

**Zartaj released from jail**  
**F.P. Report**

MULTAN: PTI MNA Zartaj Gul Wednesday released from jail on court orders. It should be mentioned here that the PTI leader was detained and sent to jail under Section 16 of the MPO. The Multan Bench of Lahore High Court had issued directives of her release the other day. Zartaj Gul's husband had filed a petition in the court after she was taken into custody in D I Khan because of PTI protests.



@thefrontierpost

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXI No. 256 Regd. No. 241 RABI-US-SANNI 06 1446 -- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 2024 PESHAWAR EDITION 12 PAGES PRICE. 30

# No tolerance for parallel courts or armed rebellion

— Mohsin Naqvi warns PTM, its supporters

**Saqib Mushtaq**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday warned that no one would be allowed to establish a parallel judicial system in the country, use foul language against state institutions, or take up arms.

Following the ban on the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), all formalities will be completed, including the cancellation of identity cards, passports, and the closure of political offices and activities. Anyone who attempts to support or assist PTM will also fall under the same ban. A clear message has been sent to those backing PTM that if they act against the country, the same will be done to them, he said. The minister emphasized that rights and taking up arms cannot go hand in hand.

While addressing a press conference at the Ministry of Interior here Wednesday, Mohsin Naqvi stated that while tribal jirgas (councils) have been held before, led by tribal elders, bringing thousands of people to such gatherings is not considered a jirga but something else entirely. The government of Pakistan has decided that no parallel judicial system will be allowed under any circumstances, he said.

He further said that the main rea-

son for the ban on PTM is the party's use of derogatory language against state institutions and the police, as well as inciting division among the nation through ethnic discrimination. While discussing political issues and people's rights is permitted, no one will be allowed to incite people against the institutions.

Naqvi mentioned that it has come to their attention that individuals from one or two political parties, when meeting with PTM leaders, supported them on the issue of rights but also emphasized that rights cannot be discussed while simultaneously taking up arms.

He added that after the ban on PTM, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had placed 54 individuals and the Balochistan government had placed 34 individuals on the Fourth Schedule. According to Pakistani law, anyone who supports PTM in any way will have their identity cards and passports blocked, the minister underlined.

Naqvi noted that such planning has never been carried out in Pakistan before, and it will soon become clear the direction PTM wants to take the nation. He revealed that foreign companies are making documentaries about them, and evidence of their funding will be provided in the coming days.

He reiterated that there is a clear message for those backing PTM; if they do such things against the country, they will face the same consequences. The message to troublemakers is that they would not be pardoned in any way. The interior minister said the state will not remain silent against those using derogatory language against the public and state institutions. He stressed the need to eliminate the perception of a "soft state." He said that the government was ready to talk to those who speak about rights, but not to those who speak against the country.

He concluded by saying that anyone who takes up arms against the state and talks of separation would be considered an enemy, while those who speak within the legal framework, no matter how bitter, will be engaged in dialogue. In response to a question, Naqvi said that the chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should clarify whether or not he met with the IG of Islamabad. "On one hand, it is said that the meeting was avoided, while on the other, it is claimed they met". The Interior Minister emphasized that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government must realize the poor state of law and order in the province, and the police's primary task should be to improve security conditions.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Energy.

## Police dismantle banned PTM's camp

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: The police in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa uprooted a camp set up by the banned Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) to facilitate holding of a three-day Pashtoon Qaumi Jirga in Rigi area of Khyber District late Tuesday night, police sources said. The sources further divulged that the internet service in areas around the Pashtoon Qaumi Jirga venue was also suspended.

The district administration said the camp was dismantled and all the equipment of the banned PTI was seized. The police also made several arrests. Khyber Deputy Commissioner Captain (ret'd) Sanaullah Khan issued an order imposing Section 144 in the district for 30 days.

The Khyber deputy commissioner has also imposed section 144 throughout the district. After the Interior Ministry's declaration to ban the PTM, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief secretary had issued a notification on Tuesday barring provincial government officials and employees from engaging with the PTM's Pashtoon Qaumi Jirga and issued a public warning against any association.

On Sunday, the federal government had slapped a ban on the PTM, citing threats to national peace and security. The party was declared "unlawful" under Section 11B of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) of 1997. A notification issued by the interior ministry mentioned that the PTM posed a "significant danger" to public order and safety in the country. The move comes in the lead-up to the Pashtoon Qaumi Jirga, scheduled for October 11 in Khyber district.

The notification issued by the office of the KP chief secretary also said the PTM had shown its intent to hold an event, adding neither a "proscribed organisation" holding an event nor participation in it were permissible under the law. It ordered that the following instructions be implemented: "Employees of all government departments/attached departments/policy/autonomous and semi-autonomous public sector institutions and their employees are informed, and stand informed, that participation, overt or covert, physically, financially or otherwise in any programme or activity of a proscribed organisation is unlawful and shall be acted against under the law."

## PM approves formation of ISMO

Cabinet body approves independent multiplayer market for power purchase, generation

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on Energy on Wednesday approved the establishment of an independent multiplayer market for power generation and purchase to pave the way for a competitive environment and gradually end the government's role as a sole purchaser of electricity.

The committee, in its meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, principally approved the formation of an Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO) which will be later endorsed by the federal cabinet and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan under the Companies Act 2017, according to a PM Office press release.

The ISMO is aimed at gradually doing away with the government's role as a sole buyer of electricity and turning the electricity market into a multiplayer independent, transparent, and competitive market. It will also allow the power consumers to purchase electricity from suppliers other than power distribution companies.

Under the ISMO, long-term planning would be made to produce low-cost electricity and its transmission besides reducing the

power prices and circular debt. The ISMO Board will comprise the experts from the power sector.

The participants of the meeting were briefed on the circular debt of the power sector. In his remarks, Prime Minister Shehbaz said the priority measures were being taken for the power sector reforms and instructed accelerated actions to reduce power theft and losses besides taking disciplinary action against the employees of the distribution companies involved in the theft.

The prime minister also directed the authorities concerned to utilise modern technology to bring reforms and curb power theft. Federal ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema, Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Leghari, Dr Musaddik Malik, Minister of State Ali Pervaiz Malik, and other members of the committee attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan, States and Frontier Regions (SAF-RON) Engineer Amir Muqam called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. During the meeting, matters related to relevant ministries, overall national and political situation in the country were discussed, PM Office Media Wing

said in a press release.

**PM visits martyred Lt. Col Ali Shaukat's residence for condolence:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited the residence of Lt. Colonel Muhammad Ali Shaukat Shaheed here to offer condolence and pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the security forces to safeguard the country.

Lt. Col Ali Shaukat, along with five security personnel including Lance Naiks Muhammadullah, Akhtar Zaman, Shahidulla, and Yousuf, and a sepoy Jameel Ahmed embraced martyrdom during a fire-fight with the terrorists in the Spinwam area of North Waziristan on October 5, 2024.

During interaction with the bereaved family members, the prime minister conveyed his condolence and offered Fateha for the martyred soul and strength for the family members to bear the loss. He was accompanied by Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar, Advisor to PM Rana Sanaullah, and Senator Talal Chaudhary. The prime minister said that the whole nation saluted its soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the war against terrorism, and also reiterated the government's resolve to root out terrorism from the country.

## Imran to be indicted in GHQ attack case on 19th

**F.P. Report**

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Rawalpindi on Wednesday fixed indictment date of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Founder Imran Khan and others in the General Headquarters (GHQ) attack case.

Justice Amjad Ali Shah of the ATC conducted hearing in May 9 related cases. Both former and inactive names from the PTI including Shireen Mazari, Saddaqt Abbasi, Amjad Khan Niazi and Usman Dar appeared before the court.

The court issued arrest warrants for 31 accused in the GHQ attack case whereas copies of challan were given to the accused including the PTI founder and vice president Shah Mehmood Qureshi. Khan and Qureshi were handed over copies through their lawyers. On the other hand, the PTI leaders and workers accused in cases pertaining to protests on Sept 28 and Oct 4 requested exemption from hearing.

Later, the ATC judge announced that next hearing would be held in the Adiala Jail on Oct 19 where the PTI founder and others would be arraigned.

Meanwhile, following action against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership and workers after their protest at D-Chowk Islamabad, the Islamabad police on Wednesday decided to probe PTI Founder Imran Khan in arson cases.

## Hezbollah repels Israeli incursions as clashes continue

BEIRUT: Israeli forces clashed with Hezbollah fighters across Lebanon's southern border on Wednesday as Israel expanded its invasion force with a fourth division. The two sides exchanged fire early in the day across the Labounh area, near the coastal border town of Naqoura.

It followed two days of Israeli attempts to infiltrate the towns of Maroun Al-Ras, Adaiseh and Kfar Kila, which were subsequently abandoned after clashes with the militant group. Hezbollah said on Wednesday that its fighters "targeted an Israeli infantry unit in Ras Al-Naqoura with a missile barrage." A military source told Arab News: "The Israeli advances and retreats along the border can be categorized as an assessment of Hezbollah's strengths and weaknesses in terms of ground confrontation at the primary defense line."

The Lebanese border region experienced an unprecedented barrage of airstrikes from Tuesday night through Wednesday. Towns along the border have effectively become military zones devoid of civilian populations, with Khiam enduring about 15 airstrikes within a span of 30 minutes. Hezbollah said: "While the Israeli enemy's forces attempted to advance toward Mays Al-Jabal from several locations, the resistance fighters targeted them at 1:30 p.m. with rocket fire and artillery shells, and the clashes are ongoing."

Hezbollah said in a previous statement: "At 1:20 p.m., a group confronted the forces of the Israeli enemy as they advanced from the Tufa plain toward Mays Al-Jabal and Muhayyib with a barrage of rockets." According to its statements this morning, Hezbollah targeted "an Israeli infantry force that tried to infiltrate the Labounh area with a large missile barrage, killing and wounding them." The Israeli army is focused on entering towns situated in highland areas that provide a vantage point into southern Lebanon.

Its activities near Maroun Al-Ras have been particularly significant, with an Israeli unit entering the town between Monday and Tuesday. During the operation, Israeli soldiers hoisted their national flag on the wall of a garden at the eastern edge of the town after clearing the area and uprooting trees. Photographs of the event were taken and shared online before the forces withdrew.

Hezbollah acknowledged the Israeli operation. UNIFIL spokesman Andrea Tenenti described the situation on the ground as "unsafe and unclear." The Israeli army on Tuesday launched a new incursion into Lebanon's western sector led by the 146th Division, which includes the 2nd Brigade and 205th Brigade.

It aims to "execute a targeted ground operation against Hezbollah's infrastructure," and follows

eight days of aerial bombardment over Lebanese territory and warnings for residents in southern villages to move north of the Litani River. In Tebbine, an Israeli drone targeted two motorcycles, as well as a car on the road to the town of Shaqra. For the first time, Israel struck the town of Wardaniyeh in the Iqlim Al-Kharroub region of Mount Lebanon, targeting an apartment.

The area is housing displaced people from southern Lebanon, mainly those who left the border town of Aitaroun. The Ministry of Health reported that the attack killed four people and injured 10 others, including the principal of a local school and his wife. Their children sustained severe injuries. Cautious calm prevailed in Beirut's southern suburb following a series of raids on Tuesday night that targeted several areas in Laylaki, Haret Hreik and Burj Al-Barajneh.

The attacks were preceded by a warning from Israeli army spokesperson Avichay Adraea, who instructed residents of the targeted areas to leave. The southern suburb has become a ghost town, with unprecedented destruction visible near neighborhood landmarks, as well as flames rising from the rubble of flattened buildings. A line of four residential buildings in Burj Al-Barajneh collapsed following the most recent Israeli strikes, and Israeli jets have circled over the area round the clock. — Arab News

## KP police, rescue officials illegally detained in Islamabad: KP CM

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur expressing his grave concerns over the recent incidents happened in Islamabad during the peaceful protest of PTI has said that whatever happened during peaceful protest is deplorable adding that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police personnel along with rescue officials were illegally detained by Islamabad police.

He warned that if torture or any kind of violence proved over detained officials by Islamabad Police and administration, strict action will be taken against them. He further added that rescue machinery of the province was also illegally seized, which is highly condemnable.

He was addressing the cabinet meeting held here on Wednesday at Civil Secretariat, Peshawar.

Ali Amin Gandapur made it clear that as Chief Minister, wherever he

moves, the necessary personnel and equipment will accompany him. He termed the incidents at KP House Islamabad as fascism, stating that provincial government's property was unlawfully damaged, however legal action is being considered in response.

The Chief Minister told that a committee has been formed to assess the damages incurred at KP House, in order to evaluate the volume of the losses. He strongly condemned the illegal actions and fascist behavior of the federal government, emphasizing that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province will not compromise on its constitutional rights and autonomy under the 18th Amendment.

The provincial cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has taken significant decisions during its 15th session held at Civil Secretariat Peshawar, approving important amendments, projects, and reforms aimed at improving law enforcement, prison facilities, healthcare, education, and infrastructure

across the province. Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur chaired the meeting which was attended by Ministers, Advisors, Special Assistants, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan, Additional Chief Secretaries and Administrative Secretaries.

The cabinet has approved vital amendments to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Act, 2017, after identifying several gaps and ambiguities that hinder effective law enforcement. The proposed changes aim to strengthen police capabilities, enhance accountability, improve community-police relations, and address the shortcomings in the current legislation. The purpose of these amendments is to maintain internal discipline, achieve high performance standards, and ensure uniform service delivery. The amendments also incorporate the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Complaint Authority Act 2024,

enabling swift inquiries into complaints against police misconduct.

The cabinet has also approved an increase in the budget for the De-radicalization/Rehabilitation Centre in Merged Districts program, raising the total cost to Rs. 1,763.097 million. This initiative, launched in response to radicalization in the Merged Districts, focuses on rehabilitating detainees from military operations. Two De-radicalization Centres, Sabaoon II in Khyber and Ujala in South Waziristan, have been established. The program offers psychological support, religious education, and vocational training to help individuals reintegrate into society.

To address overcrowding in Sub Jail Swabi, the cabinet has approved a supplementary grant of Rs. 495.00 million for partial operationalization of the under-construction facility. The 130-year-old jail, built in 1894, is currently in a deplorable condition and houses 259 prisoners against a capacity of 130. The construction of

District Jail Swabi (Phase II), which began in 2017 at a cost of Rs. 1,398.00 million, will alleviate these challenges.

In another decision, the cabinet has approved amendments to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Prisons Rules, 2018, enhancing the diet menu for prisoners. Additions include chicken karahi, Rice Joshi, white channa, and lobia. The quantity of atta for breakfast paratha has been increased from 75 grams to 100 grams, while sugar and ghee portions have been increased as well. On auspicious occasions, the menu will now offer chicken along with beef for mid-day and evening meals. For the academic year 2024-25, the cabinet approved the distribution policy for 333 reserved seats in medical and dental colleges across 25 institutions nationwide, allocated for candidates from the erstwhile FATA & FR.

The provincial cabinet has also authorized the reallocation of unutilized loan funds received from the

AFD, currently held by Trans Peshawar, for the completion of remaining works on the BRT project. Of the 31,87429 million disbursed by AFD, 12,8522 million have been used, leaving a balance of 19,0221 million (PKR 5,645 billion), which will now be directed to the Peshawar Development Authority for BRT completion.

The cabinet approved the appointment of the Chairman and members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zakat and Ushr Council. Furthermore, the renaming of Govt. Post Graduate College Khar, Bajaur to Govt. Shaheed Rehaneb College Khar, Bajaur was approved in honor of the martyr. Appointments for Vice Chairman of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment & Trade (KP BOIT) were also confirmed. The cabinet gave its nod to the second revision of the PC-I for the "Feasibility Study and Establishment of Peasantries and Wildlife Parks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa."



## UoP’s partnership with USAID/HESSA for student support appreciated



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The University of Peshawar has solidified its position as a key player in higher education reforms, becoming one of 16 partners in the USAID/Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA). As HESSA enters its fourth year, the project is focused

on integrating essential soft skills into seven key areas. To assess progress, Ms. Asma Mohsin, Program Manager of USAID/HESSA, visited the University of Peshawar on Wednesday. During her visit, she met with the esteemed Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Muhammad Naeem Qazi, and Registrar,

Professor Dr. Yorid Ahsan Zia as well as the focal persons from the seven focal areas including Dr. Shakeel Ahmed, Chairperson Department of Social Work, Prof. Dr. Fazlur Rehman Provost University of Peshawar, Ms. Nadia Ibrahim Department of Psychology, Dr. Jamal Nasir, Deputy Director Student Societies, Eng.

Athar Bangash Additional Director P & D and Mr. Uzair Khan Deputy Director P & D.

Further, Ms. Asma visited the Business Incubation Center where she met Dr. Shakeel Khan Focal Person BIC, College of Home Economics, met with Prof. Dr. Shazia Shah, Principal CHE, and students of the Department of Social Work to observe firsthand the practical initiatives being undertaken to support students and foster university-industry linkages.

HESSA has significantly impacted various aspects of student support and faculty engagement at the University of Peshawar.

The project is being implemented in collaboration with The University of Utah, the University of Alabama, and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, with generous financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

## PTI founder looking for occurrence of new May 9: PPP KP chief

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial president PPP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha has said that under the guise of the protest, the founder of PTI is looking for a new May 9.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, he said that the province is facing serious issues of law and order, but the government machinery has suspended all official responsibilities and is dedicated to destabilizing the country and attacking the federation.

The PPP provincial chief said that the unwise policies and stubbornness based anarchic politics of PT has created serious threats to the federation of Pakistan.

He said that since a few weeks the situation of the province is deteriorating and the criminalisation of the provincial government in this regard is a matter of deep concern.

He further said that the provincial government has also adopted silence on the situation in the tribal dis-

trict Kurram.

However, he said that they will raise their voice for the people of the province.

The PPP provincial leader alleged that the resources of the province are being used only for staging protest processions and asked the PTI leadership to use their own private resources if they really want the release of prisoner.

He said that the people have given their mandate for the development of the

province, but the provincial government is misusing and wasting the resources of the province on staging protest processions and unnecessary public meetings.

He said that the PPP will lodge its protest for the development of the province at all forums.

Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha said that the statement of the KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur is tantamount to creation of anarchy in the country.

## Gang of poachers busted, exotic birds recovered

PESHAWAR (APP): District administration Peshawar busted a gang of poachers and recovered dozens of exotic birds during a raid conducted in Surezai, suburban area of provincial metropolis.

The raid was conducted on directives of

Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Mehsud who directed action after receiving complaints about activities of a gang of poachers in Surezai.

During raid many birds of various exotic species and equipment used by poachers were recovered.

The confiscated birds were released later while poachers managed to escape from their hideout.

Commissioner Peshawar Division has warned strict action against illegal hunting and said that deputy commissioners of Peshawar, Nowshera,

Charsadda, Mohmand and Khyber have been issued directives to stop illegal hunting of birds.

He said that Section 144 has also been imposed in these areas adding that no one would be allowed to defy the orders of district administration.



PESHAWAR: Secretary General of Pakistan Markazi Muslim League Peshawar Inam Ullah and others addressing a press conference regarding party’s membership campaign.

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A special event was held under the auspices of Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar Institute of Paramedical Sciences (Cardiology and Cardiac Perfusion Department) in observance of World Heart Day. The chief guest of the event was renowned cardiologist Prof. Dr. Hafiz Ullah. Other esteemed speakers included KMU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq, Prof. Dr. Malik Faisal, Head of Cardiology at Lady Reading Hospital, Dr. Mahmood ul Hassan head Cardiology Deptt HMC, and Prof. Dr. Amber Ashraf Head Cardiology Unit KTH, along with various health experts who discussed the causes, prevention, and treatment of heart diseases. A large number of

faculty members and students were also present at the event.

The objectives of celebrating World Heart Day include raising awareness about the increasing prevalence of heart diseases, educating people about preventive measures, encouraging regular heart check-ups, and promoting healthy lifestyle habits and balanced diets. This year’s theme for World Heart Day was “Use Heart for Action.”

In his address, Prof. Dr. Hafiz Ullah emphasized the importance of preventing heart diseases. He stated, “To prevent heart diseases, we must first identify the risk factors present in our own surroundings, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, and obesity, which must be recognized

in a timely manner.” He further added, “If heart diseases are diagnosed early, they can be prevented. The risk of heart attacks and strokes increases significantly after the age of 40 due to aging and an unhealthy lifestyle, making prevention crucial.”

KMU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq highlighted alarming statistics related to heart diseases, noting that over 20 million people worldwide die annually due to various heart-related conditions, with 85% of these deaths resulting from heart attacks and strokes, while the remaining 15% are due to other cardiovascular diseases.

He mentioned that cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death globally, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Pakistan ranks

30th in the world in terms of deaths caused by heart diseases, with a sharp increase in the incidence of cardiovascular conditions. He noted that more than 5 million people in the region suffer from high blood pressure.

Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq also announced that KMU is establishing 10 specialized preventive centers across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, linked to the KMU General Hospital, to combat this growing issue.

He stressed that every fourth person in the country suffers from diabetes, which can be prevented through awareness and early diagnosis.

Other renowned cardiologists, including Prof. Dr. Malik Faisal, Prof. Dr. Mahmood ul Hassan, and Prof. Dr. Amber Ashraf, highlighted that WHO sta-



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with Young Leaders Parliament delegation.

## Governor urges youth to play role in addressing challenges

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday said that the province is facing multiple challenges, urging the youth to adopt a positive mindset and actively participate in addressing these issues.

He said this during a meeting with a delegation from the Young Leaders Parliament (YLP), led by President Naveed Ahmad Khan, visited the Governor House Peshawar.

During the meeting, the YLP delegation briefed the Governor on initiatives aimed at engaging the province’s youth in positive activities through the platform of the Young Leaders Parliament.

They also requested the Governor’s support and participation as a guest of honor for the upcoming three days entrepreneurship event in Peshawar.

The young members of the YLP engaged in a Q&A session with the Governor, discussing vari-

ous issues affecting the province, particularly regarding the welfare of the youth.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi welcomed the delegation, expressing his focus on advancing the interests of youth and women across all sectors.

He acknowledged the talent among the province’s youth but said that they often lack adequate opportunities for progress. He announced that 100 percent scholarships have been allocated for tribal youth at Edward College and that free IT courses will be initiated to help young people pursue online businesses and job opportunities from home.

Kundi also highlighted that the provincial government has not effectively utilized its powers following the 18th Amendment.

He encouraged young people to share their proposals via email at any time, emphasizing the importance of their input for improving the educa-

tion sector.

Meanwhile, another delegation from the Pakistan Association of the Blind (PAB), led by President Qari Said Noor, called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi to discuss critical issues regarding the education and essential facilities for visually impaired students. During the meeting, the delegation highlighted the challenges faced by visually impaired individuals, particularly the obstacles to accessing higher education.

They urged the Governor to develop a comprehensive policy that would allow these students to pursue their education without hindrance.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi listened attentively to the delegation’s concerns and assured them that the government would take immediate steps to provide necessary facilities for visually impaired students in educational institutions.

He emphasized that

education is a fundamental right for every individual and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to ensuring that no student is left behind due to physical disabilities.

Kundi acknowledged the capabilities of visually impaired individuals and stressed the need for providing them with appropriate facilities and encouragement.

He directed the Higher Education Commission and relevant authorities to ensure the availability of necessary support in universities for special students, focusing on the integration of modern technology and Braille materials to facilitate their educational journey.

Similarly, Neelofar Babar MPA PPP KP Assembly and Munawar Anjum PPP leader also called on Governor Kundi.

They discussed various issues including policatal.

Governor Kundi assured to resolve their problems on priority basis.

## Traffic police hosts training workshop for police officers

PESHAWAR (APP): The City Traffic Police Peshawar organized a training workshop for police officers across the province, focusing on the management and operation of driving schools according to standard operating procedures (SOPs).

The workshop, held at Hayatabad Driving School, was attended by officers

from various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Saud Khan delivered a special lecture to the participants on efficiently managing driving schools.

He emphasized the need to teach modern driving skills to the citizens of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in line with contemporary requirements.

He also instructed the officers to raise awareness among trainees about traffic laws, highlighting the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police’s ongoing efforts to promote road safety awareness across the province.

He said that driving schools have been activated across the province. These schools not only provide driving lessons but also

offer comprehensive training on traffic regulations.

A special seminar was also held at Hayatabad Driving School to provide assistance and guidance to citizens. The purpose of this seminar, CTO Saud Khan noted, was to ensure the proper training of instructors and to guarantee all forms of support for the citizens.

## IBCC, BISE Peshawar sign MoU to facilitate attestation

PESHAWAR (APP): In a significant development aimed at simplifying the attestation process for students, the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) has been striving to connect its attestation portal with the database of BISEs of the country for direct verification of records.

According to a press release of IBCC on Wednesday, Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), Baluchistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) and many of the education boards of Punjab have already been

connected.

Another milestone achieved as the IBCC and Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Peshawar have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for data sharing.

The agreement will enable IBCC to access BISE Peshawar’s data through read-only access via APIs, streamlining the verification process for attestation purposes.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah, Executive Director, IBCC, and Prof. Nasrullah Khan Yousufzai, Chairman BISE

Peshawar. The Controller BISE Peshawar, Directors of IBCC, and IT teams of both organizations were also present at the occasion.

This initiative will eliminate the need to physically visit BISE Peshawar to get verification in a sealed envelope, which was previously required for document attestation by IBCC. This will also pave the way for other boards of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to connect with IBCC and benefit students across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK).

“This initiative will save students both time and money by providing online

verification services. Now, students can get their documents verified online and apply for attestation without any hassle,” said Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah. He highlighted that the online system will significantly reduce the commute costs for students, making the process more efficient.

Prof. Nasrullah Khan, emphasized that BISE Peshawar will act as the focal point in guiding other BISEs of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in technical developments for establishing connectivity with IBCC’s attestation portal benefiting all students in KP.

## KMU observes World Heart Day

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in a timely manner.” He further added, “If heart diseases are diagnosed early, they can be prevented. The risk of heart attacks and strokes increases significantly after the age of 40 due to aging and an unhealthy lifestyle, making prevention crucial.”

KMU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq highlighted alarming statistics related to heart diseases, noting that over 20 million people worldwide die annually due to various heart-related conditions, with 85% of these deaths resulting from heart attacks and strokes, while the remaining 15% are due to other cardiovascular diseases.

He mentioned that cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death globally, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Pakistan ranks

30th in the world in terms of deaths caused by heart diseases, with a sharp increase in the incidence of cardiovascular conditions. He noted that more than 5 million people in the region suffer from high blood pressure.

Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq also announced that KMU is establishing 10 specialized preventive centers across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, linked to the KMU General Hospital, to combat this growing issue.

He stressed that every fourth person in the country suffers from diabetes, which can be prevented through awareness and early diagnosis.

Other renowned cardiologists, including Prof. Dr. Malik Faisal, Prof. Dr. Mahmood ul Hassan, and Prof. Dr. Amber Ashraf, highlighted that WHO sta-

istics indicate that 400,000 people in Pakistan die annually due to heart diseases, accounting for 29% of all deaths from various diseases. According to a report by the National Institute of Health, more than 50 people in Pakistan die of heart diseases every hour, compared to just 12 deaths per hour five years ago. Among those who die from heart diseases, 50% are between the ages of 40 and 50, with a worrying increase in heart attacks and deaths among individuals aged 30 to 40.

This disease now affects not only adults and young people but even newborns. Aga Khan Hospital in Karachi reports that 60,000 children are born with heart defects every year, and 60% of them pass away during their early years due to substandard treatment.



Experts also mentioned that nearly 30% of men and 40% of women in Pakistan suffer from obesity. According to a recent U.S.-based research study, adults who walk 6,000 to 9,000 steps daily can reduce the risk of heart disease by 40% to 50%.

Another major contribu-

tor to heart diseases is smoking, with 11.84% of Pakistan’s urban population and 19.7% of the rural population addicted to tobacco use, which is driving the rapid increase in heart disease rates. Prevention can be achieved through adopting a healthy lifestyle, avoiding harmful sub-

stances such as fatty foods, excessive salt and sugar intake, and quitting smoking. The event concluded with an awareness walk led by health experts and students, followed by the inauguration of a skill lab at the Cardiology and Cardiac Perfusion Department at KMU-IPMS.



## In brief

### UoT holds SCIE-Tech Expo Syed Waliullah Shah

NOWSHERA: The University of Technology (UoT) Nowshera in collaboration with district administration organized a SCIE-Tech Expo 2024 in Nowshera on Wednesday. The purpose of the expo was the highlighting of the success stories of the students, inventors and experts of the industrial sector and their bringing on a single platform. Various research oriented projects in science, information technology, e-commerce and technical education were put on display in the exhibition. The exhibition was jointly inaugurated by the Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Khan Tordher and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Nowshera, Irfanullah Mehsud. In his welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor of the University highlighted the role of technical education in creating inventors in future. In this expo of the science, technical studies and expertise, students presented modern projects in science and technical studies and skills and e-commerce and the submitted innovative projects were reviewed by a panel of experts. In this way, prizes were also awarded to the best three projects that met the highest standards and masterpieces of creativity. Speaking at the event the Special Assistant appreciated the creativity of the students and encouraged them to improve their scientific, creative and research-oriented efforts and termed the exhibition an important step towards highlighting the scientific, research and creative projects. He said that linkages between technical education academia and industries are very important to prepare a skilled labour force to meet the demand of the domestic and international market of industries. He said that 'the creation of only degree holders graduates through technical institutes is not their objective as our effort is that instead of awarding merely certificates we should create skilled experts.

### SHO martyred in clash

SHIKARPUR (INP): A police official was martyred in exchange of fire between two rival groups here on Wednesday. According to details, a police team reached Kaccha area of Town Chak in Shikarpur where exchange of fire was under Mehr and Jatoti tribes. The culprits turned their guns towards police when tried to bring the situation under control. The firing resulted in martyrdom of SHO Bachal Bhayo police station identified as Sohrab Odho. Heavy contingent of police reached the scene and cordoning off the area started search operation for culprits. The body of martyred police official was shifted to hospital.

### CM to distribute Kissan Card F.P. Report

TOKA TEK SINGH: Director General Agriculture (Extension) Punjab Abdul Hameed visited Toba Tek Singh Agriculture Office and said that on October 15, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif will attend the Kissan Card ceremony as a special guest. DG Agriculture Extension further said that, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's participation in the Kissan Card ceremony as a guest is to encourage the farmers. Punjab government is working seriously for farmers.

# Dir residents asked to get medical treatment at nearby hospitals

## F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The newly posted district health officer Lower Dir Dr Nisar Khan has said all basic health units and category D hospitals in the district have enough stock of medicines and local residents should get proper treatment there.

Talking to local journalists at his office the DHO said that a total of 20 doctors who were posted in the District Headquarters Hospital Timergara long ago, had been transferred to other hospitals of the district so that patients could get proper treatment in the rural areas.

He said that provision of healthcare facilities to the ailing community at basic health units, rural health centers and category-D hospitals was his top priority in order to decrease burden on DHQ hospital Timergara. The official said that visible and major reforms would be brought in the Lower Dir health department. The DHO said that after getting reports about dengue and malaria in the district, he mobilized the officials of the health department to cope with the situation.

He said that dengue larvae had been destroyed at different places to eliminate

the breeding of dengue. The DHO asked the local citizens not to allow water to stand inside and outside their houses. He stressed on using mosquito nets and said the people should take other preventive measures to protect themselves from mosquito bites. The DHO said the BHUs and category D hospitals had enough stock of medicines.

He said that samples of some of the medicines had been sent for laboratory analysis to provide quality medicines to the patients. The official claimed that he had accepted the responsibility as a challenge for him and he would try his best to bring positive changes in healthcare services in public sector hospitals of the district.

**Transporters' strike:** The Lower Dir public transporters staged a protest rally at Talash against the traffic police for imposing heavy fines and self-inflicted increase in the bus stand tax. The transporters observed a wheel jam strike and held a protest rally at Talash. The government officials, students and shopkeepers suffered hard due to the wheel jam strike. Addressing the rally the transporters' leader Gul Zamin Tandar alleged the Upper Dir traffic police

were fleecing the transporters by imposing heavy fines on them.

He complained the Timergara bus stand contractor had increased the 'adda' tax by manifolds without taking the transporters into confidence. He said that the transporters had been discouraged by heavy fines from the traffic officials in the recent past. The protesting transporters demanded the administration to review route fares after three months.

**Commissioner inspects facilities in DHQ hospital:** Commissioner Malakand, Amjad Ali Khan on Wednesday visited District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) Timargarha and inspected its various sections. He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan and concerned officials.

Commissioner visited various sections of the hospital and inquired about facilities being provided to patients. He also met with patients and listened to their problems. Later, he visited Centennial High School in Timargarha and met with teachers and students. He emphasized to conduct monthly tests and arrange literary programs to enhance capabilities of students.

# TMA employees, pensioners hold protest

## F.P. Report

BANNU: Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Bannu employees and women pensioners took out a protest rally from the office to Bannu Press Club against the non-payment of salaries and non-payment of pensions for the last three months, on Wednesday.

While shouting slogans, Regal Cinema Road was closed for all types of traffic. Addressing the protesters, Provincial Vice President of Local Government Employees Federation Hafiz Karim Dad Khan, Chairman Malik Tariq Khan, President of Pensioner Association Mir Khatam Gul Syedzada Hayat Khan. And other leaders said that for the last three months, due to lack of salary and pension, the employees are starving in their homes.

The provincial government issues a declaration in the morning and another declaration in the evening. Here, any work of the district and divisional administration is the same. TMA employees and officers are working but funds are not available for salaries. So they are being bullied in front of them, due to which the employees have become more upset. They said that more than 15 crores of arrears of TMA due to the Cantonment Board officers are being held only by the General Bus Stand, but we do not have the salary and No pension money.

He said that the district and divisional administrations should play their role to pay the arrears of the markets and the cantonment board and have mercy on the homes and children of hundreds of homeless people of TMAs otherwise the scope of the protest will be wide. While protesting against the Cantonment Executive in GPO Chowk Cantt, the speakers announced that the protest will continue on a daily basis until the salaries are paid.

**PCML to provide honest leadership:** President Pakistan Central Muslim League (PCML) Aurangzeb Khan advocate has said that our struggle to provide honest leadership to the country from the grass root level is ongoing. Save the people from the system and free them from the mafia and free them from the expensive contracts and the IMF loans.

I expressed my views in the district secretariat together with the officials while giving a media briefing after the opening of the membership campaign. other officials were present and they said that the Pakistan Central Muslim League has started a regular recruitment campaign in the 116 village councils of Bannu district, in which membership will be created from the village to the district level. They said that the Pakistan Central Muslim League.

The struggle to bring competent leadership to the fore and to end the IPPs

agreements and to free the people from the IMF will continue. But he did not come, he said that the dear country is currently facing internal and external conspiracies, it can only be countered by national unity and agreement and unity because the rulers have no vision other than Kachkol, while our congregation is sincere and righteous Bakardar said that the political process in the field for the election of the leadership is ongoing. He said that the Central Muslim League is struggling for the freedom of Kashmir and Palestine. by creating a leader, they will provide the best leadership that is free from corruption and looting of any kind. Support Pakistan Central Muslim to prove it and play your full role for the betterment of the society.

## Two gunned down

KILLA SAIFULLAH (PPI): A man gunned down his daughter and son-in-law over the love marriage in Gwal Ismailzai area of district Killa Saifullah in Balochistan province on Wednesday.

According to levies, the incident occurred in Gwal Ismailzai area of district Killa Saifullah where the man shot dead his daughter and son-in-law for contracting the love marriage. The assailants managed to escape after committing the crime.

## Special persons obtained Himmat Card F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: As many as 555 registered special persons with disabilities obtained Himmat Card Scheme of the Chief Minister Punjab which will provide quarterly Rs.10,500/- quarterly. Local leader of PML-N Mian Tahawur Hussain Tarar and Director Social Welfare Hafizabad Aamina Afzal inaugurated distributing financial assistance cheques among disable people under Himmat Card here.

Social Welfare Officer and Focal Person Moida Ishiaq, General Secretary PMLN Abid Ehsan Chatha, Riaz Ahmad Tarar, Rai Mukhtar Ahmad Mukhi, Saffraz Ahmad Tarar and other workers of PMLN and special people attended the function.

Addressing on this occasion, Mian Tahawur Hussain Tarar said that distribution of financial assistance among special people under Himmat Card was a poor friendly and revolutionary programme of the Chief Minister of the Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He said that all registered people could be received financial assistance in respectable manners and funds would be distributed without any discrimination.

**Crackdown against profiteers directed:** Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razzaq said that under the directions of the Punjab government, availability of cheaper and standard essential commodities in the top priority of the district administration while profiteers and adulterators do not deserve concession.

While addressing the meeting of Price Control Magistrates, he said directed the price control magistrates to take strict action against those shopkeepers who found involve in selling edibles items on arbitrary prices and to ensure sale of vegetable and other daily used items on fixed price. He also directed the magistrates to visit markets after office timing surprisingly to provide relief to people and eliminate artificial inflation.

## 4 robbers injured, held after encounter

MULTAN (INP): Four robbers were injured and arrested which their two accomplices managed to escape after exchange of fire here on Wednesday.

According to details, a six-member gang of robbers was fleeing after snatching one million rupees cash from a citizen at Boa Pur road, Bahauddin Zakriya University police station jurisdiction in Multan when police approached them. An exchange of fire took place in which four robbers were injured and arrested while their two accomplices managed to escape. The detainees were identified as Ali Raz, Arif, Arshad and Abdul Rehman.

# Jirga in Landi Kotal demand transfer of NADRA officials

## F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Tribesmen demanded of the concerned authorities to transfer allegedly two corrupt officials, posted in the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) center and withdraw the First Information Report (FIR) report lodged against the Tehsil Chairman.

In a grand jirga held in Tehsil Chairman office in Tehsil Municipal Authority (TMA) office, Landi Kotal on Wednesday Malik Masel Khan, Tehsil Ameer of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Murad Hussain Afridi, head of Khyber Sports Club Mirajuddin Shinwari, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islami, Landi Kotal Ameer Maulana Aqib, Najib Khawrichan and others categorically condemned the NADRA officials for filing FIR against the City Mayor and councilors.

"Tehsil Chairman represents the entire Landi Kotal therefore lodging a police report against him is equivalent to file FIR against



thousands of voters of Landi Kotal, who elected him that was regretful," they added. They maintained that Tehsil Chairman and the councilors had mandated that raising voice for the rights of the locals and restrain them from their services through unfair acts would be unacceptable.

They alleged two local officials in NADRA center for blocking Identity Cards of applicants for collecting illicit money from them and asked the NADRA highups to immediately transfer them in the best interest of the masses and withdraw FIR filed against the Tehsil

Chairman. The participants rejected the merging policy of the former tribal region and said the tribesmen had been deceived in the name of merging as no privileges were extended to the tribal.

A ten members committee was formed to tackle the issues being faced by the locals with administration and other departments of the government. It is to be stated here that since last week, officials have suspended services in NADRA and CFC centers in protest against scuffle that took place between Councilors and NADRA Manger over blocking of the ID card of an applicant.

# KKKU grants affiliation to four colleges

## F.P. Report

KARAK: Khushal Khan Khattak University (KKKU) Karak granted affiliation to four colleges for multiple disciplines in the 7th meeting of its affiliation committee on requests from various colleges in the region, on Wednesday.

The meeting was chaired by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Naseer Ud Din, and attended by members of the committee included Registrar Dr. Ghani ur Rehman, Dr. Fazal Hadi (Director Colleges), Dr. Umar Ali Khan (DG Commerce KP), Dr. Fasih ur Rehman (Director Academics & Research), Dr. Abdul Hakim Shah, Dr. Shad Muhammad, Muhammad Rahim, Dr. Muhammad Anwer, Mukhtar Ahmad, and Sahibzada.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss and decide on the affiliation of GPGC Karak, GDC Latamber, GDC Ahmed Abad, and GGDC Sabir Abad for various Bachelor



of Science (BS) programs. After deliberation and evaluation of the colleges' academic standards, infrastructure, and faculty qualifications, the affiliation committee granted affiliation to these institutions for the specified programs.

This significant development will provide students in the region with increased access to quality higher education opportunities. The affiliated colleges will now be able to offer BS programs under the umbrella of KKKU, benefiting

from the university's resources, expertise, and academic standards.

The Vice Chancellor of KKKU expressed his satisfaction with the decision of the affiliation committee, emphasizing the university's commitment to expanding access to higher education and promoting academic excellence. He also highlighted the importance of ensuring quality that affiliated colleges meet the rigorous standards set by the university.

# Mental health day themes with reducing stress at workplace

## F.P. Report

HYDERABAD: World Mental Health day on 10th October proposing different ways and Ideas to reduce flare-ups of mental illness including anxiety, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder and post traumatic disorder. This year the theme for the day is to take measures for reducing stress at the workplace. During the past two

decades a surge has been witnessed in the cases related to mental health illness in Pakistan. A large number of youth suffering from mental health related issues due to several reasons mainly job-related stress and uncertainty in relation to the future. Pakistan has a growing mental health crisis with an estimated 50 million people experiencing mental health issues but unable to access support

due to stigma, awareness and lack of services. Remote areas of Sindh do not have any well-equipped mental health institution to facilitate and detect patients with mental health issues.

The hotspot areas of Sindh including Thar and Umerkot having high ratio of Suicide cases and mental health patients do not have any advance mental health faculty to curb the menace there.

# Southern Link Road: A troubling development in Peshawar Valley's future

## Engr. Imad Ahmad

**THE Southern Link Road, a highly anticipated infrastructure project in the Peshawar Valley, is rapidly emerging as a developmental misstep with potentially disastrous consequences. Stretching for about 42 kilometers, this two-lane corridor is designed to connect the National Highway (GT Road) to the historic Khyber Pass at Torkham via Bara Bazar.**

As a part of the broader Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC) project, which is financed by the World Bank, the road aims to enhance trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan and further the objectives of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. Despite these ambitious goals, the Southern Link Road is marred by significant flaws in its scope, design, and implementation, raising grave concerns about its environmental, cultural, and economic impact.

One of the most pressing concerns is the potential environmental degradation that the Southern Link Road could cause in the Peshawar Valley. This region is renowned for its fertile agricultural land, which supports

the livelihoods of thousands of farmers. The road's alignment cuts through nearly 2,500 acres of prime agricultural land across eight villages, including Mashokhel, Mashogagar, Badabher, Ghari Malekhel, Mushtarzai, and Sheikhan. The destruction of this farmland could lead to a substantial reduction in local food production, directly impacting food security and the regional economy. According to estimates, the project could result in the loss of up to 30% of the agricultural output from these villages, a blow that would resonate throughout the local economy.

Beyond the immediate threat to agriculture, there are serious concerns about the long-term environmental impact of the road. The construction activities, including excavation, road paving, and the use of heavy machinery, are expected to lead to soil erosion, deforestation, and water pollution. The terrain of Badhaber and Sheikhan is home to a variety of plant and animal species, some of which are already under threat from rapid urbanization. Environmental studies suggest that the project could lead to a 15% reduction in the region's biodiversity, further endangering local ecosystems. Moreover, the road's proximity to agricultural

areas raises the risk of chemical runoff from construction sites contaminating water sources, which could have severe consequences for both human and animal populations.

In addition to environmental concerns, the Southern Link Road poses a significant threat to the cultural heritage of the Khalil Mohmand tribe, a prominent and historic tribe in the Peshawar region. The tribe's connection to the land spans centuries, and their cultural practices, traditions, and way of life are closely tied to the region's geography and environment. The road's alignment is set to disrupt areas of great cultural and historical significance to the Khalil Mohmand tribe, including their ancestral lands and sites that have been preserved for generations. The construction of the road threatens to erase these cultural landmarks, which would represent an irreparable loss to the tribe's heritage and identity. Local community leaders have expressed deep concern over the potential destruction of these sites, warning that it could lead to the erosion of the tribe's cultural fabric.

The imposition of Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act further exacerbates these concerns, as it allows the government to forcibly acquire land for public

purposes, often without adequate compensation or consultation with affected communities. This has led to widespread anxiety among the residents of the affected villages, many of whom fear they will lose their homes and livelihoods. The imposition of Section 4 has adversely affected the fate of IDPS who have faced the wrath of militancy in 2008 and somehow they have found solace by migrating to these low-lying areas of Sheikhan and Badabher. Now displacing for the second time would account for nothing less than the extinction of these families.

Moreover, the project has sparked widespread discontent among local communities, who feel marginalized in the planning process. Despite the significant impact the road will have on their lives, many residents claim they were not adequately consulted or informed about the project's details. In a recent Kuli Kacheri organized by the district administration, it was found that over 70% of the affected population was unaware of the full scope of the project, leading to growing resentment and opposition. This lack of transparency has further fueled public speculation that the project is being pushed through without proper consideration of its social and

cultural impact.

The design and engineering of the Southern Link Road are also fraught with issues that could undermine its success. One of the most glaring problems is the road's alignment, which has been criticized for being vague and poorly planned. The current design seems to run over many houses, orchards, graveyards, and even mosques, raising doubts about whether a ground survey was ever conducted for its finalization or if it was merely chalked out on a Google map as part of a photographic survey. This lack of foresight could lead to unforeseen challenges during construction, driving up costs and causing delays.

The economic and social consequences of the Southern Link Road are equally troubling. The acquisition of land for the project has already halted the sale purchase of land in the area, disrupting their livelihoods and exacerbating economic hardship in the region. The loss of agricultural land, estimated at over 2,500 acres, is expected to reduce local food production by nearly 30%, leading to higher food prices and increased poverty. The economic fallout could be severe, particularly for small-holder farmers who rely on this land for their survival.

Moreover, the displacement of communities and the loss of cultural heritage could lead to social unrest, further destabilizing the region. Without a clear alignment with the broader goals of the KPEC project, the Southern Link Road risks becoming an expensive and ineffective infrastructure piece, creating more problems than it solves.

Given these serious concerns, it is crucial to consider alternative approaches to the Southern Link Road project. One potential solution is to re-evaluate the road's alignment and design to minimize its impact on the environment and local communities. This could involve rerouting the road away from agricultural land and culturally significant areas, as well as implementing stringent environmental safeguards to protect local ecosystems. Additionally, there is a need for greater transparency and community engagement in the project's planning and implementation. By involving local communities in the decision-making process, the project can better address their concerns and ensure that their voices are heard. This would not only help to mitigate the negative impact of the road but also build trust and support among local stakeholders.



# Kenyan MPs vote to impeach deputy president

NAIROBI (BBC): Kenyan MPs have voted over-whelming in favour of removing the country's deputy president over accusations of corruption. Lawmakers also accuse Rigathi Gachagua of practising ethnically divisive politics and undermining the government. Gachagua denies any wrongdoing in a row that follows his recent fallout with President William Ruto.

Speaker Moses Wetangula announced that 281 MPs had adopted an 11-charge impeachment motion with 44 MPs voting against and one abstaining. It means Gachagua has become the first Kenyan deputy president to be impeached by the National Assembly - the country's Senate will decide if he gets ousted. He is accused of acquiring properties through corrupt means. The vice-president, who is a wealthy businessman, said most of the houses and land belonged to his late brother's estate. However, many Kenyan MPs took to the parliamentary floor to tarnish his reputation - and to show they were on President Ruto's side in this row at the top of government.

The political drama has taken the focus off demands of the largely disgruntled Kenyan public - as they struggle to cope with the high cost of living. The 59-year-old politician, popularly known as "Riggy G", has described allegations against him as "outrageous" and "sheer propaganda". Political tensions

have been running high in the East African country since June when deadly demonstrations erupted over unpopular tax hikes, exposing a deep rift between Ruto and Gachagua. Ruto sacked most of his cabinet and brought in members of the main opposition following the anti-tax protests, in which more than 50 people were killed. Several MPs allied to Gachagua were summoned by police last month, accused of funding the protests - though no charges were brought. Ahead of the vote, security was heightened in the capital, Nairobi, with police patrols and major roads leading to parliament blocked to the public. About 20 lawyers were hired to defend Gachagua against the impeachment motion, local media reported.

A total of 291 MPs, more than the 117 required by the constitution, signed the motion to initiate the impeachment process last week. Gachagua failed in numerous court bids to stop the proceedings going ahead. In a televised speech, he condemned Mwengi Mutuse, the MP who drafted the motion, calling the move "shameful and sensational". The motion lists 11 grounds for impeachment, including accusations that Gachagua amassed assets worth 5.2bn Kenyan shillings (\$40m, £31m) in two years in unexplained wealth. "I am innocent of all these charges," Gachagua said. "I have no intention whatso-

ever to resign from this job. I will fight to the end."

He defended the controversial renovation for his official residence in the capital. When big decisions are to be taken by MPs, the constitution stipulates that the public must be consulted first. According to a parliamentary report, more than 200,000 responses were received as part of that process - of which 65% supported Gachagua's impeachment, while nearly 34% opposed it. Gachagua appealed to Ruto and MPs to forgive him for any wrongdoing during his tenure. He later clarified that his apology was not an admission of guilt. Ruto is yet to comment about the impeachment motion publicly, but he is on record in the early days of his presidency as saying that he would never publicly humiliate his deputy.

Gachagua, a wealthy businessman from the vote-rich Mount Kenya region, battled previous corruption scandals to become Ruto's running mate in a closely fought election in August 2022. He is from the Kikuyu community, the country's largest ethnic group, while President Ruto is a Kalenjin, an ethnic group which mainly lives in the Rift Valley. These two communities were at loggerheads after elections in 2007 - ethnic violence in which 1,200 people died nationwide. In 1989, then Vice-President Josephat Karanja resigned from office when he faced a similar motion.

## Six-year-old girl among missing after Brazil landslide

MANACAPURU (AFP): Rescue workers in Brazil were searching for two people, including a six-year-old girl, after a landslide in its northern Amazonas state which injured a dozen others. Landslide triggered the collapse of a port on the Solimoes river, a tributary of the Amazon, in Manacapuru municipality, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) from the state capital Manaus.

Manacapuru police officer Mauro Soares said rescuers were searching the rubble and river for a man in his mid-thirties and a girl aged six. Ten people were injured, two of whom were still being treated in hospital for their injuries.

Images obtained by AFP showed some buildings teetering on the edge of a huge crater formed where the land collapsed into the river. The authorities did not reveal the possible causes of the landslide. But they warned that a severe drought in the Brazilian Amazon could cause riverbanks to collapse and cause a "natural disaster." The deputy secretary of civil defense, Clovis Araujo, recommended that riverside communities implement "contingency plans" to avoid new tragedies.

Brazil has suffered in recent years from recurring landslides and floods caused by extreme weather events attributed to climate change. Nearly nine million out of Brazil's 215 million inhabitants live in areas at risk of landslides or floods, according to official figures.

## Mozambique votes for president

MAPUTO (AP): Mozambique is voting for a new president on Wednesday in an election that is expected to extend the ruling party's 49 years in power since the southern African nation gained independence from Portugal in 1975.

Daniel Chapo, 47, is the candidate for the ruling Front for the Liberation of Mozambique, or Frelimo, seeking to succeed President Filipe Nyusi, who has served a maximum two terms. Analysts say the strongest challenge to Chapo and Frelimo's dominance will likely come from 50-year-old independent Venancio Mondlane. People also will vote for the makeup of Parliament and for provincial governors in a country of some 33 million people that went through a bloody, 15-year civil war that ended in 1992, and more recently has been shaken by an ongoing violent jihadist insurgency in the north.

Ending that insurgency and bringing stability to Cabo Delgado province - where 1.3 million fled their homes and more than half remain displaced - is a pledge by both leading candidates. Vote-counting is due to start right after polls close in the one-day election.

Preliminary results from some areas are expected from Thursday, and the full results must be delivered to the Constitutional Council within 15 days of polls closing to be validated and formally declared. Around 17 million people are registered to vote. The credibility of the election will be under scrutiny, with the leftist Frelimo party accused of ballot-stuffing and falsifying results in previous votes, including last year's local elections, where it was declared the winner in 64 out of 65 municipalities. Frelimo has consistently denied the accusations of election tampering. Teams of regional and international election observers are in Mozambique, including from the European Union.



TIRANA: Opposition supporters scuffle with riot police during protest in Albania.

# Ex-soldier on trial accused of spying for Iran

LONDON (BBC): A former British soldier accused of escaping from Wandsworth prison last year made contact with Iranian security forces before telling MI6 he wanted to work as a double agent, a trial has heard. Daniel Khalife, 23, has gone on trial on charges of collecting sensitive military information for Iran.

Woolwich Crown Court heard Mr Khalife obtained details about serving members of the armed forces from a personnel system. He denies all the charges. The prosecution told the court that Iran presented a real threat to the security of the UK. Mr Khalife, who was brought up in Kingston, south-west London by his Iranian-born mother, joined the Army in September 2018, two weeks before his 17th birthday, the jury heard. After completing a 23-week course at the Army Foundation College in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, he joined the Royal Corps of Signals, which provides communications, IT and cyber support. The court heard that Mr Khalife underwent and passed security clearance before starting his specialist training in 2019, and completed the year-long course in early 2020. After this he was posted to the 16th Signal Regiment in Stafford, which delivers sophisticated digital communication and satellite services to the army.

"We are not talking about the odd personal radio in this case", Mark Heywood KC, for the prosecution, said.

"When the security of those systems and communications is at risk, so is the operational capability and effectiveness of the Army itself." Mr Khalife's trial heard that, in April 2019, he created a contact with the +98 dialling code for Iran. The jury heard that Mr Khalife told police in an interview in 2022 that he had made contact with Hamed Ghashghavi, an individual connected to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. He told police he was then transferred to an English-speaking handler. Mr Heywood KC said: "His aim in doing so was clearly to offer himself as an asset to Iran's external security apparatus." The court heard the soldier later claimed this had all been part of a double-bluff and that he intended to sell himself to the UK security services. A message was sent under a false name to MI6 using the "contact us" page of the security service's website, claiming he wanted to work as a "double agent", the jury was told.

The message said he had been asked to provide the Iranian government with information and had sent them a fake document for which they paid \$2,000 (£1,500) left in a dog poo bag in Mill Hill Park, north London,

the court heard. The jury was shown a selfie of Mr Khalife taken in the park, and a photo of an envelope inside a dog poo bag. Mr Heywood KC said "Over a period of more than two years, Mr Khalife collected and made digital records, but sometimes also in paper form, of a large quantity of information of that kind." "All the while he was a serving soldier of the British Army, employed to uphold and protect national security." He added: "Mr Khalife had no real intention to simply get his head down, learn his trade and become what he considered to be a mere Army signaller, even an expert. "Even during this early stage of his learning, and while still 17, he had begun to entertain thoughts about espionage." Jurors were told that after police caught up with him and he had been released on bail, Mr Khalife absconded from his barracks, leaving canisters and wires on his desk intended to look like an explosive device.

Mr Khalife is alleged to have escaped from HMP Wandsworth in south London while on remand on terror and espionage charges by strapping himself to the underside of a food delivery lorry on 6 September 2023. He was arrested on a canal tow-path in west London three days later. The trial, expected to last about six weeks, continues.

# UK sanctions Russian troops over chemical weapons use in Ukraine

LONDON (BBC): The UK has sanctioned Russian soldiers it says have used chemical weapons on the battlefield in Ukraine. Russia's Radiological Chemical and Biological Defence troops, and their commander Lt Gen Igor Kirillov, will be subject to an assets freeze and travel ban. Two of the Russian defence ministry's scientific laboratories have also been designated.

Kirillov is also a "significant mouthpiece for Kremlin disinformation", the Foreign Office said. The US has previously accused Russian forces of using hazardous chemicals in Ukraine, including "riot control agents" such as tear gas and the toxic choking agent chloropicrin - first deployed in battle during

World War One. Foreign Secretary David Lammy said the UK would not sit "idly by whilst Putin and his mafia state ride roughshod over international law, including the Chemical Weapons Convention". Lammy called Russia's "flagrant" use of chemical agents "cruel and inhumane" and vowed to use all the powers at his disposal to combat the "malign activity".

Announcing the sanctions, defence Secretary John Healey said: "Our message to Putin and his regime is clear: you cannot break international law without facing the consequences." Healey said the two Russian Ministry of Defence centres were sanctioned for providing "support for the develop-

ment and deployment of these inhumane weapons for use on the front lines". The UK is providing Ukraine with vital equipment and training to protect its people against chemical weapons, he added. In May, the US accused Russia of deploying chemical weapons as a "method of warfare" in Ukraine, in violation of international laws banning their use. State Department officials said Russia used the choking agent chloropicrin to win "battlefield gains" over Ukraine.

The Kremlin rejected the accusations at the time, calling them "baseless". The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), a global watchdog that oversees implementation of the

CWC, says a chemical weapon is a substance used to cause intentional death or harm through its toxic properties. Chloropicrin - which the US says Russia has used to "dislodge Ukrainian forces from fortified positions" - is an oily substance which was widely used during World War One. It causes irritation of the lungs, eyes and skin and can cause vomiting, nausea and diarrhoea, according to the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC). The chemical's use in war is expressly banned under the CWC, and is listed as a choking agent by the OPCW. US officials have previously said Russian troops regularly used "riot control agents," like tear gas, during the war in Ukraine.

# Albania's opposition supporters rally to demand gov't step down

TIRANA: Opposition supporters in Albania have taken to the streets to demand the government be replaced by a technocratic caretaker cabinet before next year's parliamentary elections. The conservative opposition has long accused Prime Minister Edi Rama's Socialists of corruption, manipulating earlier voting and usurping powers of the judiciary.

The Democratic Party of former Prime Minister Sali Berisha has been holding protests at parliament over the past week after one of its members was convicted of slander and imprisoned in a case it considers politically motivated. Ervin Salianji

has appealed his conviction to the Supreme Court. The Democrats, who have staged sometimes violent protests against the government since 2013, also seek Berisha's release from house arrest, which was ordered during an investigation into alleged corruption. A few thousand protesters gathered in front of the main government building in Tirana, shouting, "Down with the dictatorship" and "Berisha, Berisha".

After briefly clashing with police, they hurled Molotov cocktails. Outside the governing Socialist Party headquarters, they again hurled Molotov cocktails and burned a poster of the prime minister, who leads the party. They then did the same outside the Ministry of Interior and City Hall.

Outside parliament, police fired tear gas to disperse them. Hundreds of police officers had taken up positions to protect government institutions. Police said traffic was blocked on many streets downtown. Police said 10 officers were hurt by Molotov cocktails, pyrotechnic items and hard objects. Some protesters were seen with streaming eyes from tear gas, and a few were taken to hospital, according to local media. The Democrats' secretary-general, Flamur Noka, ended the protest by pledg-

ing that the "civil disobedience" would continue. The United States embassy had warned its citizens to stay away from the protest.

The US and European Union have urged the opposition to resume dialogue with the government, saying violence won't help the country integrate into the 27-nation EU. In 2020, the EU decided to launch full membership negotiations with Albania, and later this month, Tirana will start discussions with the bloc on how the country aligns with EU stances on the rule of law, the functioning of democratic institutions and the fight against corruption. — Aljazeera

# James emerges as frontrunner in UK race

LONDON: Conservative lawmakers in Britain have ejected former Security Minister Tom Tugendhat from the party leadership contest, leaving three contenders still running to lead the party after its catastrophic election defeat in July.

Tugendhat garnered 20 votes in a ballot of 120 members of parliament, finishing last. Former Foreign Secretary James Cleverly topped the ballot with 39 votes. Former Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick got 31 votes and ex-Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch received 30.

Another candidate will be kicked out of the race by legislators on Wednesday before tens of thousands of party members across the country choose between the final two. The result adds to Cleverly's momentum in the race. Cleverly, a centrist, picked up support with a well-received speech at last week's Conservative conference. He urged the fractious party to "be more normal"

and argued he had the skills to defeat the Labour Party of Prime Minister Keir Starmer and return the Conservatives to power at the next election, due by 2029. Jenrick, a hardliner who calls for Britain to make deep cuts to immigration and rip up European human rights law, had been considered the frontrunner since the contest started in July. Jenrick raised his profile when he quit as an immigration minister under Sunak over what he called the "fatally flawed" Rwanda plan to send asylum seekers to the African nation. Then he said it was not robust enough. Badenoch, a former trade minister, has positioned herself as an outspoken darling of not just the right wing of the party but of younger lawmakers, promising to be "something different", a challenging voice in what she describes as a broken government system.

Criticised by some yet adored by others for her outspoken views on Brexit

and on what she calls "identity politics", Badenoch said she wants the party to return to "authentic Conservatism" and stop "talking right, governing left". The contest to replace former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will run until November 2 after Conservative members cast the final ballots for a new leader, charged with turning around the fortunes of a party decimated in the July 4 elections by Labour.

The party's last contested leadership selection, in mid-2022, saw members choose Liz Truss over Rishi Sunak. Truss resigned as prime minister after just 49 days in office when her tax-cutting plans rocked the financial markets and battered the value of the pound. The party then picked Sunak to replace her. In July, Sunak led the Conservative Party to its worst election result since 1832. The Conservatives lost more than 200 parliamentary seats, taking their tally down to 121. — Aljazeera

# More than 230 migrants reached Greek island

ATHENS (AP): More than 230 migrants crossing the Mediterranean in small boats from North Africa reached Greece's southern island of Crete over the weekend, Greek authorities said. The arrivals, in six separate crossings, far outnumbered the few dozen migrants who took the more common route from Turkey to the nearby eastern Aegean islands over the weekend.

Crete has emerged this year as a significant destination for migrants willing to risk the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean from Libya. Greece's government is considering setting up state-funded migrant processing centers on the island of about 625,000 people to assist local authorities. The crossing from Libya takes at least two days, while a fast smuggling boat from Turkey can reach the eastern islands in under an hour - provided it can dodge frequent coast guard patrols. Greek authorities say they are bracing for a potential increase in arrivals of refugees fleeing fighting in Lebanon and Gaza. Officials said the migrants reaching Crete over the weekend mostly reported being from Egypt, Sudan or Bangladesh.

Greece's coast guard said the biggest single arrival involved 55 people picked up by a merchant ship after their boat ran into trouble south of Crete. In all cases, the migrants who reached Crete said they had departed from the eastern Libyan port of Tobruk and paid smuggling gangs up to 9,000 euros (\$9,800) each for their passage. A dozen people on the boats were arrested on suspicion of belonging to smuggling rings. About 100 more migrants reached Crete, Greece is a key entry point for people from the Middle East, Africa and Asia seeking a better life in the European Union. Up to now, the vast majority have crossed over in small boats from Turkey.

They were not free or fair, Tunisia was where a wave of pro-democracy protests in the Arab world began in late 2010, ousting long-time autocrat Zine El Abidine Ben Ali early the following year. The North African country was seen as a beacon of democracy in the region. But since Saied, a former law professor, was elected on a wave of optimism in 2019, the 66-year-old has

suspended parliament, rewritten the constitution and concentrated power into his hands. He was widely expected to win a second term after the authorities arrested and jailed dissidents as well as potential rivals. "According to preliminary results, Saied received 2,438,954 favourable votes," the country's Independent High Authority for Elections (ISIE) said. The third candi-

date on the ballot, former lawmaker Zouhair Maghzaoui, received nearly 2% of the vote. The final results of the presidential election are set to be announced early next month, according to the electoral agency. Vote was Tunisia's third presidential election since Ben Ali was overthrown in 2011 following months of massive protests. He had been in power for over two decades before he

was forced to flee to Saudi Arabia, where he died in 2019.

Rights group Amnesty International has denounced "a worrying decline in fundamental rights" under Saied's government as discontent rises over his perceived authoritarian style of governance. But Saied has rejected the criticism, saying he is fighting a "corrupt elite" and "traitors".

# Tunisian president wins second term with landslide

TUNIS (BBC): In an election that was criticised by rights groups, Tunisia's President Kais Saied has won a second term with more than 90% of the vote, the electoral commission has said. Only two candidates out of more than a dozen other hopefuls were allowed to stand against President Saied in ballot, where only 29% of the more than nine million registered voters took part.

Saied's closest challenger, businessman Ayachi Zammel, won 7% of the vote despite being sentenced to 12 years in prison for falsifying documents - just five days before the poll. There were no campaign rallies or public debates, and nearly all the campaign posters in the streets were backing the president. Five political parties had urged people to boycott the elections in the belief that

they would not be free or fair. Tunisia was where a wave of pro-democracy protests in the Arab world began in late 2010, ousting long-time autocrat Zine El Abidine Ben Ali early the following year. The North African country was seen as a beacon of democracy in the region. But since Saied, a former law professor, was elected on a wave of optimism in 2019, the 66-year-old has

The Frontier Post

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

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## Experts who made AI possible get Physics Nobel

THE Nobel Foundation had announced on Tuesday that American Chicago-born bio-physicist John Hopfield of Princeton University in the United States and Wimbledon-born British-Canadian physicist Geoffrey Hinton of the University of Toronto in Canada won the Physics Prize for 2024. It is in recognition of their “foundation discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks.”

This was both a direct and indirect acknowledgement of the tremendous success of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The Nobel committee went back to the “foundations” of AI, and used the accurate term, “artificial neural network (ANN)”. As a matter of fact, Hopfield used the neural network which is how the brain is patterned and functions to create an artificial model of nodes to imitate the pattern of the neural network.

Then he fell back on the methods of physics to see whether the artificial neural network can recognise patterns and store them. He called it associative memory. And he translated this into terms of energy that were distributed among the nodes and how the energy signals were distributed and created repeated patterns on the basis of memory.

Hinton used the Hopfield network to apply the Boltzmann’s statistical pattern to create learning patterns. It is this combined work of Hopfield and Boltzmann that is at the heart of the popular AI products like the ChatGPT and the many large language models (LLMs) that have spread like wildfire in all fields of science of the day.

The Nobel committee in its statement strikes an ecstatic note when it declares, “With their breakthroughs, that stand on the foundations of physical sciences, they have showed a completely new way for us to use to computers to aid and to guide us to tackle many of the challenges our society face. Simply put, thanks to their work Humanity now has a new item in its toolbox, which we can choose to use for good purposes. Machine learning based on ANNs is currently revolutionising science, engineering and daily life. The field is already on its way to enable breakthroughs toward building a sustainable society, e.g. by helping to identify new functional materials. How deep learning by ANNs will be used in the future depends on how we humans choose to use these incredibly potent tools, already present in many aspects of our life.”

Hinton has struck the note of caution though he said that he was happy to have got the prize. He said, “We have no experience of what it’s like to have things smarter than us. It’s going to be wonderful in many respects, in areas like healthcare. But we also have to worry about a number of possible bad consequences. Particularly the threat of these things getting out of control.”

It is interesting that Hinton resigned from his job in Google so that he was free to speak about the dangers of AI. Ellen Moons, chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics had already said, “While machine learning has enormous benefits, its rapid development has also raised concern about our future. Collectively, humans carry the responsibility for using this new technology in a safe and ethical way, for the greatest benefit of humankind.”

Hinton sounds the alarm in a sophisticated manner. He does not regret that the contribution he has made to the development of AI, and he says, “In the same circumstances I would do the same again.” Then he pronounces the almost apocalyptic warning: “But I am worried that the overall consequence of this might be systems more intelligent than us that eventually take control.” It is for the first time since the making of the atom bomb, that some of the scientists at least are truly worried about what may come of AI.

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## Need of education for sustainable development in Pakistan

Dr Zerfishan Adnan

EDUCATION is often seen as the foundation of development, and this is particularly relevant for sustainable development. In a country like Pakistan, which grapples with various socio-economic, environmental, and educational challenges, the integration of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is not just important-it is essential. As Pakistan works towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), ESD is crucial in preparing a generation to tackle the complex issues of the 21st century.

What is Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) provides individuals with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes needed to contribute to a more sustainable future. It encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and action-oriented learning, empowering people to address global challenges such as climate change, poverty, inequality, and the unsustainable use of resources. UNESCO describes ESD as education that enables learners to make informed decisions and take responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability, and a just society, benefiting both present and future generations while honoring cultural diversity. ESD goes beyond traditional education models by promoting lifelong learning and the development of comprehensive competencies.

The Current Educational Landscape in Pakistan

Pakistan is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change, facing frequent floods, droughts, and rising temperatures. However, the educational system in the country largely emphasizes rote learning and outdated curricula that do not incorporate essential knowledge about environmental stewardship, global

citizenship, and sustainable development.

Although Pakistan has made strides in certain educational areas, such as improving the overall literacy rate, significant gaps remain. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics around 32% of children remain out of school, with the majority of them being girls. Moreover, the education system's emphasis on traditional subjects does not foster the critical thinking skills necessary for understanding and tackling global challenges.

ESD can transform the way education is approached by emphasizing both cognitive and practical skills that foster sustainability.

Why Pakistan need Education for Sustainable Development?

Climate Vulnerability: Due to its geographical and climatic characteristics, Pakistan is particularly susceptible to environmental disasters. Issues like rising sea levels, glacial melting, deforestation, and increased carbon emissions necessitate a strong emphasis on climate education. ESD equips students with the knowledge and tools to engage in climate resilience initiatives, whether through renewable energy projects, sustainable farming, or eco-friendly urban development.

Sustainable Economic Growth: A significant segment of Pakistan's population relies on agriculture, a sector increasingly impacted by unpredictable weather and resource depletion. Education that advocates for sustainable farming practices, efficient water management, and renewable energy can not only alleviate these challenges but also create new opportunities for economic advancement. Research indicates that ESD can assist communities in adopting innovative, environmentally sustainable practices that enhance livelihoods (Khalid & Bhatti, 2018).

Social Equity and Inclusion: Pakistan grapples with social inequalities

tied to gender, income, and resource access. ESD prioritizes inclusivity, ensuring that marginalized groups acquire the skills necessary for social advancement. Additionally, by incorporating global citizenship concepts, ESD motivates learners to address social justice, human rights, and peacebuilding issues, which are vital for fostering cohesive and equitable societies (UNESCO, 2019).

Addressing the Plastic and Waste Crisis: Pakistan's waste management infrastructure is lacking, resulting in millions of tons of plastic waste generated each year. Education for Sustainable Development can advocate for responsible consumption and promote the use of eco-friendly alternatives. Initiatives in schools, such as "Eco Bottle Innovators" and "Eco Tote Innovators," have shown how students can play a role in reducing waste.

Meeting the SDGs: Pakistan is dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4, which emphasizes inclusive and equitable quality education for everyone, and SDG 13, which calls for urgent action to address climate change. By incorporating Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into national curricula, Pakistan can work towards these goals by promoting environmental awareness and fostering a shared sense of responsibility for global issues.

Steps Towards Integrating ESD in Pakistan Curriculum Reform: A significant challenge is the outdated curriculum that requires restructuring to include ESD elements. Core subjects at all educational levels should encompass environmental studies, climate change awareness, renewable energy education, and sustainable economic practices.

Teacher Training: Educators are crucial in instilling sustainable development principles in their classrooms. There is an immediate need in Pakistan to train teachers to effectively deliver ESD content.

Programs that emphasize critical thinking, problem-solving, and experiential learning can empower teachers to motivate students to adopt sustainable practices (Akhtar & Abbas, 2021).

Community Engagement: Schools and educational institutions should serve as centers for sustainable development within their communities. Initiatives like "Green Warriors" and "Home Harvesters" have demonstrated success by encouraging students and their families to participate in tree-planting and home gardening projects that enhance food security and promote environmental conservation.

Public-Private Partnerships: To expand ESD initiatives, collaboration among public, private, and non-governmental organizations is vital. Governments should work alongside NGOs and the private sector to fund and implement ESD programs, especially in underserved areas of Pakistan (Khan & Hussain, 2017).

Technology Integration: Technology is essential in contemporary education. Digital tools can enhance ESD by offering access to online resources, interactive simulations, and global learning opportunities. Incorporating technology into ESD efforts can enhance learning outcomes and extend the reach of sustainable development education to remote areas.

Conclusion Incorporating Education for Sustainable Development in Pakistan is not just a choice-it is a necessity for the future of the country.

With the looming threats of climate change, environmental degradation, and social inequity, ESD provides the educational framework needed to empower young Pakistanis to become leaders in sustainability. By integrating ESD into national policies, curricula, and community programs, Pakistan can take significant strides toward a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient future.

## How the blue economy can drive national development

Muhammad Salman Ul Haq

THE National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) is Pakistan's leading maritime research Institute which is actively working with national and international partners to jump-start the Blue Economy of Pakistan. This year on 9th of October NIMA is holding its 4th International Maritime Symposium on the topic of "Realization of Blue Economy Through the Prism Sustainable Development Goals - Options For Developing Countries". Such events can not only provide people the opportunity to engage with global maritime experts but also learn to contribute towards shaping a sustainable future.

The Blue Economy, which emphasizes the sustainable use of ocean resources to promote economic growth, enhance livelihoods and ensure the health of marine ecosystems, offers a transformative opportunity for Pakistan's socio-economic uplift. By investing in and developing its Blue Economy, Pakistan can diversify its economic base while aligning with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Key goals such as SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 14 (Life Below Water) are directly linked to the potential of the Blue Economy while all other goals are indirectly linked.

The major areas of Blue Economy consists of fisheries and aquaculture, marine tourism, marine renewable energy, maritime shipping and marine biotechnology. Countries like Bangladesh and Indonesia are good examples of how the Blue Economy can help drive economic growth and development, job creation and increase in the national income. Pakistan has a vast coastline of 1001 kilometres. Exclusive Economic Zone and a vibrant fishery sector which can also benefit from Blue Economy.

However, Pakistan's coastal region has numerous challenges that slow down the development of Blue Economy. The communities are mostly poor and cannot even access basic necessities such as education, health and clean water. The underdeveloped infrastructure in these communities thus does not allow the people to participate in any economic activity apart from fishing.

Deterioration of the coastal environment through factors such as overfishing adds on the challenges faced by these communities. Unsustainable fishing practices lead to the exhaustion of fish resources and this poses a major threat to fishermen who depend on fish as their source of income. Other problems include marine pollution, coastal erosion and various factors that make the fishing industries unsustainable in the long run.

In addition, majority of the coastal populations are not well endowed in terms of skills and capital to participate in higher value Blue Economy activities

like marine tourism or production of marine renewable energy. The lack of government policies that seek to address the particularities make these communities economically neglected. The statistics are shocking to say the least. According to the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Index report, HDI of 2022, Pakistan ranked 161 countries out of 192 countries. By 2023, Pakistan ranked 164th and has regressed three places due to continuous social, economic and political issues, and the floods of 2022.

The country's education standards are extremely dismal; only about 60.65% of the population is literate according to the 2023 census. This situation is more grim in the coastal rural areas of Sindh and Balochistan province where currently the literacy rate stands at 38.14% and 35.74% respectively, highlighting the wide disparity of growth between coastal and inland areas. The health indicators are

also unfavourable, with high prevalence of malnutrition and high infant mortality rate in the coastal communities.

Pakistan has vast opportunities to elevate the living standards of its people especially those in coastal areas using the Blue Economy. Fisheries and aquaculture can be developed through the promotion of sustainable methods and incorporation of state-of-the-art technologies into fishing activities, which will improve yields and guarantee the sustainability of fish stocks. This comprises of offering relevant training and subsidies to enable a shift from conventional methods that are less efficient and environmentally friendly.

Additionally, developing marine tourism encompassing eco-friendly resorts, beach tourism and water sports can significantly stimulate related industries like hospitality, transport and handicrafts. In the renewable energy sector, focusing on offshore wind and tidal energy can diversify energy sources and create job opportunities in coastal regions. Furthermore, involving coastal communities in marine biotechnology and conservation efforts, such as coral reef restoration and mangrove planting, will preserve marine biodiversity while providing alternative livelihoods, thus promoting both environmental sustainability and economic resilience.

For the blue economy to reach its full potential, the Pakistani government, together with relevant stakeholders, require a multi faceted approach. Educational and vocational training for the marginalized coastal communities will prepare them for an active participation in the maritime industries through construction of schools, health centres and clean water sources for a better and sustainable economic future. It is equally important to enforce environmental protection laws through policies that encourage sustainable fishing, protection of the exploited species and their habitats. These initiatives require the support of the government, the private sector and civil society, especially the public-private partnership which also spearhead investment, technology and employment. Furthermore, collaboration with countries that have already implemented Blue Economy initiatives can give Pakistan the knowledge and capital required to harness the full potential of its maritime sector.

The Blue Economy presents a unique opportunity for Pakistan to address the socio-economic challenges faced by its coastal communities. Through sustainable fisheries, marine tourism, renewable energy and improved infrastructure, Pakistan can uplift these marginalized populations and build a stronger, more resilient Blue Economy. However, this potential can only be realized through careful planning, investment and a commitment to sustainability.

By recognizing and acting upon the value of its maritime resources, Pakistan can pave the way for a brighter future for its coastal communities, contributing to national prosperity in the process.

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# The great political battle over Hurricane Milton didn’t wait for the storm to land

LONG before the outer bands of Hurricane Milton lashed the Florida coast, a political battle over the massive storm was already raging. A potential natural disaster of such magnitude — this may be the gargantuan climate-change fueled monster that scientists have long feared — ought to be immune from political opportunism.

But in the final weeks of a presidential election featuring a candidate as unrelenting as Donald Trump, nothing escapes partisanship and Milton’s aftermath may prove to be the next opening for the ex-president’s maelstrom of misinformation.

Usually, political shocks caused by hurricanes only unfold when the gale force winds have passed.

Government officials reinforced the vice president’s message on Tuesday. FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell warned on “CNN News Central” that Trump’s rhetoric was putting fear into people that the government wouldn’t help them. And the White House opened an account on Reddit, a social media platform, to identify and combat misinformation. President Joe Biden may be handling the last major national emergency of his term. A sense of urgency mounted Tuesday morning when he postponed a foreign trip to Germany and Angola. No president can afford to be abroad with a national emergency pending. Biden’s first task is to fulfill his core presidential duty — keeping Americans safe. But with his foreign policy legacy likely to be besmirched by unresolved wars in the Middle East, he surely wants to avoid a domestic imbroglio that would also overshadow his final days in office – and could damage his chosen successor, Harris. A storm of this size could give Trump a political opening Trump has repeatedly shown there’s no situation he will not try to leverage for political gain. He seized on Hurricane Helene to bolster his narrative of the Biden-Harris administration as an incompetent rabble, unable to meet the basic needs of the American people. It’s the same way he’s accused Harris of complicity in a national crisis that he claims is marked by crime and rampant immigration and is on a glide path to World War III. Trump’s critique is a caricature.

This time, partly because Trump pushed so hard to exploit last week’s Hurricane Helene for his political gain, the sparring has started early. For Vice President Kamala Harris, the storm offers a perilous spotlight, which could allow her to show she can master the media moment in a presidential context. It could showcase her capacity to express empathy for victims and her command of the federal government machine. But any failures of the federal rescue and relief effort after the storm is expected to roar ashore on late Wednesday or early Thursday could haunt her before next month’s election. Harris’ test will be complicated by the likelihood that even if the federal effort goes well, Trump is sure to fabricate a story implicating her in failure. This explains why the Democratic nominee tried to get out in front of Trump, and the storm, by telling reporters on Monday evening that the former president was pushing out misinformation about government aid. “It’s about him, it’s not about you.” The vice

president doubled down on Tuesday, telling ABC’s “The View” that “this is not an issue that is about partisanship or politics for certain leaders, but maybe is for others.”

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While the country has problems — grocery prices remain stubbornly high and the asylum system is overwhelmed — he’s creating a classic alternative reality for his fans and the conservative media echo chamber. Trump used the same tactics during the Hurricane Helene drama, falsely accusing Democrats of ignoring Republican areas. The ex-president wrongly said that Biden was ignoring calls from Georgia GOP Gov. Brian Kemp. He also claimed, falsely, that Harris had busted the Federal Emergency Management Agency budget to house undocumented migrants and could therefore not help victims of the storm. And Trump and his run-

way before me.” Trump’s own haphazard leadership after hurricanes could also come back to haunt him.

The Harris campaign on Monday sought to revive memories of his checkered disaster management record, debuting an ad featuring two former Trump administration officials, Olivia Troye and Kevin Carroll, claiming that the former president once tried to withhold disaster relief funds from Democratic states.

And Harris seized on the approaching storm as a prism to criticize Trump’s character and to push her argument that he’s an “unserious man” who poses a great threat if he’s elected again. On ABC’s “The View” on Tuesday, she accused him of putting himself “before the needs of others.” Harris added: “I fear that he really lacks empathy on a very basic level to care about the suffering of other people and then understand the role of a leader is not to beat people down, it’s to lift people up especially in a time of crisis.” Still, Trump’s maneuvering is the latest sign of one advantage he holds over Harris despite having a presidential record of his own to defend — as a non-incumbent, he has the luxury of criticizing the administration’s performance while bearing no personal responsibility. The legacies that shape storm politics Storm politics are shaped by memories of two disasters. The botched handling of Hurricane Katrina, which slammed New Orleans and the Gulf coast in 2005, helped destroy President George W. Bush’s second term. And President Barack Obama’s more assured management of Superstorm Sandy, a hurricane that hit the East Coast in 2012, helped him put away Republican Mitt Romney in that year’s election. Sandy is mostly

remembered for then-New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie’s embrace of Obama as he sought maximum federal aid for his state. This angered many Republicans. And Christie was followed during his subsequent GOP presidential campaigns by his decision to put his duty before politics.

One key political player who is unlikely to make the same choice is Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who may have future national political ambitions following his failed run for the 2024 Republican nomination. DeSantis faces a similar dilemma to Christie — a need to work seamlessly with a Democratic administration for the good of his state despite his disdain for the president and vice president.

And his future political considerations could probably not bear a failed relief effort any more than Harris’ could. Like Harris, DeSantis started playing hurricane politics long before Milton arrived. A White House official told CNN that he had refused her calls about the hurricane — a claim that he denied but that didn’t spare him a rebuke from the vice president.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis gets a tour from Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Kevin Guthrie while talking about the heavy machinery staging area at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala, Florida, on October 8, 2024, before a press conference about the impact that Hurricane Milton will have on the state of Florida. Doug Engle/Ocala Star-Banner/USA Today Network/Imagn

DeSantis set off on a political path that requires dealing with Biden, the lame duck, but doing nothing to boost Harris in a way that could earn the wrath of Trump. “She is being selfish by trying to blunder into this when we’re working just fine,” DeSantis said on Monday evening.

“I’ve had storms under both President Trump and President Biden, and I’ve worked well with both of them. She’s the first one who’s trying to politicize the storm, and she’s doing that just because of her campaign. She’s trying to get some type of an edge,” the Florida Republican complained. Unlike Harris, Biden had kinder words for DeSantis, saying on Tuesday that the governor had been “cooperative.”

“I said no, ‘You’re doing a great job, it’s all being done well, we thank you for it,’” Biden said.

But the president also took out a political insurance policy against any future complaints that the Florida Republican did not get what he wants from the White House. “I literally gave him my personal phone number to call,” Biden said.

— CNN

# Reform in new era an opportunity for world

Liu Xianfa

is vital that China continues to advance reform.

The third plenum of the 20th CPC Central Committee said the objective of comprehensively deepening reform is to continue improving and developing the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernizing China’s system and capacity for governance. China has resolved to build a high-standard socialist market economy in all respects, further improve the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, modernize national governance and governance capacity, and basically realize socialist modernization by 2035.

Those achievements

Reform and opening-up have been crucial to the cause of the Party and the people, enabling China to catch up with the times. The third plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee 11 years ago was of epoch-making significance, as it marked the start of a new journey of comprehensively deepening reform in the new era, thus paving the way for a brand new stage in China’s reform and opening-up efforts. At its third plenum, the 18th CPC Central Committee set up the "Commission on Comprehensively Deepening Reform", with CPC Central Committee General Secretary Xi Jinping taking the lead and chairing 72 meetings of the commission since then.

will lay a solid foundation for developing China into a great modern socialist country in all respects by the middle of this century. To steadily advance reform, China will focus on building a high-standard socialist market economy, advancing whole-process people’s democracy, developing a strong socialist culture, improving people’s quality of life, strengthening the Party’s capacity for leadership and long-term governance, and building a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful by the middle of this century.

The resolution of the third plenum of the 20th CPC Central Committee says the country will support the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions to build themselves into global hubs for high-caliber talents and play a greater role in the country’s opening-up, and deepen cooperation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. In this regard, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will fully support all sectors of Macao society in implementing the resolution of the third plenum of the 20th CPC Central Committee by further leveraging Macao’s unique advantages endowed by “one country, two systems” and its role as a platform for international cooperation.

Since its return to the motherland 25 years ago, the Macao SAR has enjoyed the biggest constitutional advantage — “one country, two systems” — abundant development opportunities, a highly internationalized business environment, a strong economic foundation, the advantages of multiculturalism and strong patriotism. These advantages and the embracing of new opportunities created by deepening reform and opening-up will turn Macao into a more successful and attractive international metropolis.

Also, China will resolutely safeguard its sovereignty, national security and territorial integrity, as well as development interests, foster a favorable external environment for further deepening reform to advance Chinese modernization, and improve the mechanism for high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative. These measures will help advance Chinese modernization, and create more opportunities for China and the rest of the world to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation and prosper together. The first half of 2024 has seen China’s economy performing well, with GDP growing by 5 percent and investment in high-tech sectors rising by 10.6 percent, which prompted the International Monetary Fund to revise up its forecast for China’s growth in 2024.

The global business community, too, is optimistic about China’s economic prospects, with new foreign enterprises

# To honour Jimmy Carter’s legacy, amplify his call for freedom in Palestine

JIMMY Carter, the 39th president of the United States who turned 100 this month, has built a legacy of courage and moral clarity over his many decades in public service, fighting tirelessly for peace and human dignity at home and around the world.

Now, as he nears the twilight of his life, we must take the time to reflect on one of his most courageous stances: his unwavering commitment to Palestinian dignity and self-determination.

In 1996, President Carter stood with us, the Palestinian people, as we voted for our leaders for the very first time. Though the Oslo peace process had failed to deliver the independent Palestinian state we had hoped for, Carter believed that the act of casting our ballots was still vital — that it was a chance to build a future rooted in peace and justice.

His presence in Palestine during that first election underscored our hopes for a

brighter tomorrow, despite the heavy shadows of occupation and displacement.

In 2003, as the separation wall began to snake across the West Bank, I met President Carter once again at The Carter Center’s first-ever Human Rights Defenders Forum in Atlanta, Georgia.

There, I told him about the stark realities faced by Palestinians in the West Bank city of Qalqilia — 40,000 people encircled by concrete, with only one gate allowing them access to farms, medical care and the outside world. A single gate that opened and closed at the whim of Israeli soldiers, sometimes remaining shut for days at a time. As I updated him on the situation in Palestine, I called it what it is: apartheid, the separation of two peoples based on ethnicity, with one dominating the other through systemic injustice. Carter listened, intently and without judgement.

Just two years later, in 2005, he had the opportunity to see the reality for him-

self when he returned to Palestine to observe the presidential elections, in which I was the leading independent candidate against Fatah’s Mahmoud Abbas.

In 1996, President Carter stood with us, the Palestinian people, as we voted for our leaders for the very first time. Though the Oslo peace process had failed to deliver the independent Palestinian state we had hoped for, Carter believed that the act of casting our ballots was still vital — that it was a chance to build a future rooted in peace and justice. His presence in Palestine during that first election underscored our hopes for a brighter tomorrow, despite the heavy shadows of occupation and displacement. In 2003, as the separation wall began to snake across the West Bank, I met President Carter once again at The Carter Center’s first-ever Human Rights Defenders Forum in Atlanta, Georgia.

During this time, President Carter witnessed firsthand how Israel, rather than building bridges to secure peace, was constructing walls — walls that cut deep into Palestinian land, walls that annex settlements and water resources, walls that isolate Palestinians into enclaves. He also witnessed how, after a meeting we had in

Jerusalem, the Israeli security service arrested me for no reason other than preventing me from talking to Palestinian voters there. It was during this visit, I believe, that it became clear to him that Israel was not preparing for peace, but instead consolidating control in ways that would make a two-state solution impossible.

In 2006, Carter published Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid, a book that shook the American political landscape. In it, he laid

Mustafa Barghouti

out a simple truth: without Palestinian freedom and dignity, there could be no peace. He made the case not as an enemy of Israel, but as

belief in justice. He understood that the only way Israel could truly thrive was through a just peace with the Palestinians. He recognised that the Palestinian people, who have lived under brutal occupation since 1967 and experienced repeated displacement since 1948, were entitled to the same rights and dignity as anyone else. He recognised in later writings that it was my 2003 account of the situation in Qalqilia that made him understand the reality of apartheid in Palestine. What makes Jimmy

the best way we can

honour Jimmy Carter, his bravery and unwavering moral clarity is to carry forward his commitment to equal human rights for all people. The Palestinian struggle for self-determination is not just a political issue — it is a moral one. As Carter always emphasised, the US has a special responsibility. Without American political and military support, Israel would not have been able to continue its ruthless occupation and apartheid against Palestinians or to commit the genocide in Gaza. As we celebrate and reflect on Carter’s life and legacy, let us amplify his call for the US to be a genuine force for peace and justice around the world. Let us recognise, as Carter wanted, that peace in our Holy Land will only come when the rights and dignity of Palestinians are acknowledged and respected. Only then will we truly be able to honour his legacy and the values he stood for so bravely.

— Aljazeera



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari presenting Lifetime Achievement Award for Ilyas Ahmad Bilour for his services to the business community. The award was received by Sherbaz Bilour, grandson of Ilyas Ahmad Bilour.

## Lifetime Achievement Award FPCCI honours Ilyas Ahmad Bilour

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In recognition of unmatched, selfless and excellent services to the business community, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has honoured businessman forum, United Business Group senior leader and former senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour a lifetime achievement award.

This award of former senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour was received by his grandson with the hand of President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari during FPCCI Award distribution ceremony, which was held at

President's House, said in a press release issued here on Wednesday.

Ilyas Ahmad Bilour didn't participate in the award ceremony owing to illness.

During the ceremony, former federal minister Ejaz Gohar praised Ilyas Ahmad Bilour for his services to the business community, saying that Ilyas Ahmad Bilour had always served the community selflessly and without any discrimination.

Ejaz Gohar said services of Ilyas Ahmad Bilour always remained exemplary who played a vital role in resolution of business community issues in the parliament and other rele-

vant forums by taking up them effectively.

It is noted mention here that businessman forum leader Ilyas Ahmad Bilour was remained four time member of Senate of Pakistan and raised voice for best interest of business community and rights of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa people and played important role provision of facilities, resources and constitutional rights.

Consequently, President Asif Ali Zardari praised the services of Ilyas Ahmad Bilour for the business community and awarded him a lifetime achievement award.

## Boeing halts talks

WASHINGTON (Reuters): Talks between Boeing (BA.N), opens new tab and its key manufacturing union broke down, and no negotiations are currently planned as the financially damaging strike heads into a fourth week.

The company withdrew its pay offer to around 33,000 U.S. factory workers on Tuesday, saying the union had not considered its proposals seriously after two days of talks.

The breakdown compounds financial and production problems at Boeing, one of the two primary global commercial planemakers.

The strike would cost Boeing over \$1 billion a month, S&P Global Ratings estimated, while warning of a downgrade of its debt to junk territory. It had a debt of about \$60 billion.

The stalemate shows no signs of resolution, a person briefed on the talks said.

"Unfortunately, the union did not seriously consider our proposals," Boeing Commercial Airplanes head Stephanie Pope said in a note to the employees, calling the union's demands "non-negotiable".

"Further negotiations do not make sense at this point," she said.

Boeing has been burning cash in 2024 as it struggles to recover from a January mid-air panel blowout on a new plane that exposed weak safety protocols and spurred U.S. regulators to curb its production.

Earlier this year, Boeing replaced its CEO Dave Calhoun with Kelly Ortberg, who started in August with the hope to pull together a labor deal and shore up the company's reputation with customers and regulators. So far, none of that has happened.

Boeing is now examining options to raise billions of dollars to shore up its balance sheet. Reuters reported that it was looking to sell stock and equity-like securities, with its prized investment grade credit rating at risk.

The company has also introduced temporary furloughs for thousands of salaried employees, while the factories producing its best-selling 737 MAX and its 767 and 777 planes are shut. The company's goal to boost output of its 737 MAX planes to 38 a month will likely not come to fruition until mid-2025, S&P said.

manufacturing. The LCCI leadership said that the deals will bring in billions of dollars of foreign investment, catalyze the country's economic growth and strengthen its standing on the global stage.

Mian Abuzar Shad said Pakistan stands to benefit greatly from Saudi investment. The LCCI President also added that sectors like industrial growth, agriculture and information technology will see a major boost as a result of these agreements, which will create thousands of jobs and opportunities for the Pakistani workforce.

The LCCI office-bearers said that Saudi Arabia's investment in Pakistan will be a game-changer. These deals will lead to improved connectivity, creating a stronger foundation for long-term economic progress. They added that enhanced ties with Saudi Arabia will also facilitate the growth of Pakistan's export sector, providing access to new markets and increasing the country's foreign exchange reserves.

They said that the importance of fostering closer ties between the business communities of both nations. "We anticipate that these deals will go beyond government-to-government cooperation.

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Wednesday appreciated the government for paving the way for investment from Saudi Arabia that is bound to boost economic activities in the country.

LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry, in a media statement here, welcomed the government's landmark efforts for deals with Saudis which he is poised to finalize during the visit of Saudi Minister of Investment's upcoming visit to Pakistan.

These forthcoming deals are expected to not only enhance bilateral relations but also inject much-needed capital into Pakistan's economy, providing a lifeline to various critical sectors.

LCCI office-bearers lauded the prime minister's leadership, while describing the agreements as a historic step towards economic revival.

They said that Saudi Arabia has always been a pivotal partner for Pakistan and the signing of these trade and investment deals will open new doors of cooperation in key sectors such as energy, infrastructure, technology and

## NBP partners with Huawei to establish National Cloud Data Center

### F.P. Report

KARACHI: National Bank of Pakistan has signed a MoU with Huawei Technologies Pakistan (PVT) to develop a state-of-the-art National Cloud Data Center. The MoU was formalized during the Huawei Connect 2024 Global Conference. This collaboration aims to strengthen NBP's digital infrastructure by deploying cutting-edge cloud services in a Tier-3 certified data center. Huawei will provide dedicated teams to ensure timely implementation, ongoing operations and maintenance support.

Mr. Amin Manji, Chief Information Technology Group (ITG), NBP and Mr. Ethan Sun, CEO, Huawei Technologies Pakistan (PVT) signed the MoU. Mr.



Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President, NBP and Mr. Riaz Hussain, Group Chief, IFRG, accompanied by Mr. David Wang, Executive Director of the Board, Chairman of ICT Infrastructure Managing Board, Huawei Technologies, Mr. Derek Hao, President, Enterprise

Business Group (EBG), Huawei ME&CA and Mr. Ethan Sun, CEO, Huawei Technologies Pakistan graced the occasion.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President NBP, said, "This partnership is a testament to our commitment to adopting advanced technologies

that enhance our operational efficiency." Mr. Amin Manji, SEVP & Group Chief Information Technology Group (ITG) at NBP, added, "Huawei's expertise will be crucial in transforming our data management capabilities and ensuring the reliability of our systems".

## SCCI chief calls for provision of uninterrupted power, gas supply



### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fazal Moqem Khan emphasized the need for uninterrupted electricity and gas supply with full pressure on business hubs and industries in the province.

He also called upon the government to adopt business-friendly policies and took measures to provide relief to the business community.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a frontline province where running businesses and industries is no less than a jihad, the SCCI chief said.

Fazal Moqem said the private sector has an

important role in the economic development and prosperity of the country and providing employment, so it is very important to solve their problems.

Fazal Moqem made these remarks during a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Captain (R) Sarmad Saleem Ikram during his visit to Chamber house to congratulate newly elected office bearers of the chamber here on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Senior Vice President of SCCI Abdul Jalil Jan, Vice President Shehryar Khan, Imtiaz, President Gul, Faiz Rasool, Fazal Wahid and Ishtiaq Muhammad and

others were also present. Fazal Moqem highlighted various issues regarding business and industries.

The SCCI chief said that the total production of natural gas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is 500 mmcf, especially this province is producing gas more than its requirement, but the businesses and industries, particular, the gas is not being supplied with full pressure to the CNG stations due to which the business community is facing a lot of difficulties.

Fazal Moqem expressed concern over the increase of 'Dabba stations across in the city and demanded the local admin-

istration to take effective action against them.

The DC assured to solve the problems and difficulties related to business and trade.

Sarmad Saleem said that belonging to a business family, he is well aware of all the difficulties faced by the business community.

DC said that the government is taking steps for the improvement and development of business and trade.

He assured that the policies will be implemented in consultation with the chamber and the trade bodies and all the obstacles in the way of business and trade will be removed by timely actions.

Sarmad Ikram proposed that the chamber and the local administration should jointly start a special skill development program, on which the SCCI president Fazal Moqem Khan fully agreed.

SCCI chief assured all possible cooperation has been assured in this regard.

Fazal Moqem emphasized the establishment of close coordination and liaison between the SCCI and his office so that the problems of the business community would be resolved in a timely manner.

## EHFPRO BoD meeting discusses EHF-PRO project

### F.P. Report

KARACHI: The 56th Board of Directors meeting of EHFPRO was convened in the Committee Room of the Housing Authority, chaired by Captain (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal, Director General of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority.

The board addressed key issues regarding the EHF-PRO project, with a focus on technical challenges and identifying solutions. Senior officers from EHF-PRO and directors from the Housing Authority provided recommendations to the



Director General to address these issues.

Captain (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal emphasized the need to reiterate the project's importance and its potential benefits to federal

employees and investors. He directed the team to develop a comprehensive action plan for the rehabilitation of the project within seven days, to be presented at the next board meeting.

He further highlighted that this project represents a prime opportunity for secure investment, which will boost the construction sector and benefit over 40 related industries. It will generate thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities, contributing to economic growth and poverty reduction.

Captain (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal stressed the critical nature of the project and stated that failure will not be tolerated. Moving forward, all factors contributing to project delays will be thoroughly addressed.

## Haji Ghulam Ali highlights protential of Bajaur natural resources

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Former Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, administered the oath to the newly elected cabinet and executive members of the Bajaur Chamber of Commerce.

The newly elected President, Lali Shah, Senior Vice President Shaukat Khan, Vice President Adnan Khan, and the executive members expressed their gratitude to former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

They acknowledged his exemplary services as both Governor and President of the Federation, which have brought pride to the business community. They also



lauded his tireless efforts in supporting various chambers across the province.

During his address, Haji Ghulam Ali congratulated the newly elected cabinet and members, emphasizing the chamber's role in addressing the challenges faced by its region and members.

He highlighted the potential of Bajaur, rich in natural resources, and stressed that by properly utilizing and adding value to these resources, the area can achieve significant development, offering employment opportunities for the local youth. Furthermore, Haji

Ghulam Ali agreed with the chamber's request to initiate Pakistan-Afghanistan trade through Nawapas, which would provide a convenient trade route and boost economic growth. He assured that discussions with the relevant departments will be initiated to move forward with this proposal.

On this occasion, former provincial minister Malik Meherullah, President of Mohmand Chamber Ameer Muhammad, and President of Peshawar Traders Chamber Ghulam Bilal Javid also congratulated the newly elected cabinet and members, offering their full support and cooperation.

### Court Notice

In the court of Wadeia Mushtaq, Additional District Judge -I, Swabi, Muhammad Ibrar Khan, VS. Sohail Khan, Suit number: 17/13, Institution Date : 28-03-2024, Hearing Date: 31-10-2024, Notice to : (23) Sherin Muhammad, (24) Zamord (25) Sher Azam son Mst. Muntazira Bibi late (26) Nigar Sultana (27) Mst. Hifsa (28) Zaheer son Bashir Khan (29) Muhammad Sabir (30) Muhammad Amir (31) Muhammad Tayab son Muhammad Tahir (32) Yar Muhammad (33) Akbar Khan (34) Sherdil (35) Gul Rehman (36) Mira Khan (37) Sher Nabi Khan (38) Khan Sher (39) Zamir Sher (40) Tawos Khan (41) Hassan Din (42) Adam Khan son (43) Mst. Qudratay widow Fazal Ghani (44) Fazal Khaliq (45) Muhammad Hanif (46) Fazal Rabi (47) Zamord son (50) Janas Khan son Diyar Khan (52) Mst. Islam Bibi daughter Taj Muhammad (53) Khanpur (54) Gulbar Shah son Khanpur (55) Muhammad Nisar (56) Muhammad Saleem (57) Muhammad Irshad son Mansoor Khan (58) Riaz (59) Ijaz (60) Nihar (61) Muhammad Haris son (85) Dupty Commissioner Swabi (86) Assistant Commissioner Swabi (87) Tehsildar Swabi (88) Girdawer circle Swabi (89) Patwari halqa vill, Panjpir (90) Incharge SDC Distt, Swabi, Respondent. The service through ordinary means is difficult, so you are informed to attend the court on 31-10-2024 personally, through counsel or attorney to avoid ex-parte proceeding.

### Court Notice

In the Court of Jauhar Ali Safi Civil Judge I/in, Alaga Qazi Buner at Daggar.Suit No 566/1, Institution 7/10/2024. Date of hearing. 21/10/2024. Fared VS Rajwali Khan. Notice to No. 2. Zebullah Khan. 4. Tajbar Khan.5.Seraj Khan resident of Daggar Kalay Buner at present abroad. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.00 am dated 21/10/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.



ABU DHABI: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi met with H.E. Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, Chairman of Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UAE Chambers) and Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He is also Chairman of Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development, Abu Dhabi Global Market.



In brief

Williamson doubtful for India series

WELLINGTON (Agencies): New Zealand Cricket (NZC) named star batter Kane Williamson in the squad for the upcoming tour of India on Wednesday, despite a lingering groin injury likely ruling him out for at least the first of three Tests. Williamson will delay travelling to India while he continues treatment for the injury, which he suffered during last month's series defeat in Sri Lanka. Although the former captain is unlikely to play the first Test in Bengaluru on October 16, selector Sam Wells said he was "hopeful" the 34-year-old would return later in the series. "The advice we've received is that the best course of action is for Kane to rest and rehabilitate now rather than risk aggravating the injury," Wells said in a New Zealand Cricket statement. "We're hopeful that if the rehabilitation goes to plan, Kane will be available for the latter part of the tour." Williamson experienced groin discomfort during the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle as New Zealand slumped to a 2-0 series whitewash. Uncapped batsman Mark Chapman has been added to the 16-man squad as cover for Williamson, who is New Zealand's greatest Test run-scorer, with 8881 runs from 102 matches at an average of 54.48. His absence would be a major blow for New Zealand's hopes against India, who have won their last 18 Test series on home soil.

Klopp to lead Red Bull football operations

BERLIN (AFP): Former Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has a new role as head of football operations at Red Bull, which owns the RB Leipzig, Salzburg and New York clubs, the company said Wednesday. Klopp left Liverpool at the end of last season after nine years in charge, during which he rejuvenated the club and won the Premier League and Champions League. His announcement in January that he was leaving came as a shock to the club's fans but Klopp said he was exhausted by the role. The 57-year-old's new job with the Austrian energy drinks giant will not involve hands-on coaching. According to a statement released by the company, "Klopp will not interfere in the day-to-day business of the clubs, but rather take on a higher-level strategic position," Klopp himself said. "I see my role primarily as a mentor for the coaches and management of the Red Bull clubs. "After nearly 25 years on the sideline, I couldn't be more excited to be involved in a project like this. "The role may have changed but my passion for football and the people who make the game what it is, has not." 'Global level' Klopp stressed his role was at "a global level" and added: "I want to develop, improve and support the incredible football talent that we have at our disposal. "There are many ways that we can do this, from using the elite knowledge and experience that Red Bull possesses to learning from other sports and other industries. "Together we can discover what is possible. I see my role primarily as a mentor for the coaches and management of the Red Bull clubs but, ultimately, I am one part of an organisation that is unique, innovative and forward-looking. As I said, this could not excite me more." He will start his tenure on January 1, 2025. Sky Germany reports Klopp's contract includes an exit clause which allows him to take over as manager of the German national side should he be approached.

Record-breaking Root leads England back into Test



MULTAN (Agencies): Joe Root's impeccable century on the day he became England's all-time leading runscorer led the charge back into the first Test against Pakistan in Multan. Beginning day three on 32, Root needed another 39 to break Sir Alastair Cook's record. The 33-year-old, in his 147th Test, created a moment of British sporting history, then went on

and on to set up the prospect of a remarkable victory. In punishing heat, this was one of the most gruelling of Root's 35 Test hundreds. He batted throughout for his 176 not out, taking England to 492-3, only 64 behind. After Zak Crawley was out for 78 and Ben Duckett recovered from his dislocated thumb to make 84, Harry Brook

arrived for his own unbeaten 141, surviving the ball hitting the stumps but not dislodging the bails when he had 75. Root and Brook have so far shared 243 for the fourth wicket, an all-wicket record for England in Pakistan. Resuming on 96-1, England overall added 396 for the loss of just two wickets on one of their great days in an overseas Test. Never before have England conceded as many as Pakistan's 556 and gone on to take a first-innings lead. Now they are primed to do just that and, in doing so, will give themselves the chance of another stunning win in this country. "I'm obviously proud but still feel there is plenty more left to do and many more runs left to get," said Root. "More than anything the way we played as a team is what stands out - we've got ourselves back in a really good position." England in hunt for sensational win If Root made this day memorable, there were times when the cricket itself was a tough watch, simply because of how bat utterly dominated ball. The pitch remains full of runs. It is rated as the fifth-flattest over the opening three days of a Test anywhere in the world since such data was first collected in 2007. England's almost unchecked

progress and Pakistan's slow roast puts the home side's first-innings total into context. But Tests in this part of the world can accelerate quickly and England have a determination to avoid draws at all costs. The tourists are now in the stronger position and can ponder how best to force victory. England have been known to be daring with declarations in the past, yet the smarter move would be to get as many runs as possible in this first innings. That would put Pakistan under pressure in the second innings and lessen any potential run-chase when the pitch will be, in theory, at its worst. Only once have England conceded more than the 556 Pakistan made in the first innings of a match and gone on to win - and that was in 1894. Then again, the last two times England have been flogged for more than 500, they have been victorious. The next two days could produce one of their best wins. Root's record and more There was an inevitability that this would be the day for Root to overhaul Cook's tally of 12,472. With ideal conditions and in supreme form, Root's massive appetite for runs would only have been appeased by a huge score. Root came through an opti-

mistic lbw review off the bowling of Aamer Jamal when he was on 65 then passed Cook with a dreamy straight drive off the same bowler. Root celebrated with a small wave of the bat, like he knew it was just the beginning. And so it proved, as Root put together an epic. Even in the stifling temperature, Root played all of his trademark nudges and tucks, then scampered between the wickets. There were bouts of cramp, though no signs of stopping. Occasionally, he unfurled picture-perfect cover drives. Spinner Abrar Ahmed was treated with disdain by all of England's batters. Root reverse-swept him to go to three figures and at one point even played him left-handed. There was plenty more to come. Same tempo, same solid defence and sound judgement. Against the second new ball and on 168, Root was pinned by a Naseem Shah inswinger and a review just about upheld umpire Kumar Dharmasena's not-out decision. More magic moments are in Root's future, possibly even Sachin Tendulkar's world record of 15,921 Test runs. For now, his sights are set on a double hundred and an England triumph. Brook's home comforts in Pakistan Brook announced himself on England's last tour of Pakistan

in 2022, making hundreds in each match of the 3-0 win. This knock made it four tons in as many Tests here and five in six away Tests overall. Crawley looked in supreme touch after he returned on 64, only to clip Shaheen Shah Afridi to mid-wicket. Duckett, arriving at number four after his injury prevented him from opening on Tuesday, punished the spinners before he was lbw to Jamal. Brook made a rapid start - he had 41 from the first 36 deliveries he faced - then settled into his work. Like Root, he played drives and sweeps. When Shaheen tested him with bouncers, Brook simply swatted them through mid-off. His big moment of fortune came when he played Jamal into the ground. The ball bounced up, hit his body, then trickled back on to the unmoved stumps. It summed up Pakistan's day. Brook cut the left-arm spin of Saud Shakeel to reach his sixth Test hundred and, despite his own spells of cramp, still had the energy to attack the new ball by running at Naseem. Perhaps it was fitting that, on the day Root set a new England record, he was shadowed by the batter with the best chance of getting anywhere near him.

Bowlers to bounce back in remaining days of match: Gillespie

MULTAN (APP): Pakistan's bowling coach Jason Gillespie commended England's batting display on the third day and expressed confidence in Pakistan's ability to bounce back in the remaining days of the first Test. Holding a press conference after the day's play, Gillespie acknowledged England's strong performance, saying, "England played very well today, especially their batsmen. Credit must be given to how they approached the innings." He also singled out Root, whom he had coached during his

time with Yorkshire, noting, "I have seen Joe Root closely during my coaching stint at Yorkshire. He said that Root always strives to improve and deliver better performances. He was one of the world's best players, regardless of the fact that he has not scored a century in Australia." Despite England's aggressive batting, Gillespie felt that Pakistan's bowlers managed to bowl effectively in intervals. "We bowled well in phases and the plan was to bowl straight and limit boundaries," he said.

Gillespie also spoke about the pitch, acknowledging its batting-friendly nature but noting that results could be achieved with disciplined bowling. "The pitch was certainly favorable for batting, but if we bowl in the right areas, we can still get good results," he added. With England trailing by 64 runs and seven wickets in hand, Gillespie remained hopeful about Pakistan's chances. He said that efforts would be made to take early wickets tomorrow morning and put pressure back on England.

Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson set for six weeks out



LONDON (AFP): Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker is expected to be sidelined for around six weeks with a hamstring injury, which would rule him out of matches against Chelsea and Arsenal. The 32-year-old Brazil international was hurt during last weekend's 1-0 victory over Crystal Palace and went off late in the second half. Reports in the British

press say tests have shown Alisson is not likely to be fit to play until after next month's international break. That would mean the first match he would potentially be available for would be the trip to Southampton on November 24. Arne Slot's Premier League leaders face Chelsea on October 20 and Arsenal a week later, while their next two Champions League fixtures pit them

against RB Leipzig and Bayer Leverkusen. Caoimhin Kelleher, who missed the Palace match through illness, will be expected to deputise, as he did last season when Alisson was ruled out with another hamstring injury. Speaking after the victory at Crystal Palace, Slot predicted a lengthy lay-off for his number one goalkeeper. "We have to wait and see but it will be a few weeks for him to be back. I think it is, yes (his hamstring)," he said. "He's clearly our number one, he's the best goalkeeper in the world. It's always a blow when he gets injured, not only for him but us as a team." Liverpool have 18 points from seven Premier League matches -- one more than defending champions Manchester City and Arsenal.

Root's performance boosts confidence of team: Duckett



MULTAN (APP): England opener Ben Duckett heaped praise on teammate Joe Root for his brilliant performance boost team's confidence on the third day of the match. During a press conference following the day three of the first Test against Pakistan, Duckett, who played a crucial role with his 84-run knock, expressed admiration for Root's professionalism and resilience, particularly in the challenging conditions. Sharing his thoughts on Root, Duckett said, "It was an honor to share the dress-

ing room with Joe. He continues to work just as hard as he always has, and it was inspiring to see him play with such dedication." Root, who remains unbeaten with 176, has been the backbone of England's strong reply to Pakistan's massive first-innings total. Reflecting on Root's performance in the intense Multan heat, Duckett said, "The way Joe batted today in such extreme conditions was truly commendable." Duckett, who suffered a dislocated thumb during his innings, acknowledged the

discomfort but remained focused on the task. "My thumb was dislocated, and it was quite painful, but these things happen in cricket," he shared. When asked about Root's mindset, Duckett emphasized that Root does not seem to be overly concerned with personal records. "I do not think Joe was too focused on individual milestones. He was just enjoying his current form and doing what was the best for the team," Duckett explained. Reflecting on the state of the match, Duckett expressed relief that England had only lost one wicket by the close of the second play. "We only lost one wicket yesterday, if we had lost three or four, we might have had to change our plans completely," he said. Duckett stressed the importance of maximizing the opportunity on the batting-friendly pitch and said that the team will try to score as many runs as possible on this surface.

Russia calls off friendly match with Pakistan over team issue

ISLAMABAD (Monitoring Desk): Russia at last, has called off the proposed friendly football match against Pakistan, confirmed by the Russian Football Union (RFU) on Tuesday. The union cited time constraints and a lack of clarity over the team composition on Pakistan's side for cancelling the match. In a statement, the RFU's communication service said that the match, scheduled to take place on October 11 with Pakistan, will not take place in this window. "The RFU continued to discuss with Pakistan the possibility of a friendly match, however, based on the time frame of the training camp that had begun, it decided not to hold the game," the statement said. This development followed a complicated series of events. Initially, the Pakistan Football Federation's Normalisation Committee had expressed its inability to field a national team due to the short preparation time. "We had informed the

Russian Football Union weeks ago that assembling a team for October FIFA window in such a limited timeframe was not feasible. The PFF had then suggested to play in November's window but no official match was agreed upon," a PFF source had told Geo earlier. Despite the PFF's stance, the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) took an unexpected step by announcing it would send a football team to Russia on its own initiative. According to sources, the PSB decided to field a team composed of players from the Islamabad Football Association (IFA), bypassing the PFF's authority. A senior PSB official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, had said yesterday that the invitation for the match came directly from the Russian government, specifically through their Minister of Sport. The PSB believed it was an important opportunity for Pakistan to strengthen diplomatic relations, so we quickly formed a team from avail-

able players in Islamabad. The PSB-assembled team was not considered an official representation of Pakistan by the PFF. Sources further disclosed that travel arrangements for the PSB's team were already in place before the Russian Football Union made the decision to cancel the match. "Everything was set. The players had been selected, and travel plans were finalized. But today the Russians decided to cancel the match," the source said adding that a list of 18 to 20 players was already prepared including some players who had recently represented Pakistan in international fixtures. This would also probably bring some relief to players who were in catch-22 situation after being selected to represent PSB's team as the move could risk their future with Pakistan Football Federation. Pakistan's national team head coach Stephen Constantine was also not in favor of allowing national team players for this match.

This unusual situation arose after the PFF had earlier declined to play in October window. However, the PSB decided to move forward with its own plans and the PSB's move to send a team without PFF's oversight created confusion within Pakistan's football community. Many questioned the legitimacy of the PSB's team, which did not include any officially selected national players. A source observed that the fact that PSB took it upon itself to send a team raises serious concerns about governance. These matches should be handled by the national football federation, not the sports board. The PSB, according to sources, had initially viewed this match as an important diplomatic opportunity, but the entire process has highlighted the lack of coordination between PSB and PFF. Observes believe that allowing PFF to carry on negotiations over football matters would've achieved better results.

Nepalese teenager becomes youngest person to climb 14 'eight-thousanders'

KARAKORAM (Agencies): Nepalese teenager, Nima Rinji Sherpa, has become the youngest mountaineer to climb the 14 highest peaks on the Earth, generally known as the "eight-thousanders". All of the gigantic peaks are located in Asia, in the mountain ranges of Himalayas and Karakoram. Nima Rinji stood atop the peak of Mount Shishapangma on Wednesday, achieving a feat for which many have died. The eight-thousanders are 14 mountains whose height exceed 8,000m. As for the 18-year-old Nepalese climber, his record becomes all the more special as he summited all the peaks in 740 days, as per BBC. On each of his expeditions, taking him one stop closer to the glory of the record, he was accompanied by his climbing partner, Pasang Nurbu Sherpa. Nima Rinji is also the youngest climber to have climbed the mountains Gasherbrum I and Gasherbrum II situated in the Himalayan moun-



Shishapangma as quoted by BBC. "Sherpa" is commonly used to refer to mountain guides or porters in the vicinity of Everest but it is actually an ethnicity that continues to thrive in the mountains of Nepal. "Mountaineering is more than labour, it is a testament to our strength, resilience and passion", the young climber added. Nima Rinji said he wanted the younger Sherpas to know that they can rise above the stereotype that they are "just guides". "Let this be a call to every Sherpa to see the dignity in our work, the power in our heritage, and the limitless possibilities in our future", he said. The previous holder of this record was Mingma Gyabu "David" Sherpa, also a Nepalese mountaineer, who achieved the feat at the age of 30 in 2019. Director of Adventure Tourism and Mountaineering Branch under Nepal's Department of Tourism, Rakesh Gurung, said the record is now "difficult" to break.

Sinner to face Medvedev in Shanghai Masters quarter-finals

SHANGHAI (AFP): World number one Jannik Sinner will face Daniil Medvedev in the Shanghai Masters quarter-finals after both had straight-set victories on Wednesday. Sinner put some old demons to rest in overcoming American Ben Shelton 6-4, 7-6 (7/1), while Medvedev took out Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (7/3), 6-3. Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic also progressed to the next round after comfortable wins. Shelton, ranked 16, knocked Sinner out at the same stage last year but the Italian looked confident from the start and won in 88 minutes.

The US Open champion pulled ahead in the ninth game of the first set, breaking when Shelton hit long, then dominated the second set tiebreak. "It was very tough, you don't have so much control when you play against him... I just tried to stay strong mentally," said Sinner. World number five Medvedev and Tsitsipas were meeting for the 14th time. The Greek started the second set strongly, breaking in the first game, but Medvedev broke in the fourth and eighth to claim victory. Medvedev and Sinner have already met four times in the final stages of tournaments this year. Sinner beat Medvedev in

the semi-finals in Miami, the quarter-finals of the US Open and in the Australian Open final, but the Russian ended the Italian's hopes in the last eight at Wimbledon in an epic five-set battle. "I'm gonna bring the fight," Medvedev said. "I could have done much better in the US Open... I didn't explore enough my potential during this match. So I'm going to try to explore this potential tomorrow," he said. Sinner said: "We know each other quite well now, we know exactly what to expect, more or less." "Of course, it's going to be a very tough match, physical match, mental match, and also tactical, so

let's see what's coming." Alcaraz downs Monfils World number two Alcaraz, who beat Sinner in the China Open final a week ago, downed veteran Gael Monfils 6-4, 7-5 for a 12th straight victory. The 38-year-old Frenchman upset Alcaraz at their last meeting in Cincinnati in August and the Spaniard admitted that "was on his mind". "I'm just really, really happy I won the match, and that I stayed calm through the whole match," the 21-year-old said. Alcaraz's quarter-final opponent is 23-year-old Tomas Machac, who beat 13th-ranked Tommy Paul 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.



## In brief

### PHA to eliminate dengue larvae breeding sites

RAWALPINDI (APP): Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi is making all-out efforts to eliminate potential dengue larvae breeding sites, particularly in city parks and green belts, said Director General (DG), PHA Rawalpindi, Ahmed Hassan Ranjha. The DG during a visit to different parks inspected anti-dengue arrangements made by the authority. Ahmed Hassan Ranjha said that PHA will provide all possible help and support to the administration and the health authorities to control dengue. He said that PHA staff was directed to take all possible steps in this regard and keep a check on water tanks and stagnant water in the parks as well as in the green belts of the city. The DG further informed that dengue control teams have also appreciated arrangements on part of PHA in view of dengue control. He said that PHA used to keep a check on the water storage mechanism in the parks and also monitor green belts to eliminate potential breeding grounds for dengue larvae. Ahmed Hassan Ranjha during a visit to Commercial Market Rawalpindi also inspected the green area. He warned that negligence on the part of the officials concerned would not be tolerated.

### IRSA releases 139,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 139,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 109,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1536.97 feet and was 138.97 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 61,400 cusecs and 65,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1207.45 feet, which was 157.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 11,600 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 69,300, 69,100, 63,100 and 15,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 18,800 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

### 15 Outlaws held

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 15 criminals involved in different criminal activities, including drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons, and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession. According to a police spokesman on Wednesday, under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police had intensified its crackdown on criminal elements to eliminate crime from the city. In this regard, the ICT Police Kohsar, Tamol, Koral, Bani Gala, and Shahzad Town police station teams took legal action against accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons and arrested ten accused, he said. He said police teams also recovered 130 grams of heroin and four pistols, two SMGs, one 223-bore rifle, one 12-bore gun with ammunition, two daggers, and stolen valuables from their possession. Moreover, five absconders were also arrested during the last 24 hours. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza said.

# Govt. allocates Rs 7.5 bln to bring out of school back: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said that federal government is allocating Rs 7.5 billion to enrol back 26.2 million out of school children across the country.

Addressing an International Conference: "Education System Strengthening Challenges and Opportunities – A 20-Year Retrospective" held here at COMSTech, the minister announced that for this project the federal government would allocate Rs 25 million, while 25 millions would be given by the provinces and 25 millions by the partners.

The one-day conference was organized by Manhattan Strategy Group (MSG), a prominent US-Pakistani social and human development organization, with an aim to bring together local and global perspectives to address the critical challenges facing Pakistan's education system.

Speaking at inaugural session of the conference, Ahsan Iqbal said that education is not a sector but a foundation of development and prosperity. It was revealed in the census that literacy rate in Pakistan is 60 percent but for progress and development, we need 90 percent literacy rate in the country. He lamented that with such a huge number of out of school children, Pakistan can not progress. He termed education as mandatory tool to

run the infrastructure of a country.

The minister said that federal government is also establishing South Asia's top teachers training center in Pakistan to fulfill the need of best teaching practices. "We have to revise our curriculum as per international standards and in order to teach modern curriculum, we are working on teachers training on war-footing steps".

The minister also underlined the importance of latest exams system, adding, current exam system would be reformed as per international level. Under another program, he said that campus of a university would be established in each district to facilitate the poor and needy students especially the girls at their door step.

He urged that our UETs should be a brand in the world like Indian IETs, adding, this government is on path of reformation under leadership of Shabbaz Sharif. He hoped that our future generations would see a developed and prosperous Pakistan. Pakistan would be among top 15 economic countries through stability, consistence in policies, unity, reforms, continuity of democracy.

He stated that the diaspora of any country is key to its success and development. "It is inspiring to see the Pakistani diaspora, Manhattan Strategy Group (MSG), organized such a valuable event focused on education," he added.

Chairman Higher

Education Commission (HEC) Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said in his speech that politics should not interfere in the education system, this is our biggest challenge, a government that makes policies, the new government should continue the same.

The quality of education can be improved, Professor Dr. Mukhtar said adding that negative news about educational institutions is spread on social media, which must be stopped. In the education sector, we have to understand that these are our children, we have to spend on education and health. He also highlighted the importance of collaboration across sectors to overcome educational challenges.

During the ceremony Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Secretary Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, in his address said that we should introduce modern technology in the education system as without it we cannot move forward. He also suggested that educational and technical experts should provide their services collectively, not individually in all sectors.

During the conference, experts discussed the alarming statistics revealing that over 26.2 million children in Pakistan are out of school, with 53% being girls. More than 60% of children aged three to 3-5 do not have access to primary education.

## Romina highlights SCO's significance Post-COVID-19

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam on Wednesday said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)'s significance as a multilateral forum has further enhanced post-Covid-19 pandemic that stirred transformational changes leading towards multipolar world.

She was addressing as a keynote speaker at the webinar on "Multi-polar World and Role of SCO" organized by the China-Pakistan friendship group of the Parliament of Pakistan in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization, Research, and Development (AIERD) and Sustainability First.

She said "Pakistan is hosting a Head of Government meeting in the coming week. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was built by adhering to the philosophy of the Shanghai Spirit, which revolves around the principles of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for the diversity of civilizations, and the pursuit of common development," she said.

The SCO forum, she said started with a low pro-

file but was highly focused on its goals and objectives. Since the organization's inception, SCO has adhered to respect, trust, and win-win cooperation principles, she added.

The forum's principles led to the successful execution of plans and achievement of the most urgent objective, including border issues, which boosted the confidence of SCO members, Romina Alam said.

"Thus, in recent years, SCO underwent expansion. Pakistan, India, Iran, and Belarus are the most recent additions to the organization. The inclusion of Pakistan and India highlights the core values of the organization that SCO is open, culturally diverse, and focuses on common grounds," she said.

The SCO member states constitute 40% of the world population and have a combined GDP of around US\$24 trillion, she added.

Saudi Arabia, UAE and some other countries are in line to join the organization. These factors make SCO one of the most important organizations, Romina underlined. The specific objectives of the event were to deliberate on the ongoing changes at the global and regional levels to explore the future role of

SCO in the changing world and future prospects an influential forum amid emerging multipolar world.

CEO of AIERD, Shakeel Ahmed Ramay, said, "We have to deliberate on whether we are moving towards a multipolar or Multiblock world."

He also emphasized that SCO must have a comprehensive communication policy to compete with the world. Founding President Center for China and Globalization, Dr. Henry Huiyao WANG highlighted the importance of economic linkages and the key role of the economy in bringing together countries. Moreover, he said, economic linkages and cooperation must be a multipolar world's guiding philosophy and pillars. He said, China is already promoting economic linkages by sharing its prosperity with the world.

Russian International Affairs Council, Julia Melnikova was convinced that SCO must be more vocal and raise its voice at the global level. It should present its ideas and contribution to global peace and development. Former

Chairman Senate Defence Committee, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said there is a need to enhance cultural linkages.



ISLAMABAD: Swedish Envoy Alexandra Berg von Linde meets Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar.

## Twin cities report over 3,700 dengue cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon has chaired a high-level meeting and reviewed the ongoing dengue outbreak in the Federal Capital and Rawalpindi, urging officials to step up efforts in controlling the spread of the virus.

In the meeting, they reviewed the dengue prevention efforts, and thoroughly examined the rising number of dengue cases in the twin cities. The meeting aimed to assess the current situation and the measures being taken to control the virus.

The officials informed that so far, Islamabad has recorded 1,676 dengue cases, while the total number in Rawalpindi has reached 2,113. The authorities are monitoring hospital capacities to ensure that infected individuals receive timely medical attention.

In this regard, the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has allocated 104 beds specifically for dengue patients. While, Polyclinic Hospital has set aside 50 beds, and Capital Hospital has dedicated 30 beds for the treatment of dengue.

The data from the meeting revealed that men are disproportionately affected by the virus, making up 67% of the cases, while women account for 33%. In the last 24 hours alone, 67 new cases have been reported in Islamabad, highlighting the urgency of the situation. The health department has also been actively conducting inspections and monitoring dengue prevention efforts.

Over the past week, authorities identified 1,821 positive dengue larvae in various parts of the city. From September 30 to October 3, a total of 214 inspections were carried out to ensure compliance with anti-dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). During these inspections, 60 people were arrested for violating SOPs, and 23 cases were registered. Authorities are treating violations seriously, as these contribute to the spread of the virus.

## Swedish envoy calls on law minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, Alexandra Berg von Linde on Wednesday called on the Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar here Wednesday.

During the meeting, both sides engaged in a fruitful discussion on the state of bilateral relations and explored areas of potential collaboration and open dialogue, said a press release.

Law minister praised the Swedish government's efforts in addressing the global rise of Islamophobia, highlighting Sweden's proactive stance on promoting tolerance and

understanding. Ambassador von Linde emphasized that open dialogues are essential for fostering mutual understanding and shared perspectives between nations. She reaffirmed Sweden's commitment to strengthening relations with GSP Plus countries, including Pakistan.

The Law Minister expressed Pakistan's dedication to improving governance in key areas such as politics, freedom of the press and independence of judiciary. He highlighted the recent establishment of a commission for the protection of journalists, underscoring the govern-

ment's commitment to safeguarding fundamental human rights.

On the topic of gender equality, Senator Tarar stated that the government is working on procedural reforms to ensure the protection of women against domestic violence, reflecting Pakistan's commitment to gender justice.

Both parties expressed optimism about further collaboration and constructive dialogues on various issues of mutual interest. The meeting concluded on a positive and hopeful note, with both sides looking forward to strengthening the bilateral relationship.

## British HC allocates over £10 million for flood response in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The British High Commission has announced a significant relief package of over £10 million to aid Pakistan in its recovery from devastating floods. The funds, aimed at addressing the immediate needs of flood-affected communities, will focus on providing essential relief items, supporting rehabilitation efforts, and strengthening infrastructure to withstand future climate-related disasters, says the official handout.

This commitment comes in response to the widespread damage caused by torrential monsoon rains, which have displaced thousands, submerged vast areas, and caused severe disruption to livelihoods across the country. The allocated funds will be distributed through partnerships with local and international humanitarian organizations to ensure swift and effective relief operations.

During a press briefing, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott, emphasized the importance of international solidarity in times of crisis. "The people

of Pakistan are facing a severe humanitarian challenge, and the UK stands with them in this time of need," she said, adding that climate resilience is also a long-term priority. Pakistan has been grappling with increasingly frequent and intense flooding in recent years, driven by climate change. The £10 million relief effort underscores the UK's continued commitment to supporting Pakistan in both its recovery and in enhancing its preparedness for future natural disasters.

The Pakistani government has welcomed the UK's assistance, with officials expressing gratitude for the timely support. The relief package is expected to provide food, shelter, clean water, and medical assistance to the most vulnerable populations while addressing long-term recovery and climate resilience. This funding is part of a broader international response, with various countries and organizations pledging support to help Pakistan recover from the catastrophic floods.

## ANF recovers 44 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 44 kg drugs worth Rs 9.4 million and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday.

He informed that in an operation, 1500 intoxicated tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused arrested near Hayatabad Toll Plaza on Ring Road Peshawar.

In another raid, 500 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused netted from Murree Road in Abbottabad. Seven kg hashish was recovered from an accused nabbed near a university in Tando Jam, Hyderabad. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions.

The spokesman further informed that 12 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad and an accused was arrested during the operation. 24 kg hashish was recovered from an abandoned motorcycle near Afghan camp in Orakzai.

# Climate Change Ministry seriously address exotic wildlife, flora import impacts on biosphere: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday directed the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination to seriously consider exotic wildlife and flora species' import impacts on biosphere beyond risks to human health.

The Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change met here with Senator Sherry Rehman in chair that led to a detailed discussion on the private member bill titled "The Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora (Amendment) Bill, 2024" introduced by Senator Shahadat Awan during the Senate session on September 2nd which was referred to the Committee for consideration and submission of a report.

Senator, Sherry Rehman on the occasion highlighted that the exotic wild fauna species were being sold despite CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) convention restrictions in Rawalpindi's

market. She said the Ministry should devise a cogent definition of exotic and invasive species as the CITES Convention prohibits imports of alien and invasive species. "The control of import and export of invasive species is the spirit of CITES. I am concerned about import of invasive species and absence of definition of invasive species which is a huge legislative deficit," she added.

Senator Rehman urged the Ministry to expand the scope of the existing legislation under CITES to not only keep the law confined to risks to human health but also extend it to the ecosystem damage anticipated due to exotic wild fauna and flora. The mover Senator Shahadat Awan should have a focused discussion with the Ministry to remove all lacunas, the Chair said. She also directed Commissioner Islamabad who is also Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) to approach the Ministry of Climate Change which is the focal person on Rawal Dam matter and deferred the agenda per-

taining to Rawal Dam pollution for the next meeting.

Commenting on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Senator Sherry Rehman said the NDCs were ambitious targets but it was important to remember that it's the 30th climate multilateral conference but the progress achieved so far was abysmal.

"NDCs mean world commitment to reduce carbon emissions, the outcomes of the NDCs needs to be probed as the rest of the world has not done enough so far. We are facing highest global mean temperature exceeding the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold which is due to growing emissions," she added.

All the senators and ministry officials as advocates should raise these points at all multilateral climate forums, she said.

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Hamid Shamimi informed the committee that a national legislation was enacted under the CITES convention as Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act as a national legis-

lation. "The amendment suggested by the Senator includes plants and animals whereas incorporation of pathogens is a contentious matter due to capacity constraints

The definitions currently are available in the convention and through the amendment bill we intend to add a parallel definition that can cause ambiguity in the matter as exotic is a comprehensive term," he said.

Sensor Shahadat Awan said he had proposed amendments through Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora (Amendment) Bill, 2024 so that the legislation should cater the import and export of invasive species. "Invasive species means plants animals, pathogens and organisms alien to an ecosystem that can cause economic, biological and environmental harm," he said while reading out the definition proposed in the Bill.

He pointed out that the matter came to the limelight after the Fatima Jinnah Park issue of removing paper mulberry trees that caused huge environmental damage and risk to human

health. The Senator agreed to the amendments as guided by the ministry officials namely, the removal of pathogens proposed alongwith flora and fauna, withdrawal of addition of invasive as part of the bill and others.

Sensor Agha Shahzaib Durrani said the pathogens and viruses are microscopic organisms that cannot be controlled whereas the legislation should not be restricted to wild animals alone. "The term invasive needs to be clarified. We need to introduce invasive term which refers to elements or objects harmful for the biological life," he said.

Director General, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA), Farzana Altaf Shah said the Amendment Bill would cause overlapping with many animal and plant quarantine laws that were already enforced. Senator Bushra Anjum Butt said the law was already covering everything and new amendments would bring repetition of information whereas the forum should focus on implementation of this law.

Executive Director, Global

Change Impact Studies Center (GCISC), Arif Goheer briefed the forum on the preparations of the NDCs document so far and apprised that the NDCs revised document was underway.

"Pakistan's first NDCs was submitted in 2016 that pledged to reduce 20% of its emissions projected till 2030 and revised it in 2021 by pledging 50% reduction in carbon emission with 35% conditional and 15% unconditional contributions," he added.

Under the NDC, he said the provincial committees have been made with clear representation of provincial departments and academia. The third NDCs document would be different from the previous ones with broadened scope of emissions' reduction agenda including sectoral emissions as part of mitigation as well as adaptation agendas. Additional Secretary Ministry of Climate Change, Zulfiqar Younas briefed the forum on the Ministry's COP29 preparations. He informed that a vibrant pavilion was being prepared with the aim to convene international speakers at 30 different planned events.

### Police destroy over 6,000kg of drugs

HELMAND (Ariana News): Afghan officials have seized and destroyed more than 6,000kg of narcotics in Helmand in the past six months. The anti-narcotics department of the Helmand police said that the drugs included 400 kilograms of heroin, 452 kilograms of methamphetamine, 537 kilograms of opium. In addition, 281 people were arrested in connection with the possession and sale of drugs in this time.

# The Frontier Post

## AFGHANISTAN

Rabi Ussani 06 1446 — Thursday, October 10, 2024

### Over 300 refugee families return from Iran

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation of Afghanistan reported on Wednesday, October 9, that 310 more Afghan families have returned from Iran and Pakistan. According to the reports, these migrants re-entered Afghanistan through the Torkham, Spin Boldak, Nimroz, and Islam Qala border crossings. The figures show that 35 families returned through Torkham, 38 through Spin Boldak, 98 through Nimroz, and 139 families through Islam Qala.

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

## Islamic Emirate: 'No threats to other countries from Afghanistan'

KABUL (TOLONews): Hamdullah Fitrat, the deputy spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, in response to recent statements from the US Departments of Defense and State, said that no terrorist group is present in Afghanistan.

Fitrat said that Daesh (ISIS) has been suppressed in the country, and the Islamic Emirate will not allow anyone to use Afghan soil against other countries.

The deputy spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate told TOLONews: "We consider all concerns in this regard baseless, and we reject such claims that there is a threat to other countries from Afghanistan. No foreign group is active in Afghanistan, and the Islamic Emirate will not allow anyone to create threats to other countries using Afghan soil."

Earlier, Matthew Miller, the spokesperson for the



US Department of State, expressed concerns about threats originating from Afghanistan, saying that the normalization of Washington's relations with Kabul is conditional on changes in the interim government's approach to human rights.

Miller said: "So our most critical interest when it comes to Afghanistan has been and will continue to be that the country can never again be a launching pad for terrorist attacks against the United States,

and we continue to remain incredibly vigilant against any terrorist threats directed at the United States and its allies. We – so I would say for the – that when I say human rights are at the forefront of our engagement with the Taliban, that especially includes the rights of women and girls who continue to be oppressed by the Taliban. We make sure that any significant steps toward normalization of relations are contingent upon profound improvements in their

treatment of women and girls, including but not limited to allowing women and girls back in school and lifting the restrictions on women's employment."

At the same time, the deputy spokesperson for the US Department of Defense also expressed concerns about al-Qaeda's threats in the region and Afghanistan.

Sabrina Singh, the deputy Pentagon spokeswoman, said: "We certainly take it seriously. We retain incredible capability in the region, which as you mentioned include over-the-horizon capabilities."

Meanwhile, Andrew Korybko, an expert at the Russian Institute For Strategic Studies told the Media Line website that Russia, by removing the Afghan interim government from its blacklist, is seeking to expand military and intelligence cooperation with the interim government and jointly combat Daesh.

## Haqqani engages with EU Ambassador on Refugee and IDPs challenges

KABUL(BNA): Khalil-ur-Rahman Haqqani, the Acting Minister of Refugees and Repatriation, met with Ms. Veronika, the European Union (EU) Ambassador to Afghanistan, today at his office to discuss the ongoing challenges faced by Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

According to a statement issued by the Ministry, the meeting addressed a range of critical issues, including the plight of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran, the forced deportation of Afghan nationals from Germany and other European countries, as well as efforts to permanently resettle IDPs within Afghanistan. Both sides also discussed mobilizing additional international aid to provide essential support for these vulnerable groups.

In the meeting, Minister Haqqani expressed his appreciation for the European Union's continued support and assistance to Afghan refugees. He



emphasized the importance of ensuring that aid is delivered directly to those in need, particularly in areas such as housing, job creation, and economic support, which are fundamental to improving the long-term well-being of displaced individuals.

In response, Ambassador Veronika reaffirmed the EU's com-

mitment to addressing refugee issues, recognizing them as a collective responsibility. She announced that the European Union, in collaboration with United Nations aid agencies, has already contributed 125 million in support of refugees and vulnerable populations in Afghanistan, with an addi-

tional 36 million in assistance planned by the end of the year.

As a key outcome of the meeting, both sides agreed to establish a joint technical committee to develop a comprehensive mechanism for effectively coordinating refugee assistance and addressing their challenges in a sustainable manner.

## Kabir urges neighbors to remove trade obstacles

KABUL (Ariana News): Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, political deputy prime minister, says the Islamic Emirate is trying to strengthen and develop relations between Afghanistan and countries in the region and strengthen economic and commercial cooperation.

Speaking at an event in Kabul's Serena Hotel, Abdul Kabir emphasized the need for expansion of trade and regional transit and asked the neighboring countries to remove obstacles currently faced by Afghan traders.

"We call on all countries to remove obstacles and problems for Afghan



traders and investors. Creating problems, blocking roads and increasing taxes on Afghan businessmen will damage the economic relations and coop-

eration between Afghanistan and neighboring countries," said Kabir.

He added that the IEA is looking for alternative business ways to expand

its economic relations with the region. Nooruddin Azizi, the acting minister of industry and commerce, also addressed the event and said that the IEA provides comprehensive support to traders and has held useful discussions with the Iranian side for the activation of Chabahar Port.

A number of Iranian traders and officials have promised to cooperate with Afghanistan and provide facilities at Chabahar Port. Officials of the chambers of industry and commerce of Iran, Pakistan, Japan, Turkey and China also participated in this conference.

## Denmark stops recognizing extended Afghanistan passports

KABUL (Amu TV): Denmark announced that, as of September 18, 2024, it no longer recognizes extended Afghanistan's national passports, requiring Afghan nationals in the country holding these documents to obtain new passports from Taliban authorities, according to Schengen News report.

The Danish Immigration Service also outlined options available to Afghan nationals in Denmark who may need an alternative travel document, such as a convention or alien's passport. However, not all Afghan nationals are eligible for these Danish-issued documents.

This development comes as the Taliban recently declared invalid the documents issued by Afghan consular offices in several Western countries. These offices are led by former diplomats and have not engaged with the Taliban.

Afghan nationals holding Danish residence permits on grounds other than asylum are not automatically entitled to an alien's passport, the report said.

According to the report, in these cases, the Danish Immigration Service requires proof that they are unable to obtain an Afghan passport. Afghan nationals are generally expected to travel back to Afghanistan to secure a new passport, and citing this travel requirement alone will not suffice to qualify for an alien's passport.

By contrast, Afghan nationals with Danish residence permits based on asylum, or those reunified with family members under asylum, are eligible for a convention or alien's passport.

The Immigration Service notes that those who believe they cannot return to Afghanistan due to specific legal concerns may apply for asylum to avoid the requirement to obtain a new Afghan passport.

## Panjshir central prison construction begins



PANJSHIR (TOLONews): Local officials in Panjshir have announced the commencement of construction for the province's central prison, with a budget of nearly 13 million Afghanis.

This prison is being built on 11 acres of land in Bazarak, the capital of Panjshir, and will have the capacity to accommodate 500 inmates. A special section is also planned for

female prisoners.

Mohammad Agha Hakim, the governor of Panjshir, said: "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has decided to build a standard prison in Panjshir, which will include vocational centers, education and training facilities, and all the necessities that a prisoner may require."

Hedayatullah Hemmat, the director of Panjshir prison, stated: "The budget

for the first phase of this project is twelve million nine hundred thousand Afghanis, which has been allocated by the Prison Department with assistance from the Ministry of Defense."

The engineer of the project said that this prison will be constructed on 11 jeribs of land in a fundamental and robust manner.

Zinatullah Amarkhil, the project engineer, added: "A separate building has been planned for women, and another for men. Additionally, a recreational yard and industrial facilities will be provided, where they can receive vocational training."

Local officials in Panjshir say that with the completion of this prison's construction, the challenges faced by prisoners in the province will be resolved.

## More than \$5 billion to be invested in first phase of Aynak Copper project

LOGAR (Ariana News): Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs, met with Song Wen Bing, President of the Mes Aynak Copper Contracting Company, this week and emphasized that once copper starts being extracted, the country's mining revenue will be boosted.

According to a statement issued by the ministry, Song reiterated the company's commitment

to ensuring the timely initiation of extraction activities in line with the agreed schedule and operational plan.

Song meanwhile stated that more than \$5 billion will be invested in the first phase of the project, with initial mining operations expected to start once the road to the site has been constructed.

He said the necessary machinery is scheduled to be imported next year.

Song also noted that the project will create jobs for 3,000 Afghans and that a group of Afghans will be sent for vocational training in China.

He also said that the surrounding historical sites and changes in the mining plan have contributed to delays in the project.

The Aynak copper mine contains millions of tons of copper and is believed to have the second largest

copper reserve in the world.

The contract for the Aynak copper mine was signed in 1999 with the Chinese company MCC for 30 years, but due to security issues and prolonged excavations of ancient relics in the area, the extraction of copper was delayed.

A critical road to the mine has also been a challenge, but construction work on this recently got underway.

## 200 Athletes compete in national Judo team selection

BAGHLAN (TOLONews): Judo athletes from various provinces across the country have entered the field of competition in Baghlan for the national team selection tournament in this sport. This competition, hosted by Baghlan, involves judo athletes from 14 provinces, with the goal of identifying elite players for the country's national judo team. Officials from the Judo Federation have stated that more than 200 athletes, across various weight categories, are participating in this national team selection event, competing over the course of five days for a spot on the national judo team. In addition to the participation of athletes from 14 provinces, a team of Afghan refugees residing in Iran has also joined the competition. These competitions, in the senior age category, have been organized by the Afghanistan Judo Federation in collaboration with the Physical Education and Sports Department. Judo athletes have entered the mat for the national team selection tournament, while previously the federation had held various special competitions for athletes of this sport in the capital.

## Calligraphers and Artists of Herat demand more support



HERAT (TOLONews): Dozens of calligraphy works by teachers and students of the Ustad Kamal ud-Din Behzad Vocational Institute have been displayed in an exhibition in Herat City. These artists criticize the lack of attention from the public and the government toward the art.

Abdul Qayoom Faizi, head of the Ustad Kamal ud-Din Behzad Vocational Institute of Arts, said: "About 61 of our calligraphy works are on display here, showcasing Nastaliq, Broken Nastaliq, Nayaish font, Naskh, and the Kufic script of the first century."

Some calligraphers in Herat say that for the better growth of calligraphy, support from the government and the public is essential. Shamsuddin Noorizada,

a calligraphy teacher, said: "Artists have had less government support. They haven't been supported as they should be. This Islamic art must receive backing." One of the demands of Herat's calligraphers is the opportunity to participate in international exhibitions.

Faramarz Sarwari, a calligraphy teacher, told TOLONews: "The government should purchase their works and provide opportunities for international exhibitions for calligraphers and other artists."

According to them, their valuable calligraphy works can represent Afghan art on the global stage. Nahik Falah, a cultural expert, said: "They should exhibit the foundational scripts, as Herat has been the shining

stage for these arts. UNESCO should be invited to showcase Herat as the birthplace of art."

Meanwhile, the Turkish TIKA office in Herat has recently renovated the Ustad Kamal ud-Din Behzad Vocational Institute of Arts. Arafat Deniz, the head of the Turkish TIKA office in Herat, said: "Our main focus in this restoration has been the exhibition hall, the sports section, the library, and the mosque."

Herat is the birthplace of many scripts like Nastaliq, Broken Nastaliq, Naskh, and Kufic. Calligraphy is one of Herat's ancient and valuable arts.

These scripts were created over different historical periods and were particularly developed during the Timurid golden age.



KABUL (Ariana News): The Ministry of Finance says an agreement has been signed between the ministry, Afghan Post and the Ministry of Transport and Aviation to install a GPS in all cargo vehicles entering the country.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday in Kabul, finance ministry

officials said this move aims to encourage investment and ensure the safe passage of all cargo vehicles into and through the country.

"By installing this device (GPS), ease is created in transit shipments and trust is created in the external transit sector," said Dost Mohammad

Mukhlis, deputy finance minister.

"This GPS is installed in cargo transit vehicles. GPS is installed in every truck that enters our country, and when it leaves Afghanistan, the GPS is removed," said Habiburrahman Taliha, head of procurement of the Ministry of Transport and Aviation.

Ahmad Jan Bilal, head of the leadership board of state-owned companies also said that the Afghan Post company has created a new six-digit code that has been approved by the International Postal Union and will be used in national and international postal services.

Afghan Post is trying to establish 4,105 postal service centers in the country so that its services become national.

## Ministry of Justice reclaims 250,000 Jeribs of govt land

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Justice has announced that in the past month, it has been able to identify over 250,000 jeribs of government land in 23 provinces of the country.

The spokesperson of the ministry says that during this period, more than 34,000 jeribs of land have been reclaimed in seven provinces, and over 560,000 jeribs of land in 33 provinces are under their review.

Barkatullah Rasooli, the spokesperson of the Ministry of Justice, said: "The process of reviewing, identifying, and reclaiming Emirate lands is ongoing in all provinces, and the cases of thousands of jeribs of seized Emirate land are under review by the

Commission for the Prevention of Land Seizure and its provincial committees."

According to the ministry, the process of reviewing, identifying, and reclaiming government lands is ongoing in all provinces, and the cases of thousands of jeribs of seized government land are under investigation by the Commission for the Prevention of Land Seizure and its provincial committees.

Some experts have also praised the reclaiming of seized government lands. Sayed Akbar Sial Wardak, a political affairs expert, said: "This action (reclaiming government lands) can further strengthen the relationship between the system and

the people, and it is a good step taken by the Islamic Emirate. I see it as a positive move."

Salim Paigir another political affairs expert, said: "In the past 44 years, lands, both government and private, as well as personal homes of the people, were seized by powerful individuals and groups. The Islamic Emirate must hold these individuals accountable and return the government lands and people's homes to their rightful owners."

Previously, the Ministry of Justice reported that in the past year, it had been able to identify and free close to 44,000 jeribs of land, houses, shops, clinics, and other government properties from seizure.

# Allocation of funds PHC grants final deadline to KP govt

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional comprising of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmed extended the stay order, restraining the provincial government from utilizing funds for block/ umbrella schemes while granted final deadline to provincial government for submission of response till 17th October, on Wednesday.

PHC heard a writ petition filed by opposition lawmakers from various political parties, including Dr. Ibad, Arbab Muhammad Waseem, Ahmad Kundi, Arbab Muhammad Usman, Kiramat Ullah Khan, Ihsan Ullah Khan and Muhammad Iqbal Khan along with others.

Barrister Sultan Muhammad Khan and Babar Khan Yousafzai advocate argued that the petitioners are opposition members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, representing different political parties that secured approximately 30 million votes in the 2024 general elections.

The provincial government's 2024 budget incorporated blocked/ umbrella schemes and projects in Annual Development Program (ADP) which is illegal, the lawyers added. Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has allocated significant funds for these projects, violating the government's fund release policy.

During the Hearing Barrister Sultan Muhammad Khan requested for an extension of the stay order to prevent fund utilization in blocked/ umbrella schemes and projects. Additional Advocate General Bashir Naveed informed the court that the

## Court directs federal's govt for provision of record

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice S.M Attique Shah and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah ordered federal's government for provision of records within three days to Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) regarding imposition of ban on the organization, on Wednesday.

The writ petition filed by PTM member named Maqsood Shah against the federal government's ban on the organization. PHC ordered PTM's lawyers to prepare arguments for maintainability of the writ petition for next hearing. The counsel Atta Ullah Kundi advocate argued that the federal government banned PTM on 1st October under the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 without any evidence of involvement in terrorism.

During hearing Justice S.M Attique Shah inquired that can you (the petitioner) directly file a writ petition in this court (PHC/ High Court)? However, the lawyer argued that the High courts and apex court have ruled that if an appropriate forum is not available, a writ petition can be filed in the high court.

In the meantime, Additional Attorney General Sana Ullah opposed the writ and argued that this petition is premature and the forum is available for redressal of PTM grievances. PHC Justice Sahibzada Asadullah observed that whether this petition is admissible and what is the locus standi of the petitioner? The petitioner is PTM's member and the entire organization has been banned while the leader Manzoor Pashteen cannot appear here, the lawyer argued.

PTM's lawyer argued that the organization is peaceful, working for rights and has international membership. The court inquired about the government's reasons for the ban, and the Additional Attorney General assured that the Ministry of Interior would provide the necessary information. However, Justice Sahibzada Asadullah remarked that what can the court do in this matter as the federal government needs to be appealed? The counsel Atta Ullah Kundi advocate responded that the government hasn't provided reasons for the ban, so we couldn't appeal to the Ministry of Interior. PHC's divisional bench comprising Justice S.M Attique Shah and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah ordered federal's government for provision records to PTM within three days while adjourned further hearing till 15th October.

government has submitted comments, but the file was not yet available.

However, Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim remarked that this is block allocation fund; you're (KP's government) violating the Supreme Court's judgment. Justice Waqar Ahmed directed the provincial government to bring an expert from the Planning and

Development (P&D) department to explain the distribution mechanism for block allocations.

PHC extended status quo and granted final deadline to Government of Pakhtunkhwa for submission of response in allocation funds for blocked/ umbrella schemes while adjourned further hearing till 15th October.

## SC seeks opinion from govt, Wapda

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday sought an opinion from the federal government as well as from WAPDA about whether the funds meant for the construction of a dam could be deposited in a private bank for a markup.

During the hearing of Diamer Bhasha Dam and Mohmand Dam funds case, the additional auditor general (AAG) told the court that it could not keep the amount. "I have never seen this happening during 37 years of my service," he added. A three-member bench of the SC, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa, heard the case.

The AAG said that in the light of the apex court's verdict, Prime Minister Chief Justice Dam Fund Account had been opened. "And the SC registrar looks after the account." He informed that the audit revealed that there was no misappropriation either of the funds or of the markup.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa remarked that the account was not an appropriate word. "It has always been my priority not to prefer court decisions to what is laid down in the constitution." "We are not hearing a review petition. All we are trying to know is whether the SC can keep funds," the CJP added.

The former attorney general (AG) said plenty of things were published in newspapers these days. The CJP said he would not let him read newspapers in the courtroom. "Instead of discussing politics, please assist the court in the light of the constitution." The former AG said that as a matter of fact, the funds meant for dams should be spent should be spent for the same purpose. The court later adjourned the case's hearing until October 11.

## Israel carries out new strikes in Gaza

CAIRO (Reuters): At least 18 people were killed in overnight military strikes on Gaza, Palestinian medics said on Wednesday, as Israeli forces pressed on with a raid on the Jabalia refugee camp in the enclave's north. The Israeli military says the raid, now in its fifth day, is intended to stop Hamas fighters staging further attacks from Jabalia and to prevent them regrouping.

It has repeatedly issued evacuation orders to residents of Jabalia and nearby areas, but Palestinian and UN officials say there are no safe places to flee to in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said it had received unconfirmed reports that dozens of Palestinians may have been killed in Jabalia and other areas of northern Gaza, but is unable reach them because of Israeli bombardments.

"At least 400,000 people are trapped in the area," Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the UN Palestinian refugee Agency (UNRWA), posted on X on Wednesday. "Recent evacuation orders from the Israeli Authorities are forcing people to flee again & again, especially from Jabalia Camp. Many are refusing because they know too well that no place anywhere in #Gaza is safe." Lazzarini said some UNRWA shelters and services were being forced to shut down for the first time since the war began and that with almost no basic supplies available, hunger was spreading again in northern Gaza.

"This recent military operation also threatens the implementation of the second phase of the #polio vaccination campaign for children," he said. Israel did not immediately comment on Lazzarini's remarks. Israeli authorities have previously said they facilitate food deliveries to Gaza despite challenging conditions. Israel's military, which is also in conflict with Hezbollah in Lebanon, says Hamas militants use residential areas as cover in the densely populated territory, including schools and hospitals. Hamas denies this. In one Israeli strike overnight on a house in Shejaia, a suburb of Gaza City, nine people of the same family were killed, medics said. The rest of the dead from the overnight strikes were killed in central areas of the Gaza Strip.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari administering the oath of office to Chairman of Federal Public Service Commission, Lt. General (retd) Akhtar Nawaz Satti, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Positive mindset way forward for public admn: CASS

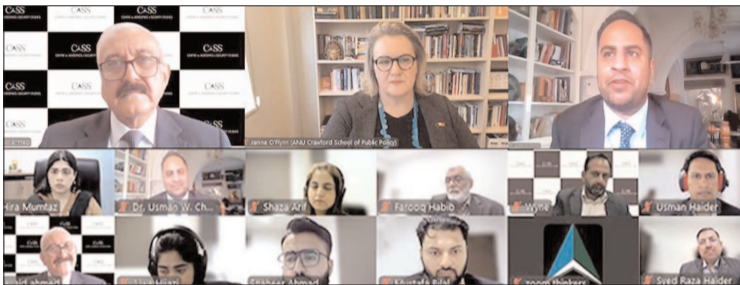
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, recently hosted a webinar titled 'Positive Public Administration: Lessons for Pakistan,' which explored how the principles of positivity can drive effective governance in the country.

The event drew inspiration from the publication of the book 'Pathways to Positive Public Administration', a seminal volume that explores how the discourse of Positive Public Administration (PPA) can reshape public governance through optimism, resilience and innovation.

The webinar featured Professor Janine O'Flynn, Director, Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University and one of the editors of the book, and Dr Usman W. Chohan, Advisor on Economic Affairs & National Development at CASS, who contributed a chapter on Pakistan's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic through the lens of PPA.

Professor O'Flynn provided an overview of the emerging PPA discourse, explaining how its focus on positive, solutions-oriented governance can lead to tangible improvements in public administration. She discussed the evolution of PPA, highlighting its potential to reshape both academic thought and practical public administration approaches. According to her, PPA is not limited



to one region or culture but has the potential to be applied in diverse contexts, including Pakistan. She urged that in an increasingly complex and interconnected world, adopting a mindset of positivity and resilience is crucial for governments and public institutions to respond effectively to the challenges they face.

Dr Usman W. Chohan built on these insights by contextualising PPA within Pakistan's experience, particularly its response to the global COVID-19 Pandemic. He noted that Pakistan had demonstrated immense capability during the Pandemic, successfully balancing public health imperatives with economic considerations. He argued that this example of positive administration offers important lessons for Pakistan's future governance. Dr Chohan stressed that positivity is not merely an aspirational concept but a necessary approach for tackling the country's challenges, from economic recovery to social development. He pointed out that Pakistan has proven its capacity for

success in the most difficult circumstances and that the country can replicate this success in other sectors with the right mindset.

Moreover, Dr Chohan emphasised that for Pakistan to continue on this positive trajectory, it is essential for all stakeholders, including government institutions, civil society, and the private sector, to work in unison. Collaboration and unity, he argued, will be key to building a future where positive public administration can thrive.

President of CASS, Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd), commended the hard work and intellectual rigour behind the book Pathways to Positive Public Administration. He agreed that Pakistan has a unique opportunity to apply PPA principles to navigate global challenges and highlighted the need to foster optimism and cooperation in the public sector. He also noted that the face of public administration was evolving rapidly with the advent of emerging technologies, making it crucial for Pakistan to adapt and lead in this transformation.

## Changing economy's DNA must for inclusive, sustainable growth

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing its reform agenda and meeting structural benchmarks to lend permanence to macroeconomic stability, promote inclusive, sustainable growth and end Pakistan's reliance on external borrowing.

He made it clear that the only way this goal could be successfully achieved, was by changing the DNA of the economy by moving it away from its usual boom-and-bust cycles and leading it to a sustained export-led growth, encouraging investment and FDI flows into export-oriented sectors and getting access back to the international capital market. He made this observation during a meeting with a high-level delegation from the Asian Development Bank that called on the Minister at Finance Division, according to press release issued by Finance Ministry.

The visiting delegation was led by Donald Bobiash, Executive Director of Asian Development Bank and Shigeo Shimizu, Executive Director Asian Development Bank while Yong

Ye, Country Director Asian Development Bank and other senior officers from the ADB and Finance Division were also present. Aurazzeb shared with them a roundup of ongoing structural reforms and the resultant growth trajectory and improvement in key economic indicators.

He particularly highlighted an efficient management of twin deficits backed by buoyant remittances and healthy exports, a steep fall in inflation from a 38 percent high of last year to a 44-month low of 6.9 percent in September last, and reduction in the policy rate by 450 bps with expectations of more cuts in upcoming months. The Minister also mentioned the stability in exchange rate, growth in forex reserves to \$10.7 billion after the signing of the IMF accord and the stock exchange index crossing 85,000 figure to indicate a growing business confidence and favourable investment climate leading to further institutional flows into the country.

He credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with personally overseeing and spearheading the implementation of wide-ranging structural reforms in key sectors, including taxation, energy, SOEs, privatization, rightsizing of government and pen-

sion reforms. He called the recent signing of a National Fiscal Pact between Federation and the provinces a milestone in achieving harmony in driving the pace of structural reforms and incentivizing the provinces to mobilise greater tax resources, rationalize their development expenditures and improve their governance to meet the development goals.

The minister thanked ADB for its continued support to Pakistan's development agenda and its assistance provided in key sectors. He said Pakistan looked forward to further deepen its partnership with the ADB through enhanced assistance and support for its reform programme. On the occasion, Donald Bobiash, Executive Director of Asian Development Bank, Shigeo Shimizu, Executive Director Asian Development Bank and other ADB officials expressed their appreciation for the bold reforms undertaken by Pakistan for stabilizing its economy and achieving sustainable growth.

They reaffirmed ADB's support for ongoing reforms and strengthening the country's fiscal framework. They also assured the bank's support for Pakistan's development goals and its efforts for inclusive growth, innovation, and climate action.

## CTD kills 209 terrorists in IBOs across KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in its report issued here Wednesday said that as many as 209 terrorists killed and 244 were held during intelligence based operations across the province during the last nine months.

It said that a total 497 incidents of terrorism took place in 27 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last nine months in which 1,154 terrorists of banned organizations were nominated in FIRs, adding that so far 16 accused had so far been punished by the relevant courts.

Sharing the details, the CTD report stated that 39 terrorists were killed in 52 incidents of terrorism occurred in district Dera Ismail Khan, the hometown of the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and provincial Chief Minister. The police arrested four terrorists. Similarly, 22 miscreants were killed and 25 were held in 55 incidents in Khyber district, it said, adding that 54 incidents of terrorism were reported from North Waziristan wherein the CTD police killed 27 terrorists and

arrested eight others during the operations.

The provincial capital witnessed 33 incidents of terrorism during the last nine months where 66 terrorists were arrested and eight were killed. In district Shangla, six incidents of terrorism were reported in which 33 terrorists were arrested and one was killed.

The CTD police killed two terrorists and held three others in ten different incidents of terrorism during the period. Likewise, 11 terrorists were killed in 39 incidents in South Waziristan, while one was arrested. In 39 incidents of terrorism registered in district Bajaur, some five terrorists were killed while eight were arrested.

District Bannu witnessed 40 incidents of terrorism wherein 21 terrorists were arrested while 15 were killed. Two terrorists were killed in two incidents of terrorism in district Buner, four were held and four others were killed in one incident in district Charsadda. The CTD said that six incidents of terrorism occurred in district Lower Dir where two suspects were apprehended. Similarly, two terrorists were held in district

Hangu where nine incidents of terrorism were reported.

In Karak, three suspects were arrested in connection with five incidents of terrorism. Four terrorists were killed in Kohat where five incidents occurred. Six terrorists were held and one killed in 17 incidents of terrorism in District Kurram. 14 terrorists were killed and eight arrested in 37 incidents of terrorism in District Lakki Marwat. 25 terrorists were arrested in four incidents of terrorism in Malakand.

Similarly, four suspects were arrested in one incident of terrorism in Mansehra district. 11 terrorists were killed and nine were arrested in nine incidents in Mardan. In Mohmand district, eight incidents were reported wherein six terrorists were killed and one was arrested. Five terrorists were arrested while two were killed in seven incidents in Nowshera district. The CTD killed 28 terrorists and arrested six suspects in 51 terrorist incidents in Tank District. One militant was killed in a terrorist incident that occurred in Swabi during the last nine months.

## Millions flee Florida as Hurricane Milton nears

FLORIDA: Millions of Florida residents have fled the US state as Hurricane Milton approaches, with officials there warning that those who stayed would "die" and that single-story homes would turn into "a coffin". "We are a few hours away from an epic catastrophe," Tampa Congresswoman Kathy Castor told CNN. The Tampa metropolitan area, home to more than three million people, is directly in the hurricane's path, as is a vast swath of Florida's western coast.

Forecasters have described the hurricane, which is expected to make landfall on Wednesday night, in apocalyptic terms, warning it would be the "storm of the century". That emphasised the power of Milton in a state that is no stranger to hurricanes, having already been battered by a series of devastating storms in recent years. The National

Hurricane Center said Milton would cause an "extremely life-threatening situation" and is expected to bring damaging winds and torrential rainfall that will extend inland and outside the forecast cone. It weakened slightly from a Category 5 storm to a Category 4 as it approached the west coast of Florida, but is still extremely powerful.

The hurricane comes just two weeks after an earlier one, Hurricane Helene, hit on September 26, causing widespread damage across the southeastern US, including in Florida, and killing more than 200 people - mainly in North Carolina and Georgia. Trucks have been running 24 hours a day to clear mounds of debris left behind by Helene before Milton potentially turns them into dangerous projectiles, Florida's Governor Ron DeSantis said. He added that preparations are

under way for what will likely be the largest search and rescue operation in Florida history, once the storm passes.

"We have hundreds of search and rescue personnel on hand," DeSantis said. "The National Guard is deploying 6,000 Florida National Guardsmen as well as 3,000 National Guardsmen from other states." "We have never had these many resources prior to a storm." Millions of people along a stretch of more than 483 kilometres (300 miles) of coastline were under evacuation orders. But as gas stations ran low on fuel, fleeing residents jammed highways, and hotels in areas outside the storm's path were still full with people displaced by Hurricane Helene. Many vulnerable people were unable to leave or had nowhere to go. Others wondered whether there would be anything left for them to return to." — CNN

## Yemeni academic, family among 7 killed in Israeli airstrike in Syria

AL-MUKALLA: A Yemeni university professor and his family were killed in an airstrike by Israeli warplanes on the Syrian capital on Tuesday night, relatives and media reports said. Dr. Shawqi Alawdi, his wife, and three daughters were at a building in Al-Mazze, Damascus, when it was hit by an Israeli airstrike, killing them all, including several others.

The Syrian news agency SANA said that the Israelis fired three missiles at a building in Damascus's "densely populated" Al-Mazze neighborhood, killing seven people, including women and children, injuring 11 others, and causing property damage. Alawdi teaches pharmacology at a private university in Syria and taught at Dhamar University's Faculty of Medicine and Sanaa University in Yemen.

He moved to Syria four years ago and returns to Yemen every year during breaks, according to relatives, colleagues and students. His Facebook profile shows that he studied clinical pharmacy at Ain Shams University in Egypt and earned a Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology from Cairo University. Friends and students

flooded his Facebook page with condolences and messages of sympathy after learning of his death.

Students in Syria and Yemen shared photos of Alawdi, while others sent condolences to his family in Yemen. "Dr. Alawdi is composed, humble, and knowledgeable in his field. He has a unique teaching style in which he simplifies the difficult subjects he teaches," Younes Al-Qadhi, a pharmacist in Sanaa and former student of Alawdi, told Arab News.

Mohammed Aslan, a pharmacist and Alawdi's friend, described him as a leading expert in nanotechnology and an apolitical person. "He was free of politics, sectarianism, and all other life pollutants. He was a pioneering scientist and one of the most important researchers in nanotechnology," Aslan said on Facebook. Meanwhile, the International Federation of Journalists urged the Houthi militia on Tuesday to release Yemeni journalists abducted for criticizing the Houthis and to stop harassing journalists.

According to the IFJ, the Houthis abducted Mohamed Al-Miyahi on Sept. 20 after raiding his home in

Sanaa, two days after he criticized the Houthis. They also abducted Fuad Al-Nahar, a member of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate, in September as part of a crackdown on those who celebrated the 1962 revolution.

"Our colleague Mohamed Al-Miyahi is the latest abductee in a long list of journalists who must be immediately and unconditionally released. We call on the de facto authorities and other armed groups to stop hindering journalists' work and release all unfairly detained journalists,"

Anthony Bellanger, general secretary of the IFJ, said in a statement. Since mid-September, the Houthis have abducted hundreds of people as part of a crackdown on Yemenis commemorating the 62nd anniversary of the 1962 revolution that overthrew the Zaidi Imamate in northern Yemen. The Houthis abducted people who posted on social media encouraging the public to celebrate the revolution, accusing them of being "stooges" for the US and other foreign intelligence agencies to undermine security in areas under their control and pressure them to stop attacking ships. — Arab News