Shoukat Ali Bhatti president PTI District Hafizabad Imran Haider Bhatti allegedly stormed into the house of Adil Khan and stole AC, LCD and broke household articles on the behest of ex-MNA Ch. Mehdi Hassan Bhatti. The other hand,

sources of Bhatti family, fake and baseless cases were being registered to harass us but we would bow down before government tactics.

Quality education at govt's school a top priori-

ty: Newly-Appointed Chief Executive Officer Education Hafizabad Nazia Shahzadi has said that imparting quality education in government schools, curriculum activities, making results of examination ideal and strengthening accountability system in education department are my mission, on Thursday.

While giving details of her priorities as a Chief Executive Officer, she said that with the cooperation of experienced, dedicate and qualified teachers not only annual results of schools would be improved but steps would also be taken for making character of subtenants ideal for bright future of students. She determined that she herself would visit schools of district to check educational situation and other arrangements of the schools.

CEO Education said that problems of teachers would also be resolved without any delay and teachers who would show good results would be encouraged at all forums while strict action would be taken against those teachers showing poor results, attendance and wrong attitude. She made it clear that all computer labs, science labs be made functional so that students could get benefits of government expenditures.

All heads of schools are responsible to ensure cleanliness, tree plantation and to implement on Anti-Dengue SOPs in their respective schools and be deliver lectures about Anti-dengue SOPs on daily basis, she added.

3 brothers die in Nowshera accident F.P. Report

NEWSHERA: Two real brothers were killed and another injured when the motorcycle they were riding on, was hit by a tractor in Khesghi Payan area of Nowshera district, police informed on Thursday.

The unfortunate incident took place in Shah Swar Chowk of Khesghi Payan where three brothers traveling on a motorcycle were hit by a tractor trolley. As a result, two brothers identified as 16-year-old Muhammad Zohaib, 13-year-old Muhammad Talha died at the scene while their third brother, Muhammad Owais was injured. The brothers belonged to the Khesghi Bala area of Nowshera district. Rescue 1122 shifted the bodies and injured to Nowshera hospital.

Children facing threats of sexual assaults F.P. Report

LARKANA: Child Protection Unit with the collaboration of Larkana Press Club arranged an awareness event regarding violence against children and especially sexual assaults which has increased to deteriorating conditions, on Thursday. Tariq Durrani President of the journalists Union, Child Actos Saba, Human Rights Commission In-charge Larkana Ahmed Wadho, Coordinator of Child Life, General Secretary of SAGA Larkana, Syed Javed Ali Shah and Deputy Director of Child Protection Tayyab Korejo participated.

On this occasion, the speakers said in their address that kidnapping and murder of children and sexual and physical violence against them is increasing daily in our society, which must be prevented. They said that protecting children is the responsibility of all of us while the media has played an important role in spreading violence against children while the Child Protection Unit is working to identify the problems of children and solve them. They further said that children have two basic rights, in which children's health, education and quality of life are to be improved. They said that parents should not neglect children.

Adequate steps should be taken to prevent child abuse while at the government level, adequate measures are not being taken to prevent child abuse, while child labor is also increasing and children's basic rights to health, education and protection are hopeless. The government should take effective measures to end early marriage, physical violence and forced labor. Violence against children has increased to an alarming level in our country, especially in Sindh.

By appealing the relatives, they are forgiving the accused who sexually or physically abused them, which is a wrong tradition, so the police, courts and other institutions should be bound so that such incidents end.

Police arrests 10 alleged culprits: Police arrested 10 alleged criminals during operations in different areas of Larkana, while drugs and other items were recovered from the possession of the arrested accused, according to the details. The culprits identified as Ramiz Sahto, Sajjad Jalbani, Sabir Jagirani, Arif Jalbani, Nadeem Lor, Dr. Muhammad Bosan, Hazoor Bakhsh Abro and three gamblers. Further investigation and legal and regulatory actions have been issued against the arrested accused.

Hostages recovered

SHIKARPUR (INP): Police and Rangers in a joint operation recovered a hostage from Garhi Tegho katcha area after exchange of fire with bandits, police said.

"Bandits fled from the scene after shootout and a hostage recovered," SSP Shahzaib Chachar said. "Recovered hostage has been identified as Sherdil," police officer said. "He was kidnapped from Karachi's Singer Chowrangli," according to police.

Minister pays visit to Auqaf properties

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Minister for Auqaf and Religious Affairs Muhammad Adnan Qadri paid detailed visits to various properties and lands of Auqaf located in Mardan along with Secretary and Administrator Muhammad Yousaf, on Thursday.

Provincial Minister for Auqaf and Religious Affairs Muhammad Adnan Qadri reviewed all the properties of Auqaf, including leased, unleased, encroached and other properties and checked the consents while also reviewing the issues regarding the collection record took. He inspected the 100 kanal Auqaf property in Ghala Dher, part of which is on lease with the sports department, while the other 220 kanals of agricultural land in Ghala Dher, which is already on lease, issued instructions to the concerned authorities.

The provincial minister said that there will be no tolerance for encroachment, recovery and any other calculations, but if such matters come to light, a report should be submitted to my office as soon as possible. He also visited 260 kanals of land located in Khawo Kali of Mardan, where the provincial minister was told that 230 kanals of land are on lease, while encroachments have been established on 30 kanals,

on which NAB's judicial affairs are going on. The provincial minister was also briefed on the 340 kanal and 12 marle lease land given to the mega park at Mardan Rang.

The said land has been leased to the Tehsil Municipal Administration, in which petrol pumps and shops are located on 11 kanals of land. Provincial Minister Muhammad Adnan Qadri visited the 499 kanal land of Auqaf Department in Manikhela Mardan, where he was told that 140 kanal land of auqaf in Manikhela is occupied while NAB case is going on on other lands. He also visited Darul Uloom Toru under the management of auqaf Department located in Toru Mardan. Where he inspected the educational facilities and environment provided to the students of Darul Uloom while also reviewing the computer laboratory and under construction sections.

On the occasion of Provincial Minister for Auqaf and Religious Affairs Muhammad Adnan Qadri's visit to Mardan, there was a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Mardan Dr. Azmat Wazir in his office, where the land of Mahal Kalu Shah and other lands of auqaf Department were discussed with DC Mardan. A discussion was held regarding the visit. He said that the lands of the auqaf Department are the trust of

the people, the management of every inch of which is our responsibility.

Civil society along with politicians flays transfer of prisoners: Political, social, commercial and student organizations have demanded from the provincial government that the prisoner who is a resident of everywhere should be kept in the jail of this area and their innocent families should not be punished unjustly. Mardan Press Club, personalities from different circles held a press conference on this occasion former member of the National Assembly Maulana Shuja-ul-Mulk, Khawaja Muhammad Khan, Central Trade Union Acting President Awais Khan, JUI Maulana Muhammad Aqil Ansari, Youth Parliament Irshad Khan, Sabir Mayar and others were present.

Maulana Shuja-ul-Mulk said that the transfer of local prisoners from Central Jail Mardan to remote areas like D.I. Khan and Bannu is the extreme of cruelty and their relatives are suffering from tension. He said that if our demands are not accepted, in the future, the Jirga consisting of all political parties will determine a common plan of action and will not hesitate to go to any extent and make any sacrifices to raise their voices in every forum for the rights of the prisoners.

Crackdown against illegal labs announced

F.P. Report

BANNU: Department of Industries and Commerce has announced crackdown against illegal clinics, unregistered clinical laboratories, private doctors, illegal food business and sale of unlabeled oil in the market, on Thursday.

Decision of crackdown, announcement of registration of warehouses across the district, notices issued to small and big manufacturers, online system for consumers was implemented, assistant director of Bannu, people and women filed online complaints with the people. On the orders of the provincial government, Assistant Director of Industries and Commerce Bannu Ejaz

Khan, while giving a media briefing after the meeting, said that the procedure for registration of hundreds of warehouses across the district has been clarified under the provincial government's Warehouse Act 2024.

All the trading organizations should voluntarily register their warehouses with the Industries Department and there is a complete ban on the sale of oil and ghee in the market without the company label. They will be transferred to the court, in which there will be fines and imprisonment. A team of the Department of Industries and Commerce has been formed which will carry out operations on a daily basis. He said that the people and

women of Bannu district should approach the local office to file online complaints regarding any problems and substandard food items. He said that there will be a crackdown on non-standard meat and rice sellers in Bannu on a regular basis, otherwise there will be fines and jails for selling meat on the next day.

Prevention of poisoning will be ensured, however, wherever there are complaints, action will be taken without discrimination. In this regard, any kind of pressure will not be accepted. A special team has been formed for identification, wherever two numbers of cosmetics are found, the respective shop will be sealed.

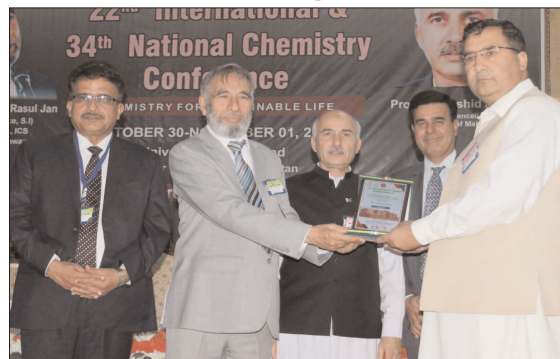
International chemistry conference begins

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The 22nd International and 34th National Chemistry Conference inaugurated at the University of Malakand (UoM) at the varsity's Convocation Hall here the other day. The conference will continue till 1st of November.

The theme of the conference is "Chemistry for Sustainable Life." Prof Dr. Attaur Rahman: former Chairman HEC is Patron in Chief, Prof. Dr. Rashid Ahmad: Vice Chancellor University of Malakand is Patron, Prof. Dr. Sultan Alam as Chief Organizer, Dr. Muhammad Sadiq as Deputy Chief Organizer, Dr. Mumtaz Khan as Focal Person and Dr. Mian Muhammad as Secretary of the conference. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Rasul Jan; Professor Emeritus was chief guest of the inaugural session of the conference.

Chief guest while addressing the conference discussed various opportunities for chemists and challenges they face globally and nationally. He hailed



all those who strived and made this event a successful one. Hon. Vice Chancellor, University of Malakand; Prof. Dr. Rashid Ahmad while delivering inaugural address welcomed all the distinguished guests, researchers and scholars to the event and hoped that their participation will prove productive for all the stakeholders.

Prof. Raza Shah; President Chemical Society of Pakistan, and Chief Organizer Prof. Dr. Sultan Alam also addressed the august audience of the event. During the inaugural session renowned researchers and scholars in the field of chemistry were

awarded with Chemical Society of Pakistan (CSP) national awards. Speakers and delegates from around the country have reached university of Malakand for participating in this gigantic event. Various committees of managing the conference have done their job with sincerity and commitment. All the speakers hoped that the event will be successful and productive one. At the end of inaugural session, souvenirs were distributed among the guests and organizers of the conference. The conference will continue for three days and concluding session will be held on Friday, November 1st, 2024.

100pc targets during anti-polio campaign to be ensured

F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Commissioner of Dera Ismail Khan Division Syed Abdul Jabbar has said that all resources should be utilized to ensure the achievement of 100 percent targets during the anti-polio campaign.

He issued these instructions while chairing a review meeting held here at his office regarding the arrangements for the anti-polio campaign, achievements of the

previous campaign and security matters. The meeting was attended by Regional Police Officer Jehanzeb Nazir Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan Adnan Jameel, representatives of health department, police, Pak-Army, EPI, WHO and other departments concerned.

During the meeting, a detailed briefing was given on the arrangements, micro plan and security plan for the campaign. The commissioner

emphasized the need to ensure target achievement during the campaign and to pay special attention to refusal cases.

He also instructed the police department to fully implement the security plan to ensure the protection of the anti-polio teams. On this occasion, the commissioner also appealed to the parents to cooperate with the anti-polio teams and ensure that all children under five years of age are administered anti-polio drops.



Federation of Pakistan from KP, Ijaz Ali Khan highly appreciated the cooperation and support of the Principal, teaching staff and also the dedication and spirit of the Students blood Donors.

On this special occasion, RMOs of Hamza Foundation presented shield of to Principal and distributed certificates among the students. Founder Chairman Hamza Foundation Ijaz Ali also thanked the management of the college for the arrangements of such a Successful blood donation camp for the ailing humanity.



KYIV: Rescuers work at the site of an apartment building hit by a Russian air strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Spain battles deadliest flood disaster as death toll rises to 95

MADRID (BBC): Spain is enduring its worst flooding disaster in decades, with at least 95 people dead and dozens more missing, after huge rains swept the eastern province of Valencia and beyond.

Torrential rain triggered flash floods which swept away bridges and buildings and forced people to climb on to roofs or cling to trees to survive. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has declared three days of national mourning as the extreme conditions continue, restricting some rescue efforts. The death toll is feared to climb as "there are many missing people", the government says.

At least 92 deaths were recorded in Valencia, with another two in Castilla-La Mancha to Valencia's west and one in Málaga - a 71-year-old British man who died in hospital after being rescued from his home. The flooding death toll is the country's worst since 1973, when at least 150 people were estimated to have died in the nation's worst-ever floods in the south-east. In his national address, Sánchez urged citizens to remain vigilant and pledged a full recovery, telling victims: "The whole of Spain weeps with you... we won't abandon you." One of the first towns affected near Valencia, Chiva, reported one year's worth of rainfall in just a period of eight hours, according to national weather agency Aemet. As Spanish army and emergency crews rushed to carry out rescues - including winching people to safety from balconies and car rooftops - survivors in Valencia recounted the horror of the floods. Sudden surges turned streets and roads into rivers, catching many motorists unaware. Guillermo Serrano Pérez, 21, from Paiporta near Valencia, said the water had rushed down a highway "like a tsunami",

forcing him and his parents to abandon their car and climb on to a bridge to survive.

Another witness recounted a scene when motorway drivers realised a torrent of water was heading towards them and formed a human chain to escape along a raised central reservation. "Thank goodness no one slipped because if anyone had fallen, the current would have dragged them away," Patricia Rodríguez, 45, told El País newspaper. One resident of La Torre told the BBC some of his friends had lost their homes, and he "saw cars floating in the water" and the tides "breaking through some walls." Meanwhile, the mayor of Horno de Alcedo, a town just outside Valencia, told BBC Newshour how the water levels rose by more than a metre in just a matter of minutes. "The currents were so quick - and we called the emergency services who started rescuing some people who had water up to their necks", Consuelo Tarazon said. There are widespread accusations in Spain that in many cases, disaster relief authorities were too slow to act with warnings, meaning people could not get off roads or seek higher ground. The civil protection agency, deployed during national disasters, did not issue an alert - but by then, Chiva and several other towns had already been flooded for at least two hours.

Valencia's regional government has also been forced to defend its decision to scrap the Valencia Emergency Unit, which had been set up by the previous government to tackle natural disasters such as flooding and wildfires. Spain deployed more than 1,000 troops to help with rescue efforts, but many crews remain cut off from towns by flooded roads and downed communication and power lines. The European

Union's chief, Ursula von der Leyen, said it had activated its Copernicus satellite system to help co-ordinate Spanish rescue teams. Other European neighbours have also offered to send reinforcements. Spain's Defence Minister Margarita Robles had said the flooding across the region was "an unprecedented phenomenon". The downpour eased in the country's central-east, but weather officials warned the rains were moving north-east to the Catalonia region. Weather warnings have also been issued across several other parts of the country, urging people to brace for floods and take shelter.

Many factors contribute to flooding, but a warming atmosphere caused by climate change makes extreme rainfall more likely. Weather researchers have identified the likely main cause of the intense rainfall as a "gota fría" - a natural weather event that hits Spain in autumn and winter when cold air descends on warmer waters over the Mediterranean. However, the increase in global temperatures had led to the clouds carrying more rain, scientists told the BBC. "With every fraction of a degree of fossil fuel warming, the atmosphere can hold more moisture, leading to heavier bursts of rainfall," said Dr Friederike Otto, from Imperial College London, who leads an international group of scientists who try to understand the role that warming plays in these type of events. "No doubt about it, these explosive downpours were intensified by climate change." The world has already warmed by about 1.1C since the industrial era began and temperatures will keep rising unless governments around the world make steep cuts to emissions.

NK appears poised to conduct nuclear and ICBM tests: SK

SEOUL (AP): South Korea's military intelligence agency told lawmakers that North Korea has likely completed preparations for its seventh nuclear test and is close to test-firing a long-range missile capable of reaching the United States.

In a closed-door hearing, the agency also said some advance units of North Korean troops sent to Russia may have arrived at battlefronts as the forces prepare to move to the Kursk region, where Russia has struggled to push back a Ukrainian incursion, according to two lawmakers who attended the meeting.

A senior South Korean presidential official, who spoke on condition of anonymity during a background briefing, said Seoul and its allies assess that the number of North Korean troops now dispatched in

Russia is at least 11,000. More than 3,000 of them are believed to have moved toward combat zones in western Russia, the official said, without specifying the locations.

Earlier this month, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol told The Associated Press that he expected North Korea to stage major provocations like nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests around the US election to dial up pressure on Washington and its allies. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has also flaunted his military nuclear program in recent months, testing various missile systems and disclosing a secretive facility for producing weapons-grade uranium in September.

South Korea's Defense Intelligence Agency believes that North Korea has finished preparations

to conduct a nuclear test at its testing ground in the northeastern town of Punggye-ri, with the detonation likely to be carried out at tunnel No. 3, said Lee Seong Kweon, one of the lawmakers who attended the hearing. North Korea conducted its sixth and last nuclear test in 2017. The agency also said it's detecting signs that the North will soon be ready to test launch an ICBM designed to reach the US mainland, including the placement of a launch vehicle and a missile, said Lee and fellow lawmaker Park Sunwon. The agency believes the ICBM test could take place some time in November.

"We cannot specify the exact location but the transporter-erector launcher has been deployed at a certain area where it could be anticipated that an ICBM test aimed at verify-

ing atmospheric re-entry technology could be conducted," Lee added. All of North Korea's ICBM tests since 2017 have been conducted at a high angle to avoid the territory of neighbors. Experts have said the North may eventually seek to flight test its weapons at an angle closer to a normal ballistic trajectory to verify whether the warhead would survive the harsh conditions of atmospheric re-entry.

The re-entry vehicle technology is considered one of the few remaining technological obstacles North Korea needs to overcome to obtain functioning long-range missiles. Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have worsened since 2022 after Kim used Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a distraction to accelerate the growth of his nuclear weapons and missile program.

China, Russia discuss Ukraine crisis

BEIJING (Reuters): China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko discussed the Ukraine crisis in talks and Wang reaffirmed Beijing's strong ties with Moscow, the Chinese foreign ministry said.

Both exchanged views on the crisis but the ministry statement did not disclose details of the discussion. Wang reiterated China and Russia's strong relations, that were not affected by "changes in the international situation". "Both sides should make joint efforts to coordinate cooperation in various fields and exchanges at all levels," he said, without elaboration.

Russia's RIA agency first reported that Rudenko was in Beijing for the meeting. The visit takes place as Russia's war in Ukraine appeared to take a dangerous new turn, with NATO and South Korea expressing alarm that North Korean troops could soon be joining Moscow's side. Rudenko has been involved in developing Russian ties with North Korea after Moscow launched its full-scale invasion on Ukraine in February 2022. He was also a member of the Russian delegations at peace negotiations with Ukraine early in the war. Two months before President Vladimir Putin sent his troops to Ukraine, Rudenko said that countries of the post-Soviet space will always be among Russia's geopolitical priorities.

"Wherever these countries go, no matter how they develop, they will always be a priority, among our geopolitical priorities, regardless of the geopolitical context," RIA cited Rudenko as saying in February 2021. "This is part of our former common Soviet past."

El Salvador's to send troops to Haiti

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP): El Salvador's Congress approved a proposal to send a contingent of soldiers to Haiti under the auspices of the United Nations to handle medical evacuations in the troubled Caribbean nation.

Patricia Aguilera, legal affairs director for El Salvador's Foreign Affairs Ministry, told lawmakers it was part of the country's commitment to the UN's Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti. She did not give an idea of the size of the El Salvador contingent and lawmakers did not seem to know. They would be limited to medical evacuations because that has been their experience in other UN missions, she said.

"As a country, we are an example of security on an international level and that is why we provide support, but specifically for medical evacuations, that is our experience," Aguilera said. Haiti has been in extended political and economic turmoil.

Earlier this year, coordinated gang attacks forced the government to close Haiti's main international airport for nearly three months. In recent days gang violence has spread in the capital of Port-au-Prince. The attacks have displaced more than 10,000 people in the capital in just one week, according to a report released last week by the UN's International Organization for Migration. Concerns have been raised that a UN-backed mission led by Kenyan police is struggling to contain the unrest. Thousands of people have been killed or injured this year, and more than 700,000 have been left homeless in recent years.

Haitian officials have requested that the underfunded Kenyan mission be replaced by a UN peacekeeping force. El Salvador is a signatory to an agreement through the Organization of American States to support the Haiti mission. El Salvador's troop commitment runs to October 2025. It was not clear when the troop contingent would travel to Haiti. In March, El Salvador President Nayib Bukele offered to export his security model to Haiti. Bukele has touted his administration's success in decimating the country's powerful street gangs.

Russia eats away at territory, and Ukrainian morale

MOSCOW (AFP): Progress has been slow but it is relentless. Russia's army has been advancing at several points along the Ukrainian war front for weeks now, gobbling up territory one village at a time. It has cast doubt over Kyiv's ability to stem the tide, let alone push back the advancing troops.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's army has taken 478 square kilometres of territory since the start of October -- its largest monthly territorial gain since the early weeks of its invasion in February 2022, according to AFP analysis of data from the US Institute for the Study of War (ISW). "Russia has been on the offensive for an entire year," said Meduza, a Russian opposition website that has been blocked by Moscow. "Yet this past week has been one of the toughest -- if not the toughest -- for Ukraine's armed forces during that time," it added.

The ISW data does not point to Ukrainian military collapse in any way, "but what is the most concerning is that it's a pattern", said former French army colonel Michel Goya, a war historian. "We have seen an acceleration in this progression, with the feeling that it cannot be stopped," he added, describing a "Russian strategy of pressure everywhere, all the time, while waiting for (the defence) to crack, crumble or collapse." Almost every day, Moscow claims a new victory.

"None of the locations, on their own, have any great importance, but together it represents a great success for the Russian army," said Alexander Khramchikhin, a Moscow-based Russian

military analyst. "The Russian advance, even though not rapid, shows the increasing deterioration (of the situation) in Ukraine." Since the start of the war, Moscow has maintained artillery superiority.

Despite Western sanctions, Russia has turned its economy into a war machine, with support from allies, headed by Iran and North Korea. "The Russian war industry produces more weapons than Ukraine receives," said Khramchikhin, and "more ammunition thanks to its industry and that of North Korea". At the start of this year, a US Congress freeze on a multi-billion-dollar aid package significantly slowed the supply of weapons to Ukraine, "while three million North Korean shells arrived in Russian depots", said Goya.

And Moscow developed a guidance system for bombs, which it uses "by the thousands", he said, adding that some 1,600 North Korean KN-02 ballistic missiles had pummelled Ukraine. Rather than capturing towns district by district, the Russian army has gone for a suffocation tactic. "The principle is to threaten to surround the pockets that are then forced to retreat," said Goya. For Alexander Kots, a war journalist for the popular Russian daily Komsomolskaya Pravda and strong supporter of the invasion, "we refused to storm towns and villages head on, where we would have to eat up every square metre of road, every house." As such, Ukrainian forces "can be forced to withdraw along a long corridor that is open to fire."

Gradually, the Russian advance has eaten away at Ukrainian morale. Kyiv is

struggling to recruit, while the army's disorganisation and corruption facilitate desertions and refusals to fight. "Beating an enemy is killing their hope. When the sacrifice of those who die is for nothing, there is no sense in fighting on," said Goya. "The (President Volodymyr) Zelensky government, faced with the war weariness of the civilian population, is struggling to mobilise," said a French military leader on the condition of anonymity. Kyiv announced a new mobilisation drive aimed at recruiting 160,000 people, faced with the fear of Russia deploying North Korean troops, in order to boost numbers by 85 percent. On the flip side, Russia is suffering heavy losses, experts say. Ivan Klyszcz, from the International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS) in Estonia, said that at the current rate, Russia "would finish capturing the rest of the Donbas region of Ukraine after several months and at an extremely high cost." In the meantime, the West is procrastinating. Zelensky's "victory plan", which was supposed to put him in a position of strength to negotiate, has divided allies, while the US presidential elections in November have created uncertainty.

"It seems that Ukraine will soon realise that it needs a change of course, and that relying on Western partners... will become a counter-productive strategy in the near future," said Klyszcz. However, the deployment of North Korean troops could provoke a sense of urgency in the West. But "whether this urgency will translate into new pledges or enhanced support, is yet to be seen," added Klyszcz.

How Putin views choice between Harris and Trump

WASHINGTON (AP): The question posed to Vladimir Putin in September about the US election drew a wry smile and an arched eyebrow from the Russian president. Asked whether he preferred Donald Trump or Kamala Harris, Putin caught listeners up short with his teasing reply that also included a gentle jab at President Joe Biden.

"Our favorite," if you can call it that, was the current president, Mr. Biden," he told the audience at an economic forum in the Far East port of Vladivostok. "But he was removed from the race, and he recommended all his supporters to support Ms. Harris. Well, we will do so - we will support her," he said sardonically, citing her "expressive and infectious laugh" that shows "she's doing well." The election carries significant stakes for the Kremlin, and despite Putin's noncommittal and somewhat teasing answer, it appeared to encapsulate Russia's view as a choice between two unappealing possibilities. Analysts say neither offers much promise of improving relations that have hit their lowest point since the Cold War. Harris, the current vice president, has taken a hard line against Russia, while Trump, the former president, is known for his admiration of Putin. Still,

at the September gathering, Putin complained that when Trump was in office, there were "so many restrictions and sanctions against Russia like no other president has ever introduced before him."

Timothy Colton of the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies said that the Kremlin leadership is "by and large convinced nothing good is going to come in the election from Russia's point of view." But he added that on the whole, Trump "is probably their preference; he's more of a known quantity." Key issues for Russia as the US election looms: What will happen to aid for Ukraine? Harris is seen as likely to continue the Biden administration's massive military and economic support for Ukraine as Russia's invasion stretches toward a third year. Trump has bragged that his rapport with Putin and respect from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are so strong that he could negotiate an end to the war "in 24 hours." He declines to detail his strategy, but recent remarks criticizing sanctions in general suggest he could lift those against Russia as an inducement to help settle the conflict. During their debate, Trump twice refused to directly answer whether he wanted Ukraine to win the

war, while Harris praised Western support for Kyiv and urged it to continue.

"Otherwise, Putin would be sitting in Kyiv with his eyes on the rest of Europe. Starting with Poland," she said. Trump's running-mate Sen. JD Vance has mentioned proposals that could suggest Trump's thinking: having Ukraine demilitarize territory occupied by Russia and agree to permanent neutrality. Those terms would be anathema to Kyiv, but Trump has shown little sympathy for Ukraine, saying Zelenskyy "should never have let that war start." Harris has not specified how her position would differ from Biden's. The US has provided Ukraine more than \$59.5 billion in weapons and assistance since Russia invaded in 2022. She has said previously it would be foolish to risk global alliances the US has established and decreed Putin's "brutality." A Harris win "likely promises continued US support as long as the administration can maintain congressional backing," the International Crisis Group said in a commentary, though it said she could seek an end to the fighting more actively than Biden did. Growing congressional animosity to vast outlays of aid for Ukraine could hobble or reshape her strategy.

Kremlin complains at treatment of Russian press

MOSCOW (Reuters): The Kremlin complained about what it called "unacceptable" treatment of a team of Russian journalists who travelled to the United States to cover next week's presidential election. Russian media said the journalists from the Izvestia news organisation were questioned for 10 hours and one of them had his visa cancelled and was expelled.

No immediate comment was available from US authorities. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow would seek more detailed information on the incident. "But such an attitude towards journalists, of course, does not

paint the US authorities in a good light, especially after (the journalists) completed all the formalities and procedures and obtained all the permissions to enter," he said. Peskov added that the US behaviour "contradicts, probably, the principles of freedom of the media. And of course, for us, this is unacceptable." The journalists were from Izvestia, a commercial media group which owns television stations and a newspaper. Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Russia would deliver an "appropriate response". Moscow has frequently complained about the banning of some

Russian news services by Western countries and accused them of placing restrictions on its journalists. Washington has accused Russia of using state media to interfere in elections in the United States and elsewhere. Reporters Without Borders, a French-based NGO, ranks Russia 162nd out of 180 countries for press freedom. Four Russian journalists are currently on trial behind closed doors for alleged links to the banned organisation of late dissident Alexei Navalny. Two US journalists who had been jailed in Russia were released in a prisoner swap with the West on Aug. 1.

8 of 11 members of Mexico's Supreme Court to resign in protest

MEXICO CITY (AP): Eight justices of Mexico's Supreme Court have said they will leave the court rather than stand for election as required by a controversial judicial overhaul passed last month. Supreme Court President Norma Piña and seven others submitted letters stating they would leave their posts rather than compete in judicial elections scheduled for next June.

The court's three other justices have indicated they will compete in the elections. Previously, the Supreme Court's justices were selected by the

Senate. Last month, Mexico's Congress passed - and a majority of states ratified - then-President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's initiative to make all of the country's judges subject to election. López Obrador and his allies, including his successor Claudia Sheinbaum, have said the radical change will help rid the judicial system of corruption. However, critics say the courts will become less independent and more subject to political forces. The resignations came before the Congress' lower chamber later passed yet another constitutional

change that would protect constitutional amendments like the judicial overhaul from legal challenges. The Supreme Court is scheduled to take up such a challenge in the coming days. The amendment passed with 343 votes in favor and 129 against. The Senate had previously passed the legislation. Business sectors in particular had voiced concerns that the change would weaken the rule of law. The Mexican Employers' Association, Coparmex, had said in a statement before the vote that the initiative "puts at risk the fun-

damental guarantees that have protected citizens for decades."

López Obrador clashed throughout his six-year term with the courts as they repeatedly knocked down some of his initiatives. He railed against judges in his daily morning press briefings and Sheinbaum, his protégé, has continued in a similar vein. Sheinbaum had quipped that if the Supreme Court justices didn't resign now before the close of judicial candidate registration in November they could lose their pensions. "It's a lot of money," she said.

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Reeves' budget raises taxes, expenditure

BRITISH Chancellor of Exchequer Rachel Reeves, first woman to hold the post, has on Tuesday delivered the first Labour Budget in over a decade, and it carries the hallmarks of a Labour Budget, not of the New Labour of Tony Blair-Gordon Brown vintage of 1997, with its unabashed traces of Thatcherism.

Reeves has increased budgetary allocations to the National Health Service (NHS), to state schools in Britain and to housing. And she has imposed VAT on the private schools with the argument that 94 per cent of children attended state schools.

She has also increased the employers' contribution to National Insurance from 13.8 per cent to 15 per cent, and she has put back into the workers' pension fund the surplus funds that government had taken off in the last many years. She has raised taxes by 40 billion pounds, and 500 million pounds has been allotted to the National Wealth Fund, which is expected to increase investment expenditure in Britain.

In many ways Reeves' budget is the exact opposite of the short-lived Conservative Prime Minister's Liz Truss's disastrous budget with all stops pulled out to encourage capitalists to invest in Britain. Observers have however noted that Reeves did not go in the diametrically opposite way to Truss' budget. She has shown sufficient restraint in letting the threshold on capital gains tax till 2030, two years beyond the 2028 promised by the previous Tory government. Former Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hit out at the budget proposals and said that it had taxed everything and it has left no scope for investors to put money in Britain.

Reeves' budget has in many ways opened up the general debate on the economic model to follow, whether it should be that of the free markets where low taxes would be an incentive for the capitalists to invest in the economy and help boost growth, or it should be the model of greater state expenditure, including capital expenditure, to grow the economy and provide enough tax incentives to the poor and the middle class.

In the last decade, the free market has proved to be an ineffective model, especially after the 2007-08 Great Financial Crisis and the 2020-21 Covid pandemic, which has stranded the economy and left the people struggling to pay their electricity bill. It does not however automatically follow that the old model of tax-and-spend policy of governments is the remedy. There is no certainty that Reeves' measures would help revive the economy, create jobs and help people cope with the economic crisis that they have been facing for the last four years.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer is no hide-bound Labour ideologue. He is pragmatic and his criticism of the Sunak government when he was the opposition leader was related to the economic hardship of people rather than on ideology. It is more likely that Reeves will try to manage the economy with a lot of give-and-take, where the wage-earners will not get all the incentives and where the rich folk will not have to fork out their extra wealth without any relief. There is enough nuance in Reeves' taxation measures.

But the test of the pudding lies in whether Reeves' budget will help Britain recover its economic strength and status. Britain has slipped from its position as the fifth largest economy in terms of the GDP, which is now taken by India, and it now stands one rung lower at the sixth position. Britain would certainly want to remain part of the rich countries' club of G7, and it has to power its economy enough to remain in the same place. That is a challenge in itself. Starmer has won the election convincingly. He has now the tougher task of ending the fall of Britain as an economic power.

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The catastrophic implications of Israel's anti-UNRWA laws

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

ON Monday evening, Israel's Knesset approved two bills essentially barring the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East from operating in Israel and severely curtailing its activities in Gaza and the West Bank. The new measures are expected to come into force within 90 days.

The Knesset's action was taken despite global appeals, including from the US and other friends of Israel, against this move. It is believed to be part of a larger plan to dismantle UNRWA and tighten the siege of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, deliberately increasing the suffering of the Palestinians in an attempt to force them to leave and to make the realization of a two-state solution more difficult.

If implemented, the new measures would have disastrous results for most of Gaza's 2 million beleaguered residents, as UNRWA is their only lifeline — as it has been for the past 75 years, since the organization was established by the UN in 1949. It is the main provider of education and health services in the Strip. In addition to Gaza, UNRWA is responsible for Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and beyond. In 2023, about 6 million people were registered with the relief agency and eligible to receive its assistance.

The votes were shocking. One bill barring UNRWA from operating in Israeli territory was approved with 92 votes in favor and just 10 against, while the other — curtailing its activities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank by banning state authorities from having any contact with the agency — passed by 87 votes to nine. According to UNRWA officials, it will be almost impossible for the agency to work in Gaza or the West Bank if Israel stops issuing entry permits to those terri-

ories or allowing coordination with its security forces. Since taking over the Gaza-Egypt border post and deploying its troops along the border in May, Israel controls all points of access to Gaza and the West Bank. Israel has already de facto curtailed UNRWA's activities in Gaza, where the population is facing starvation and dwindling supplies of medicines and vaccines. The new laws will make it worse.

Obstructing the work of UNRWA is a clear breach of the UN Charter. Member states have a duty to cooperate with the UN and its organs, especially those of a humanitarian, economic, social or cultural nature. Articles 1, 2, 55 and 56 of the charter, as well as many UN treaties and resolutions, make that duty unambiguous. There is a higher duty to refrain from obstructing their work. Failure to cooperate with UN agencies, let alone actively barring them from carrying out their duties, is thus a serious violation of the UN Charter. Chapter II makes membership of the UN itself conditional on respecting its charter.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said in Riyadh on Wednesday that the bills were part of a larger effort by Israel to dismantle UNRWA, tighten the siege of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and make a two-state solution more difficult. Israel has made the dismantling of UNRWA an objective of the war, "in defiance of the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and of the International Court of Justice, including with a plan to replace UNRWA in East Jerusalem with settlements," Lazzarini said. He added that, in the past year, "at least 237 of our colleagues have been killed, many with their families," and nearly "200 of our build-

ings have been damaged or destroyed, killing hundreds of displaced people seeking UN protection."

Besides breaching the UN Charter, Israel's action could trigger war crimes prosecutions, as it is likely that barring UNRWA from carrying out its duties will intensify the catastrophic conditions in Gaza, including starvation, with famine looming not far behind.

The US-based Human Rights Watch stated: "The Israeli government's use of starvation as a weapon of war has proven deadly for children in Gaza." It warned that children in Gaza have been dying from starvation-related complications. Doctors and families in Gaza have described children, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, suffering from severe malnutrition and dehydration, with hospitals ill-equipped to treat them.

The World Health Organization has also found "children dying of starvation" and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk said that Israel bore significant blame. He added that there was a "plausible" case that Israel was using starvation as a weapon of war in Gaza and that, if intent were to be proven, that would amount to a war crime.

International humanitarian law prohibits the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare. This prohibition is clearly spelled out in the Geneva Conventions' additional protocols and has become part of customary international law. In addition, Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court provides that intentionally starving civilians by "depriving them of objects indispensable to their survival, including willfully impeding relief supplies," is a war crime. At the core of the request for arrest warrants against

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant made by the International Criminal Court's prosecutor are allegations that the two were part of a plan to use "the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare" in Gaza.

Barring UNRWA from providing basic services will only add to the levels of starvation already observed in Gaza.

The international community should heed Lazzarini's call for help by using "all the political, diplomatic and legal tools" to reject Israel's attempts to dismantle UNRWA, sideline the UN and undermine multilateralism. This means that the bills need to be rescinded or their application put on hold. Secondly, he asked that UNRWA's role is safeguarded "today and during the inevitably long and painful transition between a ceasefire and the day after."

Late on Wednesday, the UN Security Council expressed "grave concern" over Israel's new legislation and "strongly warned against any attempts to dismantle or diminish UNRWA's operations and mandate, recognizing that any interruption or suspension of its work would have severe humanitarian consequences for millions of Palestinian refugees who depend on the agency's services and also implications for the region."

Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide said on Tuesday that Oslo was "initiating a UN resolution asking the International Court of Justice to clarify Israel's legal obligations to ensure that aid reaches Palestinians," adding that "UNRWA must survive. No country is above international law." There is a special obligation on Israel's closest friends, such as the US, UK and Germany, to make sure that it rescinds the new legislation or suspends its implementation.

EU should seek a balanced EV strategy

AS the electric vehicle (EV) market reshapes global economies and influences geopolitical alliances, the EU-China trade talks on EVs represent a critical moment for Europe's future as an industrial and environmental powerhouse. Unlike the US, which has tightened its stance on Chinese technology imports, the European Union holds the potential to forge a more balanced approach. This strategy would not only avoid restrictive US-style policies but also provide European consumers and businesses access to competitive and innovative EV options—especially from China's rapidly advancing EV sector.

The US ICTS (Information and Communications Technology and Services) Rule, which prohibits certain Chinese technology imports on security grounds, reflects the US government's broad stance to reduce reliance on China. This policy has significantly affected global supply chains, impacting industries from telecommunications to automotive. Yet, its implications extend beyond security, as it restricts economic competition in the US by limiting consumer access to affordable and innovative products, especially in high-tech industries where China

excels. Chinese companies have achieved remarkable advances in EV technology, making strides in affordability, battery efficiency, and autonomous capabilities. BYD, NIO, and Xpeng—leaders in the Chinese EV sector—are not only competitive on price but also bring significant advancements in design and software, pushing global EV development. Their innovations align with Europe's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by making EVs more accessible to a broader consumer base, addressing both environmental and economic needs.

For Europe, supporting trade with Chinese EV producers could mean accelerating EV adoption rates, achieving climate targets sooner, and sparking innovation among domestic carmakers. Chinese EV companies have demonstrated the ability to mass-produce high-quality vehicles at competitive prices, which could help offset the rising costs associated with new European emissions regulations and ongoing inflationary pressures. Further, as the Rhodium Group has noted, the global auto supply chain is already shifting to accommodate emerging technologies; in this context, blocking Chinese EVs would limit Europe's access to crucial advancements

and potentially hinder its technological progress.

If the EU was to adopt restrictions akin to the US ICTS Rule, it could harm European automakers and consumers alike. Restrictions on imports from China would force European manufacturers to rely on more expensive suppliers, raising costs throughout the industry. Moreover, Europe's commitment to climate action would suffer as a result: limiting access to affordable, efficient Chinese EVs could slow down the region's EV adoption and reduce the competitiveness of local markets. This shift would particularly impact middle-income European consumers, who already face limited choices in the EV market compared to higher-income buyers.

Additionally, the US' approach to the global auto supply chain has intensified into a tech "cold war," leading to fragmented markets and reduced collaborative innovation. Europe could avoid this path by pursuing a more open trade policy, positioning itself as a bridge for cooperation rather than competition.

European regulators could implement independent standards that emphasize product safety without isolating Chinese suppliers. By setting standards around data privacy, vehicle con-

nectivity, and network security that all imported EVs must meet, the EU could ensure that only compliant vehicles enter the European market while maintaining access to competitive and advanced options from global suppliers.

As Europe faces an urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, collaboration with China's EV sector could prove essential. EU could benefit from a pragmatic approach focused on environmental gains and technological growth. China, the world's largest EV market, has developed battery technology, renewable energy infrastructure, and cost-effective EV production systems that could be valuable assets for Europe's green goals.

In a rapidly evolving global EV market, the EU is at a crossroads between open trade and restrictive policies. Adopting an independent stance would allow Europe to maximize the benefits of Chinese advancements while protecting its own industry standards. Rather than adopting policies that limit choice and restrict access to affordable, high-quality EVs, Europe should consider a balanced engagement strategy that integrates Chinese technology responsibly, ensuring a competitive market for European consumers.

— China Daily

For Iran, this is a pivotal US election

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

Next week's US presidential election holds immense significance, particularly for the Iranian government, whose strategic decisions and foreign policies are often shaped by the American leadership. The outcome of this election could either tighten or loosen the complex web of international sanctions, economic constraints and geopolitical dynamics that surround Iran.

For Tehran, it is not just another election taking place overseas but a decisive moment that could define its economic future, security posture and regional influence. Every shift in Washington's power potentially realigns Iran's ability to maneuver on the global stage and this election could very well set the course for the next crucial chapter in US-Iran relations, especially as tensions between Tehran and Israel have reached a critical point. This heightened volatility only amplifies the stakes of the US election,

This approach stands in stark contrast to Trump's confrontational policies.

It is also important to point out that the timing of the upcoming US election is crucial, occurring at a moment when tensions between Iran and Israel have reached unprecedented heights. Over the last year, the two nations have edged closer to direct military confrontation, crossing numerous red lines along the way. Both Israeli and Iranian forces have engaged in retaliatory strikes, with the risk of full-scale war looming over the region. The stakes of this election are, therefore, even more significant, as the policies of the next US president could either fuel or quell this explosive situation. A return to Trump's more aggressive stance might escalate the conflict, while a more diplomatic approach could create opportunities for de-escalation.

The current Biden-Harris administration has

The policy divide between the two main candidates running for office, particularly regarding Iran, is vast and striking. On the one hand, Donald Trump, the Republican candidate, has consistently pushed for a return to the "maximum pressure" campaign that defined his first term. This strategy involved imposing harsh sanctions on Iran's crucial energy sector, aiming to cripple the country's economy and force its hand on issues like nuclear development and regional influence. Trump's policy also targeted countries and corporations that violated US-imposed sanctions on Iran, isolating Tehran even further on the world stage. Under this approach, Iran's already fragile economy would likely suffer immensely, creating a bleak outlook for its future. On the other hand, Vice President Kamala Harris, as the Democratic presidential nominee, is expected to continue the Biden administration's policies, which emphasize diplomacy over confrontation. The Biden administration has shown restraint, particularly in its dealings with Iran, seeking to rebuild diplomatic bridges, and Harris is likely to follow suit.

making it a pivotal moment for the region's stability.

Historically, Iran has paid exceptionally close attention to US presidential elections, far more than it does to any other nation's electoral process. The reason for this is deeply rooted in the intertwined political and economic fates of both countries since the establishment of the Islamic Republic in 1979. In the span of more than four decades, Iran has witnessed the policies of eight US presidents — each bringing varying degrees of pressure, confrontation or negotiation. While some, like Jimmy Carter, saw diplomatic bridges begin to crumble with the hostage crisis, others such as Barack Obama tried to restore ties through agreements like the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal. Now, with the upcoming election, the stakes are higher than ever. Iran's future is, in many ways, intricately connected to the decision American voters will make on Nov. 5.

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On the other hand, Vice President Kamala Harris, as the Democratic presidential nominee, is expected to continue the Biden administration's policies, which emphasize diplomacy over confrontation. The Biden administration has shown restraint, particularly in its dealings with Iran, seeking to rebuild diplomatic bridges, and Harris is likely to follow suit. When it comes to Iran's nuclear program, Harris would probably push for a return to the JCPOA, the nuclear deal that Trump famously abandoned. A Harris administration would aim to bring Iran back into compliance with the nuclear agreement, potentially offering relief from sanctions in exchange for stricter oversight of its nuclear activities.

approach regarding the Iran-Israel conflict, attempting to prevent further escalation. For instance, the White House has urged caution when it comes to Israel's military actions, especially in relation to Iran's nuclear sites. The current administration seems to be focused on diplomacy as a key tool for resolving these issues, in contrast to the hawkish rhetoric of the Trump era. However, should Trump return to office, the chances of a more hard-line stance are high. He recently expressed support for Israel launching strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities, signaling that a second Trump administration would likely ramp up the pressure on Tehran, bringing the region closer to open conflict.

It is worth noting that the Iranian government has already endured four years of the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" policy and the consequences were severe. Iran's oil exports, once a major source of revenue, plummeted to record lows. The sanctions crippled the economy, causing the Iranian currency to lose much of its value, which in turn sparked inflation and widespread economic hardships. The government in Tehran struggled to manage these crises, as financial resources dwindled and social unrest grew. Trump's economic warfare left deep scars on the Iranian economy and a return to such policies would likely exacerbate these challenges, leaving the Iranian government in an even more precarious position.

It is also critical to recall the unprecedented actions taken by the Trump administration, such as the targeted killing of Qassem Soleimani, the commander of Iran's elite Quds Force. This move, which shocked the world, escalated tensions between the US and Iran to new heights. For the first time in recent memory, the two nations stood on the brink of war.

The assassination was a stark reminder of the unpredictable nature of Trump's foreign policy, which Iran has not forgotten. The specter of further such confrontations looms if Trump is reelected.

In conclusion, as the world watches the US presidential election, the Iranian government is more invested in the outcome than ever before. The stakes for Tehran are incredibly high, as the gap between the two candidates' policies on Iran is vast. While one candidate may bring renewed pressure and confrontation, the other offers the possibility of diplomacy.

American Battleground: Cat people are still haunting Trump’s campaign

“Kamalaaaaaaaa!” Oprah Winfrey is belting it out in her sweet home of Chicago, welcoming the joyous, raucous, unmerciful dismantling of former President Donald Trump that is defining this Democratic National Convention. “We are now so fired up, we can’t wait to leave here and do something!” she shouts to the rapturous crowd. “And what we’re going to do is elect Kamala Harris as the next president of the United States!”

The convention that had threatened to become a political wake as President Joe Biden’s campaign sank, has been reanimated by the rise of Vice President Harris. On the third full week of August, in the City of Big Shoulders, the party is flexing.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who was edged out by Trump in 2016, proclaims, “We have him on the run now!” Biden, former Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, and Jason Carter, serving as proxy for his grandfather in hospice, former President Jimmy Carter, take turns lavishing praise on Harris and mocking Trump’s ego, lies and conspiracy theories.

Their presence is a reminder that no presidents, current or past, have ever endorsed Trump. Former first lady Michelle Obama claps back to the Biden debate when Trump said of immigrants, “They’re taking Black jobs, now.” She brings down the house by saying, “Who’s going to tell him that the job he is currently seeking might just be one of those ‘Black jobs’?”

Vice presidential candidate Tim Walz hypes the crowd while his 17-year-old son creates one of the most human moments in the whole bitter election, cheering, weeping and shouting, “That’s my dad!”

Finally, amid rampant rumors of Beyoncé or Taylor Swift or both showing up (neither did), only one thing is left.

“I accept your nomination.”

Harris, mindful of the historic nature of her candidacy and potential victory, steels her army of supporters for the closing months of battle and tries to reach anyone who might want to join them. Although heavily laced with savage attacks on Trump, her message is decidedly more optimistic than his.

“America, let us show each other and the world who we are and what we stand for,” she says, “freedom, opportunity, compassion, dignity, fairness and endless possibility.”

The ovation is deafening.

“I mean, the energy I saw on that floor last night was unlike anything I’ve ever seen at a convention,” says Mo Elleithe, executive director of the Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service. He also detects a subtle but important evolution in how Democrats are portraying Trump. “For a very long period of time, we elevated him to the status of demagogue, and what they did very effectively... was paint a picture for the American people of Donald Trump as just a small man... who has no depth, no substance, and is just full of gripes.”

And now Trump has a fresh complaint. Each night of the Democratic convention drew higher television ratings than the matching night of the Republican convention, and 26.2 million people watched Harris’ speech. The number is appropriate in this marathon election, and higher than Trump’s at 25.4 million.

Over the coming days, Harris will slowly improve her position in the polls while she continues grabbing headlines as the still new, intriguing arrival. In the tedious, long chase for the presidency, many have had their fill of Trump, while pollsters find a chief complaint about Harris is that voters have not seen her enough. It is the perfect equation to draw maximum attention her way, while depriving Trump of the spotlight. By the numbers, the race remains impossibly close but now Trump, like Biden before he stepped out, is on the statistical downside in many samples. Trump has gone from the best few

weeks of his campaign so far, to the worst. Any ideas his camp had about easy victory are gone.

“They were not trying to expand the map anymore,” says CNN’s John King. “Trump thought almost that he could coast - do a couple of rallies a week, do TV ads, and ‘I’m good.’ Can’t do that anymore.”

And while Trump fans fret, their man gives every sign he still does not really think Harris will be a serious threat in the coming debate. He is about to learn otherwise.

A second, very different presidential debate

In Philadelphia, a birthplace of American democracy, Harris is charging Trump before the first question. Striding past her podium, striking deep into his half of the stage, she thrusts an open hand out forcing him to shake.

“Kamala Harris,” she says as if she owns the place, “Let’s have a good debate.”

Then, prompted to start by ABC News hosts David Muir and Linsey Davis, Harris launches a fast assault on one of Trump’s strong points in the polls: the economy.

“I was raised as a middle-class kid,” she says, “and I am actually the only person on this stage who has a plan that is about lifting up the middle class and working people of America.”

She talks about her policy plans to help people buy homes, start businesses and raise children. She portrays Trump’s keystone idea for improving the economy, a 20% tariff on imports, as a sales tax on families. Trump has barely moved, but when his mic comes on, he does precisely what Harris wants. He steps into a trap.

“First of all, I have no sales tax,” he says. “That’s an incorrect statement. She knows that.”

Harris has lured him into a pattern she will exploit all evening. When questions suit her, she will answer. When they don’t, she will jab the notoriously thin-skinned former president and let his seething outrage take the spotlight away from the troublesome subject.

Trump’s debate prep team predicted and feared this strategy so much they brought in Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz to play tormentor in practice rounds with their candidate.

“They were exasperated,” CNN’s Kristen Holmes hears from the campaign. “They really put a lot into getting him ready for this and the one thing they told him that he couldn’t do over and over and over again was, ‘Don’t take the bait.’ And he took the bait.”

Relentlessly, Harris skewers Trump about his “lies, grievances, and name calling.” She ridicules his “same old, tired playbook.” She rips his plans for almost everything as pure folly or, worse, secret tax breaks for the wealthy. Trump gamely tries to counter with the positive messages so many Republicans want him to promote. “We had the greatest economy,” he says, “we did a phenomenal job with the pandemic...and people give me credit for rebuilding the military.”

But Harris taunts Trump as if he is a chained bear, forcing him to dance with her words and expressions. The New York Times will describe her arsenal of poses and silent retorts as “an arched brow. A quiet sigh. A hand on her chin. A laugh. A pitying glance. A dismissive shake of her head.” Trump just glowers.

For Democrats, she is revealing the unstable, fragile, easily manipulated Trump they want voters to see, remember and fear. His refusal to even look at Harris through most of the debate raises other suspicions.

“I think he was trying to avoid getting triggered,” says former Harris aide Ashley Etienne. “I know the one thing that really gets him unhinged is having a woman challenge him.” Trump has long saved his most personal, verbal attacks for women, calling them nasty, dogs, pigs, ugly. Strong women in particular, including Hillary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi, and now Harris, seem to set him off.

Still, he trudges grimly on, circling persistently toward the matter of undocumented immi-

Tom Foreman

grants. “They’re dangerous,” he says. “They’re at the highest level of criminality. And we have to get them out. We have to get them out fast.” Never mind that most of his claims about the immigrant community are inflammatory and false. The subject never fails to ignite his base and it was the cornerstone of his whole improbable, original bid for the presidency.

It is also a weak point for Harris. Although she was never the “border czar” Trump claims, the Biden administration’s difficulty limiting the flood of people from Mexico and points south is fair game. When the moderators ask what she would do differently, she lights into Trump’s squelching of a bipartisan border deal in Congress, and then throws a haymaker.

“I’m actually going to do something very unusual,” she says, “and I’m going to invite you to attend one of Donald Trump’s rallies, because it’s really interesting to watch. You will see during the course of his rallies he talks about fictional characters like Hannibal Lecter. He will talk about windmills cause cancer, and what you will also notice is that people start leaving his rallies early out of exhaustion and boredom.”

For Trump, who brags, obsesses, and routinely inflates the size of his audiences, it is an unforgivable insult.

“People don’t go to her rallies, there’s no reason to go,” he says when asked to respond to the comment about the legislation he killed. “People don’t leave my rallies. We have the biggest rallies, the most incredible rallies in the history of politics.” He reels off into an unmoored string of consciousness about how America has failed under Biden and Harris, how World War III is on the way, and when he finally works his way back to immigrants, he unspools a quote that will survive as one of the most absurd statements ever made in a presidential debate.

“In Springfield, they’re eating the dogs,” he says, leaning forward and punching the words, “They’re eating the cats. They’re eating the pets of the people that live there!”

After that, nothing else matters.

A damaging Ohio fiction takes off

The problem began when Miss Sassy went missing.

The pet cat belonged to a woman living in the moderate-size town of Springfield, Ohio, which had been dealing with a heavy influx of legal – yes, legal – immigrants. The woman told police she suspected some of them, Haitians, had taken Miss Sassy and cooked her for dinner. The story was shared online, jumped into the right-wing echo chamber, and soon the former president and his running mate were calling it fact.

Springfield’s Haitian community fell under suspicion. Dozens of bomb threats were leveled at the town’s schools, hospitals and government buildings. State and local officials, including Republican Gov. Mike DeWine, said the cat tale was unequivocally false. So did media outlets that dispatched reporters to check into it. Miss Sassy turned out to be hiding in the woman’s basement.

But even though she was alive, the Trump campaign went on murdering the truth.

They plowed ahead with spreading the mythological Haitian cat killings as proof of the problems of immigration, no matter how clearly or how often it was debunked. Trump’s running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, would eventually be cornered live on CNN by Dana Bash, only to say it was ok if he indulged in fiction about the people of his state. “If I have to create stories so that the American media pays attention to the suffering of the American people then that’s what I’m going to do, Dana, because you guys are completely letting Kamala Harris coast.”

No one disputed that Springfield was struggling to handle the large immigrant population. But several townspeople and officials also pointed out that

the Haitians were generally hard workers and had substantially invigorated the area’s economy.

Springfield’s mayor said, “We need help, not hate.”

Trump would not admit his mistake, nor the overwhelming assessment that he had been badly beaten by Harris in the debate. Hopping on Fox News, Trump insisted “we did great” and attacked the moderators for calling out his most blatant lies. “It was three to one, it was a rigged deal... when you looked at the fact that they were correcting everything and not correcting with her... every time I spoke, and my stuff was right, they’d correct you.”

Fact check: Trump’s deceptions were mentioned only a handful of times during the debate even though CNN’s fact checker in such cases, Daniel Dale, found Trump made 33 definitively false claims compared to one by Harris. As Dale puts it, “This was a staggeringly dishonest debate performance from Trump. Just lie after lie on subject after subject.”

For Trump’s acolytes, that truth does not matter either. They take up the three-against-one trope with fervor. But in the backwash of the debate, some Republicans will not toe the Trump line.

“Let me just say there are those on the right who have convinced themselves, dogmatically so, that it was actually a great debate for Donald Trump,” conservative commentator Erick Erickson says on his YouTube channel. “Those are the people who have the version of ‘Trump Derangement Syndrome’ where they can never abide criticism of their god. There is a level of idol worship there.”

Trump could have foreseen the threat Harris would bring.

As much as he disdains the expertise of those whose careers are all about public service and navigating the byzantine ways of government, four years in the White House should have taught him the lesson every previous president has learned: In politics, experience matters. Running for office over and over, climbing the ladder, winning and losing all bring skills that help on the debate stage. Certainly, a candidate must have a basic ability to communicate, but that talent is almost always keener when sharpened on the stone of repetition. Throw in Harris’ years of managing legal arguments and Trump’s recent exposure to the art of prosecutors, and there was every reason for Trump to be braced for a big-league encounter.

But in a burst of Shakespearian hubris, Trump and his team seemed to have gone into the debate under the sway of their own propaganda, which focused on Harris’ early months in the White House when she was often portrayed as feckless. Ignored were her long, successful years in politics, scratching her way through California’s massive and tangled political environment, duking it out in the US Senate where her questioning of Trump’s own Supreme Court nominees were master classes in rhetorical combat. CNN’s Phil Mattingly, who covered Harris in the Senate, spoke with a senior Trump campaign adviser just ahead of the debate. “I said ‘Look man, if you get 2019 Senator Harris standing across from him, she can cut him up if you’re not ready.’ And the individual laughed like it wasn’t even considered a possibility.”

Ironically, CNN’s Alayna Treene observes that Trump blew his debate to pieces just as he was asked about his favorite subject. “That answer specifically was about immigration,” she says, “which was supposed to be his best answer of the night. So that’s what really frustrated a lot of people. That was one of the worst moments of the night, if not the worst moment of the night for him, and it could have been the best moment.”

The main lesson Team Trump takes away from the showdown with Harris is that they don’t want it to happen again. She says she wants another debate. Trump quickly says he has no interest, offering a hodgepodge of reasons

including that a proposed October 23 date is “too late.” CNN’s Chris Wallace goes on ABC’s “The View” and offers another explanation.

“My gut feeling is that (first) debate, on some level, scared Donald Trump,” Wallace says, “and he realized... giving a platform to Kamala Harris is a bad idea, which is why he’s not going to do another debate which would attract 50, 60, 70 million people.”

Harris’ husband, second gentleman Doug Emhoff, is more succinct. “He got his ass kicked.”

Trump will also eventually bail out of an interview with CBS’s venerable “60 Minutes,” a stop for every major party nominee for decades. His campaign will say nothing was ever officially scheduled, despite contrary statements and evidence from CBS. Among Team Trump’s other complaints posted on X, “They also insisted on doing live fact checking, which is unprecedented.” CBS anchor Scott Pelley responds on air, “We fact check every story,” and notes that Harris has agreed to be interviewed.

The bad news for Trump keeps coming. Within days of the debate, a second apparent attempt on his life is thwarted at one of his Florida golf courses. Trump is out for a round when the Secret Service says an agent spots an armed man allegedly lying in wait. The agent fires. The man runs. He is picked up a short time later, charged, and pleads not guilty.

Trump and his allies blame Biden and Harris. As they see it, Democrats are creating a violent atmosphere by talking so much about Trump’s role in January 6, his disdain for the rule of law, his praise of authoritarian rulers and his stoking of fury and resentment among his followers with his never-ending lies about the 2020 election. “Their rhetoric is causing me to be shot at,” Trump says, “when I am the one who is going to save the country, and they are the ones that are destroying the country — both from the inside and out.” He also jokes about how the assassination attempts are interrupting his golfing habits.

Democrats are neither amused nor convinced.

But perhaps the sharpest sting he felt in the immediate days after the debate comes not from another exchange with the opposing party but from a popstar. Trump had posted an image of Taylor Swift, apparently generated by artificial intelligence, that implied she was offering her endorsement to his presidential bid. He added to the picture, “I accept!”

Now the ruse has unraveled.

Swift, perhaps the most well-known woman on Earth at the moment, has posted on Instagram: “Recently I was made aware that AI of ‘me’ falsely endorsing Donald Trump’s presidential run was posted to his site... I really conjured up my fears around AI, and the dangers of spreading misinformation... The simplest way to combat misinformation is with the truth. I will be casting my vote for Kamala Harris and Tim Walz in the 2024 Presidential Election.”

She signed it, “Childless Cat Lady.”

Trump races a response to Truth Social: “I HATE TAYLOR SWIFT.”

To many political observers, Trump appears to be smoldering with anger, frustration and fear while Harris romps. “He’d never been out of the driver’s seat in any of his presidential races for as long a period as he was... that absolutely drove him crazy,” CNN’s Jeff Zeleny says.

Analysts have written too many times that if he doesn’t win this election, his long-delayed trials could rev up again, his business empire could crumble, his wealth could be drained, he could go to jail and into the history books as a colossal political failure. He could be seen as how he so often scorns others: weak, foolish, a loser.

And he, Harris, and the whole waiting world know time is running out. If Trump is to reverse his fortunes, it must happen now. The final weeks will decide it all.

— CNN

A fresh crisis

Michael Jansen

ISRAEL’S parliament voted on Monday to ban UNRWA, the UN agency caring for Palestinian refugees and their descendants, from operating in annexed East Jerusalem and occupied West Bank and Gaza. This ban, which comes into effect in 90 days, will block the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza and cut food, education, health care, and welfare services to 2.5 million UNRWA registered Palestinian refugees living under Israeli rule.

The agency is responsible for a total of 5.9 million when refugees hosted by Lebanon, Jordan and Syria are counted. This amounts to more than 40 per cent of the 14.6 million Palestinians in the world. No combination of other humanitarian agencies can assume UNRWA’s mandate and responsibilities. The Knesset approved two private member bills submitted by lawmakers from right-wing Yisrael Beytenu and centre-right Likud. These bills revoke a 1967 agreement between Israel and UNRWA enabling the agency to operate in territories held by Israel. Without authorisation, Israel will cease issuing permits to enter these areas as it controls all access to the occupied Palestinian territories.

The pretext for barring UNRWA is that some of its 13,000 staff members in Gaza were among Hamas fighters who took part in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel during which 1,139 were killed and 250 abducted. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said that implementation of the bills would be a “catastrophe.” European Commission foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has warned that banning UNRWA will “have disastrous consequences.” This legislation will prevent UNRWA “from continuing to provide its services and protection to Palestine refugees in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza,” Borrell stated.

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin sent a letter to Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer on October 13th warning of an

arms embargo on Israel if it continues to obstruct aid reaching Gaza. They expressed deep concern over the adoption of the UNRWA legislation and urged the recipients to “take all possible steps with lawmakers or using the authorities of the Prime Minister’s Office to ensure this does not come to pass.” Blinken and Austin demanded Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu refuse to allow the bills to pass. He did not listen. He has long been a critic and opponent of UNRWA. The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Britain, Norway and other UNRWA supporters have expressed alarm over Israel’s intentions toward UNRWA.

Although Netanyahu led the campaign against UNRWA, he knows that these bills could create a humanitarian disaster in areas served by the agency and ignite a fresh crisis with the international community which has been sharply critical of Israel for obstructing the entry and distribution of desperately needed aid to Gaza. Writing from Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, The UN Development Programme chief Chitose Noguchi stated, “The state of Palestine is experiencing unprecedented levels of setbacks. For Gaza, reversing development by an estimated 70 years to 1955.” During Israel’s 1948-49 war of establishment, 750,000 Palestinians were driven from their homes in the 78 per cent of Palestine initially occupied by Israel. More than 200,000 found refuge in the 361-square kilometre narrow coastal tract of territory captured by Egypt. This became known as the Gaza Strip. By the war’s end 20 towns and villages survived in the Gaza Strip while 49 in the Gaza Subdistrict were subjected to Israel conquest, depopulation, and destruction. Palestinians from another 100 cities, towns and villages also sought refuge in the Gaza Strip. Many believed they would be allowed to go home once hostilities ceased. The 80,000 Gazans were overwhelmed by the influx.

Initially, the refugees sheltered in mosques, schools, homes, military barracks and tents erected in open areas. Hundreds died

during the exceptionally cold winter of 1948-49. The American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organisation, assumed responsibility for relief and established eight camps on land allocated by the Egyptian authorities. These camps were taken over by UNRWA, a unique agency established by the General Assembly in December 1949 which began operations in May 1950. Unlike the UN High Commission for Refugees which provided temporarily for refugees from multiple conflicts and natural disasters, UNRWA served one national group whose country had been conquered and colonised by Israel with the backing of prevailing Western powers.

UNRWA’S urgent tasks were to build 48,000 basic shelters and provide food rations and health care. The agency employed Palestinians to run its services and added primary and secondary education and vocational training. By 1955, UNRWA had built solid infrastructure and expanded its programmes to meet the needs of the original refugees and their progeny whose number had grown to about 225,000. During the 1950s the agency struggled to secure funding to meet the needs of the refugees. Israel’s allies, the US and its Western partners, exerted pressure by denying them decent conditions with the aim of compelling them to settle permanently in host countries. This effort failed. Today there are 2.3 million people in Gaza, 1.7 million are refugees. Ninety per cent of Gazans have been displaced by Israel’s year long war. Israel wants to get rid of UNRWA. Israel claims UNRWA perpetuates Palestinian refugeeedom. This is wrong. Israel has created and has perpetuated the Palestinian refugee problem by refusing to adopt the internationally mandated two-state solution which would provide Palestinian refugees with a homeland. UNRWA gives Palestinian refugees status and care which cannot be provided by the still non-existent State of Palestine which has been recognised by 146 of 193 UN members, or 75 per cent of the total, and became a non-member UN General Assembly observer state in November 2012.

Arab countries should be rooting for Kamala to win

Hussein Ibish

In a week, the US will hold its most consequential election since the Civil War-era.

It pits a centrist Democratic Party led by Vice President Kamala Harris, still committed to the Constitution and rule of law, against a personalised Republican Party that serves only its leader, former president Donald Trump, who has called for entire articles in the Constitution to be “terminated” to keep him in power.

The election will either reaffirm US political norms and traditions or usher in an experiment with American tyranny modelled after that in some other states; an openly self-serving president supported by and, in turn, favouring, politicised oligarchs, as I explained in these pages last week.

Tyranny is by no means guaranteed if Mr Trump wins. He will enter the White House with experience and preparation, ready to try to replace thousands of civil servants with handpicked ideological cronies, as he himself has said he would. But the opposition will be similarly prepared, and efforts to defend the rule of law will kick into action without hesitation, because Mr Trump’s intentions are so clearly telegraphed.

This matters for the rest of the world, including Gulf countries. Ms Harris stands for US traditions at home and abroad. She represents the continuation of the post-Second World War and post-Cold War US policies that centre on robust internationalism based on alliances and long-standing friendships around the world. Mr Trump, by contrast, has viewed these alliances, even Nato, with cynicism, often seeing them as little more than a protection racket, demanding payment directly to the US from any country that benefits from its protection.

Some Gulf countries have been seeking “ironclad” mutual defence agreements. This has yet to be achieved, but considerable progress has been made in this direction with the administration of President Joe Biden. Further progress under Ms Harris appears entirely plausible. But given his attitudes towards international rela-

tions, there seems little chance of any such agreements under Mr Trump.

If the Biden administration played any role in prompting the October 7, 2023 attack in Israel that produced a series of interwoven crises rocking the Middle East, it wasn’t through neglect, weakness or any egregious error. On the contrary, insofar as Hamas paid any attention to Washington regarding this attack, it was seeking to thwart the Biden administration’s progress in talks with Saudi Arabia for a triangular agreement involving normalisation with Israel.

Some Arab countries have adopted a policy of strategic diversification as a consequence of uncertainty about the nature of the US security commitments and Washington’s willingness to act in their defence. Yet they remain fundamentally committed to keeping the US as the centrepiece of their diplomatic architecture and primary partner of choice in key national security strategies.

The unpredictability and arbitrary nature of the personalised presidency promised by Mr Trump is not in the interest of America’s allies and partners. Unpredictability has been Washington’s biggest failing in recent decades, and Mr Trump is the last person to correct that fault.

Dark clouds are looming over Washington even before a possible Trump victory.

Two major newspapers – The Washington Post and The Los Angeles Times – declined for the first time in decades to endorse a presidential candidate, allegedly to curry favour with Mr Trump. Owner Jeff Bezos denied there was any connection between The Post’s decision and his space company’s meeting with Mr Trump last week.

Like the Silicon Valley elites I described last week, some of these media-owning would-be oligarchs are breaking the first rule of resisting tyranny proposed by historian Timothy Snyder: “Do not obey in advance.”

Tellingly, all the distortions to American traditions coming from the wealthy and powerful find them adapting

to Mr Trump, not Ms Harris. No one is self-censoring in fear of a crackdown by Democrats. And Republican voters are relatively blasé about the outcome, knowing that everything will go on as usual even if they lose. Democrats are gripped with huge alarm, because they have every reason to believe that if they lose, the constitutional system may be upended.

As its closing argument, the racism of the Trump campaign has hit a deafening crescendo.

Today in Dearborn, Michigan, home of the largest Arab-American community in the country, I was immediately confronted by a huge billboard featuring a blue Star of David and slogans about how Ms Harris can be relied upon to “protect Israel” and “our Jewish communities”. It was widely reported to be the handiwork of a shadowy Republican-linked group.

At an intensely racist Trump rally in New York City’s Madison Square Garden on Sunday, one speaker referred to Puerto Rico as a “floating pile of garbage”. Another referred to Ms Harris as “the Antichrist”. Then one of Mr Trump’s closest aides, Stephen Miller, thundered that “America is for Americans and Americans only”.

It’s the perfect coda to the campaign that promises Mr Trump will be “a dictator” but only on “day one”. He has threatened to use the military and police against political opponents, to crush and deport pro-Palestinian campus protesters and “set that movement back 25 or 30 years”, to instigate “bloody” mass deportations of up to 15 million migrants, and to wage an all-out war against “the enemy from within”.

Mr Trump is overtly offering a wild experiment in authoritarianism. US allies should readily understand that American fascism would offer nothing useful.

There is a growing sense that, after the hate-filled Madison Square Garden rally, the tide may be turning decisively against Mr Trump. Arab countries, and all friends of the US, should be deeply relieved when Ms Harris wins.

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
<p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Paveen Begum with regards to deceased Mr. Imran Khan citizen number 1420121301427 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Bibi (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Rubina Begum (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Shokiera Bibi (Daughter)</p> <p>On the above application the undersigned public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p>	<p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Abbas Raza with regards to deceased Mr. Abdul Aziz citizen number 1210109818541 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Shagufta Shaheen (Spouse)</p> <p>2. Hassan Raza (Son)</p> <p>3. Ali Raza (Son)</p> <p>4. Abbas Raza (Son)</p> <p>5. Zamin Raza (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p>
<p>IN-CHARGE SFU, NADRA KASBAH</p>	<p>IN-CHARGE SFU, NADRA DI KHAN-SFU</p>
PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
<p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Umtilah Jan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Khan citizen number 1410177805047 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Janu (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Muntazira Bibi (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Daulat (Daughter)</p> <p>4. Jahana (Daughter)</p> <p>5. Samreena (Daughter)</p> <p>6. Huma (Daughter)</p> <p>7. Mukam Jan (Bibi)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p>	<p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Kanwal Iqbal with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Nurat Iqbal citizen number 1210109257505 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Kanwal Iqbal (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Iqbal (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Nurat Bibi (Spouse)</p> <p>4. Muhammad Sohail Iqbal (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p>
<p>IN-CHARGE SFU, NADRA HANGU-SFU</p>	<p>IN-CHARGE SFU, NADRA DI KHAN-SFU</p>
PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
<p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Tasleem Hassan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Rifat Sultana citizen number 173010675701 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Eatemad Hassan (Son)</p> <p>2. Tasleem Hassan (Spouse)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p>	<p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Taj Muhammad with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Taj Muhammad citizen number 1620209782339 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Naheed Akhtar (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Bilal (Son)</p> <p>3. Ahsan Ali (Son)</p> <p>4. Muhammad (Son)</p> <p>5. Khalid Muhammad (Son)</p> <p>6. Ahmad (Son)</p> <p>7. Imtiaz Muhammad (Son)</p> <p>8. Muhammad (Son)</p> <p>9. Mukhtar Ahmad (Son)</p> <p>10. Machal Ahmad (Son)</p> <p>11. Ahmad (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p>
<p>IN-CHARGE SFU, NADRA RING ROAD-DSFU</p>	<p>IN-CHARGE SFU, NADRA DI KHAN-SFU</p>
PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
<p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Saad Muhammad with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Masood Ur Rehman citizen number 13101281550 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Samina Bibi (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Saad (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Saad (Daughter)</p> <p>4. Saif Ur Rehman (Daughter)</p> <p>5. Masood Muhammad (Son)</p> <p>6. Habib Ur Rehman (Son)</p> <p>7. Masood Muhammad (Son)</p> <p>8. Masood Furgan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p>	<p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Masood Ur Rehman citizen number 13101281550 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Naheed Akhtar (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Bilal (Son)</p> <p>3. Ahsan Ali (Son)</p> <p>4. Muhammad (Son)</p> <p>5. Khalid Muhammad (Son)</p> <p>6. Ahmad (Son)</p> <p>7. Imtiaz Muhammad (Son)</p> <p>8. Muhammad (Son)</p> <p>9. Mukhtar Ahmad (Son)</p> <p>10. Machal Ahmad (Son)</p> <p>11. Ahmad (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p>
<p>IN-CHARGE SFU, NADRA ROAD-TASAF</p>	<p>IN-CHARGE SFU, NADRA DI KHAN-SFU</p>

PID(II)2980/24



Akram urges India to travel to Pakistan for Champions Trophy 2025

L A H O R E (ESPNCrininfo): Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram believes India will get looked after "amazingly well" if they travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy in February next year and reckons it would be a great thing for cricket.

"I think whatever I'm reading, there are positive vibes from [the] Indian government and [the] BCCI," Akram said. "I also read somewhere they will play probably all their games in Lahore. They will probably come to Lahore and travel [back] the same night. I'm all for it, as long as India is comfortable."

"And I can promise you, they [are] going to get looked after amazingly

well. I mean, Indian cricketers like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, [Hardik] Pandya, Suryakumar Yadav, they have fans in Pakistan. The young cricket fans adore them."

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) remains intent on hosting the entire Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan between February 19 and March 9. It has even proposed to have all of India's matches take place in Lahore, which is close to the Indian border and makes logistics and security hurdles less complicated. The PCB also said that it would grant about 17,000 visas to Indian fans who wanted to follow their team. The final will be held in Lahore, as will any semi-final that India play,

if they qualify.

Speaking ahead of Pakistan's six-match ODI and T20I tour of Australia that begins on Monday, Akram was hopeful India would come to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy.

"People-to-people contact is very important in this day and age," he said. "In this social media age, there's so much negativity all over the world, unnecessary negativity in my opinion, and I think if India come, it will be great for cricket, and of course, it'll be great for Pakistan too."

India have not played an international match in Pakistan since 2008, and the UAE is believed to be the likeliest - though not only - alternate venue should any part of the

Champions Trophy be moved out. The BCCI did not send a team to Pakistan last year for the Asia Cup, prompting the tournament to be shifted to a hybrid model with the latter stages played in Sri Lanka.

But Pakistan did travel to India right after that for the 2023 ODI World Cup, where they missed out on a semi-final spot.

Earlier this month, the ECB's chief executive Richard Gould and chair Richard Thompson, said that there are "lots of different alternatives and contingencies available" in the event that India do not travel to Pakistan, raising the possibility of a hybrid model being used.

The Champions Trophy will feature eight teams,



with two groups of four, and a final. The competing teams are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Zealand, Pakistan and followed by semi-finals teams are Afghanistan, England, India, New South Africa.

Amorim expects clarity soon over Sporting future

MANCHESTER (BBC): Manager Ruben Amorim says there will be "clarification" over his expected move to Manchester United after Sporting's game against Estrela on Friday.

He is expected to remain in charge at Portuguese side Sporting until the next international break from 11-19 November.

There remains confusion over whether a deal has been completed for Amorim to take over at Old Trafford after Erik ten Hag was sacked on Monday.

"It's a negotiation between two clubs, it's never easy," Amorim, 39, said.

United board member Sir Dave Brailsford told fans "it's done" as he arrived for Wednesday's EFL Cup win with Leicester and posed for a photograph. This information has been corroborated by additional sources from Portugal.

However, Sporting officials are adamant there is still no official deal and talks are continuing.

Manchester United have refused to comment.

"Even with the clauses, it's never easy, they have to talk and we will have clarification after the game, it will be very clear," Amorim added.

"So it's one more day after the game tomorrow, we will have a decision made."

Sporting have a key Champions League encounter with Manchester City on Tuesday and play Amorim's former club Braga in the league on 10 November, before European top-flight football pauses for Nations League games.

Sporting have won all nine of their league fixtures this season and hold a three-point lead over Lisbon neighbours Benfica at the top of the table.

On Tuesday, they beat Nacional 3-1 in the Portuguese League Cup but Amorim admitted recent speculation over his future has destabilised the squad. "I know my players and I'm honest with you when I say that they weren't normal. I realised they were nervous and anxious about the news, with a series of tough games coming up," Amorim said.

"They know me so well. I've proved that I'll defend them until the last minute. But there are things I can't control."

"There are things we can't control, the clubs are negotiating. It's not the coach's decision."

As Amorim stood up to leave Thursday's news con-

ference he was asked what he liked about the Premier League - "everything," he said with a smile.

Financial rules around Sporting mean they have to confirm to the Lisbon Stock Exchange when an agreement has been reached for him to leave.

Van Nistelrooy 'motivated to stay and help'

Ruud van Nistelrooy conducted his first news conference on Thursday since being appointed as United's interim manager.

The former Manchester United striker said he had been told he would have the role for a "short" period of time and added he was "guessing" he would take charge of Sunday's Premier League match against Chelsea.

"I felt that I was called upon to help the club forward in the situation and obviously it was difficult that Erik [ten Hag] had to leave," Van Nistelrooy said.

"It was very disappointing, obviously with mixed feelings, but after that you have to switch the mindset to win because in the end there's 75,000 people waiting and celebrating, and millions watching at home."

"I think that's what we try to do and same for Sunday at least, then after that we'll see."

Following the match against Chelsea on Sunday, United have a Europa League tie with Greek side PAOK at Old Trafford on 7 November before hosting Leicester in the league on 10 November prior to the international break.

They head to newly promoted Ipswich, managed by former United coach Kieran McKenna, immediately after the international break.

Norwegian side Bodo/Glimt could be Amorim's first Old Trafford opposition in the Europa League on 28 November, with a Premier League game against Everton the following weekend.

After the victory over Leicester, Van Nistelrooy said he was willing to continue working at the club "in any capacity".

On Thursday, the 48-year-old Dutchman said on his future at the club: "I came here to help the club forward, and I'm still very motivated to do so in any capacity as an assistant and now as an interim manager, and after that I go back to my assistant contract that I have here for this season and next."

"I'm very motivated to stay here and help the club forward. That's my absolute goal."

Khwaja reappointed as ICC Deputy Chair

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board has reappointed Imran Khwaja as Deputy Chair of the ICC, with the new tenure beginning on December 1.

Khwaja currently holds an Associate Member Director position on the Board having been re-elected at the ICC Annual Conference in July 2024. Mr Khwaja was first elected to the ICC Board in 2008 and has served as Deputy Chair since 2017, said a press release.

In addition, the ICC's Members supported the ICC Board recommendation to change the terms of the ICC Chair and Independent Director in the Constitution to now be a maximum of two terms of three years (from three terms of two years, with the six-year limit remaining).

PSB constitutes interim committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has formed an Interim Committee to manage the affairs of the Pakistan Weightlifting Federation (PWF).

This decision follows the suspension of the PWF, headed by Hafiz Imran Butt, due to serious irregularities, corrupt practices, and anti-doping code violations, said a notification issued here.

The Interim Committee, chaired by Brig (R) Zahid Iqbal, comprises Col. (R) Hafiz Dr. Zafar Iqbal and Nuzhat Jabeen as members.

The PSB has issued a notification informing Provincial Sports Boards and relevant government departments responsible for sports to refrain from corresponding or cooperating with the suspended PWF. Instead, they are requested to facilitate the Interim Committee in weightlifting affairs.

The PWF was suspended in July 2022 in PSB's 25th meeting, after a report from the delegate (appointed by PSB on the directions of Lahore High Court) citing serious irregularities in the Federation's functioning, corrupt practices, and violations of the anti-doping code.

Smith joins England's senior ranks

LONDON (Cricinfo): England have signalled their intention to place Jamie Smith at the heart of their revival across formats, handing him a lucrative two-year ECB central contract that will commit him to their plans for both next year's Ashes tour of Australia and the 2026 T20 World Cup.

Smith, 24, was one of the breakout stars of England's home Test summer, scoring a maiden Test hundred against Sri Lanka at Old Trafford, before being named as the PCA's Young Player of the Year at their annual end-of-season awards dinner.

Manchester United crush Leicester to reach q-finals of Carabao Cup

MANCHESTER (BBC): Ruud van Nistelrooy enjoyed a winning start as Manchester United's interim manager as his side thrashed Leicester to reach the Carabao Cup quarter-finals.

Two days after Van Nistelrooy was appointed as stand-in following the dismissal of Erik ten Hag, his pre-match demand for entertainment was met in full.

Casemiro started the fun with a sensational long-range strike and by half-time the Brazilian had another as he followed up an initial header that bounced off both posts by driving home from eight yards.

In between those efforts, Alejandro Garnacho fired home his fifth goal of the season and skipper Bruno Fernandes' free-kick deflected in off Leicester full-back James Justin.

It wasn't perfect from the hosts as old defensive frailties returned to allow Bilal El Khannouss and Conor Coady to score before half-time. The latter effort came after the ball had struck Diogo Dalot and bounced invitingly for the former England man to apply the first-time finish.

But in front of Sir Alex Ferguson, back at Old Trafford for the first time since being told he was being stripped of his paid ambassadorial role, and United's powerbrokers who are aiming to replace Ten Hag with Sporting boss Ruben Amorim, the hosts always had an element of control.

Fernandes added a fifth on 59 minutes when he took maximum advantage of Caleb Okoli's under-hit backpass.

United will travel to face Tottenham in the quarter-finals, with that tie lined up for the week commencing 16 December.

Casemiro makes his mark

Van Nistelrooy's popularity in these parts comes from his status as United's ninth highest all-time scorer.

Remarkably, his 150-goal haul included just one scored from outside the penalty area. It partly explained his joy at seeing Casemiro's opener fly into the top corner from almost 30 yards.

The Brazilian was helped by Leicester's complete failure to press the ball from Garnacho's inside pass. But the former Real Madrid man had time to take a touch to set himself and then strike his shot with accuracy and venom, giving Danny Ward no chance of keeping it out.

Van Nistelrooy's elation was plain to see as he raised both fists and turned to the crowd, who had applauded him onto

the pitch before the start of the game.

Casemiro, 32, has been used as an example of the profligacy in United's transfer spending during Ten Hag's time at the club. There is still over 18 months left on the deal he signed when he joined from Real Madrid in 2022.

He plays in flashes now but retains the nous which made him such a useful ally for Cristiano Ronaldo and Luka Modric in their Champions League-winning pomp.

Though the penalty area was packed, Casemiro was the first to react to his own header bouncing back off both posts for his second. He might even have had a hat-trick but skied an injury-time chance over the bar to leave Van Nistelrooy with his head in his hands.

Cooper banned after offside moan

If the VAR system had been in operation, as it will be when these sides meet in this stadium in the Premier League on 10 November, the home side's second goal may not have stood.

Dalot looked offside as he collected Casemiro's pass down the touchline. Leicester boss Steve Cooper certainly thought so, and by a long way, judging by the gesture he made as he complained to the officials.

The flag stayed down – as VAR protocol dictates. But for this game, there is no VAR as the EFL feel it could create an imbalance as it is not used at grounds in their league competition.

Instead, it is reserved for the Wembley final and the semi-finals, so Dalot carried on with his run and crossed low across the six-yard box, where Garnacho strode onto the ball and drove home at the far post.

Cooper was livid, earned a booking for his protests and is now banned from the dugout for Saturday's crucial trip to Ipswich.

The goal effectively took the game away from a Leicester side showing nine changes from the team beaten at home by Nottingham Forest last week.

There were moments when Cooper's side looked ok and El Khannouss' first Leicester goal was a noteworthy effort as he cut across his shot with the top of his boot and sent it low into the bottom corner.

Cooper knows the main demand of this season is not emulating the Foxes' previous triumphs in this tournament. His task is to keep them in the Premier League, and Saturday's game at Ipswich is huge.

Real Madrid's trip to Valencia postponed

MADRID (BBC): La Liga champions Real Madrid's match against Valencia, which was scheduled for Saturday, has been postponed after the devastating ash and flash floods in Spain.

The Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) has postponed all matches in the Valencia region, where at least 95 people have died and dozens more are missing after torrential rain.

Villarreal's La Liga meeting with Rayo

Vallecano has also been called off, along with three games in the Segunda division - Castellon v RC Ferrol, CD Eldense against SD Huesca and Malaga's visit to Levante.

In Liga F, the women's top flight, Valencia's match against Deportivo La Coruna and Real Madrid v Levante are among the postponed fixtures.

The RFEF had received requests from La Liga, Liga F and the clubs them-

selves to postpone all professional matches in the area after the flash floods.

Several Copa del Rey matches, including Valencia's trip to Parla Escuela, had already been rescheduled.

The RFEF said a minute's silence will be observed during the week-end's games to show solidarity for those affected, especially the relatives of those who have died in the natural disaster".

‘Unbelievable moment’ - Bronny James hits first NBA points

WASHINGTON (BBC): Bronny James scored his first NBA basket for the Los Angeles Lakers in a 134-110 defeat by the Cleveland Cavaliers. Evan Mobley grabbed 25 points and Donovan Mitchell added 24 as the Cavaliers made it five straight wins to record their best start to a season since 2016-17. LeBron James, 39, who previously had two spells at Cleveland, and his son Bronny, 20, made history last week, becoming the first father-son duo to share the court in an NBA game during the Lakers' season-opener against the Minnesota Timberwolves. "It was insane. Much more than I anticipated for sure. It was a nice moment," said Bronny.

"The chants really got me. I was straight-faced but I felt it. It felt pretty good, especially coming from here. It was a special moment for me," LeBron said. "To see him get his first NBA basket in this arena, where he grew up not too far from here - it's an unbelievable moment." Bronny came on with just over five minutes left against the Cavaliers and scored his first NBA points on a step-back, 14-foot jumper over Tristan Thompson. He missed a three-point attempt with less than a minute to play, while his father finished with 26 points, six rebounds and six turnovers. Meanwhile, Pascal Siakam made a tie-breaking three-pointer with 7.3 seconds remaining in overtime to help the Indiana Pacers defeat the Boston Celtics 135-132 in Indianapolis. Jaylen Brown missed a three-point attempt to tie the game on the defending champions' final possession, resulting in a first defeat of the season.



In brief

Water supply restored

RAWALPINDI (APP): The water supply from Sangjani Pumping Station has been restored after completion of repair work at the station. The dysfunctional pump has caused reduced water supply to Rawalpindi Cantonment Board areas. According to the details, the dysfunctionality of the mega water pump was caused by electric circuits breakdown which was resulted into equipment's destruction. The Sangjani Water Pumping Station is one of the main water supplying units, where repair work was continued for several days, due to which the residents of the RCB areas suffered with water supply shortage. The CEO RCB, Syed Ali Irfan Rizvi had given instructions to the relevant departments for full early recovery of the pumping system. The Spokesman RCB informed that the engineering teams tirelessly worked on the repair work. He said that full water supply would be ensured in the RCB areas.

Police bust dacoit gang

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have busted a dacoit and street criminal gang by arresting six active members of the gang and recovered cash Rs 66,000, a stolen motorcycle, a mobile phone, weapons, and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Rattaamral police held six dacoit and street criminals namely Arbab, Imran, Ahmed, Farhat, Majid, and Amjad, and recovered Rs 66,000, a stolen motorcycle, a mobile phone, weapons, and other items. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process. Superintendent of Police, Rawal said that police are making efforts to net other members of the gang.

117,000 cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 117,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 64,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1529.16 feet and was 131.16 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 34,300 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1187.75 feet, which was 137.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,900 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 64,300, 45,600, 37,400 and 6,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 13,700 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,700 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Shepherd safely rescued

RAWALPINDI (APP): A young shepherd trapped in a mountain pit was safely rescued by the District Emergency Service Rescue 1122 in Kalar Syedan. The trapped boy was recovered after 20 hours of intense efforts by 1122 service. According to the details, a 12 year old Tayyeb was herding his goats in the remote mountainous area of Kahuta when he slipped into an unseen hole and got his leg trapped. The resident of Jhamitri village, the boy couldn't manage to pull him out of the pit and further lowered down.

Ambassador urges for strengthening Pak-Iraq trade

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Ambassador of Iraq, Hamid Abbas Lafta on Thursday reiterated his country's resolve to enhance its bilateral trade with Pakistani in a range of business and investment areas.

He underlined the need to increase the exchange of trade delegations between the two countries. The ambassador remarked this in his meeting with the top brass of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) which was held during his visit here at the chamber on Thursday.

Ambassador Hamid Abbas while underscoring the shared historical, religious, and diplomatic ties between the two nations, noted that approximately two hundred and fifty thousand Pakistani pilgrims

travel to Iraq annually, especially to Najaf and Karbala (Arbaein), demonstrating the significant movement of people between the two countries.

While pointing to the low trade volume between Pakistan and Iraq, he highlighted the opportunity for increased commerce.

He also commended the quality of Pakistani products and encouraged the business community to enhance product marketing efforts.

Appreciating the role of RCCI in strengthening bilateral trade ties, the ambassador assured the RCCI of Iraq's support in facilitating the participation of Pakistani businesses in Iraqi exhibitions and trade delegations to expand trade and economic collaboration.

Earlier, in his welcome

address, President Usman Shaukat highlighted that the current bilateral trade volume was approximately \$240 million. Usman emphasised untapped potential in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, food, and energy.

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to deepen commercial ties and foster a stronger economic partnership between Iraq and Pakistan.

Ambassador Lafta was accompanied by Ayad Ayub Saadi and Shabbaz Ahmed whereas the RCCI team including Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, and Executive Committee members attended the meeting. Later, RCCI President Usman Shaukat presented the chamber memento to the Iraqi envoy.

Fake SPU officer escapes with rifle in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): A man impersonating as an officer of the Special Protection Unit (SPU) managed to escape with an SMG rifle and a reflector jacket from the Islamabad Police Headquarters.

According to information, a case has been registered against the individual at the Secretariat Police Station, as suspicions arise that the same firearm may have been used in recent bank heists within the city.

According to the First Information Report (FIR) filed by Security Division In-Charge ASI Ali Sher, the suspect arrived at the headquarters dressed in a police uniform, displaying a name tag marked "Dilawar" and belt number "283." Claiming to be deployed with the SPU, he provided a fake mobile number and signed off on receiving the

SMG rifle with serial number 2183 and a reflector jacket on October 19, intended for use during a VIP security route.

It is suspected that this weapon may have been used in recent bank robberies in Islamabad. Following the incident, security in the city has been heightened, with police checkpoints set up at various points across Islamabad. Authorities are conducting strict checks, especially on motorcycle riders wearing green helmets, affiliated with a specific bike service company.

This incident raises concerns over the safety of citizens in Islamabad, especially given recent bank robberies in sectors G-9 and G-14, which have cast doubt on police effectiveness. Despite the presence of thousands of Safe City cam-

eras, armed robbers have managed to escape easily, questioning the performance of the Safe City project and its overseeing DIG.

Malik Khizer, a resident of Islamabad, expressed his concerns over the city's security situation, saying, "Islamabad is no longer safe. My Honda 125 was stolen from outside my house, and it has yet to be recovered."

Fazl ur Rahman Malik, a resident of Sector G-13 in Islamabad, voiced his concerns over the city's rising crime rate, saying, "With the increasing incidents of crime in Islamabad, we are now afraid to even leave our homes. Residents of Islamabad have voiced their concerns over the situation and called for swift police action to improve security and restore peace in the city."

Daily waste surpasses 600 tons:

Representatives seek collective solutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Institute of Urbanism (IoU) held a town hall meeting in Islamabad to tackle the city's 600-ton daily waste issue, bringing together community leaders and policymakers to promote sustainable, community-led waste management solutions.

A town hall meeting titled "Empowered Communities: A Town Hall on Waste Management Responsibilities," co-hosted by Heinrich Böll Stiftung (hbs), brought together community representatives, policymakers, and CDA Sanitation Directorate staff to explore sustainable solutions for Islamabad's growing waste issues, especially in Farash Town and I-10.

Islamabad generates about 600 tons of waste daily, with approximately 60% either openly burned or dumped in unmanaged sites. This poses significant risks to both environmental and public health. Only 15% of the waste is recycled, underscoring the urgent need for enhanced resource recovery and sustainability measures.

Dr. Ejaz Ahmad, Senior Program Fellow at IoU, outlined the national crisis, stating, "Around 48.5 million tons of solid waste is

generated annually, with an annual growth rate of 2.4%."

Major cities contribute significantly, yet only 60-70% of urban waste is collected. The lack of sanitary landfill sites, inconsistent data, and absence of formal source segregation are major challenges."

He emphasized the health impact, noting that waste contributes around 3% of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions and leads to approximately 5 million cases of waste-related illnesses and deaths each year.

Through initiatives like Community Councils in Farash Town and I-10, IoU has empowered residents to take an active role in managing waste. These councils aim to foster local leadership and community-driven solutions, encouraging shared responsibility and sustainable practices.

Sardar Khan Zimiri, from CDA, officer underscored the importance of collective action: "Effective waste management is not solely the responsibility of government institutions; it requires commitment from all of us. Working together, we can create a cleaner and healthier environment for

future generations."

He added, "Communities must lead the way in driving positive change. When we engage collectively, we can transform our neighborhoods into sustainable spaces."

Participants shared their experiences, emphasizing the need for community involvement. Yaseen Abbasi, a resident of I-10, remarked, "Our commitment to environmental health must begin with individual and collective efforts. Only through shared responsibility can we make a lasting impact on waste management."

Ms. Yasmeen Akhtar from Farash Town echoed this, stating, "Addressing waste challenges requires an inclusive approach that values community voices and engagement. Our active participation is essential for meaningful change."

IoU reaffirmed their commitment to working alongside community councils and local authorities to improve waste management practices in Islamabad. The event concluded with a networking session, solidifying partnerships and shared commitments towards a sustainable future for Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Minister Kashmir Affairs Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Amir Muqam meeting with PML-N leadership Azad Jammu Kashmir.

ICT admin's drive against beggars in full swing

ISLAMABAD (APP): The action against begging in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) is being taken on daily basis to purge the city of the professional baggers, said the district administration on Thursday.

The district administration noted in a news release that the crackdown against the panhandlers were launched in line with the directives of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon.

So far, more than 58 beggars have been arrested from across the city during the daily action which is being taken on the directives of the DC Islamabad who directed all the Assistant Commissioners to ensure daily crackdown on them.

According to the district administration, steps were being taken to ensure special monitoring on traffic signals to take action against the beggars.

The DC Islamabad has appealed the citizens to support the district administration in taking action against such elements.

FBR launches advance stock register system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Thursday launched an advanced Stock Register system via the Information Center 2.0 platform to provide officers real-time, in-depth access to registered persons' data, bolstering transparency and securing compliance with Income Tax (IT) and Sales Tax (ST) regulations.

The board has launched the system under the direction of the Chairman FBR and as part of FBR's comprehensive digitalization efforts to optimize tax administration and boost revenue collection, said a news release.

The system functions as a sophisticated management information and reporting system, empowering tax officers to securely retrieve detailed stock data to facilitate precise tax assessments and mitigate the risk of tax evasion.

The system centralizes taxpayer profiles, offering thorough views of IT & ST filing histories, summaries, and authorized representative profiles. This integrated access is further strengthened by tax and declaration comparisons, providing comprehensive oversight capabilities.

By meticulously recording stock movements and capturing essential details such as quantities, valuations, and transaction dates, the system enables tax officers to enforce regulatory compliance and validate accurate stock and compliance reports. The Information Center 2.0 portal enhances FBR's capacity to strengthen national exchequer.

The platform integrates diverse data streams, including ST annexures, Customs import details, reports on taxpayers as withholding/ withholding agents, and establishing an efficient and holistic framework for tax oversight.

Accessible exclusively through the IRIS tax officers' platform at FBR field formations, Information Center 2.0 features advanced filters and search functionalities, enabling swift data retrieval to support compliance and precise assessments.

Chairman PMYP discusses to explore Google initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan has pledged full support, paving the way for innovative Google projects and opportunities.

During a meeting with Google Developers Group team members here at his office, he discussed the ways to enhance education, employment, engagement, and environmental conservation for Pakistan's youth.

The meeting aimed to explore Google initiatives for youth and forge a stronger collaboration between Google and PMYP.

Meanwhile, the Chairman PMYP extended warm congratulations to the Pakistani twin sisters Manisha Ali and Maliha Ali for winning gold and bronze medals at the 6th Asian Taekwondo Championship in Indonesia.

Manisha Ali secured the gold medal in the over 73kg category while Maliha Ali, representing Pakistan won a bronze medal in the 73kg category.

Expressing immense pleasure in their victory, Mashhood said that

stronger collaboration between Google and PMYP.

Manisha and Maliha's incredible talent and dedication had earned the highest honour for the country. "We're proud of both of you for your outstanding achievement and your perseverance".

The Chairman emphasized the importance of sports in promoting unity, resilience, and national pride and reiterated the Government's commitment to providing all necessary resources and support to empower and enhance Pakistan's standing in the world of sports.

Experts sound alarm on rising Dengue cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the number of Dengue fever cases continues to surge in various cities, child specialists Thursday sounded the alarm on the rising incidence of Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS), a potentially life-threatening complication of the disease and emphasizing the critical importance of early clinical prevention and community involvement.

Child specialist Dr. Khalid Iqbal urged the media to join forces in spreading awareness about the gravity of the situation and the simple yet effective measures that can be taken to prevent the spread of Dengue. By highlighting the importance of maintaining a clean environment, eliminating breeding sites of mosquitoes and adopting preventive measures the

media can help stem the tide of the outbreak, he added.

He underscores that early clinical prevention is crucial in controlling the rising cases of Dengue Shock Syndrome. This includes prompt diagnosis, timely medical intervention and monitoring of patients.

He stressed the need for parents to remain vigilant, recognizing early warning signs of Dengue and seeking immediate medical attention if symptoms persist or worsen.

By working together, we can mitigate the impact of Dengue and protect our children from the deadly clutches of Dengue Shock Syndrome, he mentioned.

He described the symptoms that Dengue Shock Syndrome is a severe and potentially life-threatening

complication of Dengue fever, adding that children are more susceptible to developing DSS due to their smaller body size and developing immune system. The symptoms of DSS in kids may include high temperature, and swelling of the face, arms, legs, and abdomen due to fluid accumulation.

Another specialist Dr. Ashraf Memon added that prompt recognition of these symptoms and timely medical intervention are critical in managing DSS. If you suspect your child has Dengue fever or is developing DSS, seek immediate medical attention.

Remember, prevention and early detection are key to protecting children from the devastating consequences of Dengue Shock Syndrome, he concluded.

Ambassador bid farewell to dignitaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, WADA Mitsuhiro has hosted a reception at his Official residence in Islamabad to bid farewell to Pakistani dignitaries and friends. Ambassador WADA is going to leave Pakistan on 19th November and will take up his new assignment as Ambassador of Japan to Croatia. He assumed his office in October 2021, since when he has served as the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan for more than three years.

Looking back at his tenure, Ambassador WADA said, 'Pakistan is a country that is very friendly to Japan. But I've tried not to take this for granted and have made various efforts in economic cooperation, cultural exchange and personal interaction to further deepen the historical ties between our two countries.'

This year marks the 70th anniversary of Japan's official development assistance (ODA) to Pakistan.

Ambassador WADA reiterated the importance of human aspects in Japan's ODA, saying, 'we always seek to work together with the local people and eventually encourage them to stand on their own. Rather than just providing money or goods, JICA tries to run alongside the Pakistanis and help them become the driving force of development. The key is the people, and Pakistan is blessed with such talents.'

He also mentioned the significance of cultural and people-to-people exchange and hoped that cultural organizations such as Pakistan Japan Cultural Association, Lahore Arts Foundation Trust, Lahore Sogetsu Study Group and Lahore Bonsai Society, as well as those who had studied in Japan including the MEXT Scholarship alumni, will continue bridging the gap between Pakistan and Japan, he added.

Ambassador WADA further stressed that he had met a lot of wonderful people who worked passionately to strengthen Japan-Pakistan relations. He said, 'I am now convinced that without the support of these great people,

the friendship between Japan and Pakistan would have been impossible. I am deeply grateful to all of you.'

Referring to the difficult political, economic and security situations in Pakistan today, Ambassador WADA firmly said, 'I know very well how patient and resilient the Pakistani people are and how big the potential of this country is.'

Once the elite – politicians, the judiciary, the establishment and others – and the common people come together on the same cause and work hard to solve the problems, I do not doubt that Pakistan will overcome these difficulties and firmly develop in the long term.'

Dry weather to continue till November 9

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Meteorologist at Pakistan Meteorological Department Dr. Sardar Sarfaraz Thursday predicted that the country will further experience dry weather till November 9 exacerbated by climate change and this weather condition will delay wheat and crop cultivation, typically planted during this period.

Dr. Sardar Sarfaraz revealed in an interview with a private news channel that hot and dry weather across most parts of the country and hilly areas will experience colder temperatures, while morning fog and smog may affect some plain areas of Punjab. Pakistan's hottest months usually occur in May, June, and October, he said, adding, however, this year's October stood out as exceptionally hot and dry, surpassing previous records.

Chief Meteorologist warned that Pakistan's wheat crop cultivation will experience delays this year due to the ongoing dry weather. Sarfaraz, predicted a significant temperature drop in the country during the second week of November.



RAWALPINDI: A vendor slices and arranges fresh citrus fruits onto plates outside Benazir Hospital.

3 miners die in Badakhshan

BADAKHSHAN (Khaama Press): Officials in Badakhshan have reported the deaths of three workers following the collapse of a gold-washing site in the Arghanjkhwa district. Ehsanullah Kamgar, spokesperson for police command said that the incident took place at a gold-washing workshop in the Taqarcha area of Arghanjkhwa district. After several hours of effort, the bodies of the workers were recovered from the debris and handed over to their families.

Rail trade with Afghanistan

NANTONG CITY, China (Ariana News): China resumed its direct freight rail services to Afghanistan on Thursday when a train loaded with goods left Nantong city in Jiangsu province. The train, carrying commercial goods in 55 wagons, is heading for the northern Hairatan border in Balkh province, Yue Xiaoyong, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Special Representative for Afghanistan, said in a post on X.

Asia is comparable to a living body composed of soil and water. The heart that beats inside the body is Afghanistan. The destruction of Afghanistan would be the destruction of Asia. And in its progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia. - Allama Iqbal

Japan-funded health center opened

NIMROZ (TOLOnews): A health center, funded by Japan and implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has been inaugurated in Zaranj, the capital of Nimroz.

This center, built at a cost of nearly \$160,000 in the Siah Cheshman area of Zaranj, aims to alleviate some of the healthcare challenges faced by local residents.

Arafat Jamal, Head of UNHCR in Afghanistan, stated: "There are still many more needs in Nimroz. While it is an honor to inaugurate these projects today, I know that there is much more to be

done. This clinic has been funded by the people of Japan."

Meanwhile, the Deputy Governor of Nimroz emphasized that health centers are a basic need for the province's residents.

Sayed Suleiman Agha Baheer, the Deputy Governor of Nimroz, said: "Such services should be expanded across all desert and rural areas, especially in Zaranj. We fully cooperate with those who seek to provide such services."

Local residents also told TOLOnews reporters about the significant challenges they face in accessing healthcare for their

patients.

Abdul Nasir, a resident of Nimroz, said: "Due to the lack of a clinic, we faced many difficulties, and there was no clinic in our area."

Mohammad Daoud, another resident of Nimroz, added: "Our problem was the lack of a clinic, which greatly troubled people. But now, with the establishment of this clinic, we hope to have some relief."

Nimroz is a province where residents in remote areas have limited access to healthcare services. Residents of these areas urge the responsible authorities to pay serious attention to their needs as well.

WFP alerts of declining groundwater levels

KABUL (Khaama Press): The World Food Program (WFP) has announced that the declining groundwater levels in Afghanistan are posing a severe threat to the citizens. On Thursday, WFP shared a message on its X page, warning about the concerning drop in Afghanistan's groundwater levels.

According to the WFP, this alarming situation reflects the harsh realities of Afghanistan's climate crisis, as water resources continue to dwindle.

Previously, UNICEF also highlighted Afghanistan's severe water scarcity crisis, calling for urgent action to address this escalating issue. UNICEF warned that if preventive measures are not taken, Kabul's groundwater could be depleted by 2030.

The organization has attributed the rapid depletion of Kabul's groundwater to fast urbanization and climate change.

Afghanistan is recognized as one of the countries most affected by climate change, facing severe challenges in adapting to shifting environmental conditions.

Education ban puts Afghan girls at risk: Chief

KABUL (Khaama Press): The head of UNICEF, Catherine Russell, has warned that Afghan girls deprived of education and their rights face limited prospects beyond early marriage.

In a message shared on Wednesday on the social media platform X, Russell wrote that the voices of Afghan women are being silenced, and their dreams denied.

Her message stated, "Those excluded from schools are confined to their homes and stripped of their rights, with little future beyond early marriage."

Russell emphasized that no country can progress without the participation of half its population.

She called on the global community to raise its voice in support of Afghan women and girls, urging unified advocacy for their rights and education.

The ban on girls' education above sixth grade and in universities has severely limited Afghan women's job and economic opportunities, negatively impacting their lives by suppressing their aspirations and potential.

According to a recent UN survey, Taliban policies have altered family attitudes toward girls' education in Afghanistan, with fears of the Taliban and strengthened patriarchal norms leading to reduced support for girls' education.

A detailed report with final findings will be released upon the conclusion of the investigation.

Govt officials pledge full efforts in serving citizens



KABUL (BNA): Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi, Deputy PM of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan met yesterday with several mujahideen from Badghis province. In the meeting, these mujahideen provided information to Deputy Prime Minister about the general situation and the state of mujahideen in that province.

The Presidential Palace, in a statement, reported that

They highlighted education, health, transportation routes, and developmental projects, requesting special attention from the officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in these areas.

For hie prpt, Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi reiterated that ensuring the security and peace of the people and serving the country's

citizens are responsibilities of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

He assured that officials will make every effort in this regard.

In the end, the Deputy PM emphasized that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan will address the issues raised by them, taking into account the available resources.

NDMA and AK Foundation sign MoU for housing uplift initiatives

KABUL (BNA): Alhaji, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, Acting Head of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Esmatullah Esmati, Legal and Communications Officer of the Aga Khan Foundation for Habitat.

According to a statement release from the National Disaster Management Authority, based on this

agreement, the Aga Khan Foundation for Habitat will implement a program worth over \$65,000 US dollars, providing food aid to nearly 19,000 eligible families across 11 districts in Badakhshan province.

During the signing, the head of the National Disaster Management Authority stated that organizations conduct surveys or distributions in each province. In coordination

with I.E.A. principles and framework, the foundation collaborates with them, as it has offices in each province and works with relief organizations.

The Legal and Communications Officer of the Aga Khan Foundation for Habitat added that this organization assists people in various fields. Currently, it is distributing food aid worth over \$65,000 US dollars, funded by the

World Food Programme, across 11 districts in Badakhshan. These districts include Argo, Ishkashim, Khowhan, Darwaz Bala, Darwaz Payin, Zebak, Shekay, Shughnan, Wakhan, Warduj, and Kofab.

This aid includes 50 kg of flour, 4.5 liters of oil, 6.5 kg of split peas, 0.5 kg of salt, and nutritional supplements for children and lactating mothers.

Herat Police crack down on kidnappers — rescuing abducted boy



HERAT (BNA): The Ministry of Interior has reported the successful rescue of a boy named Abdullah, who had been kidnapped by human traffickers more than a year ago.

In a press briefing, ministry spokesman Mufti Abdul Matin Qani stated that personnel from the Herat provincial police carried out a series of investigative operations that led to the boy's recovery.

Abdullah had been

abducted from the 10th district of Kandahar City and was reunited with his family by the Herat Police Command's security forces.

Further investigations revealed that the child was initially taken from Herat and subsequently transported to Pakistan, where he was located and rescued by the security forces.

Qani confirmed that the individuals responsible for the abduction have been

arrested while attempting to transfer the boy back to Herat.

The father of the nine-year-old victim recounted that his son was kidnapped during the early days of last year's earthquake while he was at work.

He expressed profound gratitude to the police for the safe return of his child and urged the public to collaborate with security forces to prevent such incidents.

IEA delegation probes casualties near Iran border

KABUL (BNA): The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has shared initial findings regarding the reported casualties of Afghan civilians along the Iran border.

Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat, Deputy Spokesman for the Islamic Emirate, announced that a high-level delegation led by Deputy Minister of Interior Security, Mullah Mohammad Ibrahim Sadr, including officials from the Ministries of National Defense, Foreign Affairs, Borders

and Tribal Affairs, as well as the Intelligence Directorate has been deployed to investigate the incident.

Based on preliminary evidence, Spokesman Fitrat stated that explosions and gunfire impacted several Afghan nationals in the Kalkan Valley within Iranian territory. The delegation has thus far recovered the remains of two deceased individuals and repatriated 34 eyewitnesses, some of whom sustained injuries in the inci-

dent.

Additional Afghan nationals affected by the incident are still in Iran, with the delegation actively working to locate and facilitate their return.

Spokesman Fitrat emphasized that the investigation is ongoing, and the delegation continues its work to gather comprehensive evidence.

A detailed report with final findings will be released upon the conclusion of the investigation.

Mazar-e-Sharif launches 20 development projects



MAZAR-E-SHARIF (TOLOnews): The Mazar-e-Sharif municipality has announced that 20 development projects worth 200 million Afghanis, funded by the municipality's budget, are underway throughout the city and have created job opportunities for hundreds of people. Mohammad Javid

Mayar, the Head of Municipal Services at Mazar-e-Sharif Municipality, assured that efforts are also underway to implement several other projects by the end of the solar year.

Mayar said: "The value of these nearly twenty projects I mentioned is over 200 million

Afghanis, and more than 600 people are employed in these projects."

Fida Mohammad, a worker on one of the projects, said: "We have been working here for about two weeks, and we are happy about it."

Residents of Mazar-e-Sharif consider the implementation of these projects

effective in enhancing the city's beauty, but they also request that more projects be carried out.

Mirajuddin, a resident of Mazar-e-Sharif, said: "Last year, many projects were implemented, and we benefited greatly from them, making things much easier for people."

Khodadad, another resident, expressed his appreciation: "We are grateful to the municipal staff and the people who have cooperated with the municipality, and God willing, this progress will continue."

According to the Head of Municipal Services at Mazar-e-Sharif Municipality, an additional 23 projects are planned for implementation in the city's 12 districts from the municipality's development budget by the end of the current solar year.

These projects are expected to further enhance the city's beauty and development, as well as create job opportunities for hundreds of people.

the country's citizens.

Abdul Rahman Habib, spokesperson for the Ministry of Economy, stated, "Support from international organizations and NGOs for small and medium enterprises plays a crucial role in creating job opportunities, economically empowering families, building capacities, and providing professional training in trade development and marketing in various

provinces, which gradually helps to reduce poverty."

Additionally, the Afghanistan Chamber of Industry and Mines underscored the impact of such programs, emphasizing the need for professional and vocationally skilled individuals in various fields to meet market and production demands.

The Ministries of

Labor and Social Affairs, Economy, and Industry and Commerce, all part of the interim government, periodically sign cooperation agreements with both international and domestic organizations to promote small and medium enterprises, empower women, support small businesses, and deliver vocational training programs across a variety of fields.

the six newborns who passed away in Jawzjan. Today, the office shared news of the financial support given to Aminullah, the father of the infants.

Officials at Shukran Private Hospital in Jawzjan had earlier, on Monday, reported that a woman in the province had given birth to sextuplets.

Multiple births have occurred in various provinces across Afghanistan before, particularly in the northern regions.

Afghanistan, however,

ranks among the countries in Asia with the highest maternal and infant mortality rates. The tragic loss of the sextuplets highlights the limited healthcare resources and medical facilities available in Afghanistan, especially for vulnerable cases such as high-risk births. Community and humanitarian support are essential to aid families like Aminullah's in coping with such difficult circumstances.

Sextuplets born in Afghanistan's Jawzjan die shortly after birth

JAWZJAN (Khaama Press): The six newborn sextuplets, who were born three days ago in Afghanistan's Jawzjan province, have passed away.

The father, Aminullah, stated that all six infants died on Wednesday due to medical complications.

The sextuplets included two boys and four girls.

Officials at a private hospital in Jawzjan, where the babies were born, had initially described the health condition of both the newborns and their

mother as stable, noting that all six infants appeared healthy.

However, today, Aminullah shared that his wife remains under medical care as she recovers from the demanding birth.

Aminullah also expressed that he is facing financial difficulties and is in urgent need of assistance to support his family.

The Office of the Prime Minister of the Taliban announced that it has provided 250,000 Afghanis in assistance to the family of

the six newborns who passed away in Jawzjan.

Today, the office shared news of the financial support given to Aminullah, the father of the infants.

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Multiple births have occurred in various provinces across Afghanistan before, particularly in the northern regions.

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MADRID: People working to clear a mud-covered street with piled up cars in aftermath of torrential rains that caused flooding, in Paiporta, Spain.

Air quality worsens Punjab government sends schoolchildren on holidays

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The government of Pakistan's northeastern Punjab province on Thursday ordered all special education schools in Lahore to send students with conditions susceptible to poor air on a three-month leave from Friday as a deadly smog has already started to choke the provincial capital.

On Thursday, Lahore recorded an alarming Air Quality Index (AQI) of 201 — the second highest in the world, as the government has declared smog a “calamity.” The government, according to a notification, has banned several pollution-causing activities across the province, including burning any type of crop residue, solid waste, tires, rubber and plastics, as well as vehicles emitting visible smoke and pollutants falling into inadmissible limits.

The early strike by the smog this year also prompted Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to seek coordination with the neighboring Indian Punjab, which, along with the national capital Delhi, has long been facing the same problem. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Pakistan in its latest report has made a string of medium and long-term recommendations to tackle the smog-related issues

They include the capacity-building of farmers on crop residue management, promoting renewable energy sources and enforcing compliance in the industrial sector, use of low-cost sensor-based monitoring systems, which can effectively measure pollutants, mandatory vehicular emission testing, and integrated traffic management. The report found that key contributors to worsening air quality included vehicular emissions, crop residue burning, industrial processes, and coal combustion. It also lays out a plan to promote electric vehicles (EVs), enhance sustainable development models, segregate industrial zones, expand mass transit networks, and switch to renewable energy sources.

Meanwhile, Lahore's air quality is continuing to worsen, resulting in serious impacts to the health of Lahore's citizens, while also posing a threat to biodiversity. On Monday this week, Lahore's Air Quality Index reached an all-time high on the Air Quality Index (AQI). The level of harmful pollutants in the air is increasing and raising serious concerns. To improve the city's air quality, WWF-Pakistan has published policy recommendations and

shared strategic insights gathered from the collection and analysis of the air quality data published from 2013-2024. The data underscores that the city's air quality is severely degraded and air pollution levels remain high throughout the year. The report found that key contributors to worsening air quality included vehicular emissions, crop residue burning, industrial processes, and coal combustion.

To tackle these challenges, WWF-Pakistan said that worsening air quality in its recent report. The report lays out a plan to promote electric vehicles (EV), enhance sustainable development models, segregate industrial zones, expand mass transit networks, and switch to renewable energy sources.

Commenting on the study, Hammad Naqi Khan, Director General WWF-Pakistan, said that worsening air quality and persistent smog is a serious issue not only for the people but also the biodiversity, especially birds and other animals. “The adoption of electric vehicles can help reduce vehicular emissions that lead to poor air quality. However, financial subsidies and establishing EV charging infrastructure are essential for the transition to electric vehicles” he added.

The report also recommends the widespread use of low-cost sensor-based monitoring systems, which can effectively measure pollutants and are relatively economical, thereby filling the gaps in air quality monitoring infrastructure. Khan stated that “These low-cost air quality monitoring systems can be used to identify air pollution hotspots and can also be synchronized with traffic management. For example, the provision of alternate routes to avoid traffic congestion or prohibiting heavy transport vehicles in certain areas can reduce localised emissions in the already compromised air quality.”

The report indicates that fine particulate matter such as PM2.5, carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and sulphur dioxide (SO2) are among the most harmful pollutants affecting public health. Lahore's population, exceeding 13 million residents, faces serious health risks due to the deteriorating air quality. Sohail Ali Naqvi, Director Freshwater Programme, WWF-Pakistan, stated “Lahore consistently ranks among the most polluted cities globally with high concentration of pollutants.

Sharjeel greet PBA newly elected officials



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Senior Minister of Sindh and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, congratulated the newly elected officials of the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), stating that the leadership of the PBA will promote ethical journalism and broadcasting in the industry.

In a congratulatory message, Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon emphasized that the role of the PBA in supporting freedom of expression cannot be forgotten. He added that the government prioritizes resolving the issues faced by the journalist community in consultation with the Sindh Pakistan Broadcasters Association. The government will continue to take steps to protect the rights of journalists in Sindh.

Pak Navy ship saves stranded fishing Dhow

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship ZULFIQAR while deployed on Regional Maritime Security Patrol rescued an Iranian Fishing Dhow Al Muhmmadi with 23 fishermen onboard, stranded over 1200 Nautical Miles from its home port.

PNS ZULFIQAR promptly responded to distress call of Fishing Dhow AL MUHAMMADI. Upon communication with Pakistan Navy Ship, Fishing Dhow reported a seriously injured crew member as well defective engine and requested for necessary assistance. PNS ZULFIQAR swiftly responded and dispatched its medical and technical teams which provided First Aid to the injured fisherman who had severely injured his hand while repairing the boat's engine. Two more sick crew members were examined and provided medical assistance. In addition, ship's team also repaired the boat's engine.

CJP appoints important staff to his office

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi Thursday appointed important staff to his office. As per details, senior private secretary Muhammad Yasin has been appointed secretary to CJP Justice Yahya Afridi, while senior private secretary Muhammad Arif has been appointed executive officer to CJP Afridi.

The sources further said that new registrar SC will also be appointed soon. Justice Yahya Afridi was sworn in as the 30th chief justice of Pakistan, last week. He was administered the oath of office by President Asif Zardari during a ceremony at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir were also in attendance, along with all judges of the apex court.

Death toll from Spanish floods tops 155

VALENCIA (Reuters): Rescue teams discovered the bodies of eight people on Thursday who had been trapped in a garage after devastating flash floods hit eastern Spain, as the death toll in the Valencia region alone climbed to 155.

Local authorities have not disclosed how many people are still unaccounted for after Europe's deadliest floods in years and Defence Minister Margarita Robles said the final national death toll could be much greater. Opposition politicians accused the central government in Madrid of acting too slowly to warn residents and send in rescue teams, prompting the Interior Ministry to say regional authorities were responsible for civil protection measures.

Valencia Mayor Maria Jose Catala told reporters that a local policeman was among the eight bodies found drowned in the garage in the city's suburb of La Torre. In the same neighbourhood, she added, a 45-year-old woman was also found dead in her home. “Those people wouldn't have died if they had been warned in time,” Laura Villaescusa, a neighbour and manager of a local supermarket, told Reuters.

Meteorologists have said a year's worth of rain fell in eight hours in parts of Valencia on Tuesday. The floods have battered Valencia's infrastructure, sweeping away bridges, roads and rail tracks and submerging farmland in a region that produces about two-thirds of the citrus fruit grown in Spain, a leading global exporter of oranges.

Thousands of people carrying bags or pushing shopping trolleys could be

seen on Thursday crossing a pedestrian bridge over the Turia river from La Torre into Valencia city centre to stock up on essential supplies such as toilet paper and water. Maribel Albalat, mayor of the nearby town of Paiporta, said they had never received warning of the imminent danger of flooding. She said 62 people had died in her town. “We found a lot of elderly people inside their homes and people who went to get their cars. It was a trap,” she told TVE.

In Godelleta, a town 37 km (23 miles) west of Valencia city, Antonio Molina, 52, described how he survived a flash flood on Tuesday evening by clinging to a pillar on a neighbour's porch with water up to his neck till the heavy rain finally subsided. His dog was later found alive swimming in the water, while his wife and son saved themselves by reaching the upper floor of their home.

Molina's home had already suffered two major floods in 2018 and 2020 and he blamed authorities for allowing construction of residential buildings in depressions where water accumulates. “We don't want to live here anymore,” he said, tearfully. “As soon as we get a couple of raindrops, we're already checking our phones.” About 80 km (50 miles) of roads in the eastern region were seriously damaged or impassable, said Transport Minister Oscar Puente. Many were blocked by abandoned cars.

“Unfortunately there are dead bodies in some vehicles,” Puente told reporters, adding that it would take two to three weeks to re-establish the

high-speed train connection between Valencia and Madrid. Visiting a rescue coordination centre near Valencia city, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez urged people to stay at home due to the threat of more stormy weather.

“Right now the most important thing is to safeguard as many lives as possible,” he told reporters. In the hard-hit rural town of Utiel, some 85 km (53 miles) inland, the Magro river burst its banks, sending up to three metres (9.8 feet) of water into the mostly single-storey homes. Utiel's mayor, Ricardo Gabaldon, said at least six people had died in the town of about 12,000, most of them elderly or disabled people who were unable to clamber to safety.

Residents used water pumps carried on tractors as they started to clean up early on Thursday, with children helping to sweep the sidewalks. Ruined household appliances and furniture were piled up in the middle of roads and elderly people struggled to walk in the slippery, mud-coated streets. Pope Francis said he was praying for the people of the region. “I'm close to them in this moment of catastrophe,” he said in a video posted on X.

As climate change is linked to more frequent bouts of extreme weather, Hannah Cloke, a professor of hydrology at Britain's University of Reading, said the Valencia floods showed the need for greater public awareness of the dangers. “We could see that people were putting themselves at risk driving in flood waters and there was just so much water that it has overwhelmed these places,” she said.

Ukraine prepares to fight N Korean troops in Kursk

KYIV: Ukraine prepared to fight North Korean troops in the Russian region of Kursk, as the entry of a second nuclear power in Russia's war against Ukraine threatened to escalate and broaden the conflict. The United States Pentagon confirmed on Tuesday that North Korean troops were in Kursk, where Ukraine launched a counter-invasion almost three months ago.

Pentagon spokesman Pat Ryder said there was “a small number [of North Korean troops] in the Kursk oblast, with a couple of thousand more that are almost there or due to arrive imminently”. A senior South Korean official told reporters on Wednesday that about 3,000 North Korean troops were being moved close to the front lines. NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte confirmed the deployment on Monday. “Today I can confirm that North Korean troops have been sent to Russia and that North Korean army units are deployed to the Kursk region,” he told reporters.

He called it “a significant escalation in the [Democratic People's Republic of Korea's] ongoing involvement in Russia's illegal war”, and “a dangerous expansion of Russia's war”. Ryder confirmed that North Korea had sent a total of 10,000 troops for training in eastern Russia. South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence last week suggested the number could be as high as 12,000. The extent to which these troops could help Russia's war effort is unclear because Russian personnel requirements are enormous. Ukrainian ground forces commander Oleksandr Pavlyuk said via Telegram on Sunday that an estimated 10,520 Russians were dead or wounded in the preceding week.

In Kursk alone, Russia had suffered 17,800 casualties over the past three months, Ukrainian commander-in-chief Oleksandr Syrskii said on Telegram, including 6,600 killed. North Korea could not make an appreciable difference, said researcher Olena Guseinova in a new study for the Friedrich Naumann Foundation last week. “The regime, in perspective, could potentially provide Russia with an additional 3 to 4 units, comprising 15,000 to

20,000 soldiers of various skills,” she concluded. “Even in such a case, however, North Korean assistance is unlikely to change the overall course of the war.”

The reasons, she said, were political and military. “The deployment of a large number of soldiers poses challenges in controlling their movements on the ground, heightening the possibility of desertion or defection,” Guseinova wrote, requiring “security personnel to closely monitor the troops”. She also said, “North Korea cannot afford to deplete its valuable human resources, particularly given that its primary adversary, South Korea, has a population twice its size.” US messaging on the terms of Ukrainian engagement with North Korean forces was fuzzy, as officials appeared to come to grips with the implications of Washington openly encouraging engagement of a nuclear adversary through proxies.

Asked on Tuesday if he supported Ukraine attacking the North Koreans, US President Joe Biden said: “If they cross into Ukraine, yes.” Asked if Ukraine was at liberty to use US weapons against North Korean troops, Ryder said: “We've been very clear that Ukraine is able to employ those capabilities to defend their sovereign territory from threats that are either emanating from across the border or from inside Ukrainian territory.” On Wednesday, South Korea appeared to pull back from previous suggestions it might assist Ukraine militarily, in retaliation for the North's assistance of Russia.

South Korea's Yonhap News Agency said Seoul would not send 155mm shells to Ukraine, citing sources in the office of President Yoon Suk-yeol. A week earlier, an unnamed South Korean presidential official was quoted by Reuters telling reporters: “We would consider supplying weapons for defensive purposes as part of the step-by-step scenarios, and if it seems they are going too far, we might also consider offensive use.” South Korea will send an intelligence delegation to monitor the military effectiveness of North Korean troops. — Aljazeera

Russia's treaty with Iran will include defense: Lavrov

MOSCOW (Reuters): A treaty that Russia and Iran intend to sign shortly will include closer defense cooperation, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov said on Thursday.

Military ties between the two countries are a source of deep concern to the West as Russia wages war in Ukraine while Iran and Israel have exchanged missile and air strikes in the Middle East. “The treaty on a comprehensive strategic partnership between Russia and Iran that is being prepared will become a serious factor in strengthening Russian-Iranian relations,” Lavrov told state television.

He said the agreement was being prepared for signing “in the near future.” Russia has said it expects Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian to visit Moscow before the end of the year. “It will confirm the parties' desire for closer cooperation in the field of defense and interaction in the interests of peace and security at the regional and global levels,” Lavrov said. He did not specify what form the defense ties would take.

Russia has deepened its ties with Iran and N Korea, which are both strongly antagonistic toward the United States, since the start of its war with Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a similarly titled “comprehensive” treaty in June, including a mutual defense clause, and the US and NATO say Pyongyang has sent some 10,000 soldiers to Russia for possible deployment in the war.

US fails to act on 500 cases where its weapons harmed Gaza civilians

WASHINGTON (Reuters): The United States identified about 500 reports of Gaza civilians being harmed and killed by Israeli forces with US-supplied weapons but has failed to take action on any of them, according to The Washington Post and the Reuters news agency.

The incidents have been collected since October 7, 2023 by the US Department of State's Civilian Harm Incident Response Guidance, a formal mechanism for tracking and assessing any reported misuse of US-origin weapons, the Post reported. Among the cases submitted to the State Department, according to people familiar with the matter, are the January killing of six-year-old Hind Rajab and her family in their car, with pieces of a US-made 120mm tank round purportedly found at the scene.

There were shards of US-made small-diameter bombs photographed at a family's home and at a school sheltering displaced civilians after air attacks in May killed dozens of women and children. And there was the tail fin of a Boeing-manufactured Joint Direct Attack Munition on the scene of a July attack that killed dozens of Palestinians. State Department officials gathered the incidents from public and other sources, including media reports, civil society groups and foreign government contacts.

The mechanism, established in August last year to be applied to all countries that receive US weapons, has three stages: incident analysis, policy impact assessment, and coordinated department action, according to a December internal State

Department cable reviewed by Reuters. None of the Gaza cases had yet reached the third stage of action, said a former US official familiar with the matter. Options, the former official told Reuters, could range from working with Israel's government to help mitigate harm, to suspending existing arms export licences or withholding future approvals.

The administration of President Joe Biden has said it is reasonable to assess that Israel has breached international law in the conflict, but assessing individual incidents was “very difficult work”. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters on Wednesday. “We are conducting those investigations, and we are conducting them thoroughly, and we are conducting them aggressively, but we want to get to the right answer, and it's important that we not jump to a pre-ordained result, and that we not skip any of the work,” Miller said, adding that Washington consistently raises concerns over civilian harm with Israel.

John Ramming Chappell, a legal and policy adviser focused on US security assistance and arms sales at the Center for Civilians in Conflict, told the Post that US officials were “ignoring evidence of widespread civilian harm and atrocities to maintain a policy of virtually unconditional weapons transfers to the [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu government”. “When it comes to the Biden administration's arms policies, everything looks good on paper but has turned out meaningless in practice when it comes to Israel,” he added.

Mike Casey, who worked on Gaza issues at the State Department's Office of Palestinian Affairs in Jerusalem, told the Post that senior officials routinely gave the impression that their goal in discussing any alleged abuse by Israel was to figure out how to frame it in a less negative light. “There's this sense of: ‘How do we make this okay?’” Casey, who resigned in July, was quoted as saying. “There's not, ‘How do we get to the real truth of what's going on here?’” Senior officials, he said, often dismissed the credibility of Palestinian sources, witness accounts, nongovernmental organizations, official accounts from the Palestinian Authority, and even from the United Nations.

William D Hartung, an expert on the arms industry and the US military budget at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, told the newspaper that “it's almost impossible” that Israel is not violating US law “given the level of slaughter that's going on, and the preponderance of US weapons”. Oren Marmorstein, a spokesman for Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, declined to discuss the US inquiries or Washington's efforts to limit civilian harm with the Post. The Israeli military says it makes “significant efforts” to avoid civilian harm but has cited the presence of Hamas fighters among civilians as justification to carry out bombings on schools, hospitals, mosques and tent encampments. Gaza's Ministry of Health says the majority of the 43,163 people killed since October 7 last year have been women and children.