

Alia Hamza gets bail
ISLAMABAD (APP): A lower court on Tuesday granted pre-arrest bail to PTI leader Alia Hamza in a case registered under the Prevention of Election Crimes Act (PECA). Additional District and Sessions Judge Afzal Majoka, who heard the petition filed by Alia Hamza, accepted the bail against surety bonds of Rs 50,000 and stopped the FIA from arresting the petitioner.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony with regard to elimination of TRACHOMA as a public health problem from Pakistan.

SC adjourns Article 63A review petition

Justice Afghan becomes part of five-member bench

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of a review petition pertaining to the interpretation of Article 63A of the Constitution till Wednesday.

A five-member larger bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case. Justice Amin ud Din Khann, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mazhar Alam Miankhal and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan were part of the bench.

The top court in its order regarding the hearing said that the review petition was filed three days late after the time bar, on which Ali Zafar raised an objection. The petitioner's lawyer adopted the stance that it was filed late due to non-availability of the detailed judgment. The Registrar Office has been asked to tell that when the detailed order was issued.

He further said that on interpretation of Article 63A, former President Arif

Alvi sent a reference either by himself or on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The order added that Justice Munib Akhtar excused himself from being a part of the bench while Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan was made a part of the bench after calling a meeting of the Judges Committee.

The SC said that during the hearing, some questions came up and the respondents had been directed to assist the court regarding it.

Earlier during the hearing, CJP Qazi Faez Isa said that Justice Munib Akhtar had been requested after last day's hearing to be part of bench but he maintained his position.

He said that he recommended to include Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah in the bench. Judges Committee was convened at 9:00am which kept waiting but Justice Shah excused from being part of the bench. After this Justice Afghan was included

in the bench, he added. On the occasion, PTI's lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar raised objection on the bench.

Supreme Court Bar Association President Shehzad Shaukat said that there were a presidential reference and 184/3's petition pertaining to the Article 63A, which should be clubbed.

The chief justice remarked that both were separate things and could not be heard together. Only an opinion could be given on a presidential reference and not a decision.

Shehzad Shaukat said that the presidential reference had sought an opinion on four questions.

The Additional Attorney General on the occasion said that there was no order of de-seating of any member of the Parliament in decision regarding the interpretation of Article 63A. As per the verdict only the vote of a member against the party's instruction would be accepted.

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Shehbaz, Hamza seek relief under amended NAB Law

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son, Hamza Shehbaz, have requested relief in the Ramzan Sugar Mills reference under the amended NAB law. Their legal team has filed a petition challenging the court's jurisdiction to hear the case.

The petition argues that under the new NAB legislation, the accountability court no longer holds authority over the reference and has called for it to be sent back to the NAB chairman.

Following the filing, the accountability court has asked NAB to submit its response by October 11. The court also granted a one-day exemption from appearance for PM Shehbaz Sharif, with his representative, Anwar Hussain, marking his attendance.

It is noteworthy that on February 18, 2019, NAB filed a reference against Shehbaz Sharif, President of the PML-N, and his son Hamza Shehbaz, Chief Minister of Punjab, in the Ramzan Sugar Mills case. The reference named only the two as accused, alleging they illegally constructed a drain for the sugar mill, causing a loss of PKR 213 million to the national treasury.

NAB's reference has sought penalties for both Shehbaz and Hamza over the alleged misuse of public funds for personal gains.

PM vows further relief as inflation slows at lowest in last four years in Sept

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed his satisfaction at the slowing down of price hike which now clocked in at the lowest 6.9 percent when compared with runaway digits in the last 44 months.

The prime minister lauded the government's economic team for capping the headline inflation which now clocked in at 6.9 percent on a year-on-year basis in September 2024.

The price hike had nosedived in the month of August this year at one digit 9.6pc for the first time in the last 34 months, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The Consumer Price

Index (CPI) index reading remained at the lowest in September this year bringing the spiraling inflation to record low in the last 44 months.

"With the grace of Allah Almighty, the promises made with the public have started yielding results. With inflation rate at 6.9pc, the common man will get relief," the press release quoted the prime minister as saying.

The prime minister further observed that with continuous reduction in the petroleum prices, the public was getting relief, whereas after interest rate slide, the business activities would get a spur.

He also expressed his satisfaction at the achievement of target of bringing the inflation rate to 7per-

cent in 2024 ahead of next year.

The prime minister said that from the day first, they had accorded priority to the measures aimed at providing relief to public, adding that the machinations of those who wished Pakistan ramming into default had been foiled.

The entire nation suffered due to incompetence of a junta during their previous rule, but now the journey of common man's prosperity has started with economy on the right track and diplomatic relations being strengthened.

The prime minister opined that with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, the country's economy would get further boost and Pakistan's journey

towards progress which was halted way back in 2018, had once again commenced.

According to a report of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the core inflation measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased further to 6.9 percent during September 2024 as compared to 9.6 percent recorded during August 2024.

According to data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year (September 2023) was recorded at 31.4%. On month-on-month basis, it decreased to 0.5% in September 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.4% in the previous month and an increase of 2% in September 2023.

Constitutional court a must for stability, says Bilawal

F.P. Report

QUETTA/ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has firmly stated that his struggle is not for any particular individual but aimed at delivering immediate justice to the people and strengthening institutions.

According to a press release issued by the Bilawal House Media Cell, Chairman PP, while addressing the Balochistan High Court Bar here on Tuesday, lauded the lawyers' community in Balochistan for their sacrifices and struggle in restoring democracy.

He expressed his deep connection with the lawyers of Balochistan and termed the terrorist attacks on the legal fraternity, resulting in precious loss of life, a great tragedy. He recalled visiting Quetta for condolence after the attack and noted how his tears were met with ridicule at the time.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasized that his family's and his party's journey did not begin with the no-confidence motion against Imran Khan's puppet regime but has been an

ongoing struggle across three generations. This struggle was not a quick revolution achieved in a day or a year but rather a persistent fight that began long ago.

The PPP Chairman highlighted that while the entire country now stands united in support of the 1973 Constitution, it was Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto who struggled for over 30 years to restore it. Although she twice became the Prime Minister, she could not see the dream of restoring the Constitution come true. However, through the Charter of Democracy, PPP succeeded in restoring the 1973 Constitution via the 18th Amendment.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also shared his personal experiences of witnessing the hardships his family endured for the sake of democracy. He recounted how Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was hanged, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was imprisoned in the scorching heat of Sukkur jail, and PPP workers and those of other democratic parties faced atrocities during their struggle. He also described the hardships faced during the Nawaz

Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif governments of the 1990s, recalling vivid images of his mother holding his and his sister's hands, waiting outside jail in extreme heat to meet his father.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed disbelief at the claims made by PTI, suggesting that they understood Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's struggle better than him. He accused the judiciary, military, and intelligence leadership of that time of conspiring behind the scenes, fearing the restoration of the Constitution would reduce their control over democracy.

He acknowledged the difficult times Pakistan is facing today, but reminded the audience that the situation was equally dire during the era of a dictator who could not be spoken against. He criticized contempt of court laws, which he said have been used to silence criticism of the judiciary while undermining freedom of expression. He condemned how courts allowed military rulers to make unconstitutional amendments but denied elected representatives the same powers.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari clarified

that his struggle is not for the current Chief Justice or any individual. He said his agenda is not to serve any one person, emphasizing that Pakistan needs a constitutional court to address provincial issues equally. He voiced concerns over judicial reforms being undermined and questioned whether delays in reforms would lead to decisions similar to Article 63(A) and further restrictions on constitutional amendments.

He also spoke against the ongoing interference in parliamentary matters by institutions that should not wield such power. He argued for judicial accountability and reforms in the appointment process of judges, stressing that the judiciary should be free from the influence of any entity that wears a uniform or wields a weapon.

In response to questions, the PPP Chairman said his demand for a constitutional court is not new and reiterated that the creation of such a court would focus judges' attention on constitutional matters, ensuring timely justice for the common man. He argued that it would also ensure accountability within the legal community.

PHC dismisses writ against re-settlement of terrorist

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice S.M. Atique Shah and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah dismissed Awami National Party (ANP) central president Aimal Wali Khan writ seeking constitution of Judicial Commission to identify public holders involved in resettlement of terrorist in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on Tuesday.

During hearing Justice SM Atique Shah remarked that the court will not interfere in policy matters. The petitioner is a senator; why don't you raise this issue in the Senate?

The counsel Babar Khan advocate argued that the re-settlement process had severe consequences for the province and that the court had previously

formed commissions on public interest issues.

The counsel Babar Khan Yousafzai and Sultan Muhammad Khan advocates appeared before the court.

Additional Advocate General Asad Jan Durrani represented the provincial government, while Assistant Attorney General Dawlat Khan appeared for the federal government.

The counsel for the petitioner argued that the previous (PTI) government had initiated the re-settlement process, and despite filing a petition in 2023, no action had been taken. He requested the court to form a fact-finding committee to identify those responsible.

Justice S.M. Ateeq Shah responded, you (the petitioner) should form a national jirga, gather all political parties, and try to

resolve this issue. Parliament is supreme; raise these matters there.

PHC dismissed the petition citing that policy matters were outside the court's jurisdiction and observed that parliament is appropriate forum for addressing these issues.

It is worthy to mention that ANP central president Aimal alleged that the previous (PTI) government had initiated the re-settlement process which is leading to increased terrorism-related incidents in the province.

The petitioner had filed writ petition seeking inquiry commission for identification of public office holders involved in the resettlement of terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which dismissed by Peshawar High Court in a verdict announced, last day.

Rs7bn provides to strengthen police force in merged districts: Gandapur

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: An important meeting regarding law and order was held here under the chair of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur.

The meeting reviewed in detail the current security situation of the province, with special focus on the southern and merged districts.

Progress on providing vehicles and other essential gadgets to strengthen the police in these areas, and other related matters were also reviewed threadbare.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Minister's Advisor on Information and Public Relations Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, Advisor on Finance Muzammil Aslam, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam

Chaudhry, Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, Additional Chief Secretary for Home Affairs Muhammad Abid Majeed, as well as relevant divisional commissioners, regional police officers, deputy commissioners, and district police officers.

Implementation status of the decisions made during the Tribal Grand Jirga,

chaired by the Chief Minister last month, was also thoroughly reviewed in the meeting.

Addressing the participants, the Chief Minister said that 7 billion rupees had been provided to strengthen the police force in the merged districts, along with the provision of 122 new bullet-proof vehicles adding that one billion rupees have been released for the pro-

vision of APC vehicles to the police in the merged districts to better equip them to handle the current situation.

He further stated that 1,300 new positions have been approved to enhance the capacity of the police in Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, and Lakki Marwat, and directed tge concerned quarters that local people be given first priority.

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Israel says Iran has fired dozens of missiles at its territory

JERUSALEM/BEIRUT (Reuters): Iran fired a salvo of ballistic missiles at Israel on Tuesday in retaliation for Israel's campaign against Tehran's Hezbollah allies in Lebanon.

Alarms sounded across Israel and explosions could be heard in Jerusalem and the Jordan River valley after Israelis piled into bomb shelters. Reporters on state television lay flat on the ground during live broadcasts.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Iran had launched tens of missiles at Israel, and that if Israel retaliated Tehran's response would be "more crushing and ruinous."

A senior Iranian official later told Reuters that the order to launch missiles at Israel was made by the country's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Khamenei remains in a secure location, the senior official added.

The Israeli army said Israel's airspace was closed following the Iranian attack.

Reuters journalists saw missiles intercepted in the airspace of neighboring Jordan. Israeli army radio said nearly 200 missiles had been launched into Israel from Iran.

Earlier, the military had announced that any ballistic missile strike from Iran was expected to be widespread and told the public to shelter in safe rooms in the event of an attack.

Iran has vowed to retaliate following attacks that killed the top leadership of its Hezbollah allies in Lebanon. The firing of missiles came after Israel said its troops had launched ground raids into Lebanon, though it described the forays as limited. The Israeli campaign in Lebanon is the biggest escalation of regional warfare since fighting erupted in Gaza a year ago.

In Washington, US President Joe Biden said the United States was prepared to help Israel defend itself from Iranian missile attacks.

"We discussed how the United States is prepared to help Israel defend against these attacks, and protect American personnel in the region," Biden said on X about a meeting held with Vice President Kamala Harris and the White House national security team earlier in the day.

The Iranian missile launches came after Israeli ground troops launched raids into Lebanon and its warplanes bombed from the skies.

Though so far characterised by Israel as limited, the first ground campaign into Lebanon for 18 years would pit Israeli soldiers against Hezbollah, Iran's best-armed proxy force in the Middle East.

It marks the biggest escala-

tion of regional warfare since fighting erupted in Gaza a year ago, and follows weeks of intense airstrikes that have decapitated Hezbollah by killing most of its top leaders. More than a thousand Lebanese have been killed and a million have fled their homes.

Iran had vowed to retaliate against Israel, raising fears that war could spill across borders throughout the region, despite efforts by the United States, Israel's closest and most powerful ally, to contain it.

In the latest announced killing of a senior Hezbollah figure, Israel earlier said it had assassinated Muhammad Jaafar Qasir, describing him as a commander in charge of weapons transfers from Iran and its affiliates.

The rapid escalation that has engulfed Lebanon into war has killed hundreds.

Near the city of Sidon along

the Mediterranean south of Beirut, mourners wept over coffins containing black-shrouded bodies of people killed in Israeli strikes.

"The building got struck down and I couldn't protect my daughter or anyone else. Thank God, my son and I got out, but I lost my daughter and wife, I lost my home, I have become homeless. What do you want me to say? My whole life changed in a second," said resident Abdulhamid Ramadan.

Many Lebanese said they were ready to resist Israeli forces.

"Not just Hezbollah, all of Lebanon will fight this time. All of Lebanon is determined to fight Israel for the massacres it committed in Gaza and Lebanon," said Abu Alaa, a Sidon resident.

In Beirut, Israel struck a high-rise building in the central Jnah area and one in the capi-

tal's southern suburbs that briefly closed the road to Beirut airport. The Israeli military said it had carried out a "precise strike."

Israel has long said it would do whatever it takes to secure its northern border and let tens of thousands of Israelis return to towns they fled since the outbreak of war in Gaza a year ago, when Hezbollah began firing across the frontier in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

An Israeli security official said troops in southern Lebanon had begun limited raids into Lebanon overnight that only went a short distance over the border, adding that no direct clashes with Hezbollah fighters were reported. The military said similar such raids had in fact been taking place in recent months.

But in a clear sign that the war could expand further, the military said it was calling up

four additional reserve brigades for operational missions on the northern border.

Israel has a history of fighting in Lebanon, which it invaded in 1982 in the midst of Lebanon's own sectarian civil war. Israeli troops finally pulled out in 2000 but returned to fight another major war against Hezbollah in 2006. Since then, the border "blue line" has been monitored by the UN.

The United Nations said its peacekeepers had seen sporadic Israeli incursions but had not seen a full-scale invasion.

Hezbollah, a Shiite militia formed by Iran to resist Israeli forces in Lebanon, has evolved into Lebanon's most powerful armed force, equipped with an arsenal of missiles and rockets. It is also Lebanon's strongest political party, and sits at the forefront of a network of Iranian-backed armed movements across the Middle East.

Education crucial for country's economic growth: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Tuesday underscored education leads to innovations and scientific advancements, which are crucial for a country's economic growth.

He highlighted the vital role of education in the development and prosperity of a nation. He said this during fourth General Council meeting of the Pakistan Chamber of Education here at a local hotel.

Governor Kundi said that education as a guiding light that imparts awareness and knowledge, enabling educated nations to understand and address their challenges effectively.

During the event, the Governor took the oath of office for the newly elected members of the Pakistan Chamber of Education's cabinet.

President of the Chamber, Hafiz Muhammad Basharat, informed Governor Kundi about the organization's efforts in the educational sector. The Governor pointed out the significant educational deprivation in rural areas, noting that many children remain uneducated due to unfavorable conditions.

He said that a substantial portion of the national budget is allocated to education and health, with the private sector also playing a vital role. However, he lamented that the country has yet to achieve its educational targets.

Kundi called for valuable suggestions and services from organizations like the Chamber to support government initiatives. He expressed hope that collective efforts could elevate the country's educational standards to match those of developed nations.

Furthermore, he criticized past dictatorships for banning student unions, saying that only Sindh has lifted that ban. He mentioned that despite having a youthful population, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has not hosted first-class cricket for over a decade which is question mark on the performance of provincial government.

LHC calls for quick submission of Police Challans

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday ordered the police authorities to promptly submit pending challans in all cases.

LHC Chief Justice Aalia Neelum issued the orders while hearing a bail petition filed by Imran Ali related to a drug case.

During the proceedings, in response to previous court directives, police officials appeared and presented a detailed report regarding the submission of pending challans in cases.

The officials informed the court that the number of pending challans had reduced from 380,294 to 20,979 which would soon be submitted to the prosecution department. They further reported that 9,913 cases in Lahore, 10,975 cases in Faisalabad, 89 in Rawalpindi, and one case each in the districts of Multan and Nankana Sahib were pending for challan submission.

At this stage, the court inquired from the prosecution department how many challans had been received from the police and how many had been submitted to the respective courts. The court directed the prosecution department to compile a detailed report and present it at the next hearing.

The court also directed the Deputy Inspector General of Police to submit a detailed report on the pending challans and updates to the system.

Subsequently, the court adjourned the hearing until October 17.

Rs30b allocated for Green Tractor Scheme: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on Tuesday said the Punjab government has allocated a huge amount of Rs30 billion for the Chief Minister Punjab Green Tractor Scheme.

Presiding over a meeting with representatives of the tractor industry at Agriculture House, the minister said earlier farmers were not provided such a large subsidy on tractors. Under the scheme, the owners of 1 to 50 acres of agricultural land are being provided with tractors of 50 to 85 Horse Power (HP) according to their choice at a subsidy of Rs.10 lakh per tractor.

He said that the chief minister desired that the local manufacturing industry of tractors should show generosity and provide a discount of 10 to 15 percent per tractor to the farmers. The initiative will promote agriculture and the tractor manufacturing industry and local farmers' confidence in the tractor industry would increase, he added.

The provincial minister said that the entire system up to the delivery of tractors to the farmers will be mechanised. According to the vision of the chief minister, the scheme is being launched on a large scale. In connection with the purchase of the tractor, the farmer would be given an option to buy a tractor of their choice, the minister said and made it clear to the representatives of the tractor industry that the SOPs of Agriculture Department must be kept in mind while manufacturing the green tractor.

Secretary Agriculture, Punjab, Ifukhar Ali Sahoo added that not only the farmers but also the tractor industry would benefit from this scheme. He said that supply of tractors, receipt of applications and draw would be conducted in a transparent manner.

Chief Executive Officer Millat Tractor Raheel Asghar said that the local industry appreciates the Chief Minister Punjab Green Tractor Scheme and the entire industry would provide support and cooperation to the scheme locally. Delivery free and warranty period of green tractors would be extended from 1 year. Even in case of increase in sales tax by the federal government, the fixed price of green tractors will not be increased.

The meeting was attended by Director General Agriculture Extension Chaudhry Abdul Hameed, CEOs and representatives of Al-Ghazi Tractor, Barak, Orient and Pak Tractors.

Rubina Khalid graces GIKI induction ceremony



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD : Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, visited Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI) as the chief guest for the induction ceremony of the new batch of students.

The event was attended by Salim Saifullah Khan, President of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Sciences and Technology in Pakistan (SOPREST) and Board of Governors GIKI Institute, Executive Director SOPREST Shakil Durrani, Rector Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid, students from across the country, Pro-Rectors, Deans, Heads of Departments, and various dignitaries.

Rubina Khalid emphasized the importance of unity and working together to strengthen the country. She encouraged the youth to promote tolerance, critical thinking, and social change actively.

"There is a dire need for social change, and the younger generation must play a role in distinguishing right from wrong and fostering a culture of understanding," she said.

She also discussed social media's influence on society and stressed the importance of using words wisely to build character.

Keeping in mind Pakistan's internal and external challenges, there is a dire need for coordinated efforts and giving up the practice of protest.

The people believe in peace and progress of the country, she said. President of SOPREST, Engr. Salim Saifullah Khan addressed the students: "You are the future of Pakistan."

He praised the efforts of the late Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in establishing BISP. BISP currently supports 9.3 million underprivileged women across the country, and the number of beneficiaries is expected to reach 10 million soon.

On the occasion, Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid remarked: "GIKI Institute has become an icon of quality education over the past three decades." He noted that the Institute's over 7,500 alumni work in multinational companies worldwide.

PPP reviews plans for anniversary Jalsa in Hyderabad

F.P. Report

KARACHI: An important meeting of the People's Party was held in Karachi under the chairmanship of Faryal Talpur, the Central President of the PPP Ladies Wing and an MPA. During the meeting, preparations for the grand public jalsa in Hyderabad, commemorating the anniversary of the tragedy, were reviewed.

During the meeting, the provincial leadership of the People's Party, including provincial ministers, elected assembly members from the Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, and Shaheed Benazirabad divisions, senators, and district officials, were in attendance. Among them were PPP Sindh President Nisar Ahmad Khuhro, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Provincial General Secretary Waqar Mehdi, Provincial Ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon, Nasir Hussain Shah, Jam Khan Shoro, PPP Information Secretary



Aajiz Dhamrah, and others. In the meeting, arrangements were reviewed to ensure full public participation in the grand public jalsa organized on the anniversary of the Karsaz incident on October 18.

In the meeting, People's Party leader Faryal Talpur directed that every effort be made to ensure that people do not face any obstacles or difficulties in

reaching the public meeting. The participants of the meeting reiterated their commitment to ensuring full public participation in the Hyderabad jalsa.

Speaking at the meeting, People's Party leader Faryal Talpur stated that under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, millions of people will gather on October 18 to pay their respects to the

martyrs of Karsaz. She added that the sea of people in Hyderabad on October 18 will send a powerful message that we have not forgotten our martyrs.

She said that on October 18, the public will send a message that the mission of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy remains alive. The rally in

Hyderabad will prove that the jiyalas are determined to complete the mission of Shaheed Bhutto and Shaheed Bibi.

Faryal Talpur further stated that the rally on October 18 will demonstrate that the people stand with the People's Party in its struggle for tolerance, equality, democracy, and development in the country.

Minister inspects healthcare facilities

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora on Tuesday visited the Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi to evaluate the healthcare facilities, and engage with hospital administration on initiatives aimed at bolstering support for minority communities.

During the visit, the minister emphasised several crucial directives aimed at improving the quality of care within the hospital, especially for children from underprivileged backgrounds and minority groups.

He underscored the urgent need for improved care and nutrition for children admitted to the hospital. The administration has been tasked to ensure that every child receives adequate dietary support, including essential nutrition such as milk, to combat malnutrition and promote overall health.

Recognising that healthcare is a fundamental right, the minister directed the hospital to provide free medication to children and minority patients unable to afford treatment.

The minister instructed the hospital administration to ensure consistent attendance of healthcare professionals. Regular monitoring will be implemented to guarantee timely medical attention for patients, he added.

Ramesh Arora inspected ongoing construction projects within the hospital and expressed dissatisfaction with their progress and urged the administration to accelerate construction efforts to enhance hospital infrastructure and service delivery.

A landmark agreement was announced during the visit, set to be formalised between the minister, the vice chancellor of the medical college and the medical superintendent of Holy Family Hospital. The MoU will prioritise healthcare services for minority communities.

LDA seals 20 properties

LAHORE (APP): On the directions of DG LDA Tahir Farooq, LDA teams continued their operations against illegal commercial buildings and illegal constructions. LDA teams have sealed 20 properties and demolished 6 illegal constructions during their operation.

On Wahdat Road, 20 properties were sealed over illegal commercial use, including grocery stores, banks, private offices, pharmacies, bakeries, restaurants and others. In another operations 6 illegal constructions were demolished in Samanabad, Shadbagh, Fatehgarh and Gulshan Ravi. Operation was supervised by Chief Town Planner one, Asad Uz Zaman, and led by Director Town Planning Zone 1, Ayesha Matihar.

Pak-Malaysia relations based on common values: Tessori

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has said the roots of Pakistan-Malaysia relations are based on common values, mutual respect and enduring friendship.

Governor Tessori said this while speaking at the ceremony organized on the occasion of 67th Independence Day of Malaysia as chief guest here

at Malaysian Consulate the other day. According to House spokesman, Governor Sindh felicitated the Government and the people of Malaysia on the Independence Day.

On arrival, the Consul General of Malaysia Herman Hardynata Ahmad received the Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at the Consulate. Kamran

Tessori said that the exchange of information technology helping the two countries to understand culture and tourism of both the countries.

In Pakistan, all possible help, support and the assistance is being provided to domestic as well foreign investors under the SIFC project in Pakistan, Governor said, adding that

he would soon visit Malaysia to extend invitation to Malaysian investors and the business persons to take benefit by investing in Pakistan.

Consul General of other countries posted in Karachi and other dignitaries were also present on this occasion and later a cake was cut on the occasion of Malaysia's Independence Day.

Bushra, Imran enjoying VIP facilities in jail: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that creating sensational news and staying in the headlines through publicity gimmicks is a favourite hobby of Bushra Bibi.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is not bothered about what does Bushra Bibi eat, be that eggs, chicken or soup pulao etc. Maryam Nawaz is unaware of the cell that has been allocated to Bushra Bibi in Adiala Jail. Azma Bokhari expressed these views in response to a state-

ment by Barrister Saif here on Tuesday.

Bokhari said that Bushra Bibi had been given B-class facilities in jail. "The facilities available to the couple in jail are beyond the imagination of the common man. Bushra Bibi and Imran Khan are serving their time in jail in a VIP manner," she added.

She said that Maryam Nawaz had suffered numerous hardships during Imran Khan's government, while Bushra Bibi is safe from all of them.

"The conditions in which Maryam Nawaz was kept in Kot Lakhpat Jail and the NAB torture cell were all due to Bushra Bibi's wishes," she added.

She said that Maryam Nawaz had endured the hardships of jail but never used the gender card. "Bushra Bibi is imprisoned for crime related to stealing gifts from the Toshakhana and misappropriating £190 million. The PTI should refrain from using Maryam Nawaz's name to promote its political agenda with foul language," she maintained.

MCL removes 485 encroachments

LAHORE (APP): Under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister, the Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (MCL) is actively working towards a "Clean Lahore" initiative to eliminate encroachments. Following directives from Deputy Commissioner/Administrator Lahore Syed Musa Raza, a campaign to remove encroachments, banners, and streamers is currently underway in the city.

MCL Chief Officer Shahid Abbas Kathia is overseeing operations across all nine zones, stating that more than 485 items related to illegal encroachments had been seized in the last two days. Additionally, over 1,800 banners and streamers had been removed from major roads and neighborhoods.

SUIT ADVERTISEMENT

In the court of Miss Ambareen Navid Judge Banking Court-1 Peshawar Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar

Case No: 104/1 of 2024 Date of hearing: 02-10-2024 Suit for the Recovery of Rs.244105.63 HBL Mardan Distt. Branch Mardan VS Sagheer Ahmad

Notice Versus: Sagheer Ahmad S/o Ghulam Mujtaba R/o Arab Khn Tehsil and District Mansehra. Business Add: Diamond Foam Industries Ltd: Road No. 1 Industrial Estate Godam Amazai, Swabi. Where as the plaintiff bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs.244105.63/- Against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001, you are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspaper. Failing which an ex-parte decree shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff with costs.

Issue on 08-08-2024 under my signature and seal of the Court.

Registrar | Banking Court-1 Peshawar



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

THROUGH

THE PROJECT DIRECTOR OF ITS GREEN-AI PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT



POSITIONS VACANT

- Applications are invited from Pakistani nationals for appointments purely on contract basis, for One year (extendible on performance basis) against temporary posts in PSDP Project titled, **"Development of ICT and Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Precision Agriculture systems utilizing dual-use Aerospace Technologies-GreenAI"**, at NASTP, Rawalpindi/ Islamabad, reporting unit Ministry of Defence, Pakistan.

S.No	Name of Post	Pay Scale	No of Posts	Disciplines / Qualification
1.	Scientific Officer (GPSAR) (PPS-8)	PPS-8	01	MS / BE (DSP, Embedded, HPC, etc), preferably with 3 years relevant experience of system design and development. He/She will be responsible for the system design and development activities of GPSAR, under the guidance and as assigned by the Project Manager
2.	UAS Operator (PPS-6)	PPS-6	01	Trained UAS pilot, preferably with 1-year relevant experience of flying & managing UAS systems. He/She will be responsible for the test flights and UAS system maintenance, under the guidance and as assigned by the Project Manager. Additionally, they will execute and oversee test flights to access UAV performance, stability and handling qualities under various conditions. They will also create detailed test plans and protocols to evaluate specific aspects of the UAV such as maneuverability and payload integration along with performing UAV operational flights.

- Applicants are required to apply directly on website <https://www.njp.gov.pk> or hiring@greenai.org.pk Complete Job Description is available against respective vacancies on website.
- Incomplete applications and applications with fake/false documents will be rejected at any stage during or after recruitment process.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview and written test. No TA/DA will be admissible for test /interview.
- The Organization reserves the right to withdraw/cancel the vacancies at any stage without assigning any reason.
- Last date to apply is **15 October, 2024.**

(PROJECT DIRECTOR GREEN-AI [NASTP])

Alpha 03, Old Airport Road, Chakala Rawalpindi

PH#051-9529532

PID (I) No.2311/24

Peshawar celebrates 75th National Day of China

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The vibrant atmosphere of Peshawar resonated with the spirit of friendship and collaboration as Barrister Dr. Saif, Advisor to the Chief Minister on Information, addressed distinguished guests at the 75th National Day celebrations of the People's Republic of China, organized by China Window. Consul General of Islamic Republic of Iran In Peshawar Ali Banafshekha, Senior politicians, Artists, Sportsmen and people from all walks of life attended the celebrations.

In his speech, Barrister Dr. Saif commended the efforts of Mr. Amjad Aziz Malik, Administrator of China Window, for establishing a center that fosters Pakistan-China relations. He expressed deep appreciation for the center's role in strengthening ties between the two nations, highlight-

ing its importance in Peshawar.

"Today, we are not just celebrating an event; we are honoring a deep-rooted friendship," Saif stated, emphasizing the historic bond that has flourished between the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and their Chinese counterparts. He extended warm congratulations on behalf of the provincial government to Chinese Ambassador Jiang Ziadong, and people of the China.

Saif lauded China's remarkable progress since its founding in 1949, urging Pakistan to draw lessons from its development model. "Our friendship with China is not just a diplomatic statement; it reflects the genuine emotions of our people," he remarked, reinforcing the sentiment that their relationship transcends mere politics.

Discussing the transfor-



mative impact of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Saif emphasized its potential to create economic opportunities for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He called for continued prioritization of the province in future phases of CPEC, particularly in agriculture and information

technology, promising the provincial government's commitment to leveraging these opportunities for the benefit of the local populace.

In conclusion, Barrister Dr. Saif reiterated his heartfelt congratulations to the people of China on their National Day, expressing

confidence that the friendship between the two nations would continue to flourish. He also commended the China Window team for their efforts in fostering bilateral relations, promising continued support from the provincial government.

As Peshawar celebrated this significant milestone, the words of Barrister Dr. Saif resonated, reaffirming the unbreakable bond and shared aspirations of Pakistan and China. Later Barrister Dr. Saif cut the cake on the eve of the 75th National Day of the PR China. Earlier In a significant address H.E. Ali Banafshekha Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Peshawar, emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and cultural ties between China, Iran, and Pakistan. The event, hosted by China Window, was attended by dignitaries from various sectors, celebrating the long-standing friendship between China and its regional partners.

In his speech, Consul General Ali Banafshekha extended warm congratulations to the People's Republic of China on its 75th anniversary, describing China as a rising global economic power that has established beneficial relations with countries in the region. "The People's Republic of China has emerged as an economic power, competing with the West, and through its non-colonial approach, it has fostered beneficial cooperation across the world's largest and most important continent," he remarked.

Highlighting Iran's commitment to regional partnerships, Mr. Ali Banafshekha stressed the importance of fostering strong ties between Iran, Pakistan, and China, particularly in the fields of economic and cultural cooperation. He noted that these efforts are essential to promote regional integration and ensuring the prosperity of all nations involved.

"Iran, as a close neighbor of Pakistan, has always sought to strengthen relations with both Pakistan and China to support the region's growth and stability," he stated.

The Consul General also expressed his gratitude to the management of China Window, led by Administrator Amjad Aziz Malik, for organizing the event and for their continuous efforts to enhance cultural relations between Pakistan and China. "This center plays a vital role in fostering the bond between our nations," he added.

In a powerful closing statement, Mr. Ali Banafshekha condemned recent attacks by the Zionist regime on Palestine and Lebanon, mourning the loss of Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hezbollah. He called for unity and solidarity in supporting oppressed people across the region.

The event concluded with a shared commitment to deepening ties between the region's nations, with a focus on mutual respect, economic development, and cultural exchange.

Abbasi chairs fourth monthly *Khuli Khachari*

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Anti-corruption, Brigadier (Rtd) Muhammad Mossadeq Abbasi has said that quality should be ensured in development projects. Steps should be taken to prevent the use of substandard materials.

It is important to stop wastage of government resources and money. The purpose of holding Khuli Khachari across the province is to bring out the problems in the department and solve them. Most people in the Khuli Khachari seemed satisfied with the department.

I will also participate in Khuli Khachari in other regions. He expressed these views during the fourth monthly Khuli Khachari of the Anti-Corruption Establishment held in Mardan. Assistant

Director Crime, Mardan Region of Anti-Corruption Establishment, Circle Officers of Mardan Region participated in the Khuli Khachari and heard the complaints in details.

In the Khuli Khachari, people presented their complaints related to education board, land issues and TMA etc.

Special Assistant for Anti-Corruption establishment Mossadeq Abbasi heard the complaints in detail and gave necessary orders and guidance regarding their resolution.

SACM Mossadeq Abbasi instructed to keep informed about the action on the complaints. While regarding the registered complaints, the anti-corruption establishment officials were also directed to be constantly aware of the progress by tracking the registered complaints.

According to the data of anti-corruption establish-

ment, a total of 131 people participated while six complaints were registered, 65 people in Mardan region, 25 people in Bannu region, four in Peshawar region office, fifteen in Malakand, twelve in Abbottabad, DI Khan. 10 people attended the open kitchenery.

Mossadeq Abbasi further said that for the convenience of the people, the anti-corruption establishment has issued a WhatsApp number 03319988848 through which people can report and complain about corruption on WhatsApp.

It should be noted that Khuli Khacharies were also held in all the regional offices of the Anti-Corruption Establishment where public complaints and problems were heard. Special Assistant for Anti-corruption Mossadeq Abbasi chaired the Khuli Khachari in Mardan Region Office.

Ihtesham visits Directorate General of Health Services

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Health Advisor Ihtesham Ali paid a visit to the Directorate General of Health Services, where Director General Dr. Mahmud Saleem provided a comprehensive briefing. Additional Director Generals and other senior directors attended the meeting. The DG Health presented an overview of the functions and powers of the Directorate General, along with a detailed assessment of the facilities and medical equipment available in the province's hospitals.

During the briefing, the Health Advisor instructed DG Health to ensure the availability of medicines and staff in all hospitals, including those in remote areas of the province. He emphasized the importance of making all postings, transfers, and other public-related services fully accessible online as soon as possible.

Dr. Abbas, the Director General of Drugs, provided a detailed report on the ongoing crackdown against counterfeit and substandard medicines in the province. He informed the Health Advisor that all processes, from applying for licenses to their issuance, have been digitized. He also mentioned that the construction of the Swat Drug Testing Laboratory is nearing completion, and once operational, it will expedite drug testing processes, especially after medicine procurement.

The Health Advisor directed the DG Drugs to activate mobile labs and deploy them across various cities in the province to ensure quicker testing of medicine quality. He further emphasized that there would be no compromise on the availability of counterfeit and substandard medicines in the market and instructed DG Drugs to take the strictest measures to prevent this.

Bilawal to visit Peshawar next week

PESHAWAR (APP): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will visit the provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to address Peshawar High Court Bar Association (PHCBA) and meeting of People's Lawyer Forum (PLF) a party affiliated lawyer wing.

This was announced by the provincial president PPP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Syed Mohammad Ali Shah Bacha while addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club (PPC) on Tuesday. Several senior party leaders also flanked the provincial chief on the occasion.

The PPP provincial chief said that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is currently on a visit to Quetta (Baluchistan) and after returning back to Karachi will announce his schedule of visit to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and is likely to arrive in the province next week.

Prof. Dr. Arshad Javed Academic Block inaugurates at KMU

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar, proudly inaugurated the Professor Dr. Arshad Javed Academic Block in a ceremony attended by distinguished guests. Former Vice Chancellor of KMU, Professor Dr. Arshad Javed, served as the chief guest, accompanied by his daughter Dr. Zainab Javed, current Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Zia Ul Haq, Registrar Inam Ullah Wazir, and heads of various institutions and departments.

In his address, Professor Dr. Arshad Javed expressed heartfelt gratitude to Vice Chancellor Dr. Zia Ul Haq and the university team for naming the Nursing and Physiotherapy Block in his honor.

He commended the remarkable progress achieved by KMU under the leadership of Professor Dr. Zia Ul Haq, praising the university as an exemplary model of health education. By offering all fields of health education under one



roof, KMU is fostering a robust healthcare delivery system that will ultimately benefit society. Prof. Dr. Javed acknowledged KMU's contributions to public health, research, and academic excellence and emphasized that these efforts serve as an inspiration to other institutions.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Zia Ul Haq, in his remarks, highlighted the importance of honoring notable figures during their lifetime. He pointed out that while buildings and memorials are typically named after individuals posthu-

mously, KMU has chosen to break this tradition by recognizing its living legends. The dedication of the Nursing and Physiotherapy Block to Professor Dr. Arshad Javed serves as a testament to his leadership, particularly during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq further noted that KMU has previously named key structures after founding Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Daud Khan and former Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Hafeezullah, honoring their roles in KMU's growth and development.

He emphasized that the recognition of Professor Dr. Arshad Javed sends a positive message to future generations about the importance of celebrating the contributions of those who have shaped the institution. The university's decision reflects its commitment to remembering and honoring its benefactors, ensuring their legacy continues to inspire. This gesture not only acknowledges Professor Dr. Arshad Javed's hard work and dedication but also reinforces KMU's forward-thinking approach to leadership and recognition, he added.

Silted watercourses heighten concerns for KP wheat farmers

PESHAWAR (APP): As the wheat sowing season approaches, the unfinished de-silting of watercourses in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has raised concerns among wheat farmers, demanding its speedy completion to facilitate the tail end growers.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, many farmers are bracing for a challenging agricultural season due to the increasing silt, sand, and debris obstructing essential irrigation channels, particularly in the southern and plain districts of the province.

Farmers like Malyar Khan from Nowshera district embody the struggle of irrigating fields for wheat sowing that was also faced by many growers in his area.

Standing beside a dilapidated Mohib Banda-Tarkha water canal, the poor farmer expressed his frustration over the inadequate water flow reaching his fields located on northside of River Kabul.

"Tail-end farmers like me are facing an acute shortage of water to irrigate our fields for wheat crops," he lamented, while voicing hope for rainfall to alleviate the dire situation.

Dr. Zilakat Malik, former Chairman, Economics Department, University of Peshawar, said the water issue has been exacerbated by climate change, with last months torrential rains and flash floods leading to significant accumulation of sand and mud in most of watercourses.

He said this environmental challenge, coupled with the incomplete de-silting process, has left many farmers without reliable irrigation services.

"The water storage capacity has gradually declined from 16.26 mil-

lion acre-feet (MAF) to 13.68 MAF in Pakistan. Resultantly, the country has about 30-day water carryover capacity as of 2021, which is in stark contrast to Egypt's 700 days," he said.

Due to the population explosion, deforestation and climate change, he said food security is becoming an intense challenge for Pakistan.

He said additional water required for wheat sowing season are placing intense pressure on our irrigation system to bring extra arid land under cultivation.

With each passing year, he said that water demand for our agriculture sector is rising due people large dependency on wheat, sugarcane and rice crops.

He said Pakistan, despite having about three per cent of the world's population and contributing a mere 0.36pc to global GDP, accounted for an astounding 9pc of the world's total groundwater withdrawals, making it the third-largest user after India and United States.

Dr Zilakat said the unchecked and ever-growing reliance on groundwater i.e about 73pc of Pakistan's area is directly or indirectly dependent upon groundwater, has pushed it into the category of countries where groundwater extraction exceeds the natural replenishment of aquifers.

He reiterated that Pakistan was getting warmer due to global warming and climate change, melting glaciers fast.

"The rising temperatures and shortness of winter season increased the evaporation rate especially in water channels and enhanced an evapotranspiration ie water lost from evaporation and plant transpiration in agriculture fields."

He said such water loss is particularly high in the water-guzzling rice crop, where farmers often keep fields flooded for several months.

Dr Zilakat said the rice crop acreage has increased 31pc over the last 10 years, driven by several factors, including better marketability of wheat and rice due to its higher export potential, strong local demand, and relatively higher returns.

Additionally, the crop area of two other water-intensive sugarcane and maize has also considerably expanded in recent years in Pakistan.

Gulzar Rehman, former Conservator of Forest Department said that Pakistan has made significant strides in reducing water conveyance losses through the lining of canals, distributaries, and watercourses, funded by soft loans from the World Bank and other international development partners that helped minimize water wastage.

He said these megaprojects, initiated during the 1970s, are still ongoing under the Annual Development Programmes of provincial irrigation and agriculture departments.

However, he said that the water use efficiency at the farm level is a crucial area where KP lags significantly behind.

Referring to a report of UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, he said that Pakistan's irrigated agriculture water use efficiency ie Sustainable Development Goal 6.4.1 is low, averaging just

\$0.40 per cubic meter in 2021 compared to countries like Bangladesh and China where it stands at \$0.98, and \$2.51 per cubic meter respectively.

Gulzar Rehman noted that the adverse effects of electricity tariffs for agricultural tube wells on farmers are further compounded due to low water-use efficiency.

He said that an increasing number of farmers are shifting to solar tube wells to reduce irrigation cost. However, these systems have yet to prove as reliable alternatives as grid-powered ones due to the limited availability of sunlight during winter, which is further hindered by weather conditions like cloud cover, fog, and smog.

Local agriculture officials acknowledged the problem but cite resource limitations and logistical challenges in completing the de-silting work.

The community leaders and farmers have urged provincial authorities to prioritize the de-silting efforts. They called for immediate action to speed up water flow, which is vital for the upcoming sowing season.

The struggle of farmers like Malyar Khan underscored the urgent need for comprehensive solutions to address the water issues plaguing KP's watercourses. Without timely intervention, the province's agricultural productivity could be severely compromised, jeopardizing the livelihoods of countless families.

The experts hoped that de-silting process would be completed soon and soft loans to farmers would be provided for construction of water channels that would help save irrigated water for tail end farmers but increase wheat, rice and sugarcane production in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Mayor Peshawar visits Municipal Inter School

PESHAWAR (APP): Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali here Tuesday visited Municipal Inter School and inspected ongoing development work in the institution.

He visited various sections of schools including

classrooms and administrative section and inspected ongoing development work.

He directed to ensure use of quality material in the construction and said that work would be completed in stipulated time.

Mayor met with staff members and assured his cooperation to resolve issues confronted by them.

He also interacted with students urged them to study with dedication and sincerely.

PPP to launch movement against KP Govt

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has decided to launch a protest movement against the provincial government of Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) in the province.

Addressing a press conference here at Peshawar Press Club (PPC) on Tuesday, the president PPP KP chapter Syed Mohammad Ali Shah Bacha said that in the first instance a protest demonstration would be staged in front of the provincial assembly.

Those who flanked the provincial president PPP were included president Peshawar Division, Mishabuddin, Deputy Information Secretary,

Gohar Inqilabi, MPAs Ahmad Karim Kundi and Arbab Zarak Khan, Zulfikar Afghani, Rashid Wali Khan Afridi and others.

The provincial chief PPP alleged that the provincial government is misusing the provincial resources and hard earned revenue collected from the taxpayers on staging protest demonstrations and public meetings, which is sheer injustice with the people of the province.

He said that the people of the province have not mandated the PTI government to misuse their resources on staging 'Dharna' (sit-ins) rather they had mandated it for maintaining peace. He said that they will not allow them to misuse the provin-

cial resources for the achievement of their political goals any further.

He was also critical of non-serious statements of the KP Chief Minister that he will bring revolution and tit-for-tat response to lathi charge and lawful tactics against protestors. He added that the KP chief minister is playing a dangerous game of fitting the province against the federal and provincial governments.

He termed the KP chief minister a mentally sick person and said that they will not let the people of the province at his mercy and vowed to raise voice over the deteriorating law and order situation and other issues faced by the people.

KPUMA introduces flat-rate fares for BRT express routes

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority (KPUMA) has introduced flat-rate fares for express routes of the Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, Zu Peshawar, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Under the new fare rates, the fare for express routes has been fixed at Rs.55/- unlike the previous distanced based fares for both express and direct routes. KPUMA states that the decision is aimed at improving convenience for long-distance passengers.

Unlike direct routes, express route buses stop only at selected busy bus

stops rather than at every stop.

The routes for which fares have been increased include ER-09 (Gulbahar Chowk to Phase 6 Terminal), ER-10 (Hospital Chowk to Kohat Adda), ER-12 (Mall of Hayatabad to Shah Alam), and ER-16 (Gulbahar Chowk to Nawab Market). The new fare structure will come into effect on October 3, 2024.

Transpeshawar spokesperson Sadaf Kamil stated, "the purpose of Zu Peshawar's express routes is to provide ease of travel to long-distance commuters, while direct routes continue to serve alongside them. However, in the

current situation, passengers traveling short distances (2-3 stops) are also using express routes, leaving less space for those traveling longer distances.

To discourage this trend, the fare for express routes has been increased. This change will have minimal impact on long-distance passengers, while short-distance commuters will be encouraged to use alternative routes."

"This move will not only enhance comfort for long-distance passengers rather will also improve the overall efficiency of the system by encouraging short-distance commuters to choose more appropriate routes," she concluded.



In brief

Two youngsters crushed to death

ZHOB (INP): Two youth were crushed to death by an over speeding bus at Zhob-Quetta National Highway on Tuesday. According to details, a reckless driven bus ran over a motorcycle carrying two youth near BRC College in Zhob. Both youth hailing from Zhob died on the spot in the accident. Police and rescue teams reached the scene and shifted the bodies to Zhob Trauma Center. A case was also registered in the accident and investigations were kicked off.

Four dacoits, arrested F.P. Report

TANK: The Tank police have traced two dacoity cases and arrested four accused dacoits recovering stolen motorcycles from them in the limits of City police station. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) City Circle, while addressing a press conference here at City police station on Tuesday, informed that District Police Officer (DPO) Aslam Nawaz Khan had constituted a special team under his leadership to trace dacoity incidents occurred during last month in the limits of City police station. He said the special team, using modern techniques, arrested accused dacoits named Haroon son of Nasir, Asfandiyar son of Awwal Jan, Zahoor son of Sattar and Yasin son of Hazrat. The police team also recovered two snatched motorcycles in different cases and a personal bike of the dacoits from them. He said the further investigations from the arrested accused were underway and expressed the hope that more revelations were expected from them.

Anti-dengue spray continues F.P. Report

HANGU: The Anti-Dengue Spray Program as well as an awareness campaign continued to prevent spreading of disease caused Aedes family mosquitoes across Hangu district as per directions of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A s s i s t a n t Commissioner Hangu visited Sangerh area in this regard and informed the people about the causes of dengue virus. He said, it is usually caused by the bite of a female mosquito and this mosquito grows in clean water, so we should cover the water anywhere including in our homes. He added that standing water should not be left and even the water tanks should also be covered. Likewise, water should not be left open in air-coolers, pots and pans etc. Moreover, nets should be installed in the doors and windows of the houses, all persons especially children should wear full sleeves dresses and cooperate with health department teams, he advised.

Two dacoits killed

SHIKARPUR (PPI): Two suspected dacoits were killed and a civilian injured in a police encounter late Monday near the Railway Crossing in Shikarpur, local authorities said. The criminal, identified as Sajid Shaikh and Sadoro Sario, were attempting to flee after robbing citizens near Kanak Shah Peer when they exchanged fire with police officers, according to initial reports. The two men were killed at the scene, while a bystander, Ghulam Yaseen Jakhro, sustained injuries and was taken to RBUT Civil Hospital for treatment, police added.



QUETTA: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing the Balochistan High Cour Bar Association.

Jirga succeeds in ending long standing enmity

F.P. Report

GHALANAI: Mediatory efforts of a jirga succeeded in ending long standing enmity and development of rapprochement between the two parties in Tehsil Halimzai of the tribal district Mohmand. Members from both parties embraced each other during the jirga and pledged to live life like brothers in future. The reconciliatory ceremony held in this regard was attended by the local elders, clerics and residents of the locality in large numbers. Two parties at Alo Khel Miangaan, tehsil Halimzai district Mohmand including one party comprising Nabi Khan, Bakht Pur, Badshah, Karim Mian and the second party consisting of Gul Khan, Qabil, and Ismail Mian were carrying on long standing enmity, which

had have also inflicted loss of lives on them.

However, due to the untiring mediatory efforts of the members of a reconciliatory jirga consisting of Malik Sattar Khan and others borne fruits and turned their enmity into friendship. During the reconciliatory jirga the representatives from both parties embraced each other and pledged to live like brothers in future.

On this occasion, a mediator with the consent of both parties handed over the rapprochement agreement to Malik Sadaqat Khoizai.

Prominent amongst those attended the reconciliatory jirga were included Malik Ahmad Khoizai, Malik Fayyaz, Malik Mosam, Malik Ghulam Nabi and others including District Ameer JUI-F Maulana Mohammad Arif

Haqqani, Tehsil Mayor Khoizai Maulana Bismillah Jan Rahimi and Maulana Abdul Haq. Talking to media on the occasion, tribal elders Malik Fayyaz, Malik Ahmad and members from both parties said that people of the other parts of the country are progressing. But on the contrary, the Pashtun people are entangled in mutual enmities, on which all their energies have been wasted and they have fallen behind the rest of the nations in the race of development.

He appealed to all the responsible members of the Pashtun society to play a key role in ending enmities and resentments in their respective areas and create a peaceful society and put it on the path of progress and development through mutual peace and brotherhood.

Farmers to apply for Green Tractor Scheme till 10th

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: The Punjab government is launching Green Tractor Scheme under Farmer Friendly Vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif to improve socio-economic condition of farmers and increasing per acre agriculture yield while the Punjab government allocated Rs.10 billion for providing subsidiary tractors to growers in the province including district Hafizabad.

This was stated by the Deputy Director Agriculture Hafizabad Muhammad Yousaf while talking to journalists. Giving details of the Green Tractor Scheme, he said that the Punjab government would be given one million of rupees subsidy for procuring tractors each. He said that applications were being received from farmers for green tractor scheme and farmers could submitted their applications till 10th October.

Provision of public services at doorstep directed; Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad Abdul Razzaq has listened grievances of people at his office under Chief Minister's Public Relief Vision to address problems of common people without any delay and hurdle. He directed the officers of different departments to resolved problems of people on priority basis.

DC said that officers of different departments were engaged in listening complaints of people and taking measures to provide relief to people at earliest under open door policy of the Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He said that all officers were remained present in their offices to hear grievances of people and open-door policy was also restoring confidence of people on government departments.

GGHS principal appointed: The Education Department Punjab has appointed former Deputy District Education Officer and senior educationist Madam Nargis Arif as Headmaster Government Girls High School No. 1, Hafizabad. She has assumed the charge of her post. The students of the school warmly welcome her in the school.

Teachers protested against proposed privatization: The teachers protested against privatization of schools, leave encashment, anti-teachers and other wrong policies of the Punjab government to tie black ribbon at arms. Leaders of teaches unions Riaz Ahmad Tarar, Naseer-ul-Din, Muhammad Rafiq, Sajid Nazir, Ali Sher Awan, Abu Bakar Alvi, Aqeel Azad, Jaffar Bajwa, Allah Ditta Bhatti, Asghar Hanjra, Khalid Parvez, Rana Waqar Ahmad Khan, Shabbir Gujjar, Habibullah and others said that if the Punjab government refrain from revisit its anti-employees policies till 4 October than educational institutions would be locked from 5 October.

They said that teacher day on 5 October will be observed as black day while male and female teachers will be staged protest demonstration in front of District Education Authority Hafizabad at the eve of Teachers' Day on 5 October.

Child Protection Unit inaugurated

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The additional deputy commissioner Bashir Khan has said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is taking all possible measures to provide protection to children. He was addressing an inaugural function of the Lower Dir Child Protection unit.

The SP investigation Rashid Khan, provincial chief protection officer Ijaz Ahmad, UNICEF representative Suhail Ahmad, tehsil chairman Mufti Irfanul Din, tehsil chairman Shakir Shuiab and district child protection officer Muhammad Tayyub also addressed the function. Local social and political activists, area elders and journalists were also in attendance. Earlier the officials formally inaugurated the Child Protection Unit's office.

The speakers highlighted the importance of child protection and said that most of the children were faced with severe threats as they were being subjected to physical, sexual and mental violence at homes, workshops and society.

The speakers urged the elders, teachers and prayer leaders to play their active role in making the people aware of child protection and its relevant laws. Tayyub said the Child Protection Unit in the Lower Dir would act as a

referral unit for child protection. He said that such units were being established in all districts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Solidarity rally: Hundreds of local residents rallied in favour of Pakistan army and other national institutions at Lal Qila in the restive Maidan tehsil of Lower Dir. School children, political activists and area elders participated in the rally.

The Maidan tehsil, once the stronghold of the Tahreek e Taliban Pakistan, where terrorism was at its peak during 2007-08, but the area was then cleared of militants by the Pakistan Army with the support of local leaders and residents. After 2009, an ideal peace was established there. The leaders of the business community and students took out the rally in support of the Pakistan Army and expressed their complete solidarity with the Pakistan Army. The participants were holding green crescent flags in their hands and were expressing their happiness on the establishment of peace in Maidan.

Road accident: A youth identified as Idrees 10, a resident of Bandagai Talash was killed while Irfanullah 18 was injured when a car skidded off the road at Shob Baba in the jurisdiction of Talash police station here the other day, residents and police said.

They said the driver lost control over the wheel due to which the car plunged into a ravine. The Rescue 1122 emergency team rushed to the site and shifted the injured to boys to a nearby hospital. One of the injured succumbed to injuries. The other boy was referred to the DHQ hospital Timergara. The Rescue team recovered the car.

Similarly, a youth identified as Sahibzada Matilul Haq 40 was killed while his relative Asghar 45 was injured when a motorcycle they were riding on met a fatal road accident at Toormang area in the jurisdiction of Khall police station here on Sunday.

Eight persons including women and children were injured when a passenger van overturned due to over speeding at Shago Kas area of Timergara here on Sunday. The Rescue 1122 emergency team rushed to the site and shifted the injured persons to the DHQ hospital Timergara.

Also, a man identified as Sultan 49 s/o Hakim Khan, a resident of Bajaur was killed when unknown persons opened indiscriminate firing on him at Bandagai Talash area in the jurisdiction of Talash police station here on Sunday. The attacker[s] escaped from the crime scene. The victim was shifted by police to the DHQ hospital Timergara for necessary formalities.

FIA arrests two men for alleged human trafficking

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Federal Investigations Agency (FIA) Mardan Circle arrested two members of a gang allegedly involved in human trafficking, on Tuesday.

FIA Composite Circle Mardan In-charge Ghazi Amanullah Khan told to the media that a complaint was filed by Faqir Muhammad, Zahid Muhammad, Saeed Ullah and Ghulam Muhammad residents of Shankar area of tehsil Katlang alleging that some Human Smuggler had illegally smuggled their near sons namely Waqas, Ibrar, Rab Nawaz, Jehangir, Inam, Tahir, Wajid, Hassan and Ashfaq to Iran for onward smuggling to Europe through illegal routes.

As per the complaint, he revealed that these intending emigrants were held hostage, brutally tortured in a safe house at Maku (a city of Iran near Turkish border) and Rs.400000 was being demanded as ransom to release them.

Resultantly, First Information Report No.95/2024 dated 05.09.2024 u/s 3,6 Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Act 2018, 14 Foreigners Act 1946, 109 PPC was registered on the said complaint against the human smugglers namely Rehmat Ullah and Imran (Afghan nationals) residents of Afghan Refugee Camp Gadoon Amazi, District Swabi and Irshad based in Turkey.

During the course of investigation, he claimed that they arrested the

human smugglers identified as Rehmat Ullah and Imran as well as all the hostages were released from custody of these agents without paying an amount. He said that five out of nine intending emigrants were brought back to Pakistan and were handed over to their family members while the rest of four were taken into custody by relevant Iranian officials who would soon be deported to homeland after completion of legal procedure. FIA Mardan circle claimed that the arrested members of gang of human trafficking were further being investigated in order to arrest their other co-members.

Govt commits for quality developmental works: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Anti-corruption Muhammad Mossadeq Abbasi has said that quality should be ensured in development projects.

Steps should be taken to prevent the use of substandard materials. It is important to stop wastage of government resources and money. The purpose of holding Khuli Khachari across the province is to bring out the problems in the department and solve them.

Most people in the Khuli Khachari seemed satisfied with the department. I will also participate in Khuli Khachari in other regions. He expressed these views during the fourth monthly Khuli Khachari of the Anti-Corruption Establishment held in Mardan. Assistant Director Crime, Mardan

Region of Anti-Corruption Establishment, Circle Officers of Mardan Region participated in the Khuli Khachari and heard the complaints in details.

In the Khuli Khachari, people presented their complaints related to education board, land issues, TMA etc. Special Assistant for Anti-Corruption establishment Mossadeh Abbasi heard the complaints in detail and gave necessary orders and guidance regarding their resolution. He instructed to keep informed about the action on the complaints. While regarding the registered complaints, the anti-corruption establishment officials were also directed to be constantly aware of the progress by tracking the registered complaints.

According to the data of anti-corruption establishment, a total of 131 people participated while six complaints were registered, 65 people in Mardan region, 25 people in Bannu region, four in Peshawar region office, fifteen in Malakand, twelve in Abbottabad, DI Khan.10 people attended the open kitchen.

The special assistant further said that for the convenience of the people, the anti-corruption establishment has issued a WhatsApp number 03319988848 through which people can report and complain about corruption on WhatsApp.

It should be noted that Khuli Khachari were also held in all the regional offices of the Anti-Corruption Establishment where public complaints and problems were heard.

Employees terminated due to alleged financial crisis

F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: More than two hundred employees were forcibly evicted from Rehman Cotton Mills, due to which the stoves of the employees' homes have gone cold and there is mourning in their homes.

According to the sources, the management of the mills has taken a stand that there are no sales and at the same time due to excessive increase in electricity and gas prices and unannounced load shedding, a part of the factory has been closed due to which the workers have been evicted.

The Labor Department has also taken a look the political and social circles

of Takhtbhai strongly demanded the provincial and central government to reform the situation and said that the sacked employees should be restored to duty immediately, otherwise the political and social circles of Takhtbhai will be forced to launch a protest movement.

According to the details, the management of Takhtbhai's famous Rehman Cotton Mills forcibly dismissed more than two hundred employees, most of whom have been working in Rehman Cotton Mills for six to seven years, but the mills management They have been fired without any notice due to which the

houses of the employees have been piled up by the hungry and there is mourning in the houses of these employees.

The labor unions are also snoring with their eyes closed on the expulsion of the employees. Apart from the labor unions, the labor department, secretary of labor and the provincial government have also turned a blind eye to the political and social circles of Takhtbhai from the central government. Demanding that the sacked employees should be reinstated immediately, otherwise the people of Takhtbhai will be forced to carry out a protest movement with veils on their heads.

Power consumers using illegal electricity warned

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The executive engineer, Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) Lower Dir Asad Ali has asked power consumers to install power meters and avoid electricity theft. Talking to local journalists at His office here on Tuesday the XEN said the Pesco had launched a crackdown against electricity stealers in parts of the district.

He said that consumers

using illegal connections would be dealt with legal actions.

He said that residents having no power meters should immediately apply for legal connections. Otherwise, the XEN said the persons using illegal electricity in their homes and offices would be heavily fined and jailed.

He said the doors of his office were open for all complainants and all issues related to power bills and connections were being

addressed on priority basis.

Progress report: The Rescue 1122 services Lower Dir on Tuesday shared its monthly progress report with local journalists according to which the organization provided services to a total of 537 emergencies during the last month in the district. The organization also provided rescue services to 525 injured persons and patients in a total of 54 road accidents.

Anti-dengue campaign continues in Hangu

F.P. Report

HANGU: Under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Program "Awami Agenda", the Dengue Spray Program side by side the awareness campaign to prevent dengue is in progress in the entire district on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Hangu Gohar Zaman Wazir.

A s s i s t a n t Commissioner Hangu visited Sangerh area in this

regard and informed the people about the causes of dengue virus.

He said, it is usually caused by the bite of a female mosquito and this mosquito grows in clean water, so we should cover the water anywhere including in our homes.

He added that standing water should not be left and even the water tanks should also be covered.

Likewise, water should not be left open in air-coolers, pots and pans etc.

Moreover, nets should be installed in the doors and windows of the houses, all persons especially children should wear full sleeves dresses and cooperate with health department teams, he advised.

A s s i s t a n t Commissioner Hangu strictly directed the market owners where Dengue Larvae have been detected to immediately empty and clean the water tanks otherwise the market will be sealed.



ABBOTTABAD: Deputy Inspector General of Police Hazara Region, Tahir Ayub Khan distributing certificates among policemen for best performance.



ATHENS: Locals watching a wildfire burning near the village of Helidori, near Corinth in Greece.

Hungary and Ukraine ministers hold ‘frank’ talks

BUDAPEST (Reuters): Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said he had had a "very frank one-on-one conversation" with his Hungarian counterpart, amid disagreements opened up by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Hungary has upset its NATO and European Union allies by keeping close economic ties with Russia, and has also refused to join other Western countries in sending arms to help its neighbour. Kyiv for its part stopped the flow of oil from Russia's Lukoil in June to refineries in Hungary and Slovakia, forcing Hungary's MOL to renegotiate the supply through Belarus and Ukraine.

At a joint press conference, Sybiha thanked Budapest for supporting EU sanctions against Russia and said Kyiv was "committed to developing pragmatic and predictable good-neighbourly relations". But after Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto said Budapest would back any initiative that would achieve peace in Ukraine, Sybiha added pointedly that he hoped Hungary would continue to support "Ukrainian initiatives" - referring to plans advanced by Kyiv that reject any Russian territorial gains. Szijarto said Hungary "would like Ukraine to abstain in future from those unilateral steps taken recently that posed special challenges to Hungary's energy supply", but had no plan to restrict gas flows or its substantial power exports to Ukraine.

He also said Hungary wanted to take part in rebuilding Ukraine. Budapest has also clashed with Kyiv over what it says are curbs on the rights of roughly 150,000 ethnic Hungarians in western Ukraine to use their native tongue. Kyiv denies that such restrictions exist but Sybiha said both sides had "noted a positive dynamic in resolving this issue".

SK court gives prison sentences to 3 police officers

SEOUL (AP): A South Korean court gave three police officers prison sentences over their botched handling of a 2022 Halloween crush in a Seoul nightlife district that killed nearly 160 people.

It was the first conviction of officials over the failure by authorities to prevent or adequately respond to the overcrowding that occurred in the popular Itaewon district. No top-level officials have been charged or held accountable, prompting criticism from bereaved families and opposition politicians.

The crush, one of the biggest peacetime disasters in South Korea, caused a nationwide outpouring of grief. The victims, who were mostly in their 20s and 30s, had gathered in Itaewon for Halloween celebrations. The Seoul Western District Court sentenced Lee Im-jae, the former chief of Seoul's Yongsan police station, whose jurisdiction includes Itaewon, to three years in prison.

South Korea unveils its most powerful missile

SEOUL (AP): South Korea unveiled its most powerful ballistic missile and other weapons targeting North Korea during a massive Armed Forces Day ceremony Tuesday, as the president warned the North's regime would collapse if it attempts to use nuclear weapons.

South Korea's weapons displays and warning against North Korea came after its northern rival recently rose regional animosities by disclosing its uranium-enrichment facility and tested missiles ahead of the US presidential election in November. "If North Korea attempts to use nuclear weapons, it will face the resolute and overwhelming response of our military and the (South Korea)-US alliance," President Yoon Suk Yeol told thousands of troops gathered at a military airport near Seoul. "That day will be the end of the North Korean regime."

"The North Korean regime must abandon the delusion that nuclear weapons will protect them," Yoon said. During the ceremony, the South Korean military displayed about 340 military equipment and weapons systems. Among them was its most powerful Hyunmoo-5 ballistic mis-

sile, which observers say is capable of carrying about 8 tons of a conventional warhead that can penetrate deep into the earth and destroy underground bunkers in North Korea. It was the first time for South Korea to disclose that missile. The US flew a long-range B-1B bomber during the ceremony in an apparent demonstration of its security commitment to its Asian ally. South Korea also flew some of its most advanced fighter jets.

Since taking office in 2022, Yoon, a conservative, has put a stronger military alliance with the US and an improved trilateral Seoul-Washington-Tokyo security cooperation at the center of his security policies to cope with North Korea's advancing nuclear program. In recent years, North Korea has performed a provocative of missile tests and threatened to use nuclear weapons preemptively in potential conflicts with South Korea and the United States. Last month, concerns about North Korea's bomb program further grew after it published photos of a secretive facility to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons. It was North Korea's first unveiling of a uranium-enrichment facility

since it showed one at the country's main Yongbyon nuclear complex to visiting American scholars in 2010. South Korean officials say North Korea will likely try to further dial up tensions with provocative weapons tests ahead of the US election to increase its leverage in future diplomacy with a new US government. Experts say North Korea likely thinks an expanded nuclear arsenal would help it win bigger US concessions like extensive sanctions relief.

Earlier Tuesday, North Korea's vice defense minister, Kim Kang Il, slammed the US for its temporary deployments of powerful military assets to South Korea and vowed strong responses. He cited the recent visit of a US nuclear-powered submarine and Tuesday's B-1B flyover. Kim threatened to bolster North Korea's "powerful war deterrent," an apparent reference to its nuclear capability, and take unspecified steps to stoke security concerns to the security of the US mainland. Observers say his comments may imply North Korea may consider test-firing an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the US mainland.

Moldovan minister urges voters to shun ‘thieves’

CHISINAU (Reuters): A senior government minister urged Moldovans to shun "thieves, fugitives and bandits" after an exiled pro-Russian business magnate pledged to pay voters to vote "no" in a referendum on joining the European Union. Infrastructure Minister Andrei Spinu's call underscored the increasingly unruly campaign for the Oct. 20 presidential election in which pro-European incumbent Maia Sandu is seeking a second term.

Voters will also take part in a referendum on altering the constitution to enable ex-Soviet Moldova, one of Europe's poorest countries, to press for membership of the 27-nation EU. The most vocal opponent of EU membership, fugitive pro-Russian businessman Ilan Shor, offered in a weekend Telegram post to pay voters the equivalent of \$29 if they registered for his campaign in the country lying

between Ukraine and Romania. Voters, he said, would get larger rewards if they cast "no" ballots in the referendum and if results showed they lived in electoral districts rejecting the proposal. Shor was sentenced to 15 years in prison last year in absentia in connection with his role in the disappearance of \$1 billion from Moldova's banking system.

Exiled in Russia, he now heads the "Victory" election bloc, barred from taking part in the campaign. Andrei Spinu, infrastructure minister and head of Sandu's re-election campaign team, said opponents of the president's EU drive were "using money to buy votes and people". "They are using propaganda to spread lies about the European Union and frighten people with all sorts of tall tales," he wrote on Telegram. "Let us not believe thieves, fugitives

and bandits." Sandu, who denounces Russia's invasion of Ukraine and views Moscow as one of the biggest threats facing Moldova, also told voters in address to be on guard against fraud.

"The liars are now trying to intimidate us and oblige us to take decisions other than to those that we want," she said. "We must not let them decide our own fate." In recent days, paint has been daubed on buildings belonging to Moldova's state-owned broadcaster, the Supreme Court and two other state institutions. Police blame the incidents on a group trained in Moscow to destabilise the election. Sandu is favoured to win the presidential vote against 10 challengers, with a recent poll crediting her with about 27% support. That poll put backing for EU membership at 56% among decided voters with 34% opposed.

Crew of Vietnamese fishing boat injured in an attack in Sea

HANOI (AP): A Vietnamese fishing boat was attacked in the South China Sea near the Paracel Islands, claimed by both China and Vietnam, and 10 crew members were injured, Vietnamese state media said. The Vietnamese boat radioed to report the attack, saying three fishermen suffered broken limbs and seven others received other injuries, the Tien Phong newspaper quoted a local official at Binh Chau commune in Quang Ngai province as saying. It was not clear what country's boat attacked the Vietnamese vessel, and commune officials told The Associated Press they had nothing to add to the newspaper report.

Vietnam's border guard is investigating the case but has not yet made any information available. The Paracel Islands are about 400 kilometers (250 miles)

off Vietnam's eastern coast and about the same distance southeast from the Chinese province of Hainan. Both countries claim them, as does the self-governing island of Taiwan.

The newspaper report said the attack on the boat occurred in Vietnamese waters but did not specify exactly where it was. China claims almost all of the strategically vital South China Sea as its own territory, which has caused disputes with the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. Beijing has been increasingly assertive in pursuing its claims, which has brought China into direct confrontations with the Philippines and Vietnam.

The United States has no claims in the South China Sea itself, but has deployed Navy and Air Force assets to patrol the waterway, through

which around \$5 trillion in global trade transits each year. China threatened "serious consequences" last year after the US Navy sailed a destroyer around the Paracel Islands in a "freedom of navigation operation" challenging what it called "excessive maritime claims."

The Paracel Islands have been under de facto Chinese control since 1974, when Beijing seized them from Vietnam in a brief naval conflict. Last year, satellite photos showed China appeared to be building an airstrip on Triton Island in the Paracel group. As it was laid out at the time, it appeared it would be big enough to accommodate turboprop aircraft and drones but not fighter jets or bombers. China has also had a small harbor and buildings on the island for years, along with a helipad and radar arrays.

Raging wildfires in Greece; two dead

ATHENS: Two people have died in a rugged mountainous area in central Greece while trying to help firefighters tackle a forest fire that has forced several villages to be evacuated, authorities have said. The fire near Corinth, 140 kilometres (87 miles) west of Athens, was still burning, fanned by fierce winds.

Greek police spokeswoman Constantina Dimoglidou said the recovered bodies were severely burnt and that laboratory tests were necessary for their identification. The fire brigade has launched an investigation, the Greek Ministry of Citizen Protection said. Smoke from the fire, which burned several homes and a church, hovered over the capital. Greece, like other southern European countries, is plagued by destructive wildfires in the summer that have been exacerbated by global warming. The country this year has experienced its hottest-ever summer after its warmest winter on record, which left large areas with scant or no rain. Over the past few months, authorities have had to cope with more than 4,500 wildfires in countryside left parched by a protracted drought and early summer heatwaves, in what was considered the most dangerous fire season in two decades. — Al Jazeera

Cambodian reporter arrested

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP): Cambodian freelance reporter Mech Dara, noted for investigative reporting in a country with limited press freedom, was arrested, a leading local human rights organization and a journalists association said.

Known especially for investigating online scam centers, Mech Dara's arrest followed posts he made about a rock quarry that local officials denounced as an attempt to foment dissent. Mech Dara managed to send an SMS message to the rights group Licadho saying he was being arrested by military police before his phone was seized, said Am Sam Ath, a Licadho spokesperson.

The Associated Press was not immediately able to confirm the arrest, news of which circulated after government offices were closed. However, Cambodian News, a project run by the independent Cambodian Journalists Alliance Association, published details of the incident, citing unnamed members of Mech Dara's family. Cambodian News also reported that military police spokesperson Eng Hy confirmed the arrest, saying it had been carried out with a warrant, but did not give the cause or say where Mech Dara had been taken. A family member whom Cambodian News did not name said Mech Dara's car was stopped at a toll booth at the entrance to the expressway to Phnom Penh when police arrived in a military vehicle and five other cars. The relative said the authorities cited an arrest warrant, but did not show the document.

The relative said Mech Dara's phone was seized and that his family members were asked to stay in their car and remain silent. The police action may have been related to two images Mech Dara posted on his Facebook page of a quarry operation and of the revered mountain Ba Phnom, which has a Buddhist pagoda, in the southeastern province of Prey Veng. His post may have implied that the sacred mountains being destroyed, which appears not to be the case. The Prey Veng provincial administration issued a statement rejecting his post, and accused him of "wanting to cause social disorder or confusion," which can be prosecuted as a criminal offense. The province also called on the Information Ministry to take legal action against him.

Mech Dara previously worked as a journalist for the Cambodia Daily and the Phnom Penh Post, two once-vibrant English-language newspapers forced to shut down under government pressure, and the Voice of Democracy radio and website, which was closed by the government last year.

US changes tack on Haiti peacekeeping push

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters): The United States has dropped a push for the UN Security Council to ask for a plan to transform a security mission helping fight armed gangs in Haiti into a formal UN peacekeeping operation, a move some diplomats said was made to appease Russia and China. A senior US administration official, however, pushed back against that assessment, saying Washington changed its strategy to support a call last week by the head of Haiti's transition council, Edgard Leblanc, for a UN peacekeeping mission.

"It is not at all that we are bowing to those who might not have the best interests of the Haitian people at heart," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We are being strategic about how we're going about this and building on the shot of momentum that we heard from the Haitian president." The 15-member Security Council will vote on a draft resolution to extend the mandate for the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission until Oct. 2, 2025. The UN first approved the mission a year ago after the Caribbean country asked for assistance.

Diplomats say Russia and China did not want the council to ask for a plan to transition the UN-backed security force to a formal UN peacekeeping operation, so the US removed that language from the draft resolution, seen by Reuters. Russia wants to allow more time for the security force to establish itself. Deputy Russian UN Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy said, adding: "We don't want to prejudice MSS's outcome. Too early to make conclusions."

Haitian leaders speaking

at the United Nations General Assembly last week warned of worsening insecurity in the country despite the partial deployment of the security force. Powerful gangs, armed with weapons largely trafficked from the United States, have united in the capital under a common alliance and now control most of the city and are expanding to nearby areas. Leblanc told the UN General Assembly: "I am convinced that this change of status, whilst recognizing that the errors of the past cannot be repeated, would guarantee the full success of the mission in Haiti."

The senior US official said Washington would "work with partners over the coming weeks to support that call." US Secretary of State Antony Blinken raised the issue of transforming the security force into a UN peacekeeping operation during a visit to Haiti earlier this month. Many Haitians are wary of an armed UN presence after previous missions left behind a devastating cholera epidemic and sex abuse scandals. The current Kenyan-led international security mission, while authorized by the UN Security Council, is not a United Nations operation. Countries voluntarily provide money and personnel.

The mission has made little progress toward helping Haiti restore order with only 400 Kenyan police officers on the ground so far and a shortfall in funding. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said earlier this month that establishing a UN peacekeeping force would not be the best solution for Haiti, which faces a humanitarian crisis with mass displacements, sexual violence and widespread hunger. Gang violence has displaced more

than 700,000 people in Haiti, according to UN estimates. Meanwhile, nearly 6,000 people in Haiti are starving, with nearly half the country's population of more than 11 million people experiencing crisis levels of hunger or worse as gang violence smothers life in the capital of Port-au-Prince and beyond, according to a new report released. The number of Haitians facing crisis, emergency and famine levels of hunger increased by 1.2 million in the past year for a total of 5.4 million as gang violence disrupts the transportation of goods and prevents people from venturing out of their homes to buy food, according to the report by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification.

"This is one of the highest proportions of acutely food insecure people in any crisis around the world," said UN spokesman Stéphane Dujarric. The 5,636 people who are facing starvation, the worst level, live in makeshift shelters across the metropolitan area, according to the report, which noted that another 2 million Haitians face severe hunger. "This is shocking," said Martine Villeneuve, Haiti director for the nonprofit Action Against Hunger. "We were not expecting that level. Two million ... is massive."

Villeneuve told The Associated Press that she also was surprised that some of the 2 million people hit by hunger don't even live in places directly affected by gang violence. While much of the hunger is directly tied to gang violence, double-digit inflation also has limited what many Haitians can afford to buy, with food now representing 70% of total household expenditures.

Police pulled off streets after army takes their guns

MEXICO CITY (AP): Local police in the cartel-dominated city of Culiacan, Mexico have been pulled off the streets after the army seized their guns, officials announced.

The move came just one day after about 1,500 residents of Culiacan, the capital of the northern state of Sinaloa, held a march through the city's downtown to demand peace after weeks in which cartel gunfights have killed dozens of people in and around the city.

But rather than announcing a stepped-up police presence, Ruben Rocha, the state's governor, said the entire 1,000-member municipal police force would not return to duty until they get their weapons back. Soldiers, state police and National Guard will take over patrolling until then. Rocha said the seizure of the weapons for inspection of their permits and serial numbers was not a routine check, but rather was "exceptional," and said "we hope it will end soon."

Historically, the Mexican army has seized the weapons of local police forces they distrust, either because they suspect some local cops are working for drug gangs or because they suspect they are carrying unregistered, private sidearms that would make abuses harder to trace. In 2018, the army seized the

weapons from the municipal police in another state capital, Cuernavaca, to conduct a similar inspection. It said at the time the measure was aimed at ensuring "trustworthy security forces."

Hundreds of army troops have been flown into Culiacan since fighting broke out between factions of the Sinaloa cartel after drug lords Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada and Joaquín Guzmán López were apprehended in the United States after they flew there in a small plane on July 25. Zambada later claimed he was kidnapped and forced aboard the plane by Guzmán López, causing a violent battle between Zambada's faction and the "Chapitos" group lead by the sons of imprisoned drug lord Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán. Protest was the first such march residents have dared to hold since factional fighting broke out following the events of July 25. Gunbattles have broken out even in downtown areas and upscale neighborhoods of Culiacan, and parents have been loathe to send their children to school since early September.

Schools in Culiacan have largely turned to holding classes online to avoid the near-daily shootings. Gunmen shot to death the leader of the local cattle rancher's union, Faustino Hernández, in broad day-

light on a downtown street. The civic group "Culiacan Valiente," or Brave Culiacan, organized residents to dress in white as they carried banners reading "Take back our streets!" "We want a return to in-class learning, but only if the safety of the schoolchildren is guaranteed," the march organizers wrote in statement.

Rocha acknowledged the battle is between two cartel factions - he called them the "Chapitos" and the "Mayitos" - and pledged to fight both equally. "There are two groups that are confronting each other here," Rocha said of his state. "The authorities are here to face them down equally, both of them without exceptions." The two groups have taken to leaving strange factional markers on the dead bodies of their rivals: The "Chapitos" leave pizzas (derived from their group's collective moniker in Spanish, "La ChaPIZA"), while Zambada's supporters leave their trademark cowboy hats on dead bodies. The cowboy hats reflect the belief that Zambada's faction is more old-school than the young Guzmáns. But the situation has gotten so out of control that cartel gunmen have taken to hijacking buses and trucks and burning them to block highways leading in and out of Culiacan.

Putin orders conscription of servicemen

MOSCOW (Reuters): Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the conscription of 133,000 new servicemen in Russia's autumn draft that starts Oct. 1 and goes until the end of the year, according to a Kremlin decree published.

The decree, published in Russian state-run newspaper Rossiyskaya Gazeta, calls to carry out the draft of citizens "aged 18 to 30 years, who are not in the reserve and are subject to conscription in accordance with the Federal Law ... in the amount of 133,000 people." The head of Russia's conscription office, Vice-Admiral Vladimir

Tsimlyansky said that the terms for the conscript remain the same: 12-month service in military units in Russia.

"I would like to note that conscripts will not be called up to participate in the special military operation in the new regions," Rossiyskaya Gazeta cited Tsimlyansky as saying. Russia calls its war in Ukraine, which it started with a full-scale invasion in February 2022, a special military operation. Kyiv and its allies call it an unprovoked, imperialistic attempt to grab land. In a move condemned by most of the Western world,

Russia annexed parts of southeastern Ukraine in late 2022, calling the land 'new regions.'

Citing growing threats on Russia's western borders, Putin in September ordered the Russian army to be increased by 180,000 troops to 1.5 million active servicemen, a move that would make it the second largest in the world after China's. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, US President Joe Biden and other NATO leaders have blamed Putin for being the sole aggressor in the conflict in Ukraine and posing threats to other of its neighbours.

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Middle East's 'new order' need not be one of chaos

IT is apparently without irony that the Israeli military called last week's assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah "Operation New Order". What people in this region are seeing instead is the spread of disorder as death, displacement and instability in Lebanon, Palestine and several other Arab countries continue to mount.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the past 12 months of war have led the Middle East to this defining moment, one that is fraught with uncertainty. Palestinians, already labouring under decades of military occupation, seem as far from freedom and independence as ever. Gaza has been rendered near-uninhabitable by an indiscriminate Israeli campaign. The West Bank is already cantoned by land grabs to facilitate Israel's network of illegal settlements and experiences near-daily deaths as the occupation continues to meet resistance. Meanwhile, Israel is no more secure and the fate of more than 100 hostages in extremely difficult circumstances remains unknown.

Long-suffering Lebanon has become the latest country to feel the impact of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's go-for-broke offensive. Hundreds of civilians have lost their lives as Israeli forces abandon any semblance of proportionality in its hunt for its enemies. Lebanon's caretaker government has been reduced to the status of an onlooker as Israel and the Iran-backed group lock horns. But the sheer number of leading Hezbollah figures killed and the numerous areas bombed by Israel gives this round of violence a different feel from previous conflicts. Where Lebanon goes from here is anyone's guess.

Meanwhile, the people of Yemen – a country that has been the scene of one of the world's worst humanitarian crises over the past decade – find themselves caught between another Iran-backed paramilitary group and the long arm of Israeli revenge. Although Houthi attempts to strike Israel with drones and missiles are dangerous, they have singularly failed to change Israel's strategy towards Palestine or Lebanon in any meaningful way. Instead, Israeli warplanes can bomb targets in Hodeidah – a key Red Sea port and entry point for humanitarian aid – without much international reaction.

Other countries are being shaped by this unpredictable and multifaceted war. Syria has been the target of repeated bombings by Israeli warplanes over the past year and is now experiencing the return of more than 100,000 desperate refugees fleeing the chaos in Lebanon. In Iraq, Iran-aligned militias are on the march as the US announces an agreement with Baghdad to withdraw American troops from parts of the country, where they have been stationed for a decade to help fight ISIS.

In Israel itself, there is no going back to life before October 7. The country's population was already polarised along political lines before the Hamas-led attack that claimed more than 1,200 lives in a single day, traumatising Israeli society. Further fault lines are being exposed as Israel's government plans to incorporate religious Jews into the armed forces and extremist Cabinet ministers insist on building more settlements or trying to change the status of Jerusalem's flashpoint religious sites.

Yes, a "new order" is likely taking shape in the Middle East but right now it looks like one characterised by violence and war. It need not be so. Although militarists and extremists, whether Israeli, Arab or Iranian, seem to be dictating events right now, the voices of reason on all sides – and there are many – continue to work for peace. It is their vision of a "new order" based on peace that should be embraced if this region is to have a better future.

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Pakistan-Malaysia bilateral ties and opportunities

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

THE longstanding relationship between Pakistan and Malaysia is rooted in shared cultural, religious, and political values, reinforced by mutual respect and cooperation across various sectors. Both nations, being Muslim-majority countries, have developed close diplomatic ties, often collaborating in regional and global forums. The upcoming visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan highlights the strength of these ties and presents an opportunity to expand cooperation in key areas like trade, energy, and tourism.

Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, accompanied by a high-level delegation, will visit Pakistan from Wednesday to Friday at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. This visit underscores the importance of Pakistan-Malaysia relations, with discussions set to focus on enhancing cooperation in trade, connectivity, agriculture, the halal industry, and cultural exchanges. The two leaders will also address regional and global developments, reflecting their mutual commitment to progress in the broader Islamic world.

Historically, the relationship between Pakistan and Malaysia has been shaped by shared aspirations for development. Diplomatic engagements have emphasized economic cooperation, defense collaboration, and educational exchanges. Since the 1960s, when both nations were newly independent, high-level bilateral visits have played a crucial role in strengthening ties. Notably, Malaysia's long-serving Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad was instrumental

in expanding trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. His multiple visits to Pakistan highlighted Malaysia's desire to collaborate on trade, education, and technology.

On Pakistan's side, leaders like President General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Imran Khan have also played significant roles in strengthening the relationship. The signing of the Malaysia-Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA) in 2007 was a turning point, as it significantly boosted bilateral trade by reducing tariffs and facilitating market access. As a result, both nations have benefited from expanded trade, with Pakistan exporting textiles, rice, and agricultural products, while Malaysia supplies palm oil, electronic goods, and machinery.

Malaysia is currently one of Pakistan's largest trading partners in Southeast Asia, and both nations are now looking to further expand this relationship. Areas of focus during Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit will likely include agriculture and the halal industry, as both nations seek to capitalize on the growing global demand for halal products. The halal industry holds significant potential, with both Pakistan and Malaysia being well-positioned to lead global production in sectors ranging from food to pharmaceuticals.

Energy cooperation is another area of mutual interest. With Pakistan's growing energy needs and Malaysia's expertise in renewable energy, both countries have an opportunity to collaborate on sustainable energy solutions.

Malaysia has made considerable progress in solar and hydropower, and Pakistan could benefit from this expertise as it works to diversify its energy sources and address chronic power shortages. Both nations recognize the importance of energy infrastructure and are likely to explore partnerships that promote innovation and sustainable growth.

Education has also played a key role in strengthening ties between the two countries. Over the years, many Pakistani students have pursued higher education in Malaysia, benefiting from the country's high-quality universities. This exchange of knowledge not only enhances individual capacities but also strengthens people-to-people ties. Expanding these academic exchanges would further enhance the intellectual and professional capabilities of both nations, deepening the relationship on a societal level.

In defense, Pakistan and Malaysia have collaborated closely over the years, engaging in joint military exercises and sharing expertise in defense technologies. Both countries are committed to maintaining regional stability, and defense cooperation is likely to remain an important aspect of the relationship. In multilateral forums such as the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Pakistan and Malaysia often align on key issues affecting the Muslim world, including the plight of the Rohingya and the Palestinian cause.

A lesser-known but highly significant aspect of Pakistan-Malaysia cooperation lies in the intellectual domain, particularly in the area of economic development. Dr. Mehboob-ul-Haq, a renowned Pakistani economist and architect of the Human Development Index (HDI), played a key role in advising Malaysia on its economic policies during the 1980s. His work was instrumental in shaping Malaysia's development strategies, focusing on human development, poverty reduction, and equitable growth. His contribution is a testament to the intellectual bonds that have tied Pakistan and Malaysia together in their pursuit of economic progress.

As Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim's visit approaches, it is evident that both Pakistan and Malaysia are looking to strengthen their historical ties in ways that will benefit both nations in an increasingly interconnected world. The focus on trade, energy, education, and people-to-people contacts will likely drive future cooperation. Both countries recognize the strategic importance of enhancing their partnership in light of regional and global challenges, from climate change to economic instability.

In conclusion, the relationship between Pakistan and Malaysia is built on a foundation of shared values and strategic interests. The upcoming visit provides an opportunity to further enhance this relationship in areas that matter most to both nations-economic development, sustainable growth, and regional stability. As both countries look toward the future, this visit is expected to mark another step in deepening their partnership, benefiting Pakistan, Malaysia, and the broader region.

Hassan Nasrullah's legacy

Salman khan

LATE Hassan Nasrullah the General secretary of Hezbollah was born in Beirut in 1960. His early life was shaped by humble beginnings and a deep commitment to religious and political activism. During his early years of life Hassan Nasrullah joined Amal -- a Lebanese Shia paramilitary group during the 1975 Lebanese civil war. Nasrullah went to Najaf-Iraq-- to study seminary and returned to Lebanon during expulsion of Lebanese students from Iraq in 1978, becoming Al Biqa valley commander of Amal forces. Following 1982 Israel invasion of Lebanon Nasrullah joined the newly emerged radical Shia organization--Hezbollah--inspired and influenced by Ayatollah Ruhullah Khomeini and 1979 Islamic revolution of Iran. Nasrullah went to Iran (Qom) to gain further religious education and assumed the leadership of Hezbollah in 1992 after the assassination of Abbas Al Musawi with his family.

His humble, thoughtful and humorous style of communicating with people and running a widespread welfare organization made him successful in acquiring grassroot support. Nasrullah gained popularity in the Arab world by conducting a fierce Guerrilla war against Israel and making the Israel occupying forces to endure a colossal lose and ultimately withdraw from the southern Lebanon in 2000. In 2004 Nasrullah accomplished a successful prisoner's swap deal with Israel which many Arabs considered as a phenomenal gain. Israel was so much perturbed by the nefarious cross border activities of Hezbollah that it inflicted a full-scale war on Lebanon in 2006. Although many Arab leaders criticized Hezbollah and Nasrullah for inciting the conflict, however by the end of 34-day war the later was able to fight the Israel defense forces to a standstill--an accomplishment that no Arab militia had achieved before. Nasrullah profile was also raised when he negotiated, through US mediation, a ceasefire on cross border attacks with Israel.

The 2006 Lebanon war further augmented the prestige and political strength of Nasrullah that it started efforts to acquire more seats in the cabinet of Prime Minister of Fouad Siniora yet all went in vain momentarily. An endless rivalry started between Hezbollah and pro-government groups resulting in widespread chaos and violence in Lebanon. However, in 2016, after a great struggle Nasrullah was able to devise a power sharing formula and install his ally Michal Aoun as the president of Lebanon--a seat laying vacant for 29 months.

Unlike the support for Uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt and Bahrain, when the region was shaken by the Arab spring in 2013,

Nasrullah Justified Hezbollah support for the Syrian Government in its Civil war. Thus, accusing him an accomplice of Bashar Al Assad in war crimes committed against civilian. Nasrullah played a key role in consolidation of Iran's axis of resistance network across middle east as well. Hamas, a militant group of Palestinian freedom fighters and an ally of Axis launched a land, sea and Air attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. Nasrullah sent warm congratulations to Hamas on the Attack; and a war broke out between Hamas and Israel. Since escalation of war there has been a strong international condemnation of Israel military actions, particularly in Gaza and West bank. Israel is repeatedly warned by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the UN of committing serious war crimes and violations of international Humanitarian Law. Indiscriminate bombing of civilian in Gaza, Blockade and targeting medical facilities and infrastructure are labeled as war crimes Under the Geneva Conventions yet Israel pays scant regards to international norms and morality.

The ongoing war has resulted in more than 42000 reported deaths of Palestinian along with 116 journalists and 224 humanitarian workers mostly Palestinian. The entire infrastructure of Gaza and west bank has been reduced to rubbles making even drinking water inaccessible. Economy of Gaza has been crippled by war and almost two-thirds of the population is living a life of misery.

After nearly a year of war in Gaza Strip, Israel has opened a second front of war, turning its attention to Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. On September 27 Israel was reported to have dropped more than 80 bombs into Dahieh neighborhood targeting Nasrullah.

Body of late Nasrullah was found and identified the following day and the death of revolutionary vanguard of Palestinian cause was confirmed by Hezbollah. This assassination attempt occurred at a heighten though susceptible efforts of Biden Administration to arrange a 21-day ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

Netanyahu opposed any brokered settlement by blatantly saying as "I am toughest dude on the block" at UN rostrum during his annual address to General Assembly. Netanyahu will never change the course of war because he is confident that war is his golden ticket to remain prime minister and avoid any troublesome pending criminal indictments. In the end the Lebanese people will prove as much forgettable and disposable as Palestinian people. Their hopes, lives and dreams don't matter to the west. All that matter is the self-proclaimed Israel's right to defend itself.

Writer is Gold Medalist and Postgraduate Scholar from Peshawar

Hezbollah can still win against Israel

Samer Jaber

WITH the assassination of Hezbollah's secretary-general, Hassan Nasrallah, on September 28, Israel has brought the ongoing conflict to a critical juncture. The killing, which involved the dropping of dozens of 2,000-pound bombs on the densely-populated southern suburbs of Beirut, came on the tail of a violent aerial campaign that killed more than 500 people in the span of 24 hours. That was preceded by unprecedented attacks on Hezbollah's rank and file using booby-trapped pagers and other communication devices.

All of this has provided Israel with a significant tactical advantage. If sustained alongside other tactical operations, these efforts could weaken Hezbollah's ability to respond effectively. The attacks have dealt a major blow to the chain of command of the Radwan Force, which has not yet been deployed in this conflict, and whose involvement is contingent upon the appointment of new commanders as well as the strategic progression of the war. The assassination of Ali Karaki, the commander of Hezbollah's southern front, although of symbolic

significance, does not appear to affect Hezbollah's capacity to continue expanding the range of fire on Israeli cities.

Israel's ultimate goal with these attacks is to decouple its war on Gaza from the conflict in Lebanon – that is to force Hezbollah to stop supporting Hamas by attacking northern Israel. The Israeli government is using escalation as a means to achieve this goal. A successful decoupling, the Israelis believe, would create a rift among the members of the axis of resistance, which Hamas and Hezbollah are both part of.

But there is a risk that this Israeli approach will backfire. Israel may, in fact, find itself in a situation similar to 2006, when it was the stronger side but still lost its confrontation with Hezbollah due to the paradox of escalation. This is because, in asymmetric war, relatively weaker entities can win by simply employing strategic patience, prolonging the war and forcing their stronger opponent to expend significant resources, ultimately depleting them.

It is important to point out that Hezbollah cannot back down from this con-

frontation, even at a heavy cost in terms of its leaders' lives. The stakes are extremely high; if it were to retreat, it would not only lose the trust and confidence of its supporters, but it could also jeopardise the strategic deterrence it has built since the 2006 war with Israel. That is why, the surviving Hezbollah leadership is likely to fight to the end.

In the present case, all Hezbollah has to do is mobilise its remaining capabilities to continue its rocket attacks on northern Israel, which will prevent the Israeli army from securing the return of evacuated residents, and resist Israeli attempts to push its forces north of the Litani River through a ground offensive.

Even if the Israeli army does not face fierce resistance, whatever advances it makes in the "limited ground operation" it just declared may be temporary. It would, therefore, face the choice of whether to expand the operation or not.

Hezbollah continues to respond to Israel's escalation with a restrained approach, hoping to provoke it into initiating a full-scale invasion. For

Hezbollah, an escalation into ground warfare offers considerable tactical advantages.

The presence of Israeli ground troops would limit the effectiveness of Israel's air force. For example, the F-35 would not be used in areas where Israeli troops are clashing with Hezbollah due to the risk of Israeli soldiers dying in such bombardment. Other tactical aircraft may also have limited use, as Hezbollah may be equipped with anti-aircraft missiles.

Additionally, Hezbollah's forces are more familiar with the challenging terrain of southern Lebanon, giving them a major advantage. Over the years, Hezbollah has also developed a robust logistical and military infrastructure designed to support prolonged ground warfare in this area.

Furthermore, for Hezbollah, fighting Israeli troops on the ground offers an opportunity to further solidify its image as a resistance group among the Arab public – an image that was relatively eroded due to its involvement in the Syrian civil war.

An open long confrontation with Israel would

reposition Hezbollah as the leading resistance faction in the Arab world, bolstering its image as a staunch defender of Palestinian and Arab interests. This renewed standing would likely enhance its influence across the region and could strengthen its ability to recruit volunteers and gain support from Arab and Muslim communities.

Israel will likely try to avoid engaging in a prolonged, open confrontation that requires redeployment of its troops deep across the border into Lebanon.

High personnel losses could lead to mounting pressure on the Israeli government to pull out, presenting Hezbollah with a victory.

However, the current Israeli strategy of intense bombardment to force Hezbollah to accept a ceasefire on Israeli terms has its limits. While the current US administration is readily replenishing Israel's depleted arms and ammunition stocks, it is doing so at an ever-increasing cost.

Although the US establishment remains in full support of Israel, a significant segment of American voters on both sides of the political spectrum opposes this support for ethical and economic reasons.

Whoever gets elected in the US presidential election will likely feel compelled to put an end to Israel's endless escalation, possibly by threatening to cut weapons supplies. That is why, Israel is in a hurry to establish new facts on the ground in the region before the elections.

On the other hand, for Hezbollah and other resistance movements, this is fundamentally a war of attrition that will continue, even if Israel manages to achieve some early successes.

Although Hezbollah has faced considerable losses over the past two weeks, it still has the potential to declare another victory over Israel. Similar to Hamas in Gaza, survival alone can be considered a success. These are likely the calculations being made in Beirut, as well as by its strategic supporters in Tehran.

In the end, Israel's attempts to create a rift within the axis of resistance may have the opposite effect. Recent history suggests that instead of causing division, the escalation of Israeli operations bolsters public support for the resistance while also reinforcing the unity among its members in Lebanon, Palestine, and beyond.

Hard right, wrong turn: why the UK Conservatives should avoid oversteering

THIS week’s UK Conservative party conference in Birmingham has raised – rather than answered – awkward questions. What is the Conservative party nowadays actually for? Who is it for? And, a lesser point, who will be the next leader?

There are only 170,000 party members and just 121 members of Parliament. That means two thirds of the 365 seats that the Conservatives won in 2019 were lost this year to other parties. It’s a staggering defeat. The Birmingham gathering is that of the survivors of a political car crash, a party divided, demoralised and rulerless.

They also face a very tough decision. Should the party of Benjamin Disraeli, Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher veer towards the hard right? Is that necessary to see off Nigel Farage’s latest political creation, the Reform UK party? Or should the Conservatives seek the middle ground where most voters are? As for most voters, they appear simply bored by the party’s perpetual psychodrama.

The Tories have thrown up a succession of weak, and at times weird, leaders: Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak.

All of them failed to make sense of Brexit, failed on immigration, proved incompetent when confronted with the Covid-19 pandemic and now seem baffled by what being Conservative means any more, except a desire for power.

The arc of decline began with David Cameron, the Tory prime minister from 2010. Mr Cameron is smooth, affa-

ble and posh. He survived the right-wing challenge from Mr Farage’s then political vehicle, the UK Independence Party. In the 2015 general election, UKIP won an astonishing 3.8 million votes. Mr Cameron recognised he had to do something.

He organised the ill-thought-out “advisory” Brexit referendum on the UK’s EU membership. That 2016 referendum contained just 16 words: “Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union

Gavin Esler

Johnson, who promised to “get Brexit done”. He failed. It’s a running sore. Last weekend, a huge rally in London in favour of rejoining the EU proved that rather than solving the problem of the hard right, Mr Cameron and Mr Johnson had merely created an even bigger problem for the whole country.

You might think that this week’s contenders to lead the Conservative party would have noticed that pandering to Mr

remaining candidates might lead the party, perhaps it is more interesting to consider some of those who have left it in sadness, anger or disgust. They include David Gauke and Dominic Grieve, two thoughtful mainstream former MPs who served as ministers. Then just last week, another former minister, Sayeeda Warsi, quit.

Ms Warsi is an impressive figure who repeatedly and forcefully criticised perceived Islamophobia among Conservatives. She said on X: “It is with a

hypocrisy and double standards in its treatment of different communities. A timely reminder of the issues that I raise in my book Muslims Don’t Matter.”

Ms Warsi’s language here is important. Like other prominent Conservatives, she senses how far her party has shifted to an agenda that appals her, just as former US president Donald Trump’s “Maga” grip on his party has appalled many centrist Republicans. In the UK, the big question for the next Conservative leader therefore is simply stated: which way are you going to turn?

Turning right to appease Mr Farage in the past produced the Brexit debacle. It opened up significant divisions within the party. Why would pandering to the “Little Englander” mentality work in 2024 when it failed in 2015, 2016 and subsequent years?

Conservatives might not listen to outside commentators, or even to the verdict of disenchanted voters. But they might listen to historic words from their former leader Mrs Thatcher.

Back in 1996, a few years after losing her position as prime minister, she was clear: “It is not the centre ground, but the common ground – the shared instincts and traditions of the British people – on which we should pitch our tents. That ground is solid, whereas the centre ground is as slippery as the spin doctors who have colonised it.”

The ground occupied by the hard right is just as slippery. It’s even more dangerous to occupy for a party that used to pride itself on common sense.

Jimmy Carter is setting a new record for American presidents

Zachary B. Wolf

Jimmy Carter sets a new record on October 1, his birthday, when he will become the first American president to reach triple digits.

It’s a milestone more and more Americans will reach in the years to come – and something the American social safety net is not prepared for.

Carter’s post-presidency began in 1981 after he lost his bid for reelection and when he was 56, too young for Social Security and Medicare.

Carter got his hands dirty building houses, took on peace missions to Cuba and the Middle East, negotiated the release of hostages, lived in his home town, taught Sunday school and college classes, wrote books, and won Grammys.

His has been, indisputably, the longest, most righteous and most productive post-presidency in history, although John Quincy Adams’ post-presidential, anti-slavery efforts in Congress get honorable mention.

In the nearly 44 years since he left office, Carter helped essentially eradicate Guinea worm, a parasite that infected around 3.5 million people in the mid-’80s and just 14 in 2023, according to The Carter Center.

It’s been 22 years since he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002, just as the US was preparing for war in Iraq. Carter also paid a landmark visit to Cuba that year.

It’s been nine years since Carter announced at a news conference that he had been diagnosed with brain cancer and might not have long to live.

CNN’s Stephen Collinson wrote at the time: “I have had a wonderful life,” Carter said with the same unsparing honesty and meticulous detail that marked his presidency. “I’m ready for anything and I’m looking forward to new adventure,” Carter said, in the 40-minute appearance before the cameras, in which he frequently beamed his huge smile and never fell prey to emotion. “It is in the hands of God, whom I worship.”

By December 2015, Carter announced that after treatment, the cancer was gone. A timeline of his life maintained by CNN’s research library has many more notable entries.

It’s been nine years since Carter published an autobiography, “A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety.” He won a Grammy Award – his second – for the audiobook. He would win a third a few years later.

It’s been seven years since he was hospitalized for dehydration in Winnipeg, Canada, where he was outdoors – still working! – for Habitat for Humanity, the organization with which he had a long association.

It’s been five years since 2019, when he won that third Grammy, broke his hip and joked that there should be an age limit on the presidency since he couldn’t have done the job at 80.

That was also the year he turned 95 and became the longest-living American president, surpassing George H.W. Bush.

It’s been nearly two years since Carter entered hospice care and nearly one year since his wife, Rosalynn, died. They were married in 1946.

As remarkable as Carter made his years since American voters retired him from the White House, there’s also something increasingly normal about people living to 100.

Former presidents, all

rewrite history,” Carter said in a statement days before Election Day that year.

Reagan, despite his previous opposition to safety net programs, vowed during the campaign to tend to their finances. Carter, on the other hand, was talking about creating a new national health insurance plan, which remains a dream for many Democrats.

As president, after first unsuccessfully proposing benefit cuts, Reagan empaneled a commission, chaired by Alan Greenspan, that suggested fixes – some of which ultimately became law in 1983, and not a moment too soon. Social Security was months or weeks away from being able to pay full benefits in

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Can water security in Asia be ensured?

THE main theme of the 3rd Asia International Water Week, being held in Beijing from Tuesday to Saturday, is enhancing water security in Asia. As the lead organizer of the meeting, the Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research of the Ministry of Water Resources of China, a leading global institute for water-related research, has taken a timely step toward securing water resources in the region.

If one picks a newspaper on any day in any Asian city, there is likely to be at least one report on water-related issues, either on too much or too little water, unreliable availability of water, water quality-related issues, or socioeconomic and political institutions or environmental implications. Global warming has made water management increasingly more complex and a problem very difficult to solve.

Both among water professionals and in the media there are often extensive discussions on national and international water crises. However, all water problems and their solutions are local. There may be a few common aspects but the contexts of and solutions to the water problems differ from one country to another. In large and medium-sized countries, water problems and their solutions often differ from one part of the country to another. It is the context that dictates the correct solutions.

Take China for example. The water problems faced by Beijing and their solutions are likely to be different from those faced by the Inner Mongolia

autonomous region for numerous reasons, including the levels and structures of population, urbanization, hydro-climatic conditions, financial and institutional capacities, historical water management practices, and cultural and social backgrounds. Accordingly, solutions that may work very well in one part of China, may not work in other parts of the country.

Some three to four decades ago, water professionals realized that in

Asit K. Biswas and Cecilia Tortajada

Farage and those on the right or hard right of politics has not worked in the past. It is therefore unlikely to work in the future. But the lacklustre leadership contenders seem unwilling to learn the lessons of even their most recent history.

And so, instead of predicting which of the

heavy heart that I have today decided for now to no longer take the Conservative whip. I am a Conservative and remain so but sadly the current party are far removed from the party I joined and served in Cabinet.

My decision is a reflection of how far right my party has moved and the

not be a universal solution to the water problems faced by different Asian countries.

In this context, China’s water management policies and practices in the post-2000 period have undergone a remarkable change up to about 2000, China’s water management was similar to those of most other developing countries in Asia.

However, developments since 2000 have radically improved China’s water management practices. For

an increasing number of users.

In contrast, in Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Brunei, India, Indonesia and Malaysia, the populations are steadily increasing. And in the absence of proper demand management policies, water requirements for all purposes are going up.

Therefore, the water problems of Japan and the ROK and their solutions have to be very different from those of Bangladesh, India or Indonesia. As we enter the second quarter of the 21st century, there can-

example, in the post-2000 period, China’s top policy- and decision-makers, unlike those of many other developing (and some developed) countries, have consistently focused on addressing water-related issues. President Xi Jinping has been consistently highlighting the importance of water- and environment-related issues and ways to address them. This interest can be seen in the book, Water Governance in China — Perspectives of Xi Jinping, published by the Ministry of Water Resources earlier this year.

If one picks a newspaper on any day in any Asian city, there is likely to be at least one report on water-related issues, either on too much or too little water, unreliable availability of water, water quality-related issues, or socioeconomic and political institutions or environmental implications. Global warming has made water management increasingly more complex and a problem very difficult to solve. Both among water professionals and in the media there are often extensive discussions on national and international water crises. However, all water problems and their solutions are local. There may be a few common aspects but the contexts of and solutions to the water problems differ from one country to another. In large and medium-sized countries, water problems and their solutions often differ from one part of the country to another.

terms of solutions, one size does not fit all. Even then, many institutions, both national and international, are still proposing universal solutions to water problems, irrespective of the contexts of the problems. Not surprisingly, these universal solutions have been, for the most part, failures.

The water problems of each Asian country, or different parts of one country, are specific to it, and cannot be generalized into one set of conditions where one universal solution would be applicable. Consider Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Agrifood industry can inspire closer Saudi-Italian ties

ONLY three weeks have passed since my arrival in Riyadh, together with my wife Cristiana, and we are already fully immersed in the vibrant Saudi atmosphere, which we were able to experience first-hand on the occasion of the Kingdom’s 94th National Day last week. We are thrilled, therefore, to be here and to have the pleasure — not only the honor and the duty — to report back to Italy the remarkable changes Saudi Arabia has been undergoing in recent years under the leadership of King Salman and Crown

Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Tuesday’s opening of Sirha Arabia 2024, a leading international food service exhibition, provides the opportunity to reflect on the importance of the agrifood industry for our two countries. In Italy, this vital industry is not considered a mere issue of trading goods as commodities; it is one of the standout industries under the “Made in Italy” banner, contributing significantly to our growth and exports, as well as preserving the vitality of our rural communities and the beauty of our rural landscapes.

Italy’s well-known

excellence in the sector has enabled us to hold a substantial share of the global market for several products, as well as their related machinery. This reflects the quality and variety of Italian products. In fact, Italy has the highest number of certified food and drink products in the EU at almost 900, more than 100 ahead of the second-ranked country.

The dynamism of Italy’s agrifood sector underpins the development of new entrepreneurial ventures and agritech startups.

There are more than 340 startups active in the agrifood technology sec-

tor, a market that received investments totaling euro 167 million (\$186 million) in 2023, up from euro 152 million in 2022.

Italy excels in adopting innovative technological solutions, such as robotics. In light of the importance that Saudi Arabia also attaches to this sector, which combines tradition and innovation, it is high time that we deepened and widened our partnership.

The strength of the Italian agrifood sector lies not only in the expertise and exceptional quality of the food manufacturing companies, but

Carlo Baldocci

also in the presence of the necessary upstream supply chains.

Italian production of primary agricultural goods is internationally recognized as a guarantee of quality.

In order to achieve this, the agrifood sector is also supported by an internationally recognized and structured food packaging supply chain and, most importantly, by the food processing machinery sector, one of the hidden gems of Italian manufacturing. Italy is one of the largest exporters worldwide of such machinery, with a

value of Euro 4 billion.

Let us keep in mind what visionary Italian businessman Oscar Farinetti, founder of the food marketplace chain Eataly, used to say: “We need to deal with agriculture in order to achieve quality food. Just as it is necessary to deal with human feelings if you want to arrive at quality behaviors. Here, too, it is a question of supply chain.”

Supporting the agrifood industry means also supporting local communities, national traditions and rural landscapes. This is also the core activity of the Italian-based international

movement known as “slow food,” which has a long-standing partnership with Saudi Arabia.

This partnership is vital in supporting AlUla to preserve its magnificent biodiversity, traditional products and culinary heritage, while asserting itself as a truly global tourist destination. The participation of the Saudi Culinary Arts Commission in Terra Madre, the annual international slow food gathering held in the Italian city of Turin last weekend, confirms that these are essential topics for the development and identities of our two countries.

The potential to further strengthen the bilateral relationship in this key sector is also confirmed by the significant Italian presence at Sirha Arabia 2024. Let us work together to take up the challenge to bring our two countries closer together, and therefore stronger, in the agrifood sector. We look forward to cooperating with our Saudi counterparts in joint initiatives to promote our traditional ingredients and recipes. This “farm to fork” strategy, together with its safe and secure supply chains, has to be at the center of the next stage in our strategic partnership agenda.



SCCI chief vows to resolve business community's issues on priority basis

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: President, Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fazal Moqem Khan reiterated his firm resolve to address business community issues on priority basis.

Fazal made these remarks while taking charge of his office and talking to various delegations belonging to CNG, Petroleum and other sectors which came to congratulate him here on Tuesday. On the occasion, newly elected senior vice president Abdul Jalil Jan and Vice president Sherryar Khan also present.

He noted the business community is facing numerous difficulties under the prevailing circumstances.

The SCCI chief said the resolution of business community problems is essential to bring economic stability and promote trade, industry, export and CNG and petroleum sectors.

He promised that policies will be formulated in consultation with the business community.

He added efforts would be initiated to solve their business community problems by effectively presenting them to the government houses and relevant institutions.

Those who held meeting with newly elected office bearers of the SCCI include the provincial president of CNG Association, Chairman Pervez Khan Khattak, the president of Sarafa Association, Sher Farzand,

senior vice-president of the CNG association Minhaj-uddin, vice-presidents Bacha Wazir, Ghalib Khan, executive members Qazi Amjad Ali, Rashid Khattak, Luqman Shah, Ajmal Khan and Taimur Shah, Central Executive Committee members Khaliqur Rehman, Ali Jan, Akbar Shah Jahan and Qari Hafeez from Gar Mandi, Information Secretary of Pakistan Youth Organization Abdul Wahab Musa Zai were included.

The delegation also held a separate meeting with SVP Abdul Jalil Jan and congratulated him on his assumption of office. In the delegation, Engineer Aurangzeb Khalil, Maulana Abdul Rauf Jan, Amir Muhammad Khan, Hakeem Khidmat Hussain, Mukhtar

Hussain, Imran Munir, while Sherryar Khan, the Vice President of the SCCI, also met the businessmen associated with different businesses after taking charge of his position and congratulated him.

The delegation included Haji Asrar Saraf, Haji Sherfarzand, Owais Qarni and others were included in the delegation.

Fazal Moqem and other members of the cabinet have expressed their determination on this occasion and said that they will work on a fast-track basis to resolve issues in various sectors.

Office bearers said they will try their best to fulfill the trust shown in them and will never disappoint the business community.



PESHAWAR: President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce & Industry Fazal Moqem Khan, senior vice president Abdul Jalil Jan and vice president Sherryar Khan in a group photo with traders and exporters.

SIEHS, Siha announces partnership

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Integrated Emergency and Health Services (SIEHS) and Siha Health & Wellness are proud to announce a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing healthcare delivery across Pakistan. By merging SIEHS's trusted emergency medical services with Siha's holistic, cashless OPD solution, the collaboration is set to provide efficient, comprehensive care that meets the evolving needs of communities.

Siha Health & Wellness offers a streamlined, cashless outpatient service designed to deliver accessible primary care, while SIEHS has a proven track record of reliable emergency response services. Together, the organizations are committed to ensuring that every individual, regardless of location, receives the care they need.

Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where three ships, MSC Positano, Ashico Victoria and Alden scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice and Chemicals, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Grain Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Christos-K, Rakan-5 and Khairpur scheduled to load/offload Cement, Rice and Gasoline are also arrived at outer anchorage port on same day.

A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a container carrier 'Apollon-D' left the port on today morning, while four more ships, MSC Positano, Southern Leader, ATN Unity and Alden are expected to sail on today after noon.

Cargo volume of 104,023 tonnes, comprising 24,226 tonnes imports cargo and 79,797 tonnes export cargo carried in 3,707 Containers (863 TEUs Imports & 2,844 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 10 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Phoenixianm, Ice Fighter and Acadia Park & another ship, Maersk Kinkloss are scheduled to load/offload Rice, Fuel oil, Chemicals and Containers are expected to take berths at MW-1, FOTCO, EVTL and QICT respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile two more container ships, Maersk Cabo Verde and APL Mexico City are due to arrive at port on Wednesday.

Gold prices dip by Rs600 to Rs274,900 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.600 and was sold at Rs.274,900 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs. 275,500 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 515 to Rs. 235,682 from Rs. 236,197 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs 216,042 from Rs. 216,514, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.3,050 and Rs.2,614.88 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$6 to \$2,647 from \$2,653, the Association reported.

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 690 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 690.39 points, a positive change of 0.85 percent, closing at 81,804.59 points against 81,114.20 points on the last working day.

A total of 359,081,585 shares were traded during the day as compared to 297,994,181 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 17.160 billion against Rs.14.103 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 436 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 243 of them recorded gains and 139 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 54 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Fauji Cement with 29,125,856 shares at Rs 26.62 per

share, Hub Power Company XD with 19,621,123 shares at Rs 126.47 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 19,051,954 shares at Rs 1.24 per share.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 194.94 per share price, closing at Rs 17,270.00, whereas the runner-up was Hallmark Company Limited with Rs 78.42 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,116.73.

Pakistan Engineering Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 55.00 per share closing at Rs 755.00 followed by Sitara Chemical Industries Limited with Rs 14.92 decline to close at Rs 270.08.

Rupee gains 03 paise against dollar

Pakistani rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 03 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and

closed at Rs 277.68 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.71.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.50 and Rs 280 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by Rs2.03 to close at Rs 308.63 against the last day's closing of Rs 310.66, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen came down by 02 paise and closed at Rs1.92, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.73 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs370.39 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 372.12.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham remained unchanged to close at Rs 75.60 and Saudi Riyal decreased by 01 and closed at Rs74.01.

AKU, Roche efforts bring relief to cancer patients



F.P. Report

KARACHI: The leadership and healthcare professionals of the Aga Khan University came together to celebrate the generosity of Roche, Pakistan, in providing access to cancer care at AKU's Hospital in Karachi.

Since 2018, Roche Pakistan under its access programme, has provided medicines to patients at the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH), ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent individuals from receiving the treatments they need. This initiative has not only eased the burden of medical costs for many families but has also restored the hope and dignity of those fighting cancer.

This six-year partnership between AKU and Roche has benefited over 1500 cancer patients treated at AKUH. What brings the

two organisations together is their shared goal of making high-quality life-saving cancer treatments accessible to patients who can't afford them.

"The fight against cancer in Pakistan is one that is far bigger than any single institution. It's one that demands that people and institutions across the country join hands and work together. And that is precisely what Roche and AKU are doing", said AKU President, Dr Sulaiman Shahabuddin at the appreciation event.

The Aga Khan University Hospital's Patient Welfare Programme brings together individual and corporate donors like Roche, Pakistan to support patients from low-income backgrounds to access critical treatments for complex diseases such as cancer. Since 1986, the welfare programme has disbursed

nearly 35 billion rupees in welfare support, helping millions of individuals from across Pakistan to benefit from quality healthcare services at AKUH.

Ms Hafsa Shamsie, Managing Director, Roche, Pakistan lauded the joint efforts in improving patients' journey as they battle cancer. "I see it as a utopian ideal partnership. Why? Because we provide standard-of-care medication, and Aga Khan University Hospital is a Centre of Excellence," she said.

"The in-kind support from Roche, Pakistan not only provides vital medicines but also instils hope in our patients during some of their darkest times", said Ms Zahra Somani, Chief Advancement Officer, AKU. "We look forward to continuing our partnership to expand access to quality cancer care for the people of Pakistan."

IIL concludes its 76th Annual General Meeting 2024



F.P. Report

KARACHI: International Industries Limited (IIL), a leading manufacturer of steel, stainless steel, and plastic pipes and fittings, successfully concluded its 76th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Corporate Briefing Session for the financial year ended 2024 today at its headquarters in Karachi.

The AGM was chaired by Mr. Mustapha Chinoy, Non-Executive Director, and CBS was chaired by the Mr. Sohail Bhojani, CEO. The Directors, senior management, investors and shareholders, attended the events both physically and virtually. During the

events, stakeholders were presented with IIL's financial performance, key milestones, and strategic initiatives undertaken throughout the year.

Sohail Bhojani, Chief Executive Officer of IIL, opened the meeting by sharing that despite a challenging global and local economic environment, IIL achieved solid financial results in FY 2024. The company posted a revenue of PKR 29 billion, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 9%, with a net profit of PKR 1.4 billion. The performance was driven by operational efficiencies, strategic investments, and continued efforts in the export markets.

The Board of Directors recommended a final cash dividend of PKR 3.50 per share for the year ended June 30, 2024, which was approved by the shareholders. This is in addition to the interim dividend of PKR 2.00 per share declared earlier in the year.

Bhojani expressed optimism about IIL's strategic direction for the coming year, outlining the key priorities that includes diversification of the revenue streams, continued focus on technological enhancements to improve operational efficiency, and expansion of international market presence through global subsidiaries program.

Commenting on the

company's performance, Chief Executive Officer Mr. Sohail Bhojani said, "Despite inflationary pressures, supply chain disruptions, and market volatility, IIL delivered strong results in 2024. We remain committed to driving sustainable growth, and I am confident that with our continued focus on innovation, operational excellence, and market expansion, we will continue to create long-term value for our stakeholders."

The Board, led by Non-Executive Director Mustapha Chinoy, along with Chief Financial Officer Muhammad Akhtar and Company Secretary and Head of Legal Affairs Muhammad Irfan Bhatti, expressed gratitude to the shareholders for their continued support and to IIL employees for their dedication and contributions throughout the year.

International Industries Limited (IIL) is a leading manufacturer and exporter of steel, stainless steel, and plastic products serving industries across Pakistan and internationally, including construction, oil and gas, and energy. Founded in 1948, IIL is recognized for its commitment to quality, innovation, and sustainable growth.

Mobilink Bank introduces climate insurance

— to protect agri-borrowers from climate risks

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Mobilink Bank, Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, has introduced Climate Shock Insurance to protect small and medium-scale farmers and livestock owners from the escalating risks of climate change.

Under the initiative, the Bank provides financial security by covering losses to crops and livestock resulting from unpredictable climate catastrophes, enabling farmers to maintain their livelihoods amid growing weather volatility.

The insurance product is integrated into the Bank's existing Agri-Lending and Livestock offerings, streamlining access to coverage and accelerating payout times compared to traditional disaster relief

methods. Through this initiative, Mobilink Bank reinforces its commitment to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, promoting resilience and sustainability in the agricultural sector.

Pakistan's agri-sector, vital to its economy, faces many threats from climate change, with forecasts predicting an 8% to 10% decline in productivity by 2040. In response, Mobilink Bank's Climate Shock Insurance is designed to provide financial relief for farmers impacted by extreme weather events, including droughts, heavy rainfall and plant diseases. The insurance covers major crops such as wheat and rice and protects livestock from natural disasters and diseases.

Atta-ur-Rehman, Chief

Business Officer Mobilink Bank, highlighted the significance of this initiative, stating, "The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat - it is a pressing reality for the borrowers in our crop and livestock portfolio. We strive to provide them with peace of mind, knowing they are financially protected against climate-related disasters, ensuring the survival of their crops and livestock."

He further noted that the Climate Shock Insurance aligns with the Bank's mission to be a trusted financial partner for rural communities, reinforcing its commitment to supporting sustainable development goals in regions most vulnerable to climate change.

Mobilink Bank is a forward-thinking and future-ready organization committed to addressing the pres-

ing needs of Pakistan's agriculture sector, which employs over 40% of the country's labor force.

Mobilink Bank safeguards small-scale farmers and livestock owners by partnering with leading insurance providers and providing access to reliable, climate-specific insurance products.

The introduction of Climate Shock Insurance represents a milestone in the Bank's ongoing efforts to offer sustainable solutions that protect and empower Pakistan's agricultural workforce.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and digital services to nearly 160 million customers in six dynamic markets that are home to 7% of the world's population.

Vivo V40 Series launched in Pakistan

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Vivo, a global leading technology company, on Tuesday launched vivo V40 Series in Pakistan which is designed to redefine the mobile portrait photography experience.

Featuring a professional-grade portrait system co-engineered with ZEISS, V40 5G empowers users to capture stunning portraits and videos with cinematic quality. V40 5G also boasts a powerful battery, all housed in a sleek and lightweight design-making it vivo's slimmest device with a 5500mAh BlueVolt battery to date. V40 5G is also equipped with a high-end 3D Curved Screen that boasts a

Refresh Rate of 120Hz. Both its performance and durability are outstanding.

For the V40 Series, vivo has collaborated with Pakistan's favorite on-screen duo Bilal Abbas Khan and Durefishan Saleem as brand ambassadors. Both actors are known for their immense popularity and exceptional talent and hence embody the vibrant and innovative spirit of vivo's V Series.

Top Pakistani film directors Ahsan Rahim and Ahsan Raza, popular content creator Talha Bhatti, number 1 fashion and commercial photographer Abid Saleem, beloved journalist Amin Hafeez, and street photographer Androon

Lahore expressed their excitement for the vivo V40 5G, praising its ZEISS Cinematic Portrait Video, ZEISS Style Portrait and ultra-slim design with 5500mAh BlueVolt battery.

"With V40 5G, we've focused on blending powerful mobile portrait photography, lasting battery performance and sleek design as a way to enhance the overall user experience. We partnered with ZEISS to co-engineer a professional-level portrait system that provides endless opportunities for creativity and self-expression," said Zohair Chohan, Director Brand Strategy at vivo Pakistan. "The long-lasting battery, effortless performance, immersive dis-



play, and intuitive interface ensure that users can stay connected, productive, and entertained throughout their day. We think of each device as more than a smartphone, it is a companion that enhances every aspect of your digital life."



In brief

Pakistan team trials completed

PESHAWAR (APP): The trials of the Pakistan TeQ Ball team for the World Qualifiers TeQBall Championship completed here at the Qayyum Sports Complex Peshawar, in which more than forty players from all over the country participated. Pakistan will be represented in the World Championship and World TeQ Ball Tour. On this occasion, Administrator Peshawar Sports Complex and Chief Coach Syed Jafar Shah, Rahat Mian Chairman Absar Welfare Foundation, Junaid Ahmed Vice President KP TeQ Ball Association, Miss Sumayyah (Swat), Akhtar Rasool General Secretary were also present. The guests formally inaugurated the TeQ Ball trials by cutting the ribbon and playing some exhibition strokes. Under the auspices of Pakistan TeQ Federation, World Qualifiers TeQ Ball Championship Trials were held at Qayyum Sports Complex Peshawar in which male and female players from all over the country participated. In the participation trials, Hidayatur Rehman was selected in men's singles, Safa Marwah in women's singles, Muneem Siddiqui and Kamran Ahmed in doubles, who will represent Pakistan in the World Championship and World TeQ Ball Tour in Hungary, Romania as well as in Vietnam.

Kane returns to training

MUNICH (AFP): Bayern Munich striker Harry Kane returned to training on Tuesday ahead of his side's Champions League trip to Aston Villa after sustaining an ankle injury at the weekend. Kane, who has a history of ankle problems, was replaced in the closing minutes of Saturday's home 1-1 draw with reigning Bundesliga champions Bayer Leverkusen. The England captain took to the pitch on Tuesday at Bayern's Saebener Strasse training ground for the first 15 minutes of the session open to the media. Bayern said on Sunday the club's medical team was encouraged by exam results and that Kane was undergoing "intensive treatment". Six-time European champions Bayern are top of the Champions League table after steamrolling Dinamo Zagreb 9-2 in their opener, in which Kane scored four goals including three penalties. He has scored 10 goals in seven games in all competitions for Bayern this season. Villa, who beat Bayern to lift the European Cup in 1982 in Rotterdam, are returning to Europe's premier competition for the first time in 41 years. They opened their campaign with a 3-0 win at Young Boys.

President's Cup to commence from 3 October

LAHORE (APP): Nine departmental cricket teams will be in action in the 50-over President's Cup commencing from 3 October across five cities. Two semi-finals will be played on October 13 and 14, while the final of the tournament would be staged on 16 October. All matches will be played in the day-light with the first ball expected to be bowled at 9.30am. The venues and start time for the semi-final and final will be announced in due course. A prize pot of PKR 7.75 million will be up for grabs as the winner of the tournament will bag PKR 5 million while the runners-up will collect PKR 2.5 million.

Zaheer Abbas demands Babar's exclusion from squad

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Legendary Pakistan batter Zaheer Abbas has criticised national white-ball captain Babar Azam over his recent form and demanded his removal from the squad.

Babar has been under tight scrutiny due to his below-par performances recently, the highlight of which was his dismal run in the two-match home Test series against Bangladesh.

He crashed out of the top ten list in the ICC Test

Batting Rankings after a forgettable home series against Bangladesh, where he managed 64 runs in four innings.

He last crossed the 50-run mark in red-ball cricket back in December 2022 against New Zealand with a marathon 161-run knock. Since then, he has played 16 innings with a highest score of 39 against Sri Lanka in July 2023.

Zaheer Abbas, during an appearance on a sports talk show in the United Arab

Emirates (UAE), questioned his place in the team owing to his dismal performances.

"Babar Azam should be dropped from the team," Abbas said. "If he's not scoring runs, because if he's our main batsman and he's out of form, he should be out of the team."

However, Pakistan's team management has shown faith in the star batter and backed him for the upcoming Test series against England, starting

from 7 October in Multan.

Pakistan squad for first Test against England: Shan Masood (captain), Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Huraiera, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Naseem Shah, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wicket-keeper), and Shaheen Shah Afridi, Zahid Mehmood.



KANPUR: Akash Deep holds the series trophy aloft as the Indians celebrate.

Jaiswal leads India to remarkable victory in rain-hit Test

KANPUR (AFP): Yashasvi Jaiswal smashed 51 on Tuesday as India pulled off a remarkable seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh in a rain-hit second Test in Kanpur that lost two-and-a-half days to bad weather.

The hosts bundled out Bangladesh for 146 before lunch on the fifth and final day and, needing 95 for victory, reached 98-3 in just 104 balls in the second session. "To be honest we had to think a lot to keep the game moving forward," said skipper Rohit Sharma.

"When we came on day four, we wanted to get them out as early as possible and see what we can do with the bat," Jaiswal reached his second fifty of the match in 43 balls including eight fours and one six before falling to Taijul Islam, ending a 58-run stand with Virat Kohli.

Former captain Kohli hit 29 and was there at the end as Rishabh Pant hit the winning boundary. Bangladesh spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz had earlier removed Rohit, for eight, and Shubman Gill, for six. The series victory extends India's lead at the top of the

World Test Championship rankings ahead of Australia in second. India rode on Jaiswal's 72-run blitz in the first innings to force a result in a match which saw no play on Saturday and Sunday because of rain and a wet outfield.

"We didn't bat well" Bangladesh resumed their second innings on 26-2 on the final day, 26 runs behind, but the batting fell apart during the first session, with opener Shadman Islam top scoring on 50. "We didn't bat well," admitted Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto.

"If you look at all our batters, they played 30 to 40 balls and then got out. It's important for one batsman to get big runs." Ashwin, fellow spinner Ravindra Jadeja and fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah took three wickets apiece. Mushfiqur Rahim frustrated India to delay the lunch break and was last man out when Bumrah bowled him for 37.

Off-spinner Ashwin broke through in the third over of the day when he had first-innings centurion Mominul Haque caught at leg slip by KL Rahul for

two. Left-arm spinner Jadeja, who had taken his 300th Test wicket on Monday, struck in his first over of the day when he bowled Najmul, who had made 19. Shadman reached his fifty off 97 balls but fell almost immediately after to fast bowler Akash Deep.

Jadeja also picked up the wicket of veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, caught and bowled without scoring, in what could be the former captain's last Test for Bangladesh.

Shakib, 37, announced his international retirement ahead of the match, which could be his swansong if he is unable to return home for a scheduled South Africa series. "I am not sure, but as far as I know, he will be playing the South Africa series," said Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusinghe when asked about Shakib.

Bangladesh were bowled out for 233 when they resumed their first innings on Monday. India then batted at a blistering pace as they declared on 285-9 from just 34.4 overs. The teams now head into a three-match T20 series starting on Sunday in Gwalior.

Preparations for Pak-Eng Test series completed

MULTAN (APP): The district administration has completed all necessary arrangements for the upcoming Pakistan-England Test series.

The Multan Cricket Stadium and designated routes have been fully decorated, and comprehensive cleaning efforts have been ensured for the convenience of cricket fans.

Deputy Commissioner Wasim Hamid Sindhu on Tuesday inspected the stadium, hotels, and travel routes in detail to oversee the arrangements. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Muhammad Saif along with other district and police officials, provided a thorough briefing on the preparations.

The security plan and proposed accommodations for both the Pakistan and England cricket teams had been finalised, said the deputy commissioner.

The designated route for the teams will proceed from Romanza Hotel in DHA through Mati Tal, Northern Bypass, and Vehari Road, leading to the Multan Cricket Stadium.

Special cleaning and management services will be put in place along the stadium routes, ensuring a smooth and festive environment for the cricket matches.

PTF, WT Care for youth development initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Taekwondo Federation, in collaboration with World Taekwondo (WT) Care, is launching the WT Care Program for the year 2024-2025.

Building on the success of the previous year, which saw the participation of 900 to 1,000 orphaned children who received training in Taekwondo poomsae and Kyorugi skills, this initiative aims to continue fostering talent and providing opportunities for young athletes, said a press release.

The program will run from October 2024 to March 2025 and PTF hopes to see a greater number of participants compared to last year. Last year's program enabled four to five athletes to compete at the national level, gaining invaluable experience in high-stakes competitions.

This collaborative effort underscores PTF's commitment to nurturing young talent and promoting Taekwondo as a means of personal development and empowerment.

PTF looks forward to another successful year filled with growth and achievement for all participants.

Pak women cricketers upbeat for ICC T20 World Cup 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani women cricketers are optimistic about their preparations for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024, scheduled to take place in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from October 3.

According to details, players Toubha Hasan, Najjha Alvi, and Tasmia Rabab expressed satisfaction with the benefits derived from the fitness camp in Lahore, citing similarities between Multan and Dubai's conditions.

"We gained significantly from the Lahore fitness camp. Our group is challenging, but we're confident in our abilities to perform well in the World Cup," Toubha said.

Najjha echoed similar sentiments, highlighting the minimal difference between Multan and Dubai's conditions.

"Preparations are going smoothly, and I've learned valuable skills in wicket-keeping."

Tasmia, recently invited to the national team camp, expressed confidence in Pakistan's readiness. "We've faced stiff competition before, but our preparations have us well-equipped to take on the best teams."

A total of 150 of the globe's most exciting players have gathered in the UAE for the ninth edition of a tournament that continues to grow in reach and impact.

The ten teams will play 23 matches to decide which team will be crowned world champions, with Bangladesh and debutants Scotland contesting the opening game on October 3.

The players will do battle across two of the world's leading cricket

venues: Sharjah Cricket Stadium and Dubai International Stadium, which will test the array of talent in contrasting and intriguing ways.

The opening game in Group A is a cracker, too, with Sri Lanka facing Pakistan in a re-run of the recent Asia Cup semi-final won by the former. World No.3 side New Zealand complete a fearsome pool.

In Group B, South Africa will hope to be one of the closest challengers.

South Africa's Group B clash with England will be on 7 October. Only the top two teams in the stacked, five-strong groups will make the semi-finals on October 17 and 18 in Dubai and Sharjah.

The world will be watching on October 20 when two teams converge on Dubai for what promises to be an unmissable final.

DC Inter Club Volleyball Championship kicks off

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Inter Club Volleyball Championship has started in Qayyum Sports Complex Peshawar.

In the opening match, Saadat Club Peer kalay won, Saadat Club Peer kalay defeated Bacha Club Pashtakhara in a one

sided match by 2-0. Provincial Volleyball Association Secretary Khalid Waqar and Regional Sports Officer Kashif Farhan officially opened the event and introduced all the teams.

Directorate of Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa coach Wasifullah, Bakhtiar Alam Finance Secretary Provincial Volleyball

Association and Tajmal Khan National Referee were also present on this occasion.

On this occasion, Khalid Waqar said that with the support of Regional Sports Office Peshawar, Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Inter Club Volleyball Championship will continue till October 3 at Qayyum Sports Complex.



Pak golfers to feature in Asian Amateur C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): A four-member Pakistan contingent, including the country's No. 1 ranked amateur golfer Numan Ilyas will feature in the Asian Amateur Championship to take place from October 3 to 6 at the Taiheiyo Golf Club, Gotemba, Japan.

According to the Pakistan Golf Federation (PGF), organized by the Asia Pacific Golf Confederation (APGC), the event will run till October 6.

Pakistan contingent includes Numan Ilyas (Pakistan Number 1), Hussain Hamid, Salman Jehangir, and Qasim Ali Khan.

The Asian Amateur Championship is one of the most significant stroke play events in the region, featuring 72 holes of competition. Pakistan's golfers, who are ranked among the top 100 players in Asia according to the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR), have earned their place in this prestigious event through their exceptional performances.

The President of the Pakistan Golf Federation, along with all executive members, extends their best wishes to the team. The PGF expresses full confidence in the abilities of these players to perform admirably on this highly competitive international stage.

"We are extremely proud of our team heading to Japan and are hopeful that they will showcase their best skills. This championship is a great opportunity for our players to further enhance their experience and represent Pakistan with honor," stated the President of PGF.

The PGF continues its commitment to supporting and promoting the development of golf in Pakistan, ensuring that the nation's best talent competes at the highest level on global platforms.

Pakistan's Arshad breaks Guinness World Record

Bodla achieves Guinness World Record

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani martial artist Ahmad Amin Bodla has successfully achieved the Guinness World Record of the most push-ups in an hour.

Bodla said he attempted the record with one leg raised carrying a 60lb pack.

"My 14th Guinness World Record that was attempted in UAE has been officially approved," he told APP. He said this record was previously held by Alejandro Soler of Spain with 320 reps.

He is a world champion of push-ups and has 76 Guinness World Record Titles. When I broke the record in UAE, official record was 300. But later he got it 320 before my approval from Guinness. So officially I broke his record with the 534 reps upon approval from Guinness," Bodla claimed.

"I have set 46 Guinness World Records for the most world-level play in the push-ups category and 31 records with a weight of 100 pounds," he said. Mehsood said he has so far held the world record of 100 lbs, 80 lbs, 60 lbs and 40 lbs.

"I have set records for pushups, squats, jumping jacks, step ups, knee strikes, elbow strikes, side jumps, high jumps, star champs etc. I have broken world records of 16 countries so far including America, Great Britain, India, China, Norway, Germany, France, Finland, Philippines, Spain, Italy, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Syria," he said.

"I have set 46 Guinness World Records for the most world-level play in the push-ups category and 31 records with a weight of 100 pounds," he said. Mehsood said he has so far held the world record of 100 lbs, 80 lbs, 60 lbs and 40 lbs.



In brief

Special counter establishes for rickshaw drivers

RAWALPINDI (APP): In a bid to regulate rickshaw driving in Rawalpindi, special measures have been introduced for obtaining rickshaw driver licenses. Under the initiative, tests will be held every Sunday at Shehbaz Sharif Park, allowing aspiring rickshaw drivers to obtain their licenses more easily. According to Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi, Benish Fatima, a separate counter has been established at each licensing center specifically for rickshaw driver learners. All circle in-charges have been instructed to direct rickshaw drivers to their nearest licensing centers, ensuring that those currently driving without a license can take advantage of this new facility. Last Sunday, licensing services were offered at Shehbaz Sharif Park throughout the day, resulting in several rickshaw drivers successfully obtaining their licenses. CTO Fatima has urged DSP Licensing and other officials to ensure that all necessary support is being provided to streamline the licensing process.

Modern system being installed at bus terminals

RAWALPINDI (APP): A modern system is being installed at all bus terminals for the safety of the passengers, said Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Hassan Waqar Cheema here on Tuesday. He informed that the administration had taken solid steps to ensure the safety of the passengers traveling in public transport. A modern system, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) scanners would be installed at all bus stands in Rawalpindi. All the public service vehicles would be screened under the new system, he added. The vehicle fitness certificates, driving licenses of the drivers, vehicle registration books, and route permits would be checked with the help of IT company. The public service vehicle without a fitness certificate, driving license, registration book, and an expired route permit would not be allowed to enter Rawalpindi or depart the bus terminal with passengers. No public transport vehicle would enter Rawalpindi without screening, he added. The DC said that the vehicles would be screened at the time of entry and exit from the bus stands. The purpose of introducing the new system is to make people's journey safer, Hassan Waqar Cheema said adding, that the new system would help significantly reduce road accidents.

Five gamblers arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested five gamblers and recovered stake money Rs 21,000, 05 mobile phones from their possession during crackdown here on Tuesday. According to police spokesman, Dharmyal police conducted raid and held those gamblers who were identified as Owais, Nauman, Sajjad, Tariq and Saddam. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation was in progress. SP Saddar Muhammad Nabil Khokhar commended police team and said that gambling is the root of other social evils. He made it clear that strict action against gamblers will be continued without any discrimination. Similarly, Race course police apprehended two members bike lifter gang and recovered 02 stolen motorcycles from their custody. The gang members were identified as Waqas and Izhar. Police have registered separate cases against both of them and has started further investigation.

Mohsin Naqvi congratulates China on national day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi, on the occasion of the People's Republic of China's National Day, on Tuesday extended heartfelt congratulations to the Chinese leadership and people. In a message, Naqvi expressed his best wishes to the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the entire Chinese nation. Naqvi lauded China's remarkable journey of development, crediting it to the country's dedication, hard work, and determination under the visionary leadership of the CPC.

"China's leadership has successfully navigated its nation towards the pinnacle of progress through sheer effort, resilience, and a strong national spirit," he remarked. Minister said that China serves as a role model for developing nations around the world, particularly in its efforts to tackle poverty, unemployment, and corruption. "The Chinese people, under their great leadership, have fought a successful battle against poverty, unemployment, and corruption," Naqvi said, highlighting China's exemplary achievements in these areas. Naqvi emphasized the strength of the Pakistan-China relationship, referring to China as Pakistan's most trustworthy ally. He noted, "Pakistan and China share a friendship that is unparalleled on the global stage, a bond that has withstood the test of time."

He also acknowledged China's consistent support for Pakistan, particularly in challenging times, saying, "China has always stood by Pakistan in every trial and difficulty. The minister highlighted the shared stances of both countries on global issues, peace, and mutual respect, further strengthening the foundation of their strategic partnership. Naqvi underscored the deep and invincible friendship between the two nations, praising their strategic cooperation. "We view the indomitable friendship and strategic partnership between Pakistan and China with great respect," he concluded.

Parents urged to support polio vaccination efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Health, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath on Tuesday visited the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) to review the ongoing efforts to eradicate polio.

During the meeting, a comprehensive assessment of the current polio situation and the challenges faced was presented. The review also included a discussion on the success of the September polio campaign, which vaccinated nearly 33 million children across the country.

Dr. Bharath was briefed on the strategic plans for the upcoming polio campaigns scheduled for October and November. Dr. Bharath emphasized the critical need for coordinated efforts to ensure all children in high-risk districts, including South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Karachi, Quetta, and Peshawar, receive the polio vaccine. "These areas are still reservoirs of the poliovirus, and we must intensify our efforts to stop its transmission," he stated.

The meeting highlighted that the poliovirus was present in environmental samples from 67 districts, with 24 cases reported to date. Dr. Bharath reaffirmed the government's commitment to eradicating polio, noting that serious emergency measures are in place, and with unwavering support from the federal and provincial governments, we will strengthen our polio campaigns.

Dr. Bharath urged the parents to cooperate fully with vaccination teams, stressing that "the government cannot win this fight alone. Parents must vaccinate their children to protect them from permanent disability."

With the steadfast support of the government and partners, Pakistan remains determined to ensure a polio-free future for every child.

Young Lawyers push for Constitutional Courts to safeguard rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Young Lawyers Forum for Judicial Reforms on Tuesday expressed their support for the proposed constitutional amendment that aimed to establish constitutional courts in Pakistan.

Addressing a press conference, the Forum leader, Arsalan Ayaz, emphasized that the reforms were a crucial step towards improving the judicial system.

He said that the judicial reforms were imperative as a sound judicial system played a vital role in a nation's development, social justice, and peace. He welcomed the ongoing discussions in the Parliament regarding the 26th Constitutional Amendment, which included the establishment of constitutional courts, and expressed optimism that the measures would strengthen judiciary and alleviate the burden on the Supreme Court.

Advocate Ayaz said the main objectives of the Forum were to formulate proposals for improving the judicial system; develop recommendations for legislative amendments; conduct research on new laws and legislative initiatives; provide suggestions to streamline and enhance judicial efficiency; offer free legal assistance to the underprivileged and ensure justice for the oppressed; and work for the release of innocent prisoners and those unable to pay minor fines.

"The Forum operates as a non-political, impartial entity that strictly adheres to the rules of the Pakistan Bar Council and its sub-councils," he added. Advocate Ayaz assured that the Forum would remain neutral in bar elections and committed to non-partisan efforts for judicial improvements. "The remains committed to promoting judicial reforms, believing that a reformed judicial system will lead to a more prosperous and just Pakistan," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Denmark Jakob Linulf meets with Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the PM on Climate Change, alongside Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri. —APP Photo

Ayaz calls for elimination of violence in Middle East, IOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has emphasized the urgent need for elimination of violence and human right violations in the Middle East and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK).

He also called for a united stance against violence and the promotion of global peace. The NA Speaker, in his message on the International Day of Non-violence being observed on Wednesday (October 2),

condemned the Israeli atrocities in Gaza and Lebanon, saying, "Establishment of a violence-free and just society is essential for peace and progress."

He further said that Pakistan's Constitution enshrined principled that advocate for non-violence, reflecting the moral and cultural values of Islam. "The Constitution of Pakistan provides protection to the children, women, and men from all forms of violence," he added. He said the Women's

Parliamentary Caucus along with the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, and the Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals had been established in the National Assembly to ensure the legislation aimed at enhancing protection of the rights of every individual, regardless of religion, gender, race, or socio-economic status.

The Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, he said, also worked tirelessly to raise the voice of

oppressed Kashmiri people, while the Standing Committee on Human Rights had been formed to protect the fundamental rights of the citizens.

"The Parliament of Pakistan is committed to protect its citizens from any form of violence and injustice," the Speaker added. Ayaz Sadiq urged the international community to prioritize dialogue, establishing a culture of peace and a society free from violence for durable peace and progress.

Students to get essential technology skills

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has announced an exciting new initiative aimed at equipping the primary school students with essential technology skills. According to an official source, the ministry is all set to introduce Coding, Artificial Intelligence, and Cybersecurity Education at the primary school level in public schools.

This groundbreaking initiative marks a significant step towards preparing a technologically advanced future workforce. The primary school students will be introduced to cutting-edge technologies like Coding, Artificial Intelligence, and Cybersecurity. The program will initially roll out in FDE (Federal Directorate of Education) schools, ensuring a broader impact in the nation's capital.

By introducing these subjects early, students will develop a strong foundation in digital literacy. They will be better equipped for emerging career opportunities in technology and related fields. The program also focuses on fostering essential problem-solving and critical thinking skills for the 21st century. This initiative is set to contribute to the long-term growth of Pakistan's technology sector.

A team of 75 Tech Fellows, trained by NUST (National University of Sciences and Technology), will provide training across 150 schools, improving digital literacy among youth and enhancing problem-solving and critical thinking skills. The focus areas of training were pedagogy for primary school students, coding fundamentals (block-based programming, Scratch), lesson planning and delivery and classroom management.

The trained tech fellows will teach coding and AI skills to the primary public school students, bridging the digital divide and fostering early-age tech literacy.

Ministry commemorates Int'l Day of Older Persons

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Human Rights, in collaboration with various stakeholders, commemorated the International Day of Older Persons here on Monday. The event was aimed at highlighting the significance of older persons in our society and raising awareness about the challenges they face.

In his address on the occasion, Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, paid tribute to the invaluable contributions of senior citizens and reiterated the government's commitment to their well-being and dignity.

Reflecting on the challenges faced by older persons, the minister emphasized that climate change had exacerbated many of

the issues impacting the elderly, particularly in rural and underserved areas. He stated, "Our older population bears the brunt of climate change, and it is crucial that we address their vulnerabilities through inclusive policies that ensure their protection and resilience." Building on this, the minister highlighted the need for smarter resource management, especially in the conservation of water. "We must commit ourselves to water conservation, not just for our own sake, but to leave a legacy of sustainability for future generations," he remarked and said, our elders have made countless sacrifices for us; now it is our turn to give them the care, respect, and attention they deserve.

He highlighted that safe-

guarding the rights of older persons required a unified societal effort, rather than being viewed as an individual task. By doing so, he emphasized, we not only address the specific needs of the elderly but also contribute to a more inclusive and resilient society capable of tackling broader issues like climate change and resource management.

In concluding his address, the minister made a heartfelt appeal to the younger generation, urging them to spend time with their elders and honor them. "I encourage our youth to value and cherish the wisdom of their elders. Give them the respect and time they deserve – this is the least we can do to acknowledge their lifelong contributions."

Railways to restore Jaffar Express by next week

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is all set to restore the Jaffar Express passenger train run between Quetta and Peshawar by the next week, after a weeks-long suspension.

"The 39-Up and 40-Down Jaffar Express, which operates between Quetta and Peshawar Cantonment will resume its service during the second week of October according to the summer timetable," an official in the Ministry told APP.

He said that the train services were suspended across the country on August 26 after a key railway bridge between Kolpur and Mach was destroyed in a blast carried out by the banned organization of Balochistan.

The official said the blast was a part of multiple coordinated attacks carried out that night by dozens of armed militants in Lasbela, Musakhail, Kachi, Kalat

and Mastung districts.

He said following the destruction of the railway bridge, Pakistan Railways halted all incoming and outgoing passenger and goods train services from Quetta to Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar.

The official said that 90 percent of the repair work of the bridge had been completed, and matters had also been settled with the local administration and the FC to ensure the safety of the railway track, bridge, and train. "A trial run will be conducted after the railway track is laid on the newly constructed bridge, which is expected next week," the official added.

Currently, the official said that no passenger or goods train services are operational between Quetta and the rest of the country.

To a question, he said the expenditure of only three heads including regular

salaries, pension, and operational fuel (HSD) is about 89 percent of the total expense, thus leaving only 11 percent of its total budget for utilities, repair, and maintenance of its operational assets.

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

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

ANF recovers 159 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 159 kg drugs worth over Rs 12.5 million and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that ANF had also accelerated its ongoing operations against drug dealers supplying drugs to students of educational institutions.

100 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near a hostel on Multan Road in Dera Ismail Khan.

In another operation, 500 grams hashish was recovered from an accused near Giga Mall, Islamabad.

In the third operation, 2 kg hashish was recovered from a drug dealer arrested near Fateh Chowk, Hyderabad.

65 grams heroin and 50 grams hashish were recovered from an accused nabbed from the Mehran Town area in Karachi.

The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to students of different educational institutions.

The spokesman said that strict legal action was being taken against those who endanger the future of youth.

He said suspicious persons are being closely monitored around educational institutions.

In other raids, 141.6 kg hashish and 14.4 kg opium were recovered from a Suzuki pickup intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad and an accused was arrested.

Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.

Son arrested for torturing mother

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police on Tuesday arrested Musadiq Abbasi after the Koral police team took swift action on a complaint from his mother, accusing him of misbehavior and issuing threats.

According to a police statement, the accused was apprehended and a case was registered against him.

Further investigation is currently underway, the statement said. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza, issued instructions to all police stations to take immediate legal action on complaints from parents regarding disobedience or mistreatment by their children.

DIG Ali Raza said that such behavior towards parents, who are highly respected figures in the society, is unimaginable and deeply regrettable.

Ali Raza emphasized that police stations should prioritize these complaints and take prompt action.

The DIG said that all station house officers (SHOs) are instructed to resolve citizen complaints within a given timeframe.

The protection of citizens' lives and property, along with upholding their self-respect, remains the top priority, the DIG said and added that every citizen had equal rights and their issues must be addressed promptly.

Role of youth imperative for country's development: Governor

RAWALPINDI (APP): The challenges being faced by the country can be countered by inculcating youth in national affairs. The young graduates must contribute their role in practical fields for the country's prosperity and stability.

This was remarked by the Governor Punjab, Sadar Saleem Haider Khan while delivering his speech at the 1st Convocation of the Rawalpindi Woman University (RWU), which was held here on Tuesday. He said that everyone should value the country which has the honor of being the sole nuclear country in the Islamic world.

"Our enemy wants to create division among us on the basis of ethnicity, but together we will not allow anyone to succeed in such a malicious conspiracy against the country", he said.

The governor while congratulating the graduating students highlighted the responsibilities they would have to render in their future. He underlined the need for collaborative efforts by all the stakeholders towards improvement in diverse fields including the national economy.

The governor stressed for further enhancing the women's role in national development and said "The majority position holders in the university education are our daughters which is encouraging towards creating gender equity in the society".

He extended his felicitations to the parents of the graduating students saying it was a special day for them. "Parents have surely faced the difficulties and sacrificed to get their daughters graduated today. I salute and present my tribute

to them", he said and urged the students to generously respond to their parents in the days to come. He further urged the parents to allow and encourage their daughters to contribute their efforts for the country's peace and stability.

The governor also expressed his pleasure of attending the event for being the first chancellor on the university's first convocation. He hoped for the further flourishing of the university in future. In his address, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) informed the audience that HEC's journey to take higher education at new heights since 2002 has been successful. He said that are 265 universities in Pakistan with 13% students' access rate as compared to that of in 2002 having 51 universi-

ties with an access rate of 2.1%. He further highlighted that presently 48% of the total students in the universities were female students which was 32% in 2002. Moreover, 40,000 research papers are published each year, which were only 865 per year in 2002, he added.

Dr. Mukhtar highlighted that financial crisis, reduced funds to the universities and provincial devolution of the higher education were the main challenging areas to be redressed to further explore the young talent.

"The total budget of all universities of Pak is less than that of a single university of any other country", he said. The chairman further underlined the need to start a special period in the university classes regarding ethics and social norms.

"Misuse of technologies like

mobiles has contributed much in wrongdoing instead of fruitful results", he said and urged the teachers to produce virtue professionals. "We need not the professionals only, but behaviorally good professionals", he added.

Earlier, Prof. Dr. Anila Kamal Vice Chancellor RWU, shed light on the university's evolutionary developments from conversion of a college to a university, its faculties and the resources being provided to the students in the university.

She said that the university remained in efforts to be equipped with latest learning methodologies, improving technical aspects and adopting the imperative trends and techniques in education. "We have 2 national and 42 international MoUs with a number of universities", she added.

Dr. Anila congratulated the graduating students and their parents on successful completion of their education career in the university.

Later, the governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan awarded the medals to students showing outstanding academic performance and the degrees among the graduating students.

In the first convocation of Rawalpindi Women University, degrees were issued to a total of 847 graduating students from the Faculty of Science and Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences. 10 students were awarded gold medals, 09 female students received silver medals, 13 graduates were awarded with the certificates for securing 3rd and 4th positions and 26 graduating students were awarded with the Roll of Honour.

Four rescuers and child dead

GHAZNI (Khaama Press): Four rescue workers lost their lives while trying to save a child who had fallen into a well in Ghazni four days ago. Officials in Ghazni stated on Tuesday that after four days of efforts, the attempt to rescue the child who fell into a well in the Deh Yak district was unsuccessful. The head of Ghazni's Information and Culture department confirmed that the rescue team's efforts to save the three-year-old child were in vain, and four of the rescuers also lost their lives.

Safety directive issued

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of Interior has issued a stern warning to well owners across the country, stating that failure to properly secure the openings of their wells will result in serious legal consequences enforced by the police. According to a statement released by the ministry, a special committee has been formed under the direct order of the Acting Minister of Interior to ensure the strict implementation of this directive.

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

Over 300,000 tons of goods transported via Afghan railways

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Public Works reported that over 300,000 tons of goods were transported via the country's railways during the month of Sunbula (22 August to 21 September) this year. According to Mohammad Ashraf Haqshenas, the ministry's spokesperson, more than 8,000 tons of these goods were exports, with a significant portion consisting of dried fruits and pomegranate juice. He added that most imports and exports in the month of Sunbula were transported via the Hairatan, Aqina, and Torghundi railway routes. The railway transport breakdown for the month of Sunbula is as follows:

- Hairatan Railway: 250,357 tons
- Aqina Railway: 26,070 tons

Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said: "Railway transportation is not only vital for exports and imports but also for domestic transportation." Abdul Nasir Rashtia, an economic expert, said: "Unfortunately, Afghanistan lacks modern transportation systems and standard roads, which presents serious challenges in trade. Now that goods are being transported by rail, this can undoubtedly impact the prices of goods in the market, as they will reach the market on time and at reasonable prices." According to Ministry of Public Works, Afghanistan currently has 260 kilometers of active railway lines, connecting the country to Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Iran, facilitating daily transfers to regional countries.

DABS signs agreements to produce electricity



KABUL (TOLONews): Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (Afghanistan's electricity company) signed three agreements to produce 240 megawatts of electricity through solar and thermal energy with domestic companies in the presence of the Political Deputy of the Prime Minister and some officials of the Islamic Emirate. According to the officials of this company, two agreements, each with the capacity to produce 100 megawatts of electricity, are related to solar energy, and another agreement for the production of 40 megawatts of electricity from coal was signed in the capital. Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, the Political Deputy of the Prime Minister, said during this meeting that Afghanistan has significant potential for energy production. He emphasized the importance of attracting investments for energy production from Afghanistan's domestic resources and said that efforts to increase energy production and achieve self-sufficiency are continuing in earnest.

The Political Deputy of the Prime Minister said: "We are trying to facilitate investments in domestic energy resources and make Afghanistan self-sufficient in this regard." Meanwhile, Nooruddin Azizi, acting Minister of Industry and Commerce, said that the distribution of land in 52 industrial parks has been approved by the leader of the Islamic Emirate, and currently there are 800 applicants for land in these parks, all of whom are in need of electricity. Azizi said that Afghanistan's industry cannot achieve self-sufficiency without sufficient energy. The acting Minister of Industry and Commerce said: "The laws for industrial parks have been ratified by the leader of the Islamic Emirate and made available to us, and we have communicated this to the entire private sector."

IE committed to implementing justice

KABUL (TOLONews): The Deputy Head of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Ministry of Interior said that the Islamic Emirate is committed to implementing justice in the country. Speaking at the ceremony introducing the new police chief of Jawzjan, he emphasized that sincere service to the people plays an important role in the survival of the Islamic system and the progress of the country. Abdul Aziz Naseer, Deputy Head of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Ministry of Interior, said: "This responsibility is not an honor, it is a test, and a very difficult one if we think about it." Abdul Wali Atqani, the new police chief, said: "We will serve you, and we also request your full cooperation. This is a ship, a system, and an Emirate." Local officials and some residents of Jawzjan are calling on the new police chief of this province to ensure better security and combat criminal activities in the region.



Gul Haidar Shafaq, the governor of Jawzjan, said: "We must strive to keep our doors open to the public. If they come and their work is not done the same day, we should give them a specific time to return, whether in the morning, afternoon, or another week. We must consider this." Bashir Ahmad, a resident of Jawzjan, said: "We ask the new police chief to fight against criminal activities so that people can live in peace." Nasrullah, another resident of Jawzjan, said: "In addition to security, attention should be paid to unity

among the people, and ethnic, regional, and linguistic discrimination should be eliminated, so that the people are not divided into various groups." Based on the decree of the leader of the Islamic Emirate, Abdul Wali Atqani, who previously served as the Head of Human Resources at the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, replaced Hafizullah Pahlawan as the new police chief of Jawzjan. The former police chief of Jawzjan has been appointed the Head of Security for the Police Command of Badghis.

Boat capsizes in Nangarhar, eight killed

JALALABAD (Khaama Press): Local authorities in Nangarhar province have reported that a boat capsized in the Koz Kunar district, resulting in the deaths of eight people, including women and children. The Directorate of Information and Culture in Nangarhar released a statement saying that the boat overturned on Monday, September 30, due to strong winds in the Kashkut and Sarband areas of Koz Kunar district. Reports indicate that the bodies of four people, including one woman, have been recovered from the river, while the bodies of four others, including a child, remain missing. The boat was carrying 17 passengers, of which nine were rescued. Local authorities also stated that a Suzuki vehicle was submerged in the water during the incident. It is noteworthy that earlier this year, at least eight people lost their lives due to the capsizing of a small boat in this province. Previously, dozens of people have lost their lives in eastern Afghanistan due to the use of unprofessional tubes and boats for transportation.

The frequent recurrence of such incidents underscores the dire need for improved safety measures and proper infrastructure for water transport in the region. The lack of safe, professional transport means, especially in rural areas, continues to put lives at risk, with vulnerable populations like women and children often being the most affected.

Kabul to host exhibition next week

KABUL (TOLONews): The Chamber of Commerce and Investment has announced the organization of the third Imam Abu Hanifa Exhibition next week. The exhibition will be held on October 6 in Kabul, featuring 400 booths for displaying domestic products and 300 booths for foreign products. Officials from the chamber also added that participants from Central and South Asian countries, China, Iran, Turkey, and Japan will attend the Imam Abu Hanifa Exhibition. Mir Zaman Popal, the Deputy Director of Finance and Administration of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said: "On the sidelines of this exhibition, we will also have a B2B conference with participation from various global companies attending, particularly from countries such as Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, China, and other countries." President of the Afghan Craftsman's Chamber described the exhibition as significant in supporting domestic production and expanding Afghanistan's trade and transit relations with the participating countries. Shirin Agha Sakhi, the President of the Afghan Craftsman's Chamber, said: "Through these exhibitions, we will be showcasing the production from our factories in the industrial parks of Herat, Kandahar, Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif, and other provinces. God willing, all of these will be produced to standard." Alireza Sadrzadeh, the CEO of the Exhibition Project Management Company, stated: "Based on the directions provided by our friends in the Chamber of Commerce and the negotiations we had before the exhibition, most of the Iranian companies participating aim to bring their industry and technology to Afghanistan."

The exhibition will feature products from various industrial, commercial, and service sectors, including agriculture, carpets, mining, healthcare, banking, handicrafts, machinery, transportation, logistics, construction, telecommunications, education, and more, both from domestic and foreign exhibitors, for seven days.

Committee approves liquid gas facility regulations



KABUL (BNA): The Technical Committee of the Economic Commission held its regular session to deliberate on several crucial matters, including the framework for establishing liquid gas facilities and the draft revenue policy for the mining sector. According to a press release, the committee thoroughly evaluated the proposed issues. After extensive deliberation and necessary revisions, the procedural framework for the construction of liquid gas facilities received the committee's approval and has been forwarded to the Economic Commission for final endorsement. The approved frame-

work mandates that all government-affiliated and private gas distribution companies relocate their storage facilities from urban centers and densely populated areas. In compliance with the framework, these entities are required to construct new, fully compliant facilities that meet all stipulated standards.

Furthermore, the committee engaged in a detailed discussion concerning the draft revenue policy for the mining sector, prepared by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum. After careful scrutiny, the committee approved the policy, which has now been submitted to the Economic Commission for formal approval.

Cabinet meeting greenlights strategic urban development plans for Kabul

KABUL (BNA): The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan held its seventh regular cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund. The meeting focused on several significant national issues, resulting in important decisions regarding infrastructure development and public services. According to an official statement from the ARG, discussions revolved around facilitating construction activities and streamlining the process of granting work permits across the country. The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, in collaboration with relevant authorities, was tasked with preparing a strategic plan to simplify construction procedures, ensuring that citizens can obtain ownership documentation and work permits in a timely and efficient manner. Furthermore, the cabinet endorsed the findings of a delegation regarding the

land acquisition process for the fourth section of the first phase of the Khaf-Herat railway project, authorizing the commencement of construction work. The expropriation of 30 kilometers of land for the Aqina-Andkhoy railway's first phase was also approved, with the Ministry of Public Works instructed to expedite the necessary actions. In a major decision, the cabinet approved the Kabul City Development Plan,

which had been jointly prepared by the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing and the Kabul Municipality. The plan aims to enhance the city's infrastructure and urban planning. The Kabul Municipality has been directed to implement the plan in accordance with the approved guidelines to drive forward the capital's development and modernization efforts.

Ministry: 21% of deaths in country due to heart diseases

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Public Health said that heart diseases are the cause of 21% of deaths in the country. During a meeting held to commemorate World Heart Day, the Deputy Minister of Public Health called on international organizations to cooperate in providing standard healthcare services, especially in the field of cardiology. Abdul Wali Haqqani, Deputy Minister of Public Health, said: "The leadership of the Ministry of Public Health asks all its health partners to continue their cooperation with the Ministry in delivering standard services." At the same time, the president of the Afghanistan Cardiovascular Association said that efforts should be made to treat heart patients, especially in the creation of international strategies considering the culture of the people of the country and raising public awareness. Abdul Wahid Siddiqi, President of the Afghanistan Cardiovascular Association, said: "In the development and implementation of standard strategies and guidelines according to international standards, the cultural aspects of Afghan society must be taken into account." Meanwhile, a representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) at the meeting pointed out that public awareness regarding non-communicable diseases is low and the Ministry of Health's budget for this area is also limited. He pledged WHO's support in fighting non-communicable diseases, particularly heart diseases. Manuel, the WHO representative in Afghanistan, said: "The World Health Organization is committed to continuing its technical cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health



in preventing, combating, controlling, diagnosing, and treating non-communicable diseases, especially heart diseases, to prevent these illnesses." September 29 is World Heart Day, and every year the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health in various countries commemorate this day to raise public awareness.

with fertilizers." Officials at the Kunduz Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock say they plan to distribute chemical fertilizers and improved seed varieties to help meet the needs of farmers in the province. Salahuddin Wahidi, Director of Agricultural Affairs at the Kunduz Department of Agriculture, said: "We have conveyed the farmers' problems to the Ministry of Agriculture and shared this issue with collaborating organizations. God willing, just as we distributed seeds to most farmers, helping them is also part of our plan for next year."

MRRD completes retaining wall

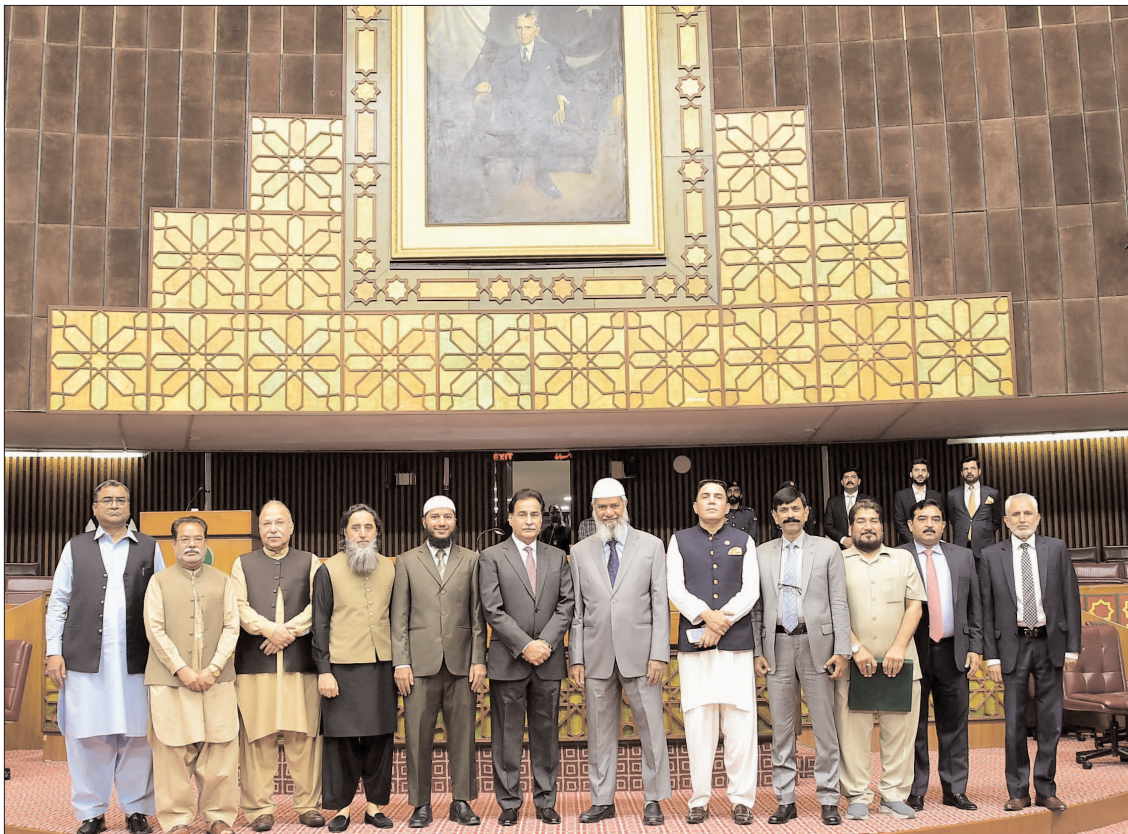
KABUL (BNA): Mullah Mohammad Younus Akhundzada, Acting Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, highlighted the IE's strategic focus on projects that foster national self-sufficiency during the inauguration ceremony of a 5,200-meter retaining wall in Spin Boldak district, Kandahar province. The Ministry's press office released a statement today announcing the completion and official inauguration of the retaining wall, which was constructed at a cost of 75 million Afghanis. The project, funded by the national treasury, was overseen by the Ministry and is aimed at mitigating the risks posed by seasonal floods.

Cotton production in Kunduz declined

KUNDUZ (TOLONews): Several farmers in Kunduz say that natural pests and climate change have harmed cotton production in the province. According to them, this year's cotton yield has decreased compared to previous years, and natural pests have also caused damage. Hasti Khan, a farmer from Chahar Dara district who has been growing cotton for years, said his crops have significantly decreased this year due to natural pests. Hasti Khan told TOLONews: "There was no yield at all. This year, the crops were completely

struck by disease and turned black, leaving only the stems." Other farmers are calling on officials in the caretaker government and aid organizations to assist them in this matter. Farmer Ehsanullah said: "This year, cotton yields have significantly decreased compared to last year, because the cotton was hit by disease due to the heat. We ask the Islamic Emirate to help the farmers of Chahar Dara district in Kunduz." Farmer Khan Jan said: "Neither cotton nor mung beans yielded any harvest. We ask the Islamic Emirate to help us and provide us

with fertilizers."



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photo with prominent religious scholar Dr Zakir Naik at the Parliament House.

Ayaz, Naik discuss challenges of Ummah

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly (NA) Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday warmly welcomed renowned Islamic scholar Dr. Zakir Naik at the Parliament House and discussed significant issues including the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah and the promotion of interfaith harmony.

Dr. Zakir Naik appreciated the love and hospitality shown by the people of Pakistan, remarking, "The people of Pakistan are truly loving and welcoming."

Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the need for unity among the Muslim Ummah, urging Muslims to set aside their differences and unite under the guidance of the Holy Quran and Sunnah. He reiterated that Islam is a complete code of life, advocating for peace, tolerance, and love.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq echoed that Islamic teachings are founded on the

principles of peace, brotherhood, and harmony. "The Muslim Ummah must unite and work together for collective progress," he said. He further lauded Dr. Naik's efforts in promoting Islam's message of peace and love globally.

Ayaz highlighted Pakistan's commitment to ensuring equal rights for all citizens under the Constitution, including the protection of minorities' rights. He emphasized that the solution to the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah lies in unity and solidarity. "Pakistan is playing a proactive role at the global stage in promoting peace and religious harmony," he added. Dr. Naik appreciated Pakistan's efforts in spreading the true message of Islam and promoting unity within the Muslim world. "My mission is to highlight the true message of Islam as a religion of peace and love," he maintained.

After the meeting, Dr. Naik, accompanied by Ayaz, toured the National Assembly Hall.

Education important in Islam for social development: Dr Zakir Naik

Dr Zakir Naik emphasised that education is incredibly important in Islam for social development to provide equal opportunities to learn, grow and prosper.

Delivering a lecture organised by the Pakistan Sweet Homes, he underscored the need to acquire the religious and terrestrial knowledge for a complete life. "The first word revealed to Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) was "read" – a critical component in attaining knowledge," he said.

Referring to the Quranic verses, he highlighted the significance of knowledge and learning being emphasised upon the Muslims at the forefront of discovery and intellect above all others in the world.

PM for efforts to eliminate polio

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed the urgent need to eradicate polio and hepatitis in the country through sustained efforts, similar to the successful elimination of Trachoma, a contagious eye infection that causes inflammation on the inner eyelids.

Speaking at a function where Dr Lou Dapeng, Head of Mission for the World Health Organization in Pakistan, presented a Trachoma-free Pakistan certificate to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he said that the certificate symbolized the dedication of the Health Ministry and other stakeholders in the effort to eliminate the disease.

Trachoma is a disease caused by infection by the Chlamydia trachomatis bacterium and can result in irreversible blindness if left untreated. This achievement marks a significant milestone in public health.

The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to sustain their hard work and dedication, emphasizing that such efforts could elevate Pakistan to new heights of excellence, as long as they were prepared to tackle the challenges ahead.

He recalled that during his tenure as Punjab chief minister, he initiated effective programmes to combat the diseases, and hoped that the same would continue under the current leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and in other provinces as well. He offered the cooperation of Federal Government in that regard.

PM Shehbaz appreciated the collaborative efforts of the Health Ministry, provincial governments, NGOs, experts, and other departments in eradicating Trachoma, which had helped save the sight of hundreds.

He instructed the relevant authorities to take preventive measures, and establish effective supervision and checks and balances to stop reemergence of the disease in the country.

He also directed the authorities to leverage existing technical capacity and expertise, urging field officers, doctors and others to collaborate effectively to achieve success in all areas of life, just as they did in eliminating Trachoma.

He thanked Dr Mukhtar Ahmed Berath, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination and his team and urged them to promptly complete the projects developed at the federal level to benefit the people.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) in a press release announced that Pakistan had successfully eliminated Trachoma as a public health problem, becoming the 19th country to achieve the milestone.

It attributed the success to the collaborative efforts of health professionals, communities, and organizations such as Sightsavers, Christian Blind Mission, and the Fred Hollows Foundation.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus praised the dedication of Pakistan's health workers and emphasized the importance of collective action in combating preventable diseases.

PM effectively pleaded Palestinians case as leader of Ummah: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif effectively pleaded the case of Palestinians during his historic speech at the United Nations General Assembly as the leader of Muslim Ummah.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that PM Shehbaz's address to the UNGA was highly appreciated all over the world, which was an honour for Pakistan.

The prime minister championed the causes of Muslim Ummah, including Palestine and Kashmir, he added.

His bilateral meetings with heads of state and government of other countries on the sidelines of the UNGA session also proved very fruitful and constructive in that regard, the minister said.

Tarar said that the PM's speech also proved that Pakistan's foreign policy was successful and that Islamabad was an important player both at the international level and in the region.

"The prime minister vociferously raised the Palestine issue in his UNGA session and during his meetings on the sidelines, which was acknowledged by the international community and that is a matter of pride for Pakistan," he reiterated.

The minister said that PM Shehbaz had always raised the Palestine issue at all international fora. He not only highlighted the Palestinians' genocide and Israeli war crimes in Gaza but also stressed that the aggressor should be brought to justice.

The PM's UNGA address was among the most watched events on the internet, and it would figure on top in the UN histo-

ry as there was a true representation of the sentiments of entire Muslim Ummah, he added.

Tarar said that led by PM Shehbaz, the Pakistani delegation boycotted the address of Israeli prime minister and many other countries followed suit, whose representatives also walked out of the General Assembly hall. Netanyahu delivered his speech in an almost empty hall, he added.

He said that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas also appreciated Pakistan's support and termed PM Shehbaz his brother.

"The President of Palestine recognized and lauded the role of Pakistan highlighting the Palestinian cause at every world forum," he maintained.

The Palestinian president, he said, also appreciated Pakistan for sending medical supplies and granting admission to Palestinian students in its medical colleges.

The minister said that Pakistan was the only country in the world which had written on its passports that they were valid for all countries except Israel.

Tarar said besides Palestine, the prime minister also effectively highlighted the Kashmir cause in his UNGA speech and made a special mention of Kashmiri freedom struggle icon Burhan Wani.

The PM, he said, also pointed out the Hindutva supremacist approach of the Modi regime which was converting Muslim majority in occupied Kashmir into a minority. He not only criticised India for its atrocities in Kashmir but also warned it against any misadventure against Pakistan, the minister added.

Tarar said it was a good sign that the entire Pakistani nation had appreciated the PM's speech and even the Pakistan Tehreek-

e-Insaf supported lauded him for effectively pleading the Muslim Ummah's case.

He said that the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and other international financial institutions were appreciating Pakistan's economic growth.

Increase in growth rate and reduction in inflation were being acknowledged globally, he said adding the conclusion of the IMF agreement was an appreciation of the government's economic initiatives.

The minister said that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also appreciated improvement in Pakistan's economy which was also a good sign.

Investment in the country, he added, had increased after lowering interest rate while inflation rate had been curtailed to a single digit.

The decrease in inflation from 32% last year to 9.6% this year was a great achievement and it would further fall soon, he added. According to September data, it had further fallen to 6.9 per cent, the minister said.

Tarar said that the international financial magazine Bloomberg had also described the economy of Pakistan in better condition. All the economic indicators were positive as increase in GDP growth, reduction in policy rate and inflation, 14% increase in exports, favourable environment for investment were the proof of stability, he added.

The minister said that the price of petrol had been reduced for the fifth consecutive time as decrease in its price internationally was being passed on to the public.

He urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister to use the provincial government's resources in controlling prices and ter-

rorism instead of attacking the Federation.

He said that the opposition was worried over the economic stability with reducing inflation and growing GDP growth rates. He, however, warned that they would not be allowed to create chaos and anarchy and ruin the national economy.

He said that under the Constitution, the Parliament was the supreme institution which had the power to legislate and amend the constitution.

He said that the government believed in the supremacy of the Parliament and would take steps to ensure the same.

Replying to media persons questions, the minister said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's UNGA speech was continuation of the legacy of Nawaz Sharif's vision.

On one hand the prime minister castigated Israel and on the other the Israeli media was writing articles in favour of PTI founder, he added. The PTI leadership should at least have condemned the Times of Israel's write-up, he said.

He said that 'revolutions' could not be blocked by containers or hurdles, as in fact the PTI had failed to mobilise the public for its so-called agitation.

To a query, the minister said that the price control mechanism was effectively working in Punjab and the Federal Capital, but in the KP, the government officials were busy in asking the people to take part in protest rallies.

About the upcoming SCO conference, he said it would be an honour for Pakistan to host the event.

He assured the media that the law enforcement agencies would be asked not to create hurdles for working journalists in performing their professional duties during any protest rallies.

UN chief says, 'All-out war must be avoided in Lebanon'

UNITED NATIONS (APP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Tuesday called for an immediate ceasefire between Israeli forces and Hezbollah fighters, as Israel launched what it claimed was a "limited" ground incursion into Southern Lebanon.

"An all-out war must be avoided in Lebanon at all costs, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon must be respected," Dujarric added.

The UN chief, he said, spoke to Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati earlier in the day, assuring

him that "the entire United Nations system in Lebanon is mobilized to assist all those in need in the country."

Guterres appealed to international donors to provide urgent support for the \$426 million humanitarian appeal launched in Beirut.

"The Secretary-General will continue his contacts, and his representatives on the ground will also continue their efforts to de-escalate the situation," Dujarric said.

The UN Interim Force in Lebanon, UNIFIL, which patrols the line of separation between

Lebanon and Israel mandated by the Security Council under Resolution 1701 following the last war between the two in 2006, issued a statement earlier in the day saying "the price of continuing the current course of action is too high".

The mission stressed that civilians must be protected along with civilian infrastructure under international law.

Meanwhile, the United Nations launched a \$426 million appeal for Lebanon on Tuesday to support one million people uprooted by widespread Israeli shelling

amid what Israel has described as a "limited, localised and targeted" ground operation into Lebanon, across the UN-patrolled line of separation. From the UN aid coordination office, OCHA, spokesperson Jens Laerke described chaotic scenes across Lebanon as people continued to flee airstrikes that have killed more than 1,000 people in the past two weeks alone, according to the UN human rights office, OHCHR.

"We should expect further displacement," Laerke told reporters in Geneva.

Rs7bn provides to strengthen police force in merged districts

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create maximum employment opportunities by implementing a new mining policy in the merged districts.

Ali Amin Gandapur further directed that special attention be given to providing healthcare and education facilities to the people and that sports and other healthy activities be organized for the youth at the local level to keep them away from negative activities.

He emphasized that maintaining law and order is the biggest challenge, and to achieve this, everyone needs to work together, and added that local jirgas should be regularly held to resolve law and order issues, involving local elders and all other stakeholders.

The Chief Minister also stated that jirgas should be held with local elders and opinion leaders to resolve issues related to border trade.

Moreover, he directed the district administration across the province to hold open courts (Khuli Kachehris) on regular basis ensuring the participation of all departments and relevant elected representatives.

He remarked that people should feel confident that the administration is serious about resolving their issues and that their problems are being solved at the local level. The Chief Minister mentioned that the issues in Bannu and Lakki Marwat were resolved peacefully through jirgas, and out of the 16 points of the Bannu Peace Committee, 15 have

been implemented.

Furthermore, due to the efforts of the administration, police, and local elders, a ceasefire has been achieved in Kurram, and now, in consultation with local elders, heavy weapons and posts will be removed from the area.

He praised the role of local elders, police, and administration in resolving law and order issues in the province and saluted the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army, police, and all citizens for peace in the province.

Ali Amin Gandapur also stated that the police in Buner and Chitral have been given approval to take a leading role, while a jirga has been formed to ensure the fair distribution of gas and oil resources in North Waziristan.

He said that the opposition was worried over the economic stability with reducing inflation and growing GDP growth rates. He, however, warned that they would not be allowed to create chaos and anarchy and ruin the national economy.

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PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur chairing meeting on law and order situation in the province.

Harris will tour Helene devastation in Georgia

WASHINGTON (AP): Vice President Kamala Harris will tour damage caused by Hurricane Helene in Georgia and North Carolina as the deadly storm roils the political calendar just over a month from Election Day.

The Democratic nominee plans to visit Georgia on Wednesday and survey the devastation in North Carolina in the coming

days, according to aides who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the travel plans. Harris' team has been working to coordinate her plans to avoid impacting local disaster response efforts.

Harris had been scheduled to join her running mate Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz on a bus tour across Pennsylvania on Wednesday, the day after

he faced off with Ohio Sen. JD Vance in Tuesday night's vice presidential debate. Walz will instead be joined by Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman.

After Georgia, Harris plans to continue with scheduled campaign visits to Wisconsin and Michigan later this week, with the North Carolina trip coming sometime after that.

SC adjourns Article 63A review petition

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The chief justice said that where it was written in the decision that the members would be disqualified if their votes were not counted.

"In the decision, the matter is left to the head of the party, it is his will not to disqualify the members if he wants. What will happen if the head of the party doesn't send the declaration of disqualification?" he asked.

The CJP said that the voting was used to be done so that it would be counted.

He asked that whether the court said anything on

Article 95 in the decision. "What will be done if a member of a party does not like the party leader and wants to leave? What will be done if the votes of the members cannot be counted?"

The chief justice observed that it was difficult to decide the matter of one's conscience. "Does the decision affect Article 95 and 163? Isn't it like changing the parliamentary system to a presidential system?" he asked.

PTI's Barrister Ali Zafar on the occasion said that he would oppose the review petition.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) in a press release announced that Pakistan had successfully eliminated Trachoma as a public health problem, becoming the 19th country to achieve the milestone.

It attributed the success to the collaborative efforts of health professionals, communities, and organizations such as Sightsavers, Christian Blind Mission, and the Fred Hollows Foundation.

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