

Proceedings against KP CM
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Anti-terrorism court has initiated proceedings to declare KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur a proclaimed offender in the long march vandalism case. Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra heard the long march vandalism case against PTI leaders, PTI lawyers including Sardar Masroof appeared before the court. An application for exemption from appearance in court filed by Faisal Javed was accepted.

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PTI leaders acquitted
F.P. Report

KARACHI Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh, along with Khurram Sher Zaman and Aftab Siddiqui, have been acquitted in a case related to a disturbance at the Malir Court during the appearance of former PTI leader Ali Zaidi. According to a PTI statement issued on Monday, the court accepted their acquittal requests.

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26th constitutional ascertains parliament supremacy: Shehbaz

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the 26th constitutional amendment passed by the parliament would prove to be a milestone in the country's history besides safeguarding its future.

"This is a historic day. The 26th constitutional amendment is not just an amendment but another magnificent example of national solidarity and unity. Today a new dawn will usher in and a new sun will rise which will brighten the whole country," the prime minister said addressing the National Assembly after the House passed the legislation in the early hours of Monday.

Earlier Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar presented the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill in the National Assembly which was passed by a two-thirds majority after its passage by the Senate with the similar required majority. Under the amendment, the term for the Chief Justice of Pakistan has been set at three years. A 12-member parliamentary committee will select the new Chief Justice from a panel of the three most senior judges. This committee, consisting of eight members from the National Assembly and four from the Senate, will propose the name to the Prime Minister, who will then forward it to the President for final approval.

Besides, a Judicial Commission of Pakistan, led by the Chief Justice and including three senior judges, two members each from the National Assembly and Senate, the federal minister for law and justice, the attorney general and a legal expert with at least 15 years of Supreme Court experience, will oversee judicial appointments. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the new constitu-

tional amendment would also help end the palatial conspiracies to oust the governments and remove the prime ministers besides ensuring the riddance from the verdicts like Reko Diq and Karkey which cost the country billions of dollars.

Besides, this will also address the sufferings of the millions of people who had to wait for years to seek justice from the Supreme Court, he added. The prime minister said that with the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill, the unfulfilled dream of the Charter of Democracy had been realized which was signed by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif in 2006 and also endorsed by Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Responding to criticism by an opposition member, the prime minister said the legislation was made by the votes of allied parties and the independent candidates, not by any turncoats. He said the country had witnessed great judges like Justice Kania and Justice Robert Cornelius but there were also some others who sacked two prime ministers with one on the basis of Iqama, when nothing was found in the Panama case.

He told the members that the 26th constitutional amendment had ascertained the supremacy of the parliament. The prime minister, who earlier went to the seats of the parties' leaders to thank them, particularly mentioned President Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, JUI-F's Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Salik Hussain, Abdul Aleem Khan, Sardar Khalid Magsi, Aimal Wali Khan, Abdul Malik Baloch, Ijazul Haq, Professor Sajid Mir and others and expressed gratitude for their support to make

such an amendment in the constitution that would "strengthen and safeguard the country's future."

Prime Minister Shehbaz wished the PTI would have joined the legislation process but he said that despite their absence, the parliament gave a message that the political parties and their leaders set aside their personal interests and went ahead to pass the amendment "which will become a milestone in the country's history. Later, the prime minister signed the advice to be sent to the President of Pakistan for his endorsement of the 26th constitutional amendment after its passage by both houses of the parliament.

PM felicitates Prabowo Subianto on swearing in as Indonesia president: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif felicitated Prabowo Subianto on taking the oath as the eighth President of Indonesia. Taking to X, the prime minister said that Pakistan and Indonesia had enjoyed fraternal ties, rooted in shared values and mutual respect.

"I look forward to working closely with President Subianto to enhance our bilateral cooperation across all fields of mutual interest as well as to promote regional and global peace and security," the prime minister said.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed condolence over the death of the Member of Balochistan Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-N leader Patrick Sant Masih.

Praying for strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss, the prime minister said that the late Patrick Sant Masih had rendered unforgettable services for the public welfare besides effectively representing the Christian community, according to a PM Office press release.

President signs amends into law

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The 26th Constitutional Amendment, which became law earlier on Monday after the approval of both houses of the Parliament, was given assent by President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday.

Pakistani politics saw a second "working weekend" in as many months, where the ruling coalition finally succeeded in passing the much-touted 'Constitutional Package' with a two-thirds majority in both the Senate and the National Assembly.

The 26th Amendment brings changes to the Constitution, most of which pertain to the judiciary. Some main reforms include taking away the Supreme Court's suo motu powers, setting the chief justice of Pakistan's (CJP) term at three years, and empowering the prime minister to appoint the next CJP from among the three most senior SC judges.

On Sunday, the bill, which had 22 clauses, was greenlit by the Senate with a two-thirds majority. Then, during a session that began late on Sunday night and continued past 5am on Monday, the National Assembly also passed it with a two-thirds majority. The NA-approved version had 27 clauses after incorporating suggestions made by the Senate. Following the conclusion of parliamentary procedures, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, according to Radio Pakistan, sent his advice to President Zardari for his assent on the newly enacted law — titled 'The Constitution (26th Amendment) Act, 2024'.

Following the passage of the bill, PM Shehbaz delivered a speech in the NA and congratulated the parliament for the "historical achievement".

IHC summon IG Islamabad

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court summoned the Capital Police I.G. in personal capacity tomorrow, in the PTI's missing lawyer Intizar Hussain Panjotra's recovery case.

Chief Justice IHC Justice Aamer Farooq asked about any progress in the case. "We have received the footage and photographs, but no more progress," lawyer Faisal Chaudhry said. "The court had summoned the Intelligence Bureau's report," the lawyer further said. "We have contacted on the court order, two front pictures found, which have been handed over," concerned SHO said. "You have to investigate the matter, not them," Chief Justice told the SHO.

"A car seen in footage at 5:02 hours", police officer said. "Move ahead from two minutes," Justice Aamer Farooq said. "The cameras ahead were defective, we went to the airport but found nothing," SHO replied. "Their request came to us, we are still looking into it," an IB officer said on the question of the court.

Amendment an attack on judiciary: KP CM

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, has termed the 26th Constitutional Amendment as an attack on the independence of the judiciary and added that a government with a fake mandate, has attacked the independent judiciary under the guise of constitutional amendments in the dark of night, calling it a dark day in the country's history.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf outright rejects these amendments as they are of no benefit to the public but serve the interests of a selected few elites who aim to subdue the judiciary.

He warned that if attempts were made to appoint judges of their choice through these unconstitutional amendments and the most senior judge was not appointed as Chief Justice, they will strongly resist and raise the voice against this tyranny. The Chief Minister added that, unfortunately, those in power are weakening institutions for their political gains, and PTI will oppose this at every forum adding that once in power, PTI will introduce amendments that will strengthen national institutions and benefit the public.

Speaking during a session of the Provincial Assembly on Monday, Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur said that those who betrayed Imran Khan, despite getting votes in his name are traitors and history will remember them as such; and both PTI and the public will hold them accountable for it. He further said that they are fighting a battle of truth and ideology against oppression and tyranny and will never back down adding that if anyone thinks that sup-

KP Assembly passes Police Amendment Bill 2024

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly with Speaker Babar Salim Swati in Chair here Monday passed the KP Police Amendment Bill 2024. Under the bill, an implementation on the directives of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regarding law and order situation would be made mandatory. Two members of the Safety Commission regarding purchase of equipment would be made and the CM KP would be kept inform about all affairs of police force. The approval of CM KP regarding posting and transfers of Police Officers of BPS 18 and above would be made mandatory. The house adopted the bill presented unanimously.

Meanwhile, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa introduced 'The KP Establishment of District Development Advisory Committee (DDAC) Amendment Bill, 2024 in the provincial assembly. The purpose of the draft amendment bill is to broaden the representation of the DDAC by including members of National Assembly and designating them as Chairman, District Development Advisory (DDA), alongside members of Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where required and deemed appropriate.

pressing a few people can end this ideology, they are mistaken. He mentioned that their leader is wrongfully imprisoned, our members of parliament are unjustly detained and are not being presented in the assembly despite the issuance of production orders.

Every tactic of oppression is being used against PTI, but he warned that those engaging in revenge politics today could fall victim to it tomorrow. He urged the public that now is the time to come out and actively participate in this struggle for real freedom, as revolutions are not achieved by merely posting on social media from home. Ali Amin Gandapur also stated that they are once again preparing and will soon launch a full-fledged campaign with full strength, and will fight until they achieve victory in this struggle for real freedom.

Speaking on the approval of the Police

Amendment Act 2024 in the assembly, the Chief Minister said that the purpose of this act is to improve the performance of the police and ensure the protection of the lives and property of the people. He stated that law and order was the top priority of the provincial government, which is only possible if the police is strengthened to the desired level.

The provincial government is taking steps on priority basis to strengthen the police and align it with contemporary requirements. Paying tribute to the sacrifices of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police for protecting the lives and property of the people, he said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police have made immense sacrifices in the line of duty, and the provincial government highly values these sacrifices. He assured that all the issues faced by the police force would be resolved on a priority basis.

SC throws out PTI's review plea

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa has dismissed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's review petition challenging the decision regarding its intra-party elections. The Chief Justice noted in the court's order that the PTI lawyers failed to present any substantial arguments on the merits of the case.

Justice Musrat Hilali expressed concerns regarding the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's failure to conduct its intra-party elections in a timely manner. "I prefer people who talk on TV rather than talking on TV," remarked the Chief Justice, highlighting the disconnect between public statements and actual actions.

The court noted that a significant decision was made on January 13, with elections subsequently held on February 8, leading to questions about why PTI did not request a postponement from the Election Commission to conduct its internal elections properly. Justice Hilali pointed out that the party could have sought additional time from the Election Commission during that period. In response, PTI's lawyer, Hamid Khan, stated, "I said this here then, the court told me that if there is an adjournment, then they will suspend the decision of the Peshawar High Court."

PTI founder seeks access to personal doctors for medical checkup: The PTI founder Imran has filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking permission for his personal doctors to conduct a medical checkup.

As per details, the petition was filed through Imran Khan's counsel, Barrister Salman Safdar and Khalid Yousaf Chaudhry. PTI Founder requested that his personal doctors be allowed to examine him, citing their familiarity with his medical history.

Earlier, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan expressed concern over Imran Khan's access to information, stating that the party founder is not being provided with newspapers or updates on the constitutional amendments.

Justice Mansoor concerned about judiciary's 'dilemma'

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah Monday expressed concerns over the dilemma that the judiciary could face after the new legislation — the 26th Constitutional Amendment — approved by the Parliament.

Justice Mansoor's remarks came hours after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government passed the contentious constitutional package in the Senate and National Assembly — the process of which began Sunday evening and ended during the pre-dawn hours on Monday.

The judiciary-oriented constitutional package proposed a set of constitutional amendments, including provisioning a fixed three-year term for three Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). According to the tweaks, the constitutional benches will be established in both

the SC and high courts, with the commission determining the number of judges required for these benches.

Detailing the bill on Sunday, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said that a constitutional bench would be established within the SC. He added that the judges would be appointed by the judicial commission, and the commission should have the authority to assess the judges' performance.

To enhance the legislature's role in appointing judges, Tarar mentioned that the 12-member parliamentary committee, with a two-thirds majority, would appoint the CJP. In the updated draft, it was also noted that constitutional benches could be established in the provinces as well. During today's hearing pertaining to an appeal against the high court in relation to the Competition Commission of Pakistan at

the SC, the judge said: "Will this case go to the constitutional bench or can we hear it?"

He further remarked: "It seems that this question will arise every day in the Supreme Court that whether a case will be heard by a general bench or a constitutional bench." Responding to the judge's remark, Barrister Farogh Naseem said that political cases have now become constitutional cases.

Justice Mansoor adjourned the hearing of the case for three weeks, stating that the situation around the jurisdiction matter would be clear by that time. Justice Ayesha Malik, on the other hand, remarked: "Read the new amendment, Article 199 case cannot be heard here." Meanwhile, Justice Mansoor maintained that it will also take some time for the judiciary to understand the tweaks themselves.

CJP appointment: NA speaker 'writes' to parliamentary leaders

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has decided to write to parliamentary leaders to initiate the formation of a parliamentary committee for the appointment of the next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

It reported in media that the committee will comprise 8 members from the National Assembly and 4 from the Senate. The Chairman Senate will nominate the Senate members. Sources revealed that the parliamentary committee will request a panel of three senior judges from the Ministry of Law. The committee will then select the next CJP from this panel within three days.

The development came after President Asif Ali Zardari on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, signed 26th constitutional amendment bill into law. Following President Zardari's signature on the bill, the gazette notification of constitutional amendment has been issued, which means the 26th amendment has been made part of the 1973's

constitution of Pakistan.

The National Assembly and Senate earlier passed the bill with a two-thirds majority under which the term for the Chief Justice of Pakistan has been set at three years. A 12-member parliamentary committee will select the new Chief Justice from a panel of the three most senior judges. Under the constitutional amendment, the term for the Chief Justice of Pakistan has been set at three years.

A 12-member parliamentary committee will nominate the new Chief Justice of Pakistan from a panel of the three most senior judges. The committee, comprising eight members from the National Assembly and four from the Senate, will propose the name to the Prime Minister, who will then forward it to the President for final approval.

Besides, a Judicial Commission of Pakistan, led by the Chief Justice and including three senior judges, two members each from the National Assembly and Senate, the Federal Minister for Law and Justice, the Attorney

General, and a nominee of the Pakistan Bar Council, having not less than fifteen years of practice in the Supreme Court, will be responsible for appointments of the judges of the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, Sardar Akhtar Mengal, the head of his own faction of the Balochistan National Party (BNP-M), has announced his intention to file a reference seeking the disqualification of two senators who voted in favour of the 26th Constitution Amendment Bill, in violation of the party line.

BNP-M senators Muhammad Qasim and Naseema Ehsan had voted in support of the bill, enabling the ruling coalition to complete its numbers in the upper house of the parliament. Talking to media, passage of the amendment bill from the Senate, Mr Mengal alleged that he was expelled from the visitors' gallery and the members' lobby of the Senate by the sergeant-at-arms before the start of the voting process so that he could not meet the two party dissidents.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing the National Assembly session after approval of 26th Constitutional Amendments.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with the Ambassador of Argentina Mr. Sebastian Sayus at CM house. —APP Photo

Constitutional amendment passage is victory for democracy: Mayor

KARACHI (PPI): Mayor Karachi and spokesperson for Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, said on Monday that the approval of the 26th constitutional amendment will lead to political and constitutional stability in the country and create balance within Pakistan's judicial system.

In a statement, he emphasized that the passage of the constitutional amendment with a two-thirds majority in Parliament is a victory for democracy. He congratulated the entire nation and party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the approval of the 26th constitutional amendment, noting that the credit for this achievement goes to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and other political leaders.

He mentioned that the approval of the 26th constitutional amendment fulfills the dream of Shaheed Bibi Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, thanks to the political insight of the young leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. This

amendment represents the success of political parties, and its passage was a dream of the entire nation. He asserted that the amendment will provide immediate and impartial justice to the people, commending the role of political parties in this process.

Wahab stated that the approval of the amendment upholds the supremacy of the Constitution and Parliament. He highlighted Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's central role in securing the two-thirds majority for the amendment in Parliament, calling it the result of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the Pakistan People's Party's long struggle. He expressed confidence that this will stabilize the democratic system.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab remarked that the Pakistan People's Party was also responsible for providing the country with its unanimous Constitution, demonstrating once again that the party has

played its part in advancing the country's welfare and progress by facilitating the 26th constitutional amendment. He reiterated that adherence to the law is essential for the nation's development, stating that the Constitution guides us and upholding it ensures the proper direction of national matters.

He concluded by saying that the Pakistan People's Party has always prioritized the broader interests of the country and has played an active role in strengthening democracy and the parliamentary system. He affirmed that the party has never compromised on the country's interests and has consistently prioritized the welfare of the nation.

He expressed optimism that the Pakistan People's Party, under the insightful leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, will continue to fulfill its role for the country's progress in the future.

UVAS arranges awareness walk

LAHORE (APP): The University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore in collaboration with Pink Ribbon Organization, King Edward Medical University Lahore and Mayo Cancer Care Hospital Manawan Lahore organized an awareness walk and seminar on Breast Cancer with the theme of "Together We can Defeat Breast Cancer" at City Campus here on Monday.

Dean Faculty of Veterinary Science Prof Dr Aneela Zameer Durrani led the walk while Chairman Department of Parasitology Prof Dr Kamran Ashraf, Dr Jaweria Ali Khan and number of students & faculty members participated.

Later, in seminar speakers spoke about the introduction, awareness prevention, management diagnosis and treatment of the breast cancer. The objective of seminar was to create awareness among the students, faculty members and general public especially woman regarding diagnostics method & treatment techniques and management of the patient etc.

LDA seals 226 properties

LAHORE (APP): In an ongoing effort to address illegal commercial activities, the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) on Monday sealed another 226 properties across various localities of the city.

Under the directives of Director General Tahir Farooq, LDA teams conducted operations in Wapda Town, Johar Town, Jubilee Town, Canal Road, Sabzazar, Township, and Gulshan Ravi. Specifics of the operation revealed that 50 properties on Wapda Town Main Boulevard, 40 in Jubilee Town, and 50 along Madar-e-Millat Road in Township were sealed. Additionally, 25 properties in Johar Town and 30 on Canal Road were also closed, along with 21 in Sabzazar and 10 in Gulshan Ravi.

The properties affected by the operation comprise a variety of establishments, including grocery stores, bakeries, banks, showrooms, private schools, academics, pharmacies, cafes, restaurants, well-known brand outlets, electronic stores, and workshops. These were sealed due to illegal commercial use and non-payment of commercial fees.

CM committed to provide economic opportunities to people: Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said that Punjab Chief Minister was fully committed to provide economic opportunities to people to bring ease in their lives.

She said this while addressing the inauguration ceremony to activate Kisan card and setting up anti smog squad at Agriculture House. She said that special tasks had been assigned to all departments under Punjab Chief Minister's smog control programme.

She said that farmers were being provided

5,000 super seeders on 60 percent subsidy and this would help make residues of paddy crop useful.

Marriyum said that zero tolerance policy was being implemented against burning of rice crop residues.

She further said that anti smog squad would also provide technical guidance to paddy growers, adding that Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz had set up special helpline to control smog.

Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani said that Punjab Chief Minister

Kisan Card had been activated for purchase process, adding that this initiative would be a game changer for small farmers.

Incumbent government was taking practical measures for prosperity of farmers while the previous government did nothing for farmers and agriculture sector, he added.

Punjab Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahoo said that 22 anti smog squads were being set up in paddy cultivation areas and they had been provided special vehicles to ensure proper outreach activities.

Sindh LG Commission reviews jurisdiction-related disputes

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Local Government (LG) Minister Saeed Ghani chaired a meeting of the Sindh Local Government Commission here on Monday to consider some jurisdiction-related disputes between the Chenesar Town in the city and the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC).

The Chenesar Town was represented by its Chairman Farhan Ghani and Municipal Commissioner Iqar Jalbani while KMC was represented by its Municipal Commissioner Afzal Zaidi, according to a communique on Monday.

The Commission, however, deferred these issues till its next meeting. The meeting also considered the dispute between the town municipal

corporations Gadap and Ibrahim Hyderi related to the recovery of animal health and milching tax.

The Commission expressed its resentment that Gadap Town had processed a tender in this regard for the collection of health and mulching tax that was in violation of its directives.

The Commission decided to direct the authorities concerned to cancel the tender notice in question, issue a show-cause notice to the Gadap Town, and also to return the tax so far recovered by the town. In case, Gadap Town failed to comply with the directives of refunding the tax recovery, then an equal amount will be deducted from the OZT share given to the town by

the Sindh government.

The Commission members presented their report on the dispute of the jurisdiction issues between Shah Faisal Town and Korangi Town in the city. The meeting was informed that the meetings were held with chairmen of both the towns to listen to their versions. The next meeting of the commission will now consider this issue.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Sindh Local Government Department Khalid Hyder Shah, Sindh Law Secretary Ali Ahmed Baloch, members of the commission Abdul Rahim Soomro, Waseem Ahmed Ursani and DG of the Commission Zulfiqar Ali Nizamani.

Govt decides to launch fumigation campaign in Karachi

F.P. Report

KARACHI: In an important meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Sindh, Asif Haider Shah, it has been decided to launch a comprehensive fumigation campaign in Karachi to combat the spread of dengue and other diseases.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner of Karachi, Secretary Local Government, all Deputy Commissioners of Karachi division, Municipal Commissioner, and other senior officials. During the meeting, the Chief

Secretary Sindh directed that the fumigation campaign be conducted across 25 Town Municipal Corporations in Karachi from today.

To eliminate dengue larvae, spray and fumigation operations will commence throughout the city. The campaign will target TMCs including Saddar, Lyari, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Sohrab Goth, Jinnah, Safura, Chanesar, and Mominabad Town.

Municipal Corporation. Additionally, the fumigation efforts will extend to TMC Manghopir, Orangi, Shah Faisal,

Korangi, Model Colony, Landhi, Baldia, and Mairipur Town Municipal Corporations. Moreover, plans are in place for fumigation in TMC Murdar Mahirbar, Gulberg, New Karachi, North Nazimabad, Liaquatabad, Nazimabad, Gadap, Malir, and Ibrahim Haidari.

The Chief Secretary Sindh emphasized the significance of this campaign, stating that this initiative is essential for protecting public health and will contribute to curbing the spread of dengue and other diseases in the city.

CM directs for immediate approval of Rs75.6 bn development schemes

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the Planning and Development Department to expedite the approval process for 162 development schemes, amounting to Rs75.639 billion, as part of Karachi's Rs187.3 billion development portfolio.

These schemes, which have an allocation of Rs14.8 billion for the current financial year 2024-25, are targeted for completion by the next fiscal year. Therefore, there is an urgency to start work on these projects without delay.

This he said while presiding over a meeting at CM House on Monday. The meeting was held at CM House on Monday. It was attended by Minister P&D and Energy Nasir Shah, Minister Home Zia Lanjar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Secretary Energy Musadik Khan, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoti, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh and Secretary Law Ali Ahmad Baloch.

The Minister P&D Nasir Shah gave a detailed briefing to the chief minister about the Rs187.3 billion development portfolio of the city. The development portfolio includes Rs76.952 billion allocated for 988 schemes launched under the provincial Annual Development Program (ADP), Rs103.051 billion for six major projects under Foreign Project Assistance (FPA), and Rs7.30 billion from District ADP. Out of the total schemes, 87 important projects, each costing Rs500 million or more, are part of ADP 2024-25.

The CM was told that out of the 988 schemes, 346 are fully funded and expected to be completed by June 2025. It was pointed out that work is currently in progress on 826 of these schemes, worth Rs269.243 billion, with Rs62.149 billion allocated for this year.

During the discussion, it was revealed that there were 162 schemes amounting to Rs75.639 billion with an allocation of Rs14.803 billion for 2024-25 that were yet to be approved. The CM directed Minister P&D Nasir Shah to expedite the approval of the schemes so that work could be started on them.

To a question, the CM was told that the total cost of 988 ADP schemes was Rs344.882 billion against which Rs76.953 billion had been allocated and Rs242.048 billion was thrown forward. At this, the CM directed Minister P&D to direct all the departments to utilise the funds allocated for their development schemes so that they could be given additional funds next year for their full completion.

The CM was told that there were six Foreign Funded projects of Rs403.981 billion against which Rs103.05 billion have been allocated and Rs363.636 billion was thrown forward. The foreign-funded projects are as follows:

World Bank-assisted Rs63,950 million CLICK project launched for institutional strengthening & infrastructure financing of Local Councils in Karachi; overhaul of urban immovable property tax and improving Ease of Doing Business (EoDB). World Bank and AIB assisted the Rs16,708 million KWSSIP project, which focuses on the long-term strengthening of the

KW&SB through multiple reforms. World Bank & AIB assisted project KWSSIP-Phase-II has been launched for Rs 171.948 million to scale-up investments in waste-water collection and treatment facilities and Augmentation of K-IV and capacity building and reform agenda. World Bank assisted project Rs16800 million SWEEP focuses on solid waste services for Karachi. World Bank assisted the BRT Yellow Line project with Rs 56,189 million to provide BRT bus service from Dawood Chowrangi to Numash / Lucky Star (via Korangi Road).

ADB assisted BRT RED Line project of Rs 78,384 million is also a transport intervention in the city under which BRT buses would provide transport facility from Malir Cantt to Regal Chowk (via University Road).

The CM said that 255 schemes worth Rs14498.684 million, carrying Rs50 million cost by each scheme and are likely to be completed by the end of the current financial year have been provided funds in a single tranche.

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Sindh governor sign new bill

KARACHI (PPI): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has signed the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Bill 2024.

According to Governor House information on Monday, Under this amendment, the administrative control of the institution has been transferred from the Department of Health to the Department of Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori termed this a significant step towards the welfare of disabled individuals. He added that the institution will now operate under a new administrative structure, aiming to better serve individuals with disabilities.

DIG Sukkur, SSP Ghotki transferred

KARACHI (APP): The Deputy Inspector General Police Sukkur Range Pir Muhammad Shah and the SSP Ghotki Hafeezur Rehman Bugti were transferred with immediate effect and until further orders.

According to separate notifications issued by Chief Secretary and IG Sindh respectively, DIG Larkana Nasir Aftab was assigned to hold additional charge of the post of DIG Sukkur while SSP Khairpur Dr Samiullah Soomro was assigned additional charge of the post of SSP Ghotki with immediate effect and until further orders.

Meanwhile, a committee headed by Additional IG CTD Karan Imran Yaqoob Minhas and comprising of DIGP Crime and Investigation Aamir Farooqui and DIGP Finance Tanveer Alam Odho as its members to enquire into contents of letter written by then DIG Sukkur against then SSP Ghotki and allegations leveled by SSP Hafeez Rehman Bugti during media talk against DIG Pir Muhammad Shah.

The committee will also ascertain the conduct of DIG Pir Muhammad Shah and SSP Hafeez Rehman in the aftermath of the firing incident on Ex MPA Shahryar Shar and submit the report within 7 days, another notification added.

SFA seizes 12,000 liters of unsafe cooking oil

F.P. Report

KARACHI: In its ongoing efforts to ensure the safety and quality of food and water across the province, the Sindh Food Authority (SFA) conducted two significant operations in Thatta and Karachi. These actions have led to the seizure of 12,000 liters of unsafe cooking oil in Thatta and the sealing of 11 substandard Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants in Karachi.

In Thatta, the SFA team, under the supervision of Food Safety Officer Natasha alias Marium, carried out a successful raid on a distribution unit. During the raid, more than 12,000 liters of substandard and unsafe cooking oil were discovered. This oil was being prepared for sale under local brand names in the market, posing a serious health risk to the public.

The Sindh Food Authority took immediate action to prevent this oil from reaching consumers, confiscating the entire stock. The distribution unit was also fined Rs.

500,000 for selling unfit and low-quality oil.

Director General of Sindh Food Authority, Hussain Halepoto, commented on the action, saying, "The health of the public is our top priority. We will not tolerate anyone attempting to sell unsafe cooking oil. This operation marks a significant step in protecting consumers from harmful products, and such actions will continue to ensure that only safe and quality products are available in the market."

In a separate operation in Karachi, the SFA inspected RO plants in various locations across the South and East districts. During these inspections, it was found that several plants were not adhering to the World Health Organization (WHO) standards for water quality.

Serious violations were discovered at 11 RO plants, including excessive microbial contamination, rusted machinery, outdated filters, and poor sanitation of water storage tanks. Due to these critical

issues, all 11 plants were sealed to prevent further risk to public health.

Speaking about the Karachi operation, Director General Halepoto stated that they are committed to ensuring that the water provided by RO plants meets international quality standards. The conditions found in these plants were unacceptable, and we took immediate action by sealing them. We will continue our crackdown on substandard RO plants to safeguard public health."

The Sindh Food Authority has inspected a total of 463 food business units and RO plants across the province.

Of these, 233 units were found to be closed or relocated from their registered addresses, while 58 newly identified plants were also inspected.

The DG SFA said that he public is encouraged to report any issues related to substandard RO plants or adulterated food products to the Sindh Food Authority's WhatsApp complaint number at 0330-0116533.



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
NATIONAL DATABASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY
(Regional Head Office Peshawar - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)


CORRIGENDUM
FOR PURCHASE OF LAND FOR NADRA Offices, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
(Tender Notice No. 2024-25/Estate/3 x NADRA Offices)

Referring to NADRA Regional Head Office Peshawar published tender notice No. 2024-25/Estate/3 x NADRA Offices for purchase of land in District Headquarters Bannu, Chitral & Peshawar on 08th Oct, 2024 in daily newspapers Mashriq & The Frontier Post, the following corrigendum is hereby issued: -

- The bids / proposals should be submitted duly completed in all respects by 12th Nov, 2024 at 11:00 am hours.
- Technical bids / proposals will be Opened on 12th Nov, 2024 at 11:30 am hours at under mentioned address in presence of bidders/their nominated representatives.
- Boundaries for purchase of land in the vicinity of District Headquarters Bannu, Chitral & Peshawar is as under: -

S#	Districts	Required Area	Boundaries
1	Bannu	2 x Kanals	Bannu City Kohat Road (Bannu City till Kurram Pul) Miran Shah Road (Bannu City till Kachkot Pull) D I Khan Road (Bannu City till District Headquarter Hospital)
2	Chitral	2 x Kanals	Main Bazaar Zargarandah Qabrasht Jang Bazaar
3	Peshawar	2 x Kanals	Ring Road University Road Peshawar Cantt G.T Road (Pir Zakori Pul till Karkhano Market)

This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk
For any query contact on following address:
Director (Admin & HR)
NADRA Regional Head Office, Peshawar - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Plot No. 05 Sector B-1, Phase-V Hayatabad Peshawar
Telephone: 091-9217840

**Mobilink Bank**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Branch: Haripur Auction Date: 28-10-2024 Branch code: 0017 Time: 11:00 AM

Finance facilities were extended by Mobilink Bank against the security of deposit and pledge of gold to the customer mentioned below.
The customer who has neglected and failed to repay the finance extended to them by Mobilink Bank along with the markup thereon.

Customer Name	CNIC #	Address	Gold Weight (GM)	Detail of Gold Ornaments
Kamran Khan	13302-0495475-7	Gullo Bandi, P/O Kot Najbullah, Tehsil & District Haripur	9.500	1 Addad Jomer Bemagh Nig, 3 Addad Angutiya

Notice is hereby given to the customer in above mentioned that if payment of entire outstanding amount financed along with markup is not made by them to Mobilink Bank within 1 day of the publication of this notice, Mobilink Bank shall auction the gold ornaments and no further Public Notice shall be issued to call upon the customers to make the payments.



PESHAWAR: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi talking to the newly appointed Commandant of the Frontier Constabulary, Muhammad Riaz Nazir Gara.

Kundi praises role Frontier Constabulary in maintaining law, order

Newly Appointed Commandant calls on Governor

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, meets the newly appointed Commandant of the Frontier Constabulary, Muhammad Riaz Nazir Gara, at Governor House.

During the meeting, professional matters and duties of the Frontier Constabulary regarding maintaining law and order in the province were discussed.

The Governor congratulated Muhammad Riaz Nazir Gara on assuming the responsibilities of Commandant Frontier Constabulary and expressed his best wishes. "The services of the

Frontier Constabulary for maintaining peace in the province are commendable," said Faisal Karim Kundi. "The Frontier Constabulary is an excellent professional force," he added.

Faisal Karim Kundi praised the exemplary role of the Frontier Constabulary in improving the law and order situation.

Governor chairs special Senate meeting of Gomal University at Governor House

An inquiry report by the Governor's Inspection Team regarding Gomal University was presented during the meeting.

The report was prepared in response to com-

plaints concerning the alleged issuance of fake degrees, financial irregularities, misuse of authority, and promotions given to favored individuals, among other issues.

The 28-page inquiry report and its recommendations were discussed in detail during the special Senate session.

The inquiry report dismissed many of the complaints as baseless but noted that some complaints are still under investigation by NAB (National Accountability Bureau).

Senate members also took notice of the inconsistency between the findings and recommendations of the inquiry

report. "There can be no compromise on maintaining financial and administrative discipline in universities," said Faisal Karim Kundi.

"It is alarming that cases of fake degrees are still emerging, even in this age of modern technology," he added.

Faisal Karim Kundi suggested implementing biometric identification for students during examinations to address such issues.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shakeeb Ullah, representatives from the Higher Education Department, HEC, and other Senate members.

Ihtisham reviews health dept performance

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Adviser to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Health Ihtisham Ali to review the performance of the Health Department based on the agenda items from last week's meeting. Attendees included relevant officers responsible for various matters.

The primary focus of the meeting was the retrieval of government vehicles being used by retired, transferred, and unauthorized individuals within the Health Department. Special Secretary Health, Habibullah, informed the Health Adviser that so far, only 200 vehicles have been entered into the Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS).

Expressing dissatisfaction, Ihtisham Ali directed that details of every departmental vehicle, whether functional or not, must be provided within three days.

Special Secretary Habibullah mentioned that letters have already been sent to all staff and the Excise Department, instructing them to stop any vehicle not registered in HRMIS from being on the road.

Furthermore, maintenance and fuel budgets for vehicles in unauthorized possession have been also frozen.

The Health Adviser issued strict instructions that any District Health Officer (DHO), Medical Superintendent (MS), or other officers failing to provide vehicle records should be removed from their positions immediately.

He also demanded details of vehicles provided by various projects and stated that government vehicles must be retrieved from any unauthorized individuals. Regarding digitization, the Health Adviser expressed dissatisfaction with the current progress and issued orders to immediately begin digitization efforts in the Directorate General Health service.

He emphasized that posting and transfer processes must also be digitized, even though there is a temporary ban on transfers. He urged for the system to be fully operational so that online applications could begin immediately. The online leave management system must also be activated from today.

In addition, Ihtisham Ali ordered that all officers from other departments currently working in Health should be relieved

immediately. Dual charges, additional charges, and attachments should be ended effective today. No individual should hold more than one position.

He stressed that the regional directorates have now been activated, and all necessary staff and resources should be provided to ensure these offices function efficiently. This will help in decentralizing powers and addressing the province's health-related issues more effectively.

The Health Adviser also instructed the relevant officials to begin work on developing a comprehensive plan for all donors, implementation partners, and technical assistants.

The report on this work is to be presented in the next week's meeting. All Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and agreements with donors will now be handled by the Chief of the Health Sector Reform Unit (HSRU).

He emphasized that all donors and implementation partners must align with the health department's agenda and requirements, rather than the department working to meet their priorities. Any donor failing to meet these criteria will not be permitted to work in the health sector.

Power suspension plan notified

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) on Monday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar University Grid Station on 22nd October from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. resultantly, Agra, Achini 2, DHA, Haji Bahadar Khan, Askari 6, Commercial Building, Nasir Bagh feeders will face inconvenience.

It said that power supply will also remain suspended from PAF Base Grid Station on 22nd, 24th, 26th, 29th and 31st October from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. resultantly, Old Badbair, Saphan, PAF, Live Stock and Hassain Khel feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will remain suspended from Rehman Baba Grid Station on 22nd, 24th, 26th, 29th and 31st October from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. resultantly, consumers of Kachori, Sharif Abad, Khan Mast Colony, New Hazar Khwani, Shalozai Bala, Phandoo Baba, Urmair 2, Yakatoot, New Chamkani, Phandoo Road 2, Ring Road, Chairman Daffar, Beri Bagh, Rashid Ghari, Akhoona Abad, Ring Road 2 and SIDB feeders will face inconvenience.

Likewise, the power supply will remain suspended from Kohat Road Grid Station on 22nd, 24th, 26th, 29th and 31st October from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. resultantly, consumers of PAF Express, Kohat Road, Wazir Bagh, Old Deh Bhadar, Old Kohat Road, Dora Road, New Deh Bahadar, Scheme Chowk feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar City grid station on 22nd, 24th, 26th, 29th and 31st October from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. resultantly, consumers of Sikhandar Pura, Lala, Hashnagri, Chughal Pura, Chamkani, Jhagra, Redio pak, Sethi Town, Gulbahar, Hussain Abad, Zaryab, Phandoo Road, City Home, Bana Mari, Urmair, Islamabad, Faqir Abad, Sheikh Abad, Molvi G, Nishterabad, NHA feeders will face inconvenience.

The power supply will remain suspended from Shiekh Muhammadi grid station on 22nd, 24th, 26th, 29th and 31st October from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. resultantly, consumers of Badbair, Masho Gagar, Balazai, Sirband, Sheikhan, Shahab Khel and AWT feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will remain suspended from Dilazak grid station on 22nd, 26th and 29th October from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. resultantly, consumers of Mian Gujar, Gulbela, Pakha Gulam, Wadpaga 1,2, Gulabad, Lucky Star, Doran Pur, BRT, Guluzai, Muhammad Zai, Jannah College, New Sir Band Pura feeders will face inconvenience.

Engr Nawab passes away

PESHAWAR: Renowned engineer Nawab Khan Mehsud, son of former Chief Engineer of Irrigation Department Masap Khan Mehsud, has passed away, leaving behind a legacy of dedication and service to the field of engineering. He was the father of Dr. Anwar-ul-Haq and engineer Imranullah and uncle of Pir Muhammad Khan. The funeral prayer will be held at Bilal Masjid, Bilal Market, Hayatabad Phase 1, Peshawar, today at 1:30 pm, immediately following Zuhr Namaz.

26th Amendment to guarantees supremacy of parliament: PPP leader

PESHAWAR (APP): A local PPP leader and a former candidate for National Assembly, Syed Abid Ali Shah advocate has congratulated the nation for the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment by the parliament, saying it will ensure the supremacy and dignity of the parliament in the country.

Talking to APP here on Monday, he said that the adoption of the constitutional amendment was necessitated to return the powers given to the parliament for its supremacy

under 18th Constitutional Amendment back to the legislature.

These powers, he said under the 19th Constitutional Amendment were transferred to the judiciary and now they have returned back to the parliament.

He appreciated the role of the PPP chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, PML-N president Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and JUI-F chief Maulana Fazalur Rehman

in the passage of the amendment bill.

He said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has played big and crucial role in making of this achievement who entered into consultations with political parties and developed a consensus and resolve a hard task amicably and all democrats are paying tributes to him for it.

Terming 26th Constitutional Amendment a step forward towards the restoration of the 1973 Constitution in real shape

and expressed the hope that very soon more similar constitutional amendments would also be introduced in the parliament to ensure speedy justice and relief to the people.

Syed Abid Ali Shah that the political sagacity exhibited by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in developing political consensus for the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment would be written with golden words in the democratic history of Pakistan.

MD ESEF visits various girls community schools

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Managing Director Elementary & Secondary Education Foundation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mr. Khawaja Faheem Sajjad visited Various Girls Community Schools (GCS), ESS Institution and POHA Centres in District Haripur. He inspected the "Assessment Test" of mid-term at POHA Centre Qazian (Haripur) where total 21 OOSC have been enrolled and suggested the areas to improve the assessment process. He directed the Cluster Incharge to increase the enrollments.

Moreover, he visited 02 GCS located at village Qazian and New Khewa KTS having enrollment of 217 and 82 respectively. The MD assessed the students of different classes by asking various questions from their syllabus to get an idea about the quality of education which they are being provided and the response of students was impressive. He



appreciated the Teachers for providing quality education and ensured to resolve the GCS issues regarding basic educational needs and accessories on priority basis.

He also inspected one ESS partner School (Hifsa Islamia School - Haripur) having enrollment of 198 with 96 ESS students. School building, infrastructure ground, computer lab and library of the school were assessed and checked by him. The MD directed the Principal to establish a well-equipped science lab on pri-

ority basis. Hard work of School Principle and Teachers was appreciated by the MD.

Furthermore, he visited POHA Centre situated at an inaccessible location of Banda Basant (VC Kalinjer - Haripur) where total 120 OOSC have been enrolled from primary to middle level. The POHA Centre was established at the backward area of VC Kalinjer, this area is the last bungalow of Haripur District. The people of the said village are living below the standard life

having no government or private school in the village.

The role of POHA Centre and NCHD School at this area was appreciated by the MD and he addressed the community and ensured them about the further improvement of Non-Formal Education in the area.

The dedication and contribution of Elementary & Secondary Education Foundation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for such noble cause was appreciated by the community elders.

AD&SJ grants bail to alleged murderer

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Additional District and Session Judge (AD&SJ) Peshawar Mirza Kashif granted bail to alleged murderer charged in Hayatabad killing case, on Monday.

The counsel Danyal Asad Chamkani advocate appeared on behalf of Syed Noor and argued the case.

According to the prosecution a dead body of

Saadat Ullah was found in residence of (female accused) house in Hayatabad Phase 6.

The son of deceased named Nisar filed a complaint at Tattara Police Station against Jawad, Syed Noor, and (female accused).

As per police version, the deceased lived with Musamat A (female accused) in Hayatabad for ten years and considered her as adopted daughter.

Police arrested the accused after registration of FIR.

The allegations against the petitioner are false and police evidence contains contradictions. The FIR was registered days after the incident, the lawyer argued.

The counsel Danyal Asad Chamkani advocate requested for provision of bail. AD&SJ granted bail to Syed Noor on two personal sureties and Rs1 lac.

PPC Media Cricket League Victories for Qalandars, Markhors, Fighters and stars

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In the ongoing Media Cricket League organized by the Peshawar Press Club with the support of DHA Peshawar and RMI four more matches have been decided. PPC Qalandars, PPC Markhors, PPC Fighters and PPC Stars emerged victorious.

The first match at the Gymkhana Cricket Ground was played between PPC Qalandars and PPC Darvesh where Qalandars after winning the toss batted first and scored 94 runs for the loss of six wickets. Zeeshan top-scored with 31 runs including three sixes while Asghar added 26 runs.

Ejaz took two wickets for 29 runs and Gulzar grabbed two wickets for 19 runs. Zahid and Ehtesham took one wicket each. In response PPC Darvesh managed to score 77 runs with Shakeel scoring 23 and Shakeel Siddiqui adding 22 runs.

Asghar took two wickets and was named Man of the Match.

In the second match PPC Markhors defeated PPC Lions by seven wickets. Lions batted first scoring 80 runs for the loss of two wickets.

Qari Zia played a splendid innings of 45 runs including three sixes and three fours while Haq Nawaz scored 15 and Saud Sabri added 13 runs. Both dismissed batters were taken by Abid Khan. In response PPC Markhors chased the target in the fifth over losing three wickets. Ajmal, Rizwan and Arshad Yousafzai all scored 21 runs each, while Irshad Medani added 11 runs. Haq Nawaz took two wickets for Lions. Abid Khan was declared the Man of the Match.

At Colonel Sher Khan Stadium PPC Fighters defeated PPC Bahadur by seven wickets in the first match. PPC Bahadur batting first scored 85 runs

for the loss of two wickets with Mahmood top-scoring with 48 and Kamran Gul adding 22 runs.

Faizan took one wicket. In reply PPC Fighters chased the target losing three wickets. Abbas played a brilliant knock of 57 runs and was named Player of the Match. Haroon took all three wickets for PPC Bahadur.

In the second match PPC Stars triumphed over PPC Gladiators by nine wickets. Gladiators batting first posted 63 runs for the loss of six wickets. Aamir scored 11 while Tariq Mateen added 9 runs. For PPC Stars Waheed Rehman took two wickets while Hamza, Khurram, and Shehryar took one wicket each. In response, PPC Stars chased the target with ease, losing only one wicket. Waheed Rehman scored 25 runs while Zeeshan added 24 runs. Mudassir took one wicket for Gladiators.

PTI to repeal 'unconstitutional' amendments, says Saif

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, has asserted that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will annul the controversial and unconstitutional amendments passed by the current regime upon its return to power.

Barrister Dr. Saif remarked that these amendments were pushed through in a manner that violated the sanctity of the home and dishonored

the dignity of mothers and sisters, all while committing serious legal violations.

"These amendments were passed under the guise of grave crimes such as kidnapping and dishonoring the sanctity of the home. The amendments' process itself screams of betrayal against the constitution," he said.

He further claimed that the current regime executed these changes in secrecy, akin to a coup against the judiciary.

"The unconstitutional

amendments were passed in the dead of night, attacking the Supreme Court and aiming to circumvent its rulings.

The entire procedure reflects a treacherous blow to the constitution," Dr. Saif added. The Advisor emphasized that the hasty amendments were designed to avoid the implementation of the Supreme Court's decisions.

He asserted that after the passing of these amendments, PTI's struggle would gain momentum. Dr. Saif warned

those who supported the amendments that they would face public wrath and would not escape retribution in history.

"Those who voted in favor of these unconstitutional changes will neither win public support in the upcoming elections nor will they obtain Form-47," he cautioned.

He went on to say that PTI's steadfast opposition to these amendments will be etched in history, while those who stood against fascism within the parliament will be lauded by the nation.

HERA imposes ban on MBBS admissions at Jinnah Medical College

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Higher Education Regulatory Authority (HERA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has imposed a ban on new admissions to the MBBS program at Jinnah Medical College (JMC) due to its failure to meet regulatory standards.

The college has violated multiple provisions under the

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Registration & Functioning of Private Educational Institutions Ordinance 2001 and HERA Regulations 2006.

A performance evaluation conducted by experts from Khyber Medical University and Hayatabad Medical Complex revealed that the college does not meet the minimum standards required to operate an MBBS program.

This was reported to the college in June 2023, but no corrective action has been taken, according to an office order issued by the Chairman of HERA. In light of these violations, and in accordance with Section 23 of the HERA Ordinance, the prescribed penalty is the revocation of registration.

However, to safeguard the interests of the students,

HERA has imposed a ban on further admissions to the MBBS program until these issues are resolved. The office order further stated that JMC management failed to clear outstanding salaries of senior teaching staff, totaling Rs. 19,584,167, for the period from December 2019 to October 2023, despite a written commitment made in December 2023.

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In brief

Quick response teams formed F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razzaq has said that district administration Hafizabad has formed special squads and quick response teams for taking actions against smoke emitting bricks kilns, factories, vehicles and burning of crops bustles in the district. While visiting bricks kilns in Kassoki area, DC warned farmers to refrain from burning residues of crops and owners of bricks kilns running kilns without zigzag technology otherwise punitive action would be taken against them including to impose fines on farmers and to seal bricks kilns running without zigzag technology. He also reviewed process of preparing bricks at kilns and zigzag technology during the visit. DC further said that special monitoring was being made to supervise burning of crops alongside Motorways M-2 and M-4 to avoid spread of smoke on motorways. Meanwhile, AC Hafizabad Sohail Riaz visited different bazaars and markets and checked petrol pumps, chicken shops to review prices of essential commodities. He imposed Rs. One lakh and twenty thousand fines to petrol pumps having less measure and other shopkeepers for extorting arbitrary prices from customers.

Anti-corruption week observed F.P. Report

D I KHAN: The Agriculture University observed the 'Anti-Corruption Week' to raise awareness among students about corruption. According to the university's spokesman, the week featured various academic, literary, and creative activities, including English and urdu speech contests, essay writing, and painting competitions. Each activity aimed to inform students about the detrimental effects of corruption while allowing them to express their creative talents. At the concluding ceremony wherein Registrar Abdul Basit Khan appreciated the efforts of the students, saying that corruption posed a significant challenge and that better training for the younger generation was essential to combat it. Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Shakeeb Ullah highlighted the importance of societal awareness and students' involvement in the fight against corruption. He emphasized that everyone had a role to play in eradicating corruption, especially the youth. After the competitions, the Vice Chancellor distributed certificates and awards to students who exhibited outstanding performance during various competitions.

Bugti hails 26th Amendment F.P. Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti hailed the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment in the parliament as major win for democracy. The chief minister congratulated the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his tireless efforts in making it possible. In a statement on social media platform X, Sarfaraz Bugti praised the amendment as a significant victory for democracy. He highlighted that the constitution is a legacy of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has accomplished a historic achievement with this latest reform. "The 26th Amendment is a crucial step towards fair representation, and I commend the collective efforts of political leadership across Pakistan in achieving consensus," the Balochistan Chief Minister said.

Local government by-elections JI, ANP, PPP and PTI won one VC seat each

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Local bodies second by-elections, the JI, PTI, PPP and ANP each turned victorious on one village council seats in the Lower Dir district here on Sunday. According to unofficial and unverified results, the PPP candidate Rahmat Subhan bagged 918 votes as compared to 590 of the JUIF candidate Mudassir Rafiq in village council Paito Dara.

Similarly Ziaullah of the JI bagged 218 votes and won the VC seat in Sadbar Kalay. The ANP candidate Usman Shah got 202 votes. In VC Rahimabad, Syed Mahmood Jan of the ANP bagged 204 votes and elected as village councillor. His opponent Aftab Khan of JI got 165 votes.

In VC Hajiabad Balambat, Wiqar Ahmad of the ANP got 598 votes as compared to 400 votes bagged by the PTI Shahab Khan and elected as VC member. Elections were held in peaceful and pleasant environment in four VCs of Lower Dir.

Almost 26 couples tie the knot in mass wedding ceremony: As many as 26 couples tied the knot at a mass wedding ceremony organized by Shinwari Welfare Organization (SWO) at hujra (male guest house) of Maroof Khan, a renowned businessman in Mukhtar Khel village of Landi Kotal. Besides office bearers of the organization, tribal, relatives of the couples, people from different walks of life participated in the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, speakers including tehsil Chairman Haji Shah Khalid, Akhtar Ali Shinwari, Ilyas Shinwari and others said that there are many parents in our society who are unable to arrange marriages of their adult sons and daughters due to financial crises.

The concept of holding mass wedding ceremonies was need of time as it supported the poor segment of society financially and ensured timely marriages of adult boys and girls in a respectable way, they added. They appealed to the philanthropists to follow the footprints of the Haji Aslam Shinwari, extend financial support to the SWO that arrange mass wedding ceremonies for those who could not afford expenses of their marriages.

Haji Aslam Shinwari, the organizer and head of the organization said that the welfare activity had been organized consecutively for the last four years and so far 118

couples have got married in the ceremony, organized by them.

Clothes for the couples and a package of necessary items including bed, solar system and other home appliances were also provided to each of the couple, he added. He vowed that he along with his companions would organize the wellbeing activity yearly to benefit the poor ones. A grand lunch program was also set up for the guests and relatives of the brides and grooms. The newly-wed couples thanked the foundation for their help and said such weddings should be organized repeatedly in the years as many poor adults (male female) were waiting for their turn.

Educated youth a revolutionary nursery for nation: Islami Jamiat Tulba (IJT) Pakistan central nazim Hasan Bilal Hashmi has said that educational institutions are the centers of revolution and they have to play their due role. He was addressing a two-day camp of IJT nazims for colleges and universities in Malakand division at Warsak in Adenzai as chief guest.

The IJT provincial nazim Wasim Haider, deputy general secretary Asfandiar Rabbani, provincial secretary information Ruman Ayub, region in-charge Farhat Ullah Mujahid, units and divisions' nazims Muhammad Taimur, Maaz Khan, Sadiq Ullah, Ubaid ur Rehman, Rashid Ullah and others were also in attendance.

Hasan Bilal said the role of the youth had always been important in revolutionary movements. He said the youth had played the role of the vanguard in the struggle for Pakistan. "There is a need to strengthen and organize the IJT in educational institutions.

So that our students can play the best role in both the fields of religion and the world", he said, adding the educational institutions were the foundation of the IJT. He said the IJT should focus on moral and intellectual training of students while maintaining discipline. He further said that communism had become the story of the past and now it was the era of modernism which the IJT had to counter in educational institutions. The IJT leader said that atheism was spreading among youth, which was not a good omen in a Muslim society. He said the role of IJT nazims was very important in terms of improving and strengthening the discipline of the congregation in the institutions.

Sacked teachers hold protest rally in Landi Kotal

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: A protest rally of the sacked teachers was held at Bacha Square, Landi Kotal Bazaar on Monday against their eight months arrears and discontinuation of their jobs by the education department. Numbers of the affected teachers, accompanied by councillors, carrying placards inscribed with slogans in favor of their demands.

Speaking on the occasion, central President of the union of contract teachers, Atif Khan said that the contract teachers had posted in government-run schools in 2022 across the merged districts on a need basis through proper procedure. However, after two years their contract was discontinued and they were fired without paying them eight months arrears that was unfair to them, he added.



He said that the contract posting not only fulfilled the deficiency of the teaching staff in the schools but also restored parents' trust in the state-run schools. The government should reinstate them and pay them their arrears as soon as possible, he suggested.

The protesters threatened that if their demands were not addressed then they would organize a protest demonstration on Oct 23, 2024 in front of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly. As

per a local education official, the discontinuation of contract-based teachers was due to lack of funds and their service tenure was initially for one year.

Permanent teachers would be considered to address the teachers' shortage, he remarked. It is to be stated here that the education department had posted 3000 teachers (male-female) across the merged tribal region to fill the deficiency of teaching staff in government-run schools.

DIG seeks report on massacre of five people

F.P. Report

LARKANA: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Larkana Nasir Aftab Patahan, in the area of Jangjan Police Station of Kashmore District, in Somer Jagirani, the cousin brothers quarreled over a trivial matter, 5 people were killed in the firing and 3 people were injured in the firing.

Taking notice, SSP Kashmore Bashir Ahmed Brohi was contacted and ordered to send more personnel to the disputed area. Orders were issued to the DSP in the Jahagare area to be vigilant with the heavy police force of his entire subdivision, while orders were issued to arrest the accused involved in the two controversial groups. In Sommer Jagirani, two cousins quarreled over a trivial matter, 5 persons Obaidullah, Dilsher, Dahar, Momin, Karim Jagirani were killed and Junaid, Shahmore, Sanaulah were injured in the firing. Arrest orders have been issued for the accused involved.

Police held seven alleged culprits: On the instructions and orders of SSP Larkana Ruhul Khan Khoso, the Larkana police crackdown

against criminals continues, 7 wanted fugitives and drug dealers have been arrested.

During the successful operations, 07 wanted, wanted and wanted accused involved in serious cases have been arrested, while stolen goods and drugs have been recovered from the arrested accused. Lashari Police have arrested two suspects Ayaz Agham Abaro and Ashiq Agham Abaro involved in the murder case of 17-year-old Yamin Junejo in Walidad Gabar area. Sehar police have arrested three accused Afzal Barkhor, Salim Kalhoro and Barkhor Shah involved in the theft case and recovered the stolen clothes, batteries and other goods.

A case has been registered by arresting Gram Charis, while the university police has taken actions and arrested the advertising accused Riyaz Shaikh. Further legal and regulatory actions including investigation of the arrested accused are going on.

SEPCO disconnects electricity from defaulters in crackdown: Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) continues grand operation against electricity

thieves and defaulters despite the holidays on Saturday and Sunday. In the leadership of Larkana, Qamber Shahdadkot, Ratodero, Baqarani, Dokri, small and big cities, towns and villages, together with the active staff of SEPCO, a grand operation was conducted against electricity thieves and non-payment of electricity bills, in which thousands of illegal connections were cut.

Speaking to the media on this occasion, SEPCO Sukkur Superintendent Engineer Shah Mohammad Bajkani said that there is a debt of 42 billion rupees to eliminate electricity thieves and non-depositors, for which the grand operation will be continued. He added that the ongoing campaign against electricity thieves.

During the operation from September 2023 till now, we have filed 1600 cases against those who did not pay the dues of 880 rupees and departmental allowances. He has given them different punishments. He said that the electricity consumers are requested to install electricity meters and regularize their electricity connections, otherwise legal action will be taken.



QUETTA: Leader of Lawyers Action Committee, Ali Ahmed Kurd addressing a press conference.

KP govt commits LG empowerment F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: Member Provincial Assembly Ifitikhar Ali Maswani said that transferring powers and resources to the grassroots level will bring prosperity and improve living standards in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. While addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Local Government and Rural Development Department office in Hamza Colony, Takhtbhai, on Monday.

The provincial government is working to provide all basic amenities to the people at their doorsteps. Soon, development funds will be released to all municipal, representatives. Attendees included AD Local Government Waliyat Shah, Assistant

Commissioner Takht Bhai Junaid Khalid, renowned lawyer Haji Usman Ghani Advocate, MPA focal persons Zafar Ifitikhar, Shahid Khan, Dr. Hafiz ul Wahab, Arshad Khan, Mobin Khan, Wali Muhammad, Hanif Khan, and Faisal Anwar Advocate.

MOA highlighted Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's initiative to allocate funds to local bodies is commendable. Empowering local governments and distributing resources fairly will bring prosperity to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Local government systems will be strengthened, enabling public participation in development.

The PTI government prioritizes empowering local governments, as outlined in their manifesto. Mashwani praised Chief Minister Gandapur's efforts to provide resources to the Local Government Department and emphasized, PTI Chairman Imran Khan put Pakistan on the path to progress, but regime change halted this progress. However, our morale remains high, and we will serve the province and people without hesitation.

Tribesmen hold protest F.P. Report

WANA: A protest at South Waziristan against ongoing deteriorating law and order situation which was led by tribal leader Malik Gul Mohammad, known as Gulai Wazir, with participation from a large number of local residents, including leaders from various political parties. The protesters demanded provision of immediate justice to tribal victims.

The speakers said that the arrest of individuals who participated in the Pashtun Jirga in Khyber under the 3MPO law is an act of oppression. They called for their immediate release and demanded that blocked national identity cards be reinstated to resolve the daily issues people are facing.

The protesters emphasized that opening the Pakistan-Afghanistan border is a crucial need of the hour, as its closure is severely affecting the business community and ordinary citizens. They warned the establishment to stop the oppression of the Pashtuns immediately, or the situation could spiral out of control. The speakers demanded immediate termination of incompetent and ineligible police SHOs deployed in the area, who are mistreating the public and worsening the law and order situation.

Chikungunya, dengue fevers killed 9 in Shangla

F.P. Report

SHANGLA: Dengue fever has become an epidemic in most areas of Union Council Dandai, Union Council Maira and Union Council Bisham of Tehsil Bisham. It is very regrettable that four people have been died of dengue in Union Council Dandai while five people died of Chikungunya in Union Council Maira. The health department did not take any special measures to stop disease.

According to the details, chikungunya and dengue fever have become an epidemic in 3 Union Council of Besham Tehsil i.e U/C Dandai, Union Council Maira and Union Council Bisham of Shangla district. The death of 4 people is great blow to humanity and Health department to reconsider the case and stop its spreading anymore to save community.

Those who expired in U/C Dandai includes Shah Wali Khan, Amaze Khan, Mother of Rafiullah and Hayat Khan. Similarly, five children have been died from chikungunya in Union

Council Mera. Among them are Hanan son of Salman, Ahmed son of Saddam, Amjad son of Shah, Mian Hussain son of Hakimullah and Ifitikhar son of Qabil Khan. The situation is still worst and out of control.

It is unfortunate that chikungunya and dengue patients are present almost in every house. The fear due to disease has caused severe pressure in the communities. On the other hand, the health department of Shangla has not taken any special measures to stop the spread of disease.

The residents are forced to take their patients to the hospital themselves or to get treatment from private doctors at home. The disease is so severe, that it has engulfed the entire area. According to the residents, those prey to chikungunya disease found their both legs suffer.

It takes always 20 days to one month to recover. The disease has also spread to other union councils of the tehsil, Dandai and Bisham, and various villages of Shang. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government

and the health department should immediately take step and must send teams to the area. Similarly awareness campaigns should be started which is urgently needed.

DEO inaugurates sports festival: District Education Officer Muzaffar Ali Khan inaugurated the Inter-District High and Higher Secondary Schools Sports Tournament in a colorful ceremony.

The Principals, Headmasters, teachers and students from across the district participated. The inaugural cricket match was played between Government Higher Secondary School Kotkay and Government High School Amnavi. District Education Officer Muzaffar Ali Khan was introduced to both the teams.

Later, he opened the game with a short on the ball. Batting first in the opening match, Government Higher Secondary School Kotkay scored 103 runs in the allotted 10 overs while the team of Government High School Amnavi won in 9.3 overs.

Court convicts two kidnappers

F.P. Report

BUNER: Additional District and Session Judge (AD&SJ) Javeria Sartaj Khan convicted Syed Bar Shah and Mohmad Zeb for lifetime imprisonment while imposed Rs2 lakh fine on each in abduction of girl from home on gun at midnight, on Monday.

The court further sentenced them one-year imprisonment for each convicted with fine rupees fifty thousand each. As per court decision, In case of non-payment of the fine, both the convicted have been ordered to be imprisoned for further six/six and two/two months.

The court have been conducted a speedy trial of this famous case of abduction one Mis Shakhubani of Larhay Kanglai in the premises of Chinglai police station. It is worth to mention that the main accused of this case, namely Hasan Zeib, is a proclaimed offender by the court and is still absconder.

Establishment of Buner Aman Council announced: The residents has decided to establish a body with the titled Buner Aman (peace) Council while it will be comprising of two members of every political, social, and union organizations and associations.

This was announced by Loya jirga and claimed that the council will soon announce the time and place for the Aman Passon. The district police and administration will also take up the demand to ensure security with the government and state institutions. The residents of Buner for the establishment of peace was held in College Masjid Swari.

All the political, social and religious personalities, union and association leaders, former and present elected members and local elders have participated in the Loya Jirga in large numbers. Buner Loya Jirga president Mian Said Laiq Bacha, former MNA Sher Akbar Khan, Pakhtunkhwa

minister Syed Fakhar Jihan, former MPA Qaiser Wali Khan. Usman Fanus Gujjar, Nasir Abbas Bacha, Naeem-ud-Din Bacha, Haji Rauf, Karim Babak, Nasib Khan, Bakhrad Khan, Irshad Khan, Iqbal Khan, Kamran Khan, Afsar Khan, Wahab Rashid, Shah Bakht Rawan Khan, and dozens of other leaders have given suggestions for Aman (peace).

In a media briefing, Loya Jirga President announced Aman Passon(peace rally) in a week, for which the time and place will be decided by the Aman (peace) Council. He added that the police will be asked to be vigilant to fulfill their responsibility and not allow any miscreants to enter into Buner area. He asked police to trace and arrest the militants involved in the attacks in Chaghrozai and Ambela police. He assured, where the people need it, the Buner Peace Council will give full support by calling the people.

Residents hold protest in Bannu

F.P. Report

BANNU: Bannu Qaumi jirga and trade organizations held protest at the Preti Gate in which large number of people from every walk of life participated. The protesters demanded immediate release of the nominated people and the release of arrested former policeman, on Monday.

The women protestors demanded the recovery of missing persons, the restoration of peace and the young people who joined with peace flags raised slogans of peace, most of the political leaders were absent from the peace protest. According to the details of the Bannu Qaumi Jirga and

trade organizations on the call of Bannu's central square, a protest demonstration carried out in which thousands of people, as well as women, also participated.

Leaders of political parties were present during the demonstration. Senior leaders including MNA Maulana Syed Nasim Ali Shah, Malik Nemat Ali Khan Advocate, Malik Rahat Khan Advocate, Malik Adnan Khan, Former Provincial Minister Malik Shah Muhammad Khan, Malik Khalid Khan, Malik Hizbullah Khan, Dr. Sahib Zaman, Haji Abdul Samad Khan, Safir Khan, Provincial General Secretary of the Pashtun Khowa Milli Awami Party,

Malik Haroon Khan, Advocate District President Shoaib Khan Saduzai, Provincial General Secretary of the National Democratic Movement, Nadeem Askar, District Leader Saud Ehsan Wazir, People's Party Selani Shah, Liberal Bureau KE Ishaq Khan Mandan, Engineer Malik Ehsan Khan of Jamiat Ulema Islam, Malik Nisar Khan Advocate of ANP, Pir Kamal Shah, Malik Hashem Khan Wazir, Iqar Wazir, Malik Ashu R Khan, Leaders of the Association of Traders, Dr. Abdul Rauf Qureshi, Allam Qibaz Khan, Nasir Khan, Malik Ziaul Haq Khan and other leaders addressed the participants.



Moldova's EU referendum hangs in balance

CHIISINAU (BBC): Moldova's referendum on whether to change its constitution and commit to joining the EU hangs in the balance, with the No and Yes votes neck and neck. With Yes on 49.9% and No on 50.1% - with 97% of the vote counted - it is a result few were expecting, as several recent surveys said the Yes vote would comfortably win.

The incumbent pro-EU president Maia Sandu earlier denounced the narrow result as the product of foreign interference in Moldovan politics. She said it was an "unprecedented assault on democracy", referring to widespread allegations that Russia paid people to vote a certain way, which Moscow denies. As well as the referendum on changing the constitution, Moldovans also voted in the country's presidential election.

The votes were seen as key tests for the country, which is facing a choice between pushing on with EU membership or keeping close ties to Russia. Sandu topped the election first round but by a much lower margin than expected - 41% of the vote - and so will now face a difficult second round in early November in which her opponents will likely unite against her. She accused "criminal groups" of working together with "foreign forces" of using money, lies, and propaganda to sway the vote. Sandu also said her government had "clear evidence" that 300,000 votes were bought, which she called "a fraud of unprecedented scale".

The Kremlin has staunchly denied being involved in claims of vote-buying. Moldova is currently in talks with the EU on becoming a member. These accession talks will continue despite outcome, as the referendum was not legally binding. The vote, however, was supposed to make the process irreversible. Instead, it feels a little shakier now.

Because she failed to clinch more than half of the vote, Sandu and the

second frontrunner, Aleksandr Stoianoglo, who is supported by the pro-Russian Party of Socialists, will go to a run-off on 3 November. Stoianoglo won 27%, a result that was considerably higher than expected. Populist Renato Usatii came third, followed by the former governor of Gagauzia Irina Vlah. If the other candidates throw their support behind Stoianoglo ahead of the second round, Sandu could run the real risk of not being re-elected. At Sandu's election headquarters, the mood was extremely subdued, with one of her advisers describing the result so far as "not what we expected". Sandu, who has cultivated close ties with Moldova's EU neighbours, had campaigned for the Yes vote in the referendum. She had previously said the vote was would set up the future of Moldova for "many decades ahead". When the first results began trickling in showing that the No vote had done better than expected, Sandu's team put the disappointing results down to the first count coming in from villages and rural areas. The big city count narrowed the lead for the No vote, but by 01:00 (22:00 GMT) few thought the Yes camp could still stand a chance.

Many of Sandu's supporters left her headquarters in Chisinau where they had been hoping to celebrate her victory before the count was even over. The little EU flags they'd been given to wave have been abandoned, on chairs or strewn on the ground. An adviser to Sandu suggested that "it looked like whatever they had planned, might have worked," referring to allegations of vote-buying, linked to Russia.

Voter turnout stood at more than 51% when polls closed at 21:00 local time (18:00 GMT), making the referendum valid. As the night went on, the gap narrowed even further. Several presidential candidates boycotted the referendum. Aleksandr Stoianoglo said he did not support the

idea of changing the constitution - although he added he was a supporter of his country's "European aspirations". However, many young people queuing at polling stations were vocal about their support for Moldova's future as an EU member state, with some saying they were voting because they wanted to choose a European future for their country - for the sake of the economy and for more opportunities. Some said they were fed up of being "pulled" towards Moscow, decades after the Soviet Union collapsed and Moldova became independent.

"We have to choose a European future for our country, for our children, our future - for geopolitics, for peace, that's the most important," a voter called Oksana told the BBC. "Because we are between Europe and Russian influence, and we have to choose what we want." At a polling station for residents of the breakaway Moldovan region of Transnistria - which is economically, politically and militarily supported by Russia - the BBC stumbled upon evidence of vote-buying. A BBC producer heard a woman who had just dropped her ballot in the transparent box ask an election monitor where she would get paid.

Outside, we asked directly whether she had been offered cash to vote and she admitted it without qualms. She was angry that a man who had sent her to the polling station was no longer answering her calls. "He tricked me!" she said. She would not reply when asked who she had voted for. In September, Ilan Shor - the fugitive Moldovan businessman accused of funneling large amounts of cash into the country from Russia - offered money to convince "as many people as possible" to vote No or to abstain in the EU referendum. This week, Shor then made a video statement telling people to vote for "anyone but Sandu" in the presidential election.



KYIV: Ukrainian servicemen of Khartia Brigade fire a D-30 Howitzer towards Russian positions in Kharkiv region, Ukraine.

One dead as flooding hits Italy

ROME (AFP): An "avalanche of water" in north-east Italy claimed one life and left swathes of the Emilia-Romagna region under water, local officials said. Heavy overnight rain and flooding swept through the flatland already battered by extreme weather as recently as last month.

Regional authorities said the deluge hit around the city of Bologna and outlying areas, much of it fertile agricultural land vulnerable to flooding. Firefighters said they had found the body of a missing person in Botteghino di Zocca, immediately south of Bologna. Regional officials identified him as a 20-year-old man whose car was swept away by the rush of water. In the city of Bologna and nearby areas, some 175 millimetres of rain (nearly 7 inches) fell in one day, compared to the historical average of 70 millimetres for the entire month of October, regional authorities said.

Bologna and four provinces in the northeastern plains area were placed under a "red alert", although rains had tapered off. "The extraordinary amount of rain has caused the flooding of numerous areas of Bologna, with the streets of the city flooded and the sewer and drainage networks unable to absorb the water," the region said in a statement. Schools in Bologna would be closed Monday, city hall said. Firefighters published videos taken by helicopter that showed wide swathes of flooded farmland outside Bologna. More than 500 firefighters worked to rescue people or animals from rising waters in over 515 operations since midnight, they said. More than 2,100 people had been evacuated and about 15,000 people lost power overnight. Some 4,000 people remained without power, the region said. The Reno, Enza and Secchia rivers and tributaries, as well as associated streams, burst their banks, and local officials warned of possible landslides in hilly and mountainous areas. Fifteen waterways "exceeded the alarm threshold", with eight rivers surpassing the level 3 maximum water level alert, the region said.

Thousands rally in Georgia for EU

TBILISI (AFP): Tens of thousands of Georgians staged a pro-Europe rally, days before parliamentary elections seen as a crucial test for the country's democracy and its bid for EU membership. Vote will pit an unprecedented alliance of pro-Western opposition forces against the ruling Georgian Dream party, accused by Brussels of shifting towards authoritarianism and derailing EU candidate Tbilisi from its European path.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators, waving EU and Georgian flags and holding banners that read "Georgia chooses the European Union" gathered at Tbilisi's central Freedom Square after marching towards the venue from five different locations, AFP journalists on the scene reported. The crowd sang the country's national anthem and the Georgian lyrics to Europe's "Ode to Joy". Pro-Western President Salome Zurbishvili -- at loggerheads with the government -- joined the rally, which she said "shows that Georgia has already won and will reintegrate with Europe".

She also addressed fellow EU-hopeful Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky: "You are fighting for Georgia as well. You will be victorious and we will enter the European

Union together." One of the demonstrators, 20-year-old university student Kote Tsintsandze said: "Georgia's fate is hanging by a thread. These elections will decide if we can finally break free from Georgian Dream's dictatorship."

"You can see here that the people are united in their determination to be where we belong -- Europe," he added. Another demonstrator, 49-year-old nurse Lia Nemsadze, said: "This huge rally shows that people are rejecting Georgian Dream's pro-Russian government and choosing Europe. Look at this sea of EU flags. Where else in Europe are these flags held with such hope?" Several Georgian NGOs, including Georgia's European Orbit and the "My Voice to the EU" coalition, called on Georgians to stage a mass rally from 7:00 pm (1500 GMT). "Choosing unity, development, and the European Union, Georgians will rally and show their resolve to pursue the path of EU membership," organisers said on Facebook.

Brussels froze Georgia's EU accession process earlier this year after Georgian Dream lawmakers passed a controversial "foreign influence law" targeting civil society. The adoption of the measure -- criticised as a Kremlin-style law to

silence dissent -- sparked weeks of mass street protests and also prompted Washington to impose sanctions on dozens of Georgian officials. Earlier this month, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell cautioned that Georgian Dream's actions "signal a shift towards authoritarianism". He called the upcoming polls "a crucial test for democracy in Georgia and its European Union path".

Opinion polls suggest opposition parties are likely to garner enough votes in election to form a coalition government and replace the ruling party, controlled by powerful billionaire Ivanishvili. Analysts have warned of the risk of turmoil if Georgian Dream attempts to hold onto power regardless of the vote's outcome. In power since 2012, the party initially pursued a liberal pro-Western policy agenda, but over the last two years has reversed course and been accused of moving closer to Moscow. Bids for membership of the EU and NATO are enshrined in Georgia's constitution and supported by some 80 percent of the population, according to multiple opinion polls commissioned by groups including the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute.

Two Navy aviators declared dead

WASHINGTON (AP): Two crew members who were missing following the crash of a fighter jet in mountainous terrain in Washington state during a routine training flight have been declared dead, the US Navy said.

The EA-18G Growler jet from the Electronic Attack Squadron crashed east of Mount Rainier, according to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. Search teams, including a US Navy MH-60S helicopter, launched from the air station to try to find the crew and crash site. Army Special Forces soldiers

trained in mountaineering, high-angle rescue and technical communications were brought in to reach the wreckage, which was located by an aerial crew resting at about 6,000 feet (1,828 meters) in a remote, steep and heavily wooded area east of Mount Rainier, officials said.

The aviators' names won't be released until a day after their next of kin have been notified, the Navy said in a statement, adding that search and rescue efforts have shifted into a long-term salvage and recovery operation as the cause of the crash is still

being investigated. "It is with a heavy heart that we share the loss of two beloved Zappers," said Cmdr. Timothy Warburton, commanding officer of the aviators' Electronic Attack Squadron. "Our priority right now is taking care of the families of our fallen aviators. ... We are grateful for the ongoing teamwork to safely recover the deceased." Locating the missing crew members "as quickly and as safely as possible" had been top priority, Capt. David Ganci, commander, Electronic Attack Wing, US Pacific Fleet, said.

Lula cancels trip to Russia

SAO PAULO (AP): Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva canceled his trip to Russia for a BRICS summit after an accident at home that left him with a cut on the back of his head, slightly above the neck, his office said. The 78-year-old leader was scheduled to attend a summit of the BRICS bloc of developing economies in the city of Kazan this week.

Hospital Sirio Libanês in Sao Paulo said in a statement that the leftist leader was instructed not to take long distance trips, but can keep his other activities. Doctors Roberto Kalil and Ana Heleno Gernoglio said they will regularly check on Lula's recovery. Brazil's presidency said in a separate statement that Lula will take part in the summit by videoconference and will continue his work in capital Brasilia this week. It did not disclose details about what caused the president's injury. Local media reported that Lula hit his head after falling in his bathroom and was examined in the hospital before he went to bed. News website G1 said Brazil's president now has five stitches because of the accident.

Lula had been expected to travel to Russia. Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira confirmed he will attend the conference instead. The Brazilian leader was scheduled to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin and China's President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the summit.

US writer Anne appeals for arms for Ukraine

WARSAW (AP): The prominent American journalist and historian Anne Applebaum urged continued support for Ukraine as she accepted a prestigious German prize, arguing that pacifism in the face of aggression is often nothing more than appeasement.

Applebaum made her appeal to an audience in Frankfurt, where she was awarded the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade. She was joined by her husband, Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski, who like his wife is a strong voice on the international stage for supporting Ukraine as it defends itself against Russia's brutal invasion. "If there is even a small chance that military defeat could help end this horrific cult of violence in Russia, just as military defeat once brought an end to the cult of violence in Germany, we should take it," Applebaum said.

Many Germans have embraced an ethos of pacifism as a result of their nation's aggression under Adolf Hitler during World War II. And many have misgivings now about supplying weapons to Kyiv, fearing Russia and worried that it could cause the war to spread beyond Ukraine's borders to the rest of Europe. "Some even call for peace by referring solemnly to the lessons of German history," Applebaum noted, according to a transcript of her speech published by the prize organization. "As I am

here today accepting a peace prize, this seems the right moment to point out that 'I want peace' is not always a moral argument," Applebaum said. "This is also the right moment to say that the lesson of German history is not that Germans should be pacifists." "On the contrary, we have known for nearly a century that a demand for pacifism in the face of an aggressive, advancing dictatorship can simply represent the appeasement and acceptance of that dictatorship."

She argued that the "real lesson" from German history should be that Germans "have a special responsibility to stand up for freedom and to take risks in doing so." The prize, which is endowed with 25,000 euros (\$27,185), was awarded in St. Paul's Church in Frankfurt - which is considered the birthplace of German parliamentary democracy - at the end of the Frankfurt Book Fair. The prize has been awarded since 1950. It honours individuals who have contributed to turning the idea of peace into reality through literature, science or art. Last year's prize was awarded to British-Indian writer Salman Rushdie for his perseverance despite enduring decades of threats and violence. The German news agency dpa reported that Applebaum's strong support for continuing to arm Ukraine triggered some criticism, citing Karin Schmidt-Friderichs, the

head of the German Publishers and Booksellers Association, which awards the prize.

Nonetheless she received strong applause for her speech, dpa reported from Frankfurt. Following pacifism to its logical conclusion, Applebaum argued, would "mean that we should acquiesce to the military conquest of Ukraine, to the cultural destruction of Ukraine, to the construction of concentration camps in Ukraine, to the kidnapping of children in Ukraine." Applebaum writes for The Atlantic magazine. She has written books that focus on totalitarianism in Eastern Europe, including "The Gulag," and "The Iron Curtain" and "Red Famine," about dictator Joseph Stalin's war on Ukraine. She recently published "Autocracy, Inc. The Dictators Who Want to Run the World." In 2004, she was awarded the prestigious Pulitzer Prize.

The prize jury said Applebaum's analyses of communist and post-communist systems in the Soviet Union and Russia reveal "the mechanisms by which authoritarians grab hold of power and maintain their control." The laudation for Applebaum was delivered by the Russian historian Irina Scherbakova, a founding member of the human rights organization Memorial, which is now banned in Russia and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2022.

Putin hosts a summit

MOSCOW (AP): In the coming days, Russian President Vladimir Putin will be shaking hands with multiple world leaders, including China's Xi Jinping, India's Narendra Modi, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Iran's Masoud Pezeshkian. They will all be in the Russian city of Kazan for a meeting of the BRICS bloc of developing economies, defying predictions that the war in Ukraine and an international arrest warrant against Putin would turn him into a pariah.

The alliance, which aims to counterbalance the Western-led world order, initially included Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, but started to rapidly expand this year. Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia joined in January; Turkey, Azerbaijan and Malaysia formally applied, and a number of others expressed a desire to be members. Russian officials already see it as a massive success. Putin's foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov said 32 countries confirmed participation, and more than 20 will send heads of state. Putin will hold around 20 bilateral meetings, Ushakov said, and the summit could turn into "the largest foreign policy event ever held" on Russian soil. Optics and deals for the Kremlin

Analysts say the Kremlin wants both the optics of standing shoulder-to-shoulder with its global allies amid continued tensions with the West, as

well as the practicality of negotiating deals with them to shore up Russia's economy and its war effort. For the other participants, it's a chance to amplify their voices and narratives. "The beauty of BRICS is that it doesn't put too many obligations on you," says Alexander Gabuyev, director of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center. "There are not that many strings attached, really, to being part of BRICS. And at the same time, there might be interesting opportunities coming your way, including just having more face time with all of these leaders." For Putin, the summit is important personally because it shows the failure of Western efforts to isolate him, Gabuyev says.

The gathering will demonstrate at home and abroad that "Russia is really an important player that is leading this new group that will end the Western dominance -- that's his personal narrative," he says. The Kremlin will be able to talk to major players like India and China about expanding trade and bypassing Western sanctions. India is an important market for Russian commodities, while China is where Moscow hopes to get its hands on dual-use and various military-related goods, Gabuyev says. Russia also wants more countries participating in a payment sys-

tem project that would be an alternative to the global bank messaging network SWIFT, allowing Moscow to trade with its partners without worrying about sanctions.

"The Russian idea is that if you create a platform where there is China, Russia, India and Brazil and Saudi Arabia, many countries that are vital partners for the US, the US will not be ready to go after this platform and sanction it," Gabuyev said. Goals for Iran and China Russia also is expected to sign a "comprehensive strategic partnership" treaty with Iran, bolstering the increasingly close ties between Moscow and Tehran.

After the invasion of Ukraine, Iran provided Moscow with hundreds of drones and helped launch their production in Russia. The Iranian drone deliveries, which Moscow and Tehran have denied, have allowed for a constant barrage of long-range drone strikes at Ukraine's infrastructure.

Iran, in turn, wants sophisticated Russian weapons, like long-range air defense systems and fighter jets to help fend off a possible attack by Israel. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refused to comment when asked whether the treaty will include mutual military assistance. For China, BRICS is among several inter-

national organizations -- along with the security-focused Shanghai Cooperation Organization -- through which it seeks to promote an alternative to the US-led world order.

Xi pushed for enlarging BRICS, and the Kazan summit will consolidate economic, technological and military ties in the expanded bloc, said Willy Lam, a senior China fellow at the Jamestown Foundation. Beijing and Moscow also want to see if a new international trading currency could "challenge so-called dollar hegemony," Lam said. The summit will allow Xi and Putin to flaunt their close relationship. The two, who announced a "no-limits" partnership only weeks before Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, already have met at least twice this year, in Beijing in May and at a SCO summit in Kazakhstan in July.

Although they will continue to present a united front, experts are watching for subtle signs of Xi distancing himself from Putin over the war. "While Putin will want the China-Russia relationship to appear as good as ever, Xi may also want to signal to Western states and others that Beijing officially remains 'neutral' in Russia's war in Ukraine and is not a formal ally of Moscow," said Eva Seiwert, a foreign policy and security expert with the Mercator

Institute for China Studies in Berlin. "This will be crucial for conveying the image of China as a serious and legitimate peacemaker in the Russia-Ukraine conflict."

Balancing acts for India and Turkey An expected Modi-Putin meeting could see some rebalancing of their ties. Western friends want India to be more active in persuading Moscow to end the war. Modi has avoided condemning Russia while emphasizing a peaceful settlement. New Delhi considers Moscow a time-tested partner from the Cold War, cooperating on defense, oil, nuclear energy, and space, despite Russia's closer ties with India's main rival, China. Their meeting will be the second in months. Modi visited Russia in July, saw President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Ukraine in August and traveled to the US to see President Joe Biden in September.

"India can't simply abandon Russia because of its deep defense ties, the question of the regional balance of power, and the logic of multi-alignment," said Raja Mohan, a professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies in Singapore. "At the same time, it also builds and develops its relations with the US and the West because that is where the logic of India's major economic development and technological

growth depends on partnership." India and Brazil view BRICS primarily through an economic lens to promote a more equitable distribution of power in the international system, while "China and Russia see it more as a geopolitical forum," said Chietigi Bajpayee, who studies South Asia at the Chatham House in London. India and Brazil also don't want to be "pulled into China's gravitational orbit," said Theresa Fallon of the Center for Russia, Europe, Asia Studies.

Another key participant is Turkey, which has applied to join the BRICS group. That comes at a time when the NATO member and European Union candidate is increasingly frustrated with the West. Turkey's EU membership talks have stalled since 2016 due to disputes with Cyprus and concerns over human rights. Turkey's relations with Washington have been strained over its removal from the F-35 fighter jet program after procuring a Russian missile defense system. Erdogan also has accused the US and other Western allies of alleged "complicity" in Israel's military actions in Gaza. Membership in BRICS would help Erdogan "strengthen his own hand" at a time when ties with the West are at a low, said Gonul Tol, director of the US-based Middle East Institute's Turkey program. Middle powers like Turkey "try to extract more from both camps by being in-between camps, by having one foot in each camp," he said.

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Sinwar's killing is the moment for Israel to agree to a ceasefire

No parent should ever have to see their child's ashen face in a body bag, or under the rubble of destroyed residential buildings. Neither should any child have to endure the injustice, hunger and misery of being orphaned, witnessing killing after killing and being robbed of a future, as thousands of children have for far too long in Gaza.

But the images and videos of yet another horrific Israeli attack on northern Gaza on Saturday, this time claiming at least 87 Palestinian lives in the residential area of Beit Lahia and wounding dozens more, has again provided a glimpse of the scale of human tragedy still unfolding a year after the heinous Hamas-led attacks on Israel and the subsequent start of the Gaza war. The attack on Beit Lahia, though, appears to have dispelled any notion of the war imminently coming to a halt.

After the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar last week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said this was "the beginning of the end of the war". For the families in Gaza, however, it might appear that there is no such end in sight.

Israel's attacks on Saturday and Sunday on southern Beirut, where 36 people have been killed in 48 hours, have defied international calls for a ceasefire. Israeli aggression could even press on further, as it looks to capitalise on the momentum of the high-profile killings of its adversaries to retaliate against Iran's ballistic missile strikes on its territory this month or the Houthi attacks.

But instead of fanning a multi-front regional war, and following its assassinations of Sinwar and Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah last month, this should be an "inflection point" for Israel, as the US administration put it. Israel also ought to seriously examine whether its tactic of eliminating the heads of Hezbollah and Hamas can really put an end to these organisations' ideologies.

Even without a new leader as yet, Hamas could deliver respite to the suffering people of Gaza by working towards a resolution to end the war – to start with, by accounting for and returning the hostages to their families. Israel needs to pay serious heed to Washington's recent admonishments, and its 30-day ultimatum for Israel to address the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza.

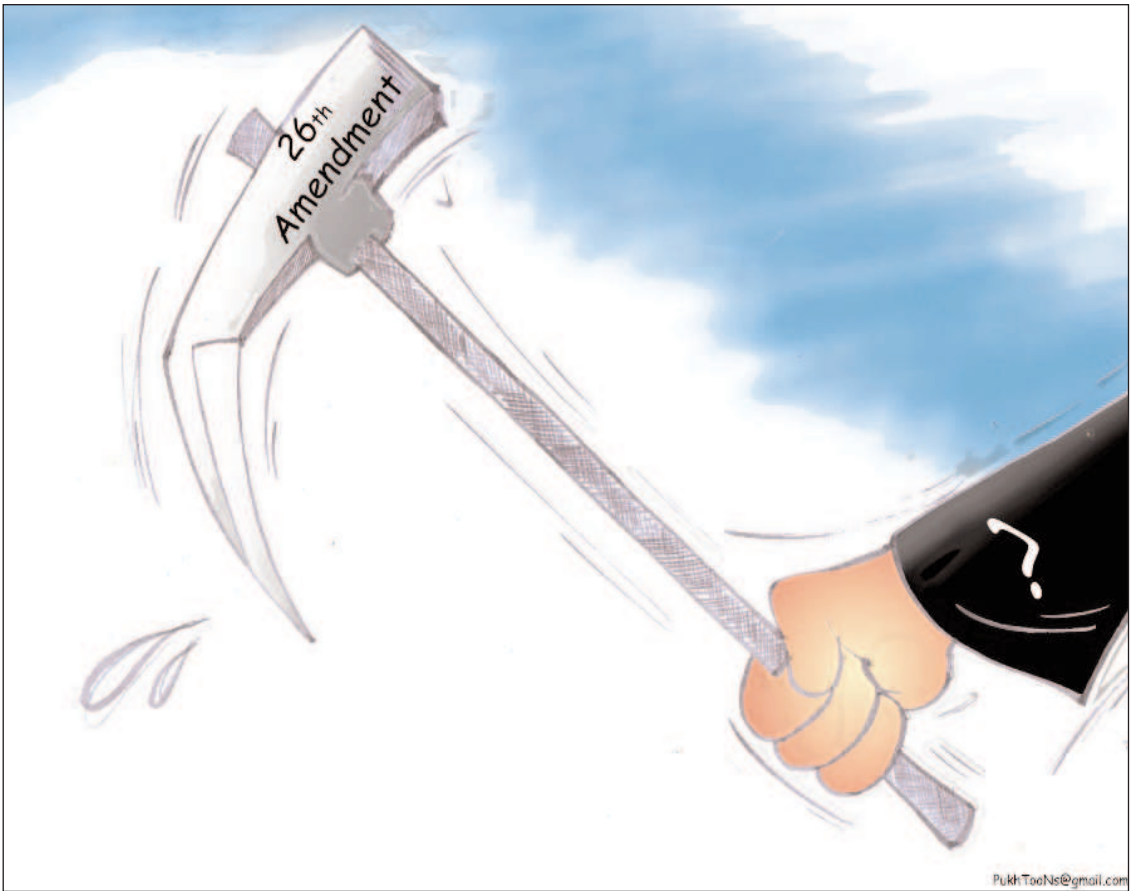
The starvation of Gazans is a development that demands urgent attention. Palestinians cannot afford to wait 30 days, even as Israel persecutes UNRWA, the UN agency that supports relief and human development of Palestinian refugees and ensures food supplies and aid reach Gaza. It is with due consideration of its indispensable work that more than 120 UN member states, including the UAE, on Thursday called for its protection of the agency.

Israel, too, is facing a ticking clock, low as it is on air defences and with its economy having suffered over the past year. Friends and partners have either suspended, or threatened to suspend, arms export licences to it. Its soldiers are fatigued, with many of its reservists having been on duty for more than 200 days. Mr Netanyahu should also factor in the voices of many of his compatriots, who want most of all the return of the Hamas-held hostages.

As much as Hamas must negotiate the safe return of these hostages and bring much-needed respite to exhausted, displaced and bereaved Palestinians, Israel must end its assaults on Gaza and Lebanon. The price of continuing to violate UN resolutions and international law would be too high, and one that will be paid, most unfairly, by grieving civilians on all sides.

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The role of parliamentary research in addressing political polarization

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

THE world truly is a global village, and I witnessed this firsthand in Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea, where I had the opportunity to spend two days with delegates from over 24 parliaments worldwide at the 13th International Research Seminar organized by the National Assembly Research Services (NARS) of Korea on 14-16 October 2024. In this regard, I am deeply grateful to the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, for approving my participation in this prestigious seminar. It was a privilege to represent Pakistan and delivered a presentation that, by the grace of Allah, was well-received by the audience.

Accompanying me was Mr. Ghulam Mustafa from the National Assembly Library. Together, we had the honor of learning from a diverse range of officers from parliaments around the world. This exposure allowed me to gain insights into new research methodologies and legislative practices being implemented globally. I am particularly thankful to NARS Korea for extending the invitation, as this gathering provided a unique platform for me to engage with a galaxy of researchers, fostering a deeper understanding of parliamentary research.

My presentation was centered on the theme of "Political Polarization and the Role of Parliamentary Research Services." I began by introducing the concept of political polarization, which refers to the widening divide in political ideologies and attitudes, where individuals or groups align themselves with opposing extremes. This growing division undermines meaningful dialogue and cooperation, eroding the ability of governments to address public needs. Political actors become more focused on defending their

viewpoints or attacking opponents, and compromise becomes elusive. In extreme cases, polarization can destabilize democratic institutions, leading to political unrest and deadlock.

In Pakistan, political polarization is a defining characteristic of the current political environment, with intense differences among major political parties. This fierce competition is not just about leadership styles or policy approaches, but reflects deep ideological divides. The inability of political parties to collaborate on governance and economic policies further exacerbates tensions. Public opinion is similarly divided, with strong loyalties to specific parties creating societal rifts. This entrenched polarization hampers the nation's ability to reach compromises and solutions, fostering a political landscape of mistrust and gridlock.

Media influence plays a significant role in perpetuating this divide. The rise of partisan media outlets, which often cater to specific political factions, further polarizes public opinion. These media outlets selectively present news and opinions that reinforce pre-existing beliefs, dismissing or discrediting opposing perspectives. These bias influences how political issues are perceived, as citizens are less exposed to diverse viewpoints. Consequently, the media's role as an objective source of information diminishes, and it instead fosters division.

Social media, too, has dramatically altered the flow of information. While platforms like Facebook and Twitter have democratized access to information, they also serve as breeding grounds for misinformation. False or misleading content spreads rapidly, shaping public opinion based on incomplete or incorrect data. Social media algorithms, designed to maximize engagement,

often promote exaggerated or controversial content, reinforcing polarized narratives and deepening societal divisions.

Prima Facie, Judicial intervention in political matters has long been a contentious issue, particularly when courts are seen as overstepping their constitutional mandate. In Pakistan, the judiciary has been called upon to adjudicate disputes between political factions, sometimes leading to perceptions of partiality or overreach. This perception undermines public trust in the judiciary and democratic institutions, contributing to the overall polarization.

Historical factors also play a role in the current political polarization. In countries like Pakistan, undemocratic interventions have disrupted the democratic process, with the influential forces often stepping in during moments of political instability. These interventions have shifted power away from civilian governments, fostering a culture of political instability. Dynastic leadership and party politics further complicate the situation, as political parties are often centered around powerful families. This dynastic culture limits opportunities for fresh leadership, reinforcing a system of patronage and nepotism.

Ethno-linguistic, religious, and provincial disparities also contribute to societal fragmentation. These disparities create competition among different identities, each seeking greater political influence, resources, or autonomy. When governments fail to address these grievances, social cohesion weakens, further polarizing the political landscape.

Legislative gridlock is a common consequence of political polarization. In deeply divided political environments, parties focus on advancing their own agendas rather than seeking compromise.

This paralysis in the lawmaking process hampers governance, delaying key reforms in areas like healthcare, economic policy, and national security. The inability to pass crucial legislation erodes public trust in political institutions, as citizens grow frustrated with the lack of action on pressing issues.

The erosion of deliberative processes in parliamentary debates further exacerbates polarization. Instead of fostering meaningful dialogue on national issues, parliamentary sessions often devolve into partisan attacks. This shift from constructive debate to political grandstanding undermines the purpose of parliamentary institutions and weakens the overall governance framework.

The Parliamentary Research Service (PRS) plays a vital role in mitigating political polarization by providing non-partisan, evidence-based research to lawmakers. This research equips parliamentarians with factual insights, enabling them to make informed decisions. PRS also fosters dialogue by organizing seminars and workshops that bring together members from various political parties, promoting collaboration and mutual understanding. By offering unbiased information, PRS enhances transparency and accountability, ensuring that decisions are based on facts rather than political motivations.

In conclusion, political polarization poses a significant challenge to governance, not just in Pakistan but around the world. However, institutions like the PRS can play a crucial role in bridging the divide, promoting informed decision-making, and fostering collaboration across party lines. Strengthening the role of parliamentary research services is essential for addressing the root causes of polarization and ensuring the stability of democratic institutions.

Climate policies must not write off livestock

Ali Mohamed

LIVESTOCK are a vital component of both the African food system and rural livelihoods. Africa has around 400 million cattle alone, and the livestock sector accounts for a significant 30 to 40 percent of the total agricultural gross domestic product across the continent.

Small amounts of meat, milk and eggs can have life-changing benefits in tackling malnutrition, and livestock animals also provide a reliable income source when alternatives simply do not readily exist.

Yet, from an environmental perspective, livestock are often perceived only as a problem, contributing to habitat loss, greenhouse gas emissions, and land degradation.

This narrow view misses a much more nuanced reality. It is also the reason much-needed finance is not being invested in the sector. As the 16th meeting of the conference of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity begins in Cali, Colombia and as the United Nations prepares for this year's Climate Change Conference (COP29) and 16th meeting of the parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification, it is important to address misconceptions about livestock.

In the context of development progress, animals like cows, goats, camels, and pigs should be seen as "solutions with legs" in combating these intensifying climate and environmental crises at scale. For countries like Kenya, where livestock is deeply embedded in livelihoods and culture, it is critical for UN meetings to see these farm animals from our perspective and help channel climate and biodiversity finance into its potential as a force for good.

Firstly, contrary to popular belief, livestock can be powerful agents of biodiversity conservation when managed correctly. Well-managed grazing systems help maintain ecosystems, control invasive species, and foster the regeneration of diverse native plant life in degraded areas. Pastoralist communities in Kenya, from the Maasai to the Samburu, have long understood this, using livestock grazing as a tool to balance ecosystems and promote biodiversity while providing essential sources of income and producing almost 20 percent of Kenya's milk.

And in many conservancies, livestock are intentionally integrated into wildlife conservation strategies.

Cattle are grazed rotationally, mimicking natural patterns seen in wild herbivores like zebras and gazelles. This approach helps prevent overgrazing, maintains healthy grasslands, and supports both livestock and wildlife populations.

Secondly, in terms of climate action, the role of livestock is often framed solely around their methane emissions, particularly in the case of ruminant animals like cattle. However, the potential for livestock to contribute to climate solutions is much broader, particularly in regions like Africa.

In terms of mitigation, improved rangeland management and the adoption of climate-smart feeding

practices can significantly reduce livestock-related emissions. For instance, integrating climate-resilient forages into grazing systems improves both productivity and environmental outcomes.

Moreover, sustainable grazing practices can play a crucial role in lowering the emissions intensity of meat and dairy production through carbon sequestration. Rangelands, often considered wastelands, are actually some of the planet's largest carbon sinks. When managed properly, they store significant amounts of carbon in their soils, and proper management can contribute as much as 20.92 gigatons of climate mitigation by 2050.

On the adaptation front, livestock are a critical lifeline for communities facing increasing climate variability, including in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands. By moving their livestock across landscapes in response to rainfall variability, pastoralists effectively manage scarce resources while avoiding overgrazing.

This adaptive mobility, coupled with the use of indigenous livestock breeds adapted to harsh climates, provides a critical buffer against droughts and other climate stresses – even more so when index-based livestock insurance is available. East African Zebu cattle, for example, are better equipped to survive on limited, poor-quality forage in dry conditions, making them crucial to climate resilience in Kenya.

Lastly, as the global land degradation crisis worsens, it is becoming increasingly clear that sustainable livestock management can be a tool for land restoration and rehabilitation. Somewhere between 25 and 35 percent of rangelands globally suffer from some form of degradation. If left unattended, they

Sustainable grazing practices, including rotational grazing and controlled stocking densities, allow grasslands to recover and restore soil fertility. By moving livestock strategically across the land, these practices prevent overgrazing and promote the growth of deep-rooted plants, which stabilise the soil and improve water retention. Furthermore, healthy rangelands support a wide variety of plant species, protect watersheds, and improve overall ecosystem resilience. Which begs the question, if livestock are so critical to all these environmental issues, why does the sector receive so little funding? International climate finance should prioritise support for sustainable livestock systems, recognising their unique role in tackling broad environmental challenges while providing food, livelihoods, and economic growth. Livestock are not the enemy in this fight. Rather, they are an integral part of the solution, especially in regions like Africa where pastoralist and livestock-keeping communities depend on them for survival.

become unproductive, reducing food security and driving people to abandon rural areas. Livestock systems can actually help reverse this trend by promoting soil health and regenerating landscapes.

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End unfair bias against pandemic graduates

Yao Yuxin

THE COVID-19 pandemic is over, but graduates who attended college during the period are facing its ripple effect in the form of discrimination in the job market.

Several graduates complained on social networking sites of unfair treatment during job interviews, with some employers declaring at the very outset that they will not hire those who graduated in 2022, 2023, and 2024, meaning those who were students at the time of the pandemic.

These companies argue that graduates from the pandemic years are generally less qualified. Because most places, including education institutions, were shut down during the pandemic, there were no regular classes and students were taking classes online. As a result it increased the time they spent on smartphones, reducing their focus on studies. The employers further say that the impact of the pandemic years can be seen in the discipline of some of the people

they have hired from those years — they often show up late for work or leave early.

The extended period of remote learning also dis-

rupted their social skills, making them reluctant to socialize at the workplace. Virtual courses also weakened their hands-on and practical knowledge or abilities. Companies, be they small businesses with a dozen employees or large corporations with thousands of employees, have labeled these students as the "pandemic generation", and chosen to outright reject them. As many will confirm, the issues these companies are raising are not entirely baseless. Limited learning from online classes, combined with a lack of internship and hands-on experience is indeed responsible for skill gaps in some students.

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from online classes, combined with a lack of internship and hands-on experience is indeed responsible for skill gaps in some students. However, labeling them as the "pandemic generation" and using that as a hiring filter is unfair and unjust. Many students rose to challenges posed by the pandemic to repeatedly review online courses, overcome numerous chal-

lenges, show resilience and develop stronger adaptability. A blanket hiring ban will lead to companies losing the chance to hire a pool of really talented candidates.

Furthermore, companies lack legal grounds to slap the tag of "pandemic generation" on anyone. Refusing to hire graduates from those years on this basis may violate employment promotion laws and also constitutes discrimination against a specific group.

According to the Employment Promotion Law of the People's Republic of China, workers have the legal right to equal employment and the freedom to choose jobs without facing discrimination on ethnic, racial, gender, or religious grounds. Employers are required to provide equal job opportunities and fair conditions to everyone and are prohibited from engaging in employment discrimination.

The pandemic is over, and this kind of discrimination should no longer burden these graduates.

Trump’s wild and lewd rhetoric

EVEN by his haywire standards, Donald Trump’s latest rhetoric and behavior is erratic, autocratic and vulgar and hints at four years of unpredictable leadership that may lie ahead if he’s elected president in 15 days.

Vice President Kamala Harris and top Democrats are seizing on the Republican nominee’s bizarre antics to inject new urgency and a sharper focus into her campaign, arguing he “demeans” the presidency and is “deranged.” As Trump cancels one-on-one interviews and piles up odd public appearances, Democrats are suggesting that he is “unstable” and showing cognitive decline, using the same critique he once used against President Joe Biden. The Harris campaign, for example, immediately highlighted the 78-year-old Trump saying on Sunday that he’s “not that close to 80” when calling for cognitive tests.

The former president this weekend described Harris as a “sh*t” vice president, opened a rally with a rambling and explicit story about late golfing legend Arnold Palmer’s anatomy, and justified his previous threat to use the military on enemies “from within” even as House Speaker Mike Johnson insisted in an interview on CNN’s “State of the Union” that Trump meant nothing of the sort.

Trump seemed to validate Harris’ message that he is an “unserious man” who poses “extremely serious” consequences if he is returned to the White House as both campaigns chase the last undecided voters in an agonizingly close race that could be decided by tens of thousands of votes in a few swing states.

Yet Trump’s years of trashing expectations of presidential behavior have seemed to offer him a kind of immunity from the ramifications of what would be career-ending actions for most other politicians. The twice-impeached, once-convicted ex-president’s outlandish displays only underscore his anti-establishment authenticity for millions of Americans who adore him.

His alarming behavior may look to some like a candidacy melting down when

the pressure is at its most extreme. But the election may be decided by other factors.

With polls deadlocked, Trump’s behavior hasn’t yet disqualified him. And he consistently leads surveys when voters are asked who they most trust to manage high prices for housing and groceries and to handle immigration. The White House failed to neutralize both those issues politically, paving the way for their potency in the 2024 campaign. Officials repeatedly insisted that rising inflation early in the Biden term was “transitory” and that the economy was healthy even when millions of Americans were hurting. Similarly, administration spokespeople were long reluctant to consider rising numbers of border crossings as a “crisis” even though the asylum system was overwhelmed. Migrant crossings and inflation have both fallen considerably from their peaks, but the political damage may have been done. And Trump’s voters still regard him as a vessel for their frustration with a political and economic system they believe has poorly served them.

It will be up to voters to decide how to process Trump’s recent conduct.

The Harris campaign, which began as an attempt to spread joy, is now fully exploiting Trump’s rhetorical rampages.

The vice president told the Rev. Al Sharpton on MSNBC on Sunday that “the president of the United States must set a standard” for this country and the world. “What you see in my opponent, a former president of the United States ... demeans the office,” she said. Harris’ running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, on Saturday claimed in Nebraska that Trump lacked “stamina” to be president and was “far more unfit than he was in 2016. He’s more deranged.” In Nevada the same day, former President Barack Obama slammed Republicans who make excuses for Trump when he “repeatedly lies or cheats or shows utter disregard for our Constitution, or just insults people, when he calls service members who died in battle ‘losers’ or fellow citizens ‘vermin’ or the enemy within.” The most troubling of

Stephen Collinson

recent Trump comments are his suggestions that he could use the US military or National Guard against the “enemy from within,” a classic trope of authoritarian leaders. When asked who he meant, Trump has several times cited California Democratic Reps. Nancy Pelosi, the former speaker, and Adam Schiff, who was a key figure in Trump’s first impeachment.

But Johnson insisted on “State of the Union” that Trump was referring specifically to “marauding gangs of dangerous, violent people who are destroying public property and threatening other American citizens,” even when CNN’s Jake Tapper played tape specifically referring to Schiff and Pelosi. And in an interview that aired on Fox’s “MediaBuzz” later Sunday, the ex-president yet again made clear exactly what he meant when he said that “of course” Schiff is an enemy.

It is hard to contemplate circumstances in which a US president would turn US forces on domestic opponents and harder to imagine that American service personnel and their superiors would participate. But the fact that a candidate for president, who appears to have a 50-50 chance of winning, is talking in such terms represents another taboo shattered by Trump. And it shows fears about his second term are not exaggerated.

Trump’s remarks do not come in isolation. He has vowed to dedicate a second term to “retribution” and to use the Justice Department to investigate his foes. And a Supreme Court ruling that presidents have significant immunity for official acts has bolstered Trump’s false view that presidents have almost absolute power.

In another sign of his strongman instincts, Trump said Harris should be investigated over a CBS “60 Minutes” interview because he differed with the network’s editorial presentation. “We’re going to subpoena their records because we want to see how much else did she do,” he said on “MediaBuzz.” The ex-president — who backed out of his own “60 Minutes” appear-

ance — has earlier suggested CBS should lose its broadcast license over the interview, fueling fears about his possible policies as president.

In the Fox News interview, the ex-president also repeated his false claims about Haitian immigrants in Ohio eating cats and dogs and said January 6, 2021 — when his supporters tried to subvert the certification of Biden’s election victory — was a day of “beauty and love.”

Some of the ex-president’s comments and behavior have also offered an opening for his opponents to question his capacity to serve and to sharpen the contrast with Harris, who turned 60 on Sunday.

After an interview at the Economic Club of Chicago last week, for example, the former president’s grasp of facts and economic logic was in question as he struggled to focus. Trump justified his rambling as a “weave” in which simultaneously speaking about multiple ideas at once showed what he said were rare cognitive abilities. But the spectacle casts doubt on Trump’s capacity to handle complex issues in the Oval Office and during a national security crisis.

Also last week, after several members of his crowd at a town hall meeting needed medical treatment, the ex-president suspended the event and swayed along to his soundtrack for more than half an hour. And on Saturday, he started a rally in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, by speaking at length about Palmer, who was brought up in the town and died in 2016. He ended his peroration with a lewd description about the late golfer’s genitalia. Palmer is remembered by his fans as the epitome of class and sportsmanship, and Trump’s decision to invoke the legacy of the seven-time majors champion in such a manner was in poor taste.

The episode showed that almost nothing is immune from being deployed for his personal or political ends.

In an election in which Trump is trying to lessen his deficit among female voters and moderates in swing states, his decision to resort to explicit locker-room talk seemed especially questionable. It also represented political malpractice since he

drowned out his closing argument that Harris represents a continuation of a failed Biden presidency haunted by high prices, mass undocumented migration and a descent toward World War III as chaos reigns abroad.

But the idea that Trump’s lewdness will turn away many voters is belied by the experience of 2016 and the release of an “Access Hollywood” tape on which he boasted that as a celebrity he could grab women by their genitalia and get away with it. And if attempting to steal an election does not disqualify Trump from being a viable Republican nominee, it’s unlikely an off-color remark about a golfer will damage him. The ex-president has so polarized the country that he’s created a unique political environment. Liberals and media elites might, for example, view his appearance making fries at a McDonald’s in Pennsylvania on Sunday as a stunt. Walz slammed it as an insult by a tycoon who spent decades “stiffing workers’ pay.” But to Trump supporters, the photo-op could convey authenticity and kinship.

That hold on the GOP base explains why Republicans repeatedly accommodate his crude and anti-democratic conduct. It’s why Johnson’s defended the party nominee on “State of the Union,” which sent particular alarm bells since the speaker may be called upon to play a role in defending constitutional governance in the event of a disputed election.

In a country where majorities believe things are heading in the wrong direction, and where Harris this month said she couldn’t point to one thing she’d have done differently from Biden, Trump’s recent unhygienic behavior may not be decisive.

“We’re winning, and going to win, not because of what Donald Trump is saying, but because of what they’ve done for four years,” Sen. Lindsey Graham said on NBC’s “Meet the Press” on Sunday in reference to the Biden-Harris administration. “The American people are not going to tolerate four more years of affordability crisis, a world on fire, a broken border, energy dependence.”

As Lebanon burns, self-serving leaders must rise to the challenge

LEBANESE Prime Minister Najib Mikati has long been considered a friend of Hezbollah and Syria, so people were pleasantly surprised last week when he issued a rare rebuke of Iran for “blatant interference in Lebanese affairs.” Iran’s parliamentary Speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf had declared that Tehran would be ready to “negotiate” with the West to implement UN Resolution 1701 in southern Lebanon, as though the country were a mere playing card to be negotiated over.

With Israel pointing its missiles toward Tehran, it is striking to witness the ayatollahs being so brazen about their ability to manipulate regional developments — even under the supposedly moderate presidency of Masoud Pezeshkian.

Meanwhile, it is depressing to witness the timidity of the Lebanese government.

As the conflict grinds on, there is only one conceivable outcome: Lebanon’s utter destruction. Hassan Nasrallah knew this, and Iran clearly knows it too. Lebanon is stuck in the middle of an ideological battle within Iran itself, between hard-line generals aspiring to dominate Arab states in perpetuity and government ministers who want to exploit Lebanon as a cheap bargaining chip for securing sanctions reduction, nuclear concessions, or guarantees that Israel won’t attack Tehran. This is not Lebanon’s fight, and there is no victory to be had. Hezbollah’s continuing rhetoric about the resistance standing firm and imposing losses upon the enemy is nonsense talk for consumption by its shrinking pool of grassroots supporters. With US envoy Amos Hochstein talking about “additions” and “amendments” to Resolution 1701, there will probably be intensive renewed pressure for disarmament of Hezbollah and perhaps a permanent Israeli presence in south Lebanon, or a more muscular mandate for the UN peacekeeping force — with Lebanon by any standards coming out of this the broken and defeated party, the US and Israel may be free to impose whatever conditions they desire at the cost of Lebanese sovereignty.

ment in failing to act to curtail blatant Iranian interference. As a result of naked personal ambitions, Christian leaders are failing to unite to steer events in a positive direction, while Sunnis remain utterly leaderless. National salvation takes second place to ambitions of capturing the presidency.

These Christian rivalries were on display for all to see in recent days when Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea hosted a meeting to discuss developments, attended by representatives of various communities, but from which Christian leaders such as Suleiman Frangieh, Samy Gemayel and Gebran Bassil distanced themselves. How can we have any sort of political roadmap when the key protagonists aren’t even talking to each other?

The notable presence of Iranian commanders at the scene of most of Israel’s assassinations of Hezbollah leaders caused people to conclude that, with the loss of the entire top echelons of Hezbollah, it is the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps that is increasingly directing this fight in Hezbollah’s name.

Although Israeli losses in south Lebanon already appear to have been relatively heavy, we are talking about an enemy perfectly willing to destroy 100 villages for every 10 soldiers killed, and Lebanese fatalities have already soared to over 2,400, with tens of thou-

Baria Alamuddin

sands injured. A radically diminished Hezbollah appears to be pulling its punches because it knows its weapons stockpiles may not be replenished. When the two sides are so woefully mismatched, Hezbollah’s pinprick attacks simply reap infinitely greater pain upon Lebanon itself. The Assad and Putin regimes recently demanded that Hezbollah and paramilitary affiliates move away from airports and other sensitive sites in Syria. If these entities have become persona non-grata even among their closest allies, they should ponder about what privileges their beholdenness to Iran really buys them.

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Israel appears to be calculating a striking Christian-majority villages with the goal of stirring sectarian tensions and discouraging residents from receiving displaced people for fear of being targeted themselves. Israel’s drone strike against a Hezbollah operative in the Christian heartland of Jounieh sent a strident message that nowhere is safe.

We should guard against those doing Israel’s work for it in exacerbating sectarian tensions, pitting Lebanese against each other, and dividing the country into cantons — dragging us back to the mentality of the civil war era, or even triggering civil conflict. All this goes against the prevailing national spirit in a country that already had proportionately the highest refugee population in the world. A generation of young people had their political awakening during the 2019 anti-sectari-

Syria facing new crisis due to Israel’s war on Lebanon

WITH most of the focus today on Israel, Gaza and Lebanon, Syria is one Middle Eastern front that gets scant attention.

Israeli attacks on Syria have been a feature for more than a decade. The Israeli red line was always that it would take action to prevent the transfer of advanced weaponry to Hezbollah.

These terms of engagement have loosened. Israel has been targeting Iranian assets, especially since 2017. Attacks have included the bombing of the Iranian consulate in Damascus that precipitated the first Iranian missile salvo on Israel in April. Attacks on areas like Al Mezzeh, where the consulate is located, have led to many Syrians leaving the capital.

Israel has also been encroaching further into Syrian territory on the Golan Heights, where it has cleared landmines and created a new line along the demilitarized zone with Syria. Its official rationale is to keep Iran and its associated forces away from Israeli-controlled lines. The Israelis announced they had killed a Hezbollah fighter at Quneitra two

weeks ago.

But the Israeli invasion of Lebanon has transformed the situation for Syrians in this conflict. More than 426,000 Syrians and Lebanese have crossed the border into Syria. Back in 2006, Lebanese also sought shelter in Syria. The difference this time is that about 70 percent of those crossing the border are Syrians, who are being compelled to return to a country that is economically unable to support them anymore. These returnees are also impoverished, so are bringing no funds to support themselves. Thus far, the UN Refugee Agency estimates that about 80 percent have found refuge with friends and families, but this is only a short-term option as the hosts do not have enough resources. Many fear threats to Syrian supply chains. Inflation is rampant, with fuel prices in particular shooting up.

Given the Israeli operations in Lebanon, it is impossible to estimate how long the Lebanese will remain in Syria or how many more will cross the border.

Both Lebanese and the returning Syrians bring their own political baggage.

Chris Doyle

Many Lebanese fled to Syria as they came from Hezbollah-controlled areas, which is one reason why Israel has bombed the Lebanese-Syrian border crossings. This hit imports of vital goods into Syria. Many Lebanese were corralled into areas around the Shiite area of Sayidah Zaynab, outside of Damascus. But tensions have broken out. Some Lebanese in Homs were angry that shops did not close when Hassan Nasrallah was killed.

The Syrian authorities have had to decide how to handle returning Syrians. Many are men of conscription age. Conscription was one reason many refugees previously refused to return. This return is far from voluntary. The regime knows it cannot detain them all. Moreover, it is no longer concerned with critical social media posts, given that it does not feel under threat. Those who were previously in the army and deserted have been given one week to return to the armed forces. Others get two weeks to sign up. Those with a security record have to endure interrogation from the

security forces. Those who refuse are told to go to opposition-held areas or leave the country.

There is a distortion of human capital in Syria. Men are in short supply in the government-controlled areas, whereas in the opposition zones there is a surplus. The Syrian economy does not need more men in the army, it needs them to rejoin the productive economy and play their social roles as part of their families.

The prospects of massive population movements, including to Europe, explain why Southern European states have become even jumpier than usual. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has taken the lead on this. How does the Syrian regime see these changes? Strangely, it has been quiet over many incidents. The killing of Yahya Sinwar hardly merited a mention in the regime’s media outlets. Israel’s activity on the Golan Heights has also not been referred to.

The situation in Lebanon is both a threat and an opportunity. Syria has always been dependent on Lebanon economically, so the war will damage it. But once the Israeli armed forces have

done their worst, the Syrian regime may fancy reasserting its influence in a country that — until its forced withdrawal in 2005 — it had viewed very much as its own backyard. It does not possess the same capabilities as in the 1990s, but it could still return as an actor.

Many Syria observers believe that Bashar Assad does not want to antagonize Israel and the US by joining the war alongside Iran and Hezbollah. Gone are the days when the regime needed Tehran and its proxy militia’s support to survive. Assad sees the advantage in not antagonizing Israel. Hezbollah counters that 5,400 of its fighters died defending the regime and that it expects Syrian support. On the whole, Israel has left the Damascus regime alone, satisfied that Assad has limited himself to making hollow threats.

In the past, it has been either Lebanon or Syria in crisis. One group of people was always there to offer refuge to the other. However, for some time now, both have been suffering simultaneously. Israel’s invasion of Lebanon will escalate the pain for both, with no safety net.

Damien McElroy

Yahya Sinwar's killing should force Hamas to change

ONE common feature of revolutionary movements, whether they are underground or overground, is the importance of the animating leader. Hamas just lost one in Yahya Sinwar, when he was killed by Israeli forces in Gaza on Wednesday.

The group has lost leaders before, and it almost has a tradition of imperturbable endurance after such strikes. These leaders have ranged from the spiritual to the political and obviously the military. But Sinwar’s killing on the battlefield has historic implications that are embedded in who he was and his life story.

It is clear that Israel’s baseline war goal at this time is to hollow out the

axis of groups that it has battled, having failed to deliver the rights of Palestinians over many decades. The levelling of much of Gaza and the brutal assault on its residents are ruthless outcomes of this. All that has happened since the pager attacks on the 2,000-odd Lebanese people, including Hezbollah associates, is another.

Where it ends is a different question, but clearly the death of Sinwar is a gateway of sorts to that point.

So many of the leaders who mattered the most across various Palestinian movements either were, or are, in their late fifties and sixties. Sinwar was 61. His one-time fellow prisoner Marwan Barghouti is 65.

Mohammed Deif, the assassinated leader of Ezzedine Al Qassam Brigades, was 59. Mohammed Dahlan, the exiled Fatah dissident, is 63.

Sinwar had a fixed point of grievance. That was his home, near what is now the expanding Israeli city of Ashkelon, from which his parents were driven even before he was born. The two decades spent in prison grafted a hardness that became his very core. The agenda he pursued was one of return underpinned by his social and religious values.

One of his contributions to Hamas was the enforcement of discipline that often included an unflinching retribution against traitors and dissenters. It was this ruthlessness that seemingly endured through all the days and nights of bombing and shooting in Gaza over the past year.

He was still going around inspecting the hostages taken from Israel on October 7 last year, following the bloody assault he masterminded. Having gained his own release through a hostage deal in 2011 — in exchange for an Israeli soldier named Gilad Shalit — Sinwar knew how fundamental this aspect was to the current conflict.

Historians will be left to argue over whether he understood that his tactic to take hostages backfired. Mr Netanyahu seems to have

cast off any consideration for Israelis getting killed on the battlefield, which had been such a powerful factor since his country’s withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000.

We are still seeing the results of that step change for Israel today.

One of the developments of this war has been polling that shows that trust in Hamas has, in fact, fallen in Gaza as the suffering has grown. Yet, in what seems to be an act of solidarity, as well as the reaction to Israel’s incursions and rising settler impunity, the movement is polling higher in the West Bank.

The military threat posed by Hamas has certainly

been degraded. But the cost to Israel has been significant, too, including to its economy and its reputation in the Arab world, the West and elsewhere.

That is where the dynamics after Sinwar’s death are bound to play out.

A split in Hamas into revolutionary factions is not something that will be easily avoided. There are still members of Sinwar’s generation who are set to have their time. With the world demanding the recognition of Palestine in a way that was unimaginable two years ago, some of these men will be tasked with keeping their movement alive.

They face an agenda on the Israeli side that gets some attention but not

enough. Those who are pushing for a greater Israel know that the hollowing out of the threat from Iran-backed groups across the region, as well as from Tehran’s missile arsenals, provides an opening for them. None of this will happen quickly. The Sinwar-orchestrated battle that the world has witnessed, not just over the past year but steadily since his release from prison, is a phase that has passed. It may have led to a new corner for the Palestinians, the Israelis and the Levant overall. Hamas faces challenges within that changed landscape.

It is not just a matter of the group replacing its leader. The spiritual, political and military agendas

will necessarily have to find a new balance. In a way, that was the decisive outcome of each time a leader was killed. But what is more fluid this time is what the struggle now represents.

The Palestinian people remain stuck below a threshold that has defied a political and diplomatic resolution for nearly 80 years. Sinwar, like his peers in their sixties, had a vision for how to get over that ledge. Hamas must now change with the times or face the reality that time has moved. New faces will come forward to take leadership positions, but unlike Sinwar they will need to ensure that their vision fits with the changing times, not the other way round.



PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 807 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 807.42 points, a positive change of 0.95 percent, closing at 86,057.52 points against 85,250.09 points on the last trading day.

A total of 474,949,535 shares were traded during the day as compared to 323,919,892 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs19.659 billion against Rs15.679 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 445 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 269 of them recorded gains and 124 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 52 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Kohinoor

Spinning with 59,101,441 shares at Rs8.81 per share, Pak International Bulk with 27,872,708 shares at Rs7.05 per share and Flying Cement with 18,493,294 shares at Rs19.80 per share.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs212.49 per share price, closing at Rs17,740.64, whereas the runner-up was Hoechst Pakistan Limited with Rs127.77 rise in its per share price to Rs2,346.90.

Hallmark Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs46.43 per share closing at Rs800.18 followed by Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited with Rs37.02 decline to close at Rs1,159.80.

Rupee sheds 07 paise against dollar

Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 07 paise against the US dollar

in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.68 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.61.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.85 and Rs279.35 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 25 paise to close at Rs301.27 against the last day's closing of Rs301.02, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.85, whereas a decrease of 46 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs361.56 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs362.02.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal increased by 02

paise and 03 paise to close at Rs75.60 and Rs73.94 respectively.

Gold prices up by Rs500 per tola

The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs500 and was sold at Rs282,300 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs281,800 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs429 to Rs242,027 from Rs241,598 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs221,858 from Rs221,465, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs3,150 and Rs2,700.62 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$5 to \$2,726 from \$2,721, the Association reported.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti presenting a souvenir to MD & CEO Pakistan Petroleum Limited Imran Abbasy at CM's House.

POL imports up by 15.74%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The petroleum group imports increased by 15.74 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year as compared to the imports of the same months of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The imports of overall petroleum group during July-September (2024-25) stood at \$4,053.017 million as against the imports of \$3,501.860 million during July-September (2023-24), according to PBS data.

Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products declined by 10.60 percent, from \$ 1,355.072 million last year to \$ 1,515.733 million during the time period under review.

However, the imports of petroleum crude increased by 51.02 percent, from \$ 947.176 million to \$ 1,430.416 million; natural gas liquefied by 14.30 percent, from \$898.428 million to \$ 1,026.900 whereas the imports of petroleum gas liquefied went up by 71.19 percent and reached to \$240.503 million as compared to \$140.489 million last year. The imports of all other petroleum group products also increased by 270.59 percent and went up to \$0.126 million from \$0.034 million. Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the petroleum group imports witnessed an increase of 4.33 percent during the month of September 2024 as compared to the same month of last year.

MD PPL discuss crucial matters with CM Balochistan

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Imran Abbasy, Managing Director and CEO of Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), met with Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, at the CM House in Quetta to discuss crucial matters related to resource exploration and community development in the province.

Abbasy outlined PPL's strategic plans for hydrocarbon exploration and mining in Balochistan, including updates on social development projects in the region. The conversation

also touched upon the status of the Sui Gas Field's Development and Mining Lease.

In relation to mining, Abbasy highlighted the sustainable development of ongoing projects under Bolan Mining Enterprises, a joint venture between PPL and the Government of Balochistan. He emphasized how these initiatives would significantly contribute to the socioeconomic uplift of local communities.

Reaffirming PPL's commitment to the region, Mr. Abbasy discussed the company's continued support

for community welfare efforts, including the provision of free gas and water supply to Sui Town, alongside numerous Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects.

Chief Minister Balochistan assured PPL of the government's full cooperation and emphasized the importance of forging a joint strategy to enhance local community development and the broader progress of the area. Both parties expressed their dedication to working together for the betterment of the province and the country.

SNGPL disconnect 102 illegal gas connection

F.P. Report

LAHORE: In its ongoing campaign against gas theft, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has intensified raids across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, disconnecting an additional 102 illegal connections and imposing fines totaling Rs 4.5 million.

In Lahore, SNGPL teams severed 15 connections due to illegal gas usage, and another one for the use of a gas compressor. The team also imposed fines amounting to Rs 1.91 million for gas theft. In Gujranwala, three illegal connections were disconnected, while in Faisalabad, the team severed three connections and imposed fines of Rs 0.02 million.

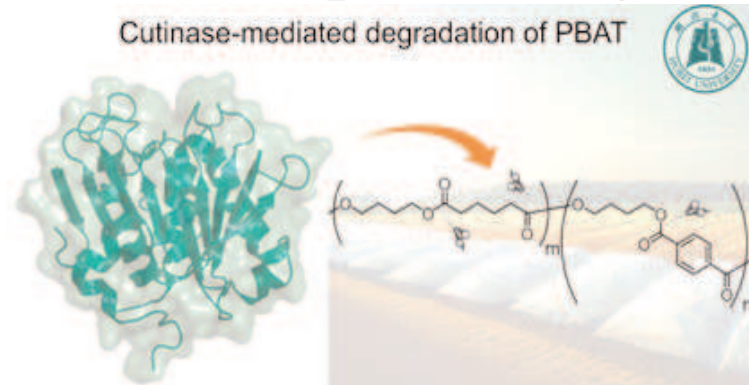
In Sheikhpura, two connections were disconnected for illegal gas usage, and fines of Rs 0.71 million were imposed. The Multan team disconnected three connections for illegal usage and an additional 16 for the use of compressors. In Sahiwal, two connections were disconnected for illegal gas usage and another two for compressor usage, with Rs 0.35 million in fines levied. The Bahawalpur team disconnected seven connections due to compressor use.

In Mardan, 13 illegal

connections were severed, and Rs 0.91 million in fines were imposed. The Sardogha team disconnected three illegal connections, while two connections in Rawalpindi were also cut off. In Islamabad, one connection was severed due to illegal usage.

In Peshawar and Karak, 25 connections were disconnected due to illegal usage, with another one disconnected for compressor use. The team imposed Rs 0.64 million in fines. Additionally, the Abbottabad team disconnected one connection for illegal usage and two for compressor usage, with fines amounting to Rs 0.02 million.

Hubei University discovers a highly efficient plastic-degrading enzyme



F.P. Report

BEIJING: Poly(butylene adipate-co-terephthalate) (PBAT) is a synthetic polymer made of adipic acid, butylene glycol, and terephthalic acid (see the figure below). Because of its excellent ductility, thermal stability, and plasticity, PBAT is widely used in agricultural industries, textile manufacture, and food packaging.

Despite named as a "biodegradable plastic", the complete decomposition of PBAT in the nature proceeds in a very low rate, which has brought serious concerns. This is exemplified by the broadly utilized mulching films, which are left in the farmland and shattered into smaller fragments of plastics instead of being completely decomposed.

These fragments mixed with soil to result in soil agglomeration and reduce the land productivity. The mechanistic study of PBAT degradation is impeded due to the complicated structure of PBAT. Moreover, PBAT mulch film can be cross-linked when exposed to UV light, making

PBAT more difficult to degrade. Therefore, the team is seeking a method that can rapidly and efficiently degrade polymer PBAT and elucidate its degradation mechanism.

Recently, a team from Hubei University in China has discovered that a cutinase from *Thermobifida fusca* (TfCut) can break down PBAT mulch film into large fragments, small particles, and until they disappear completely within two days. Further separation and identification of intermediates showed that there were three main intermediate products, namely BTa, ABTa, TaBTa (Ta=TPA), as well as the final product TPA. Interestingly, there are many possibilities for the products of PBAT degradation, however, only these four products appear in the process of TfCut-mediated degradation of PBAT.

It is worth noting that all four products have TPA as the terminus, suggesting a unique degradation mechanism of TfCut in the degradation of PBAT.

They latter traced the changes in

four intermediates and found that after reaching their highest values in about 8 hours, ABTa and TaBTa gradually decreased until non-detectable. After 48 hours, the final products were TPA and BTa. Moreover, they previously applied the strategy by replacing the His/Phe due (H224-F228) with the Ser/Ile due (S224-I228) in TfCut, and the capacity of degrading PET was significantly enhanced.

Therefore, after applying this strategy to the degradation of PBAT, the result shows that only TPA remained after 48 hours of the engineered TfCut (referred to as TfCut-DM) in the degradation reaction, which will be easier to recycle the TPA after the degradation of PBAT in the future.

They also obtained the complex structures of wild-type TfCut and TfCut-DM with the substrate analogue MHET. Both the wild-type TfCut and reported LCC-ICCG contain the His/Phe due that forms a barrier at the entrance of their active site. In contrast, TfCut-DM and ISPETase have the Ser/Ile due and the active site are more flat, which may result in the easier to bind the long chains of PBAT.

Above all, the team drew a schematic diagram of TfCut-mediated degradation of PBAT. TfCut first performs the endo-hydrolase function with its catalytic triad. As the results, intermediates such as BTa, ABTa, and TaBTa, have the TPA as the terminal. The end products after degraded by wild type TfCut are BTa and TPA, while they become TPA in the TfCut-DM mediate degradation, which will be more conducive to the recovery and recycling of PBAT.

PSX holds gong ceremony on listing of BF Biosciences Ltd

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) held a gong ceremony to celebrate the listing of BF Biosciences Limited (BFBIO).

BFBIO is a pharmaceutical joint venture between Ferozsons Laboratories Ltd and Bago Group of Argentina. BF Biosciences has spearheaded Pakistan's emergence in biotech manufacturing. It was also involved in the export of biotech pharmaceuticals especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. BFBIO has been producing biological medicines for Cancer, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and Hepatitis-C for both local and international markets.

Present at the ceremony to strike the gong were Osman Khalid Waheed (CEO of Ferozsons Laboratories Limited), Farhan Rafiq (COO of BF Biosciences Limited), Rallys Eduardo Pliauzer (Group Director, Grupo Empresarial Bago S.A.) and Shahid Ali Habib (CEO of Arif Habib Limited, the Lead Manager to the Issue).

On behalf of PSX, the guests were welcomed by Mr Nihal Qasim (PSX's Director), Dr. Fakhara Rizwan (PSX's Company Secretary & Chief Legal & Corporate Affairs Officer PSX), and senior management of Pakistan Stock Exchange. The Argentinian Ambassador to Pakistan, Sebastian Sayus graced the occasion.

To expand and enhance production capabilities and to meet post-expansion working capital needs, BF Biosciences Limited planned to raise Rs 1,375,000,000/- from an Issue comprising 25,000,000 ordinary shares

of face value worth Rs 3/- each, at a floor price of Rs 55/- per share. The Issue of 25,000,000 ordinary shares were offered through 100% book building method. Initially, 75% of the Issue size, i.e. 18,750,000 shares were allotted to successful bidders and 25% of the Issue size i.e. 6,250,000 ordinary shares, were offered to retail investors.

The bookbuilding which was held on September 25 and 26, 2024, was highly successful. The strike price of Rs 77/- per share being determined. Moreover, a total participation of Rs 4,670 million against the Issue size of Rs 1,375 million was received. This translates to an oversubscription of 3.4 times.

For the public subscription portion of the Issue, applications for a total of 6,325,000 ordinary shares against the Issue size of 6,250,000 ordinary shares were received. Overall, a total of 2,743 applications for 6,325,000 shares amounting to Rs 487,025,000/- were received. The PSX E-IPO service facilitated 372 applications for 418,500 shares amounting to Rs 32,224,500/-.

Speaking at the gong ceremony, Dr. Fakhara Rizwan said, "The successful completion of the IPO and listing of BF Biosciences Limited is a proud moment for Pakistan Stock Exchange where the Issue was oversubscribed by 3.4 times. This will be a valuable addition to the pharmaceutical sector of the Exchange providing increased options for investors on the Stock Exchange".

On the successful listing of BF Biosciences Limited, Rallys Eduardo Pliauzer

expressed his views that as the founding chairman of BF Biosciences Limited, he is happy to see the Company flourish over time. BF Biosciences is the first joint venture (JV) of the Bagó Group outside Latin America and post Initial Public Offering (IPO), will also be the first Bagó affiliate to be publicly listed. It is also the first JV between corporate entities of Argentina and Pakistan.

Since the start of our joint venture, the Bagó Group's technical and logistic support have always been there for BF Biosciences.

He expressed his confidence that post expansion, with a broader range of products along with synergies from Bagó and Ferozsons, BF Biosciences will quickly emerge as a leading pharma company locally and in export markets.

Speaking at the occasion, Osman Khalid Waheed said "As the first Pakistani pharmaceutical company to be listed on the Karachi Stock Exchange in 1960, Ferozsons Laboratories Limited is extremely proud of the listing of its JV subsidiary, BF Biosciences Limited on the Pakistan Stock Exchange six decades later.

Ferozsons began as a national enterprise built to serve patients in Pakistan and abroad. The idea of a shared national ownership in our efforts through a public listing was an important part of our founder's vision and legacy. From inception, we have focused on Putting Patients First and addressing the most pressing unmet medical needs.

BF Biosciences Limited was established as

Pakistan's first bio-pharmaceutical manufacturing facility, primarily to eliminate Pakistan's dependence on extremely expensive biologics such as Interferons for treating Hepatitis B and C, and erythropoietin (EPO) for chronic kidney disease. Through this investment in local production, we reduced treatment costs by over 60%. With our recent expansion, we have expanded our portfolio to include other critical drugs including human insulin, heparins and GLP-1 agents for diabetes that were previously imported and increasingly beyond the reach of patients.

During Covid-19, we were privileged to be selected as one of the international licensees selected by Gilead Sciences to produce Remdesivir under a voluntary license for patients in low and lower middle-income countries.

Earlier this month, Ferozsons was again announced as one of six global partners to produce high quality generic versions of its novel antiviral, Lenacapavir, which had been approved by the USFDA for treating HIV in highly treatment-experienced (HTE) individuals, and is being investigated for use in HIV prevention.

Ferozsons will produce the oral finished dosage form of Lenacapavir, while BFBIO will produce the injectable version of the drug. The license covers 120 countries in the developing world, and provides both FEROZ and BFBIO with the opportunity to be a part of the global effort to eradicate HIV. We thank the public for reposing their trust in our IPO, and pledge to work hard every day to

be worthy of this honor".

Farhan Rafiq, commented on this significant milestone, stating, "I want to thank all the investors for the trust they have reposed in us during the IPO of BF Biosciences Limited. While sharing the challenges faced by the company due to the country's social-economic challenges, due to persistent efforts and by the grace of the Almighty, we were able to complete the project and are now fully geared up for commercial production. Post expansion, we have a promising product portfolio, ranging from complex biologicals such as insulin, semaglutide, human recombinant erythropoietin, to a range of non-biological medicines, including proton pump inhibitors, antibiotics and antifungals. I'm confident that with this brownfield expansion, backed by a strong product pipeline and an exceptional team, we have all the tools in place to effectively serve patients' needs and meet investors' expectations".

Shahid Ali Habib, while sharing his views said that he is excited to see an exceptional level of participation from a diverse range of institutional investors, including mutual funds, banks, insurance companies, provident and pension funds, brokerage houses, and both foreign and local investors. This remarkable enthusiasm has resulted in an impressive oversubscription of 3.4 times, underscoring the strong confidence and trust in our offering.

The gong ceremony was followed by distribution of tombstones to the representatives of participating banks, CTIs & market participants, and PSX, among others.

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COURT NOTICES



KOHAT

In the Court of Faheem Ahmed Civil Judge-IX Kohat Suit no.213/1 Date of hearing. 01-11-2024, Titled:- Muhammad Mushtaq Vs Jamshed, Notice against:-Jamshed Son of Ajab Khan R/o Babar Mila District Hangu presently R/o(now in Abroad) (Defendant) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a civil suit against you Defendant in which date of hearing 01-11-2024 is fixed for your appearance. Since your intimation/service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you Defendant is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 31-10-2024 otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law order Issued on. 12-10-2024 (Court of C.J.VI Kohat).

In The Court of Ms Dua Mehreen Civil Judge VI Kohat. Suit no.90/1 Date of hearing. 31-10-2024,

Titled:- Ikramullah Vs Azhar Khan (etc) Notice against:-(13)Haroon Shah Son of Anwar Shah R/o Jungle Khel District Kohat Presently R/o(now.in.Abroad America USA) (Defendant) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a civil suit against you Defendant in which date of hearing 31-10-2024 is fixed for your appearance. Since your intimation/service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you Defendant is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 31-10-2024 otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law order Issued on. 12-10-2024 (Court of C.J.VI Kohat).

BUNER

In The Court of Afshen Civil Judge VII/Alaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Suit No 258/1. Institution 5/10/2023. Date of hearing. 23/10/2024. Emadullah VS Juma Khan etc. Notice to No. 6. Irfanullah s/o Qalandar resident of Narbatawal thehsel Gadezai district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.00 am dated 18/11/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

23/10/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

In The Court of Abdul Haleem Civil Judge V /Alaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Buner. Case No.152/1 Institution 10/9/2024. Date of hearing. 8/11/2024. Saifur Rehman VS Khan Bahadur. Notice to no 1.Khan Bahadur s/o Juma Gul resident of Zaga Elai thehsel Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.00 am dated 8/11/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

In The Court of Afshen Civil Judge VII/Alaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Suit No 223/1. Institution 2022. Date of hearing. 18/11/2024. Fazal etc VS Merjawal etc. Notice to No. 41. Ayub s/o Mst Ghurna (late). 46.Mst Gul Hameda d/o Bakhmala (late) resident of Babaly Rega thehsel Gagra district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.00 am dated 18/11/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.



In brief

Pakistan to host Athletics C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): The South Asian Cross Country Athletics Championship is just around the corner, and preparations are in full swing to host the mega event. Scheduled to take place on November 24 in Islamabad, the event promises to bring together top athletes from across the region. Chairman of South Asia Athletics, Maj Gen (R) Muhammad Akram Sahi, expressed his enthusiasm, saying, "The preparations are going on vigorously." Seven countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan, will participate in the championship. The event will feature two men's category competitions: men's senior and under-20 competitions. "This will provide a platform for emerging talent to showcase their skills alongside seasoned athletes," Sahi told APP. The Athletics Federation of Pakistan has been entrusted with the hosting duties of the championship, he said, and emphasized the significance of this event, highlighting the federation's efforts to ensure its success. Sahi said, "Prizes will be distributed among the winning players at the conclusion of the event." "This will not only motivate the athletes but also promote the sport in the region," he said.

Blind Cricket Super League from Tuesday

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 8th edition of PBCC T-20 Blind Cricket Super League (Season 2024-25) is set to take place in Bahawalpur from October 22 to 28. Organised by the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC), this event serves as a platform to showcase the remarkable talent of visually impaired cricketers from across the country. Four provincial teams – Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan combined, comprising of the best players of Pakistan Blind Cricket will compete for the coveted title. The tournament will kick off on Tuesday at the Dring Stadium Bahawalpur. The opening ceremony of the said tournament is scheduled to take place at 11am at the same venue. Fuad Hashim Rabbani, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab has consented to be Chief Guest on the occasion.

Fans of Shakib attacked during protest

DHAKA (Reuters): A group of fans calling for Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan to play in a farewell test against South Africa were attacked by rival protesters wielding sticks and bamboo on Sunday, police said. Shakib was a member of parliament for the Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina, whose 15-year rule as prime minister ended in August with her fleeing to India following deadly protests. Shakib, 37, has not been in the country since the protests began in July but the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had assured him he would not be harassed on his return. He was due to play in his final test match against South Africa in Dhaka starting later on Monday but has not returned home following public anger over his silence during the deadly protests. Shakib earlier expressed his regret for not addressing the protests earlier but urged his supporters to attend the match. Police said trouble began outside the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium when protesters opposed to Shakib's return for the match attacked his supporters.

Rabada fastest to 300th Test wicket, as Bangladesh all out for 106



MIRPUR (AFP): South Africa posted 140-6 on Monday in an action-packed first day of the opening Test, after Bangladesh collapsed to 106 all out with Kagiso Rabada celebrating being the fastest to take 300 Test wickets.

The visitors took the lead, reaching 140-6 in 41 overs in reply at stumps at Mirpur, with Wiaan Mulder and Kyle Verreynne not out for 17 and 18 respectively.

Bangladesh won the

toss and opted to bat but four of their top six batsmen failed to reach double figures, with opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy top-scoring with 30 on a lively pitch. Seamers Rabada, Mulder and left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj took three wickets apiece for South Africa.

Bangladesh were teetering at 40-4 when Rabada bowled Mushfiqur Rahim on 11, as the South African celebrated reaching the 300-wicket landmark.

He managed the feat in 11,817 balls, the fastest of all time, beating Pakistan's Waqar Younis (12,602 balls). Rabada soon made it 301 Test wickets, removing Litton Das for one, with Bangladesh crumbling, all out for 106 in 40.1 overs.

Rabada said he was "really surprised at how the wicket played out."

"Test cricket should offer a fair contest between bat and ball, where bowlers get something if they bowl well,

and batters can score if they apply themselves," he said. "With 16 wickets on day one, I'd say it's leaning towards the bowlers," he added.

'Still in our hands'

Right-arm seamer Hasan Mahmud brought Bangladesh the first success in the first over after the innings change, removing South African captain Aiden Markram for six off seven deliveries.

Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam -- Bangladesh's

main seamer in the absence of Shakib Al Hasan -- then boosted his team after he bagged a five-for, to become only the second Bangladeshi to take 200 wickets in Tests after Shakib.

"Many bowlers have 200, or 300-400 wickets," Taijul said. "But we don't play many Test matches -- still, I'm one of the Bangladeshi bowlers who have 200 wickets, and I'm happy for this."

He kept the team's spirits up, saying it was possible the match was "still in our hands" to win.

The Test is the first international cricket fixture in Bangladesh since a student-led revolution toppled autocratic premier Sheikh Hasina in August.

Bangladesh are missing all-rounder Shakib after security fears forced him to cancel plans to return home. Shakib announced his retirement from international cricket last month but said that he wanted to play one last red-ball series at home.

The 37-year-old was also a former lawmaker in the government ousted by the revolution, making him a target of public anger. Bangladesh have never beaten South Africa in a Test. The second Test begins in Chattogram on October 29.

Naqvi reviews up-gradation work prior to departure for ICC meeting

LAHORE (APP): The Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi on early Monday morning reviewed the ongoing upgradation work at the Gaddafi Stadium and passed instructions to the FWO officials for timely completion of the project prior to his departure for Dubai to attend the ICC Board of Directors (BoD) meeting.

An important meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC) BoD is scheduled to be held at the headquarters of the cricket's governing body in Dubai today.

Gaddafi stadium, besides National stadium, Karachi and Rawalpindi stadium, was being upgraded as part of the preparations for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 to be held in Pakistan next February.

Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi was briefed, by the officials of the Frontier Works Organization (FWO), on the pace of work on the different floors and steel structure of the enclosures. He was told that the work on the enclosures was being performed round the clock. He was further informed that the construction work was being complete at fast speed after completion of the basement work.

The Chairman PCB directed to

utilize all resources for the timely completion of the up gradation work at the Gaddafi stadium, adding that the quality of work should not be compromised at any cost. Mohsin Naqvi also inspected the work on the under-construction new enclosures and steel-fixing work at the site.

PCB announces free entry on first day of third Pakistan-England Test: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday announced free entry for spectators on the first day of the upcoming third Test match between Pakistan and England.

The series is currently levelled 1-1 and the deciding third match will be played from 24 October to 28 October at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The cricket board announced the decision through its social media accounts with a post stating "FREE entry for fans to Premium Enclosures on the first day of the third #PAKVENG Test in Rawalpindi."

For the unversed, Pakistan suffered a humiliating defeat by an innings and 47 runs in the series opener, consequently, the home side made an array of changes including dropping their star batter Babar Azam

and ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Experienced wicketkeeper batter Sarfaraz Ahmed and Naseem Shah were the other two key players dropped from the national team's squad for the remainder of the series.

Domestic performer Kamran Ghulam made his long-awaited debut, while spin bowlers Sajid Khan, Noman Ali and Zahid Mahmood made their return to the Test side. The changes proved fruitful as Kamran scored a century on his debut, while Sajid and Noman shared 20 wickets to steer Pakistan to their first Test victory at home since February 2021.

Squads: Pakistan: Shan Masood (c), Saud Shakeel (vc), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Haseebullah (wk), Kamran Ghulam, Mehran Mumtaz, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraifra, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha and Zahid Mehmood.

England: Ben Stokes (c), Rehan Ahmed, Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Jordan Cox, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Olly Stone, Chris Woakes.



RAWALPINDI: Industrial fans have been used to dry the Pindi pitch, Pakistan vs England, 3rd Test.

FIH Forum to be held in Oman

ISLAMABAD (APP): As part of their first in-person global gathering since the 2018 Congress, the delegates of the 49th FIH Statutory Congress to be held in Oman from November 7 to 9 have been invited by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and its President Tayyab Ikram to reflect and debate about key matters to grow hockey.

The "FIH Empowerment and Engagement Forum" -- named as the eponymous strategy launched by FIH President Tayab Ikram last year at the Olympic House, in attendance of IOC President Thomas Bach -- will take place on November 8, said a press release.

Following the FIH President's opening address, Continental Federations and National

Associations delegates from all around the world, together with representatives from FIH, will begin the session with a focus on athletes and women. With FIH implementing an "athletes first" strategy and being a firm advocate of a gender equal sport, discussions will be conducted around the question of how athletes and women can be better supported.

Then, through specific workshops, further crucial topics for the development of the game will be tackled such as development, participation, communication and promotion, facilities and funding, and technology solutions.

The Congress participants will also hear a number of reports and presentations. From the French

Hockey Association talking about the strategy and legacy benefits from hosting the Paris 2024 Olympics, to the Belgian and Dutch Hockey Associations informing the assembly about the 2026 FIH World Cup that they're co-hosting, the Croatian Hockey Association hosting their first-ever FIH World Cup namely, the FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup in February next year and finally FIH's Global Supplier Polytan.

Commenting on the upcoming Forum, FIH President Tayyab Ikram said, "Following the success of the National Associations' summits that we've organised in the last 2 years, I'm very much looking forward to this Forum. Initiating a more intensive inter-

action between all members of our global hockey community, fostering best practice sharing and knowledge transfer, urging the biggest National Associations to support the less-privileged ones are some of the key principles that shall guide our debates. I'm a firm believer in dialogue and exchange as key facilitators to grow together. This Forum has been conceived in that spirit."

The 49th FIH Congress will take place on November 9 in Muscat, Oman, and includes a full range of side events from November 7, such as the Empowerment and Engagement Forum. It will also enable the global hockey community to celebrate in style the FIH Centennial.



Van Dijk in talks with Liverpool about new deal

LONDON (Agencies): Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk has said he has opened talks with the club about signing a new deal. The 33-year-old has been with the club since January 2018 and his current contract runs out at the end of the season. "Discussions are ongoing, we will see what happens in the future," said Netherlands centre-back Van Dijk. "My full focus is on Liverpool, wanting to win games that are ahead of me and nothing else. "What the future will bring I have no idea at the moment. I can only tell you that discussions have started and we will see."

England international Trent Alexander-Arnold and Egypt forward Mohamed Salah are also out of contract next summer but there has been no update on their situations. The Reds signed Van Dijk for £75m from Southampton and he has helped the Anfield club win the Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup, League Cup and FIFA Club World Cup.

Under new manager and fellow Dutchman Arne Slot, he has helped Liverpool to the top of the Premier League this season with seven wins from their opening eight games. "I feel good, physically, mentally and I am having fun," added Van Dijk, who was speaking after Sunday's 2-1 win over Chelsea. "When it's time to make a decision, you guys [the media] will know it as well."

Van Dijk has been instrumental in Liverpool conceding just three goals this season, giving them the best defensive record in the Premier League.

"At the start of the season, we saw numbers about what happens if your opponent is in the final third, how many bodies do we have behind the ball and that has definitely changed," said Van Dijk. "I wouldn't say it's [just] the last line and the goalkeepers making a difference, it's the guys in front of us, it's a team effort. "Me and Ibou [Konate] as the centre-backs, or the goalkeepers, will get the credit for the clean sheets but it's about everyone in the team and credit to everyone who is doing that."

Irfan shatters another Guinness World Record



ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned Pakistani martial artist Irfan Mehsood, has added another feather to his cap by breaking the Guinness World Record for the longest time in reverse plank position carrying a weight of 80 pounds.

Irfan surpassed India's Manish Sharma's record of 2 minutes and 6 seconds, achieving the feat in 2 minutes and 28 seconds. Irfan has established himself as a Guinness World Record holder in various categories, including Most pushups, Most jumping jacks, Most squats, Most fitness and martial arts records.

Irfan has broken records from 17 countries, including United States, Great Britain, China, Spain, Philippines, Norway and India etc. Irfan has become the first Pakistani martial artist to achieve 100 Guinness World Records in an impressive span of 8 years. His current tally stands at 120 world records. "I am proud to represent Pakistan on the global stage, and I will continue to push boundaries and inspire future generations," Irfan told APP. Irfan's incredible achievements demonstrate his dedication, perseverance, and passion for martial arts, cementing his status as a world-class athlete.

Livingstone to captain England with Buttler ruled out

LONDON (Agencies): All-rounder Liam Livingstone will captain England during their white-ball tour of West Indies after Jos Buttler suffered a setback in his recovery from a calf injury.

Buttler, 34, has not played since the T20 World Cup in June and will miss the three one-day internationals in the Caribbean, although he remains in the squad for the five-match T20 series that follow.

Livingstone, 31, will lead England for the first time in the ODI series in Buttler's absence. It caps a remarkable turnaround for Livingstone who was initially left out of the ODI squad to play Australia last month before being called up to replace the injured Buttler.

The all-rounder, part of England's T20 World Cup-winning squad in 2022, has captained Lancashire in the T20 Blast and Birmingham Phoenix in The Hundred.

England describe Buttler's setback as "slight" but his injury is becoming increasingly worrying. Despite not playing since England's exit at the T20 World Cup, Buttler suffered his third calf injury since 2021 during the summer.

He was initially ruled out of The Hundred but, having been retained as captain, was picked in England's squads to play Australia last month.

Buttler then pulled out of the T20 series because of the issue and targeted a return for the five ODIs, only to also withdraw.

Harry Brook captained England in the ODI series against Australia when Buttler was ruled out, but is not part of the squad for this tour due to his involvement in the Test tour of Pakistan.

England squad to play West Indies

Jos Buttler (Lancashire -- captain) T20 series only, Jofra Archer (Sussex), Jacob Bethell (Warwickshire), Jafer Chohan (Yorkshire), Sam Curran (Surrey), Will Jacks (Surrey), Liam Livingstone (Lancashire), Saqib Mahmood (Lancashire), Dan Mousley (Warwickshire), Jamie Overton (Surrey), Adil Rashid (Yorkshire), Phil Salt (Lancashire), Reece Topley (Surrey), John Turner (Hampshire)

*Two further players to be added from Test squad currently in Pakistan.



In brief

Police arrest three for violating tenancy law

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Police on Monday carried out a door to door search operation in the limits of Bani Police Station and arrested three persons for violating the tenancy law. According to a police spokesman, the personnel of the Elite Force and Special Branch along with the lady police took part in the operation, who collected the data of tenants. Accused Hammad, Asad and Naveed were apprehended and booked under the Punjab Information of Temporary Residence Ordinance 2015.

Dry weather conditions to persist

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast mainly dry weather for most parts of the country during the next 24 hours. The weather will remain hot in plain areas of the country during the period. However, cloudy weather with rain-wind/thunderstorm may occur at isolated places in upper Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa during night. According to the synoptic situation, continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country. During the last 24 hours, hot and dry weather prevailed over most parts of the country. However, rain/thunderstorm occurred at isolated places in eastern Sindh. The rainfall recorded was in Mithi 15mm. The highest maximum temperatures recorded were Tandojam, Turbat, Lasbela, Shaheed Benazirabad and Hyderabad 39 C.

4 drug dealers arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Police on Monday arrested four drug dealers from different areas of the district and recovered over 4 kilogram drugs from their possession. According to a police spokesman, the Saddar Wah Police held woman drug dealer Jawaria alias Nazia with 1.6 kg drugs, and Safdar with 830 grams Charas, while the Dhamyal Police apprehended accused Akhtar after recovering 1.6 kg drugs from him. The Gujjar Khan Police booked Abdul Khaliq after recovering 580 grams Charas from his possession, the spokesman said.

Lok Mela to be held in November

ISLAMABAD (APP): The much-awaited annual cultural mega event of "Lok Mela" will be held at the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) from November 08-17 in Islamabad, presenting a diverse cultural extravaganza for the art lovers. The event is being arranged by Lok Virsa which is an autonomous cultural organization working under the National Heritage and Culture Division. "The preparations for the Lok Mela are under way to make it a success by adding all the attractions. The festival is set to attract artists, performers and visitors from across the country", an official of Lok Virsa said. "As this year's Lok Mela will mark the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Lok Virsa (1974-2024), several new and innovative attractions are being added to the Mela", the official added. The objective of the Mela is to promote Pakistan's indigenous folk heritage, strengthen national harmony and integration among all federating units through a cultural perspective and provide a much-needed platform to the master artisans, folk artists, folk musicians and folk dancers to demonstrate their skills at the national level. The festival is being organized in close collaboration with all provincial culture departments.

Naqvi congratulates nation on approval of 26th Amendment Bill

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has congratulated the entire nation on the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill, terming it a victory for the people of Pakistan.

The Interior Minister said, "This is success of the people of Pakistan and we bow down to Allah in gratitude." He specifically thanked JUI (F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and leaders of allied parties for their support, saying, "Maulana Fazlur Rehman's positive and historic role will always

be remembered."

Mohsin Naqvi praised the efforts of President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, stating, "their tireless efforts have borne fruit." He emphasized that all leaders worked jointly and relentlessly for the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

The Interior Minister emphasized that this constitutional amendment is a victory for democracy, laying a strong foundation

for a bright democratic future. "the victory belongs to Pakistan and its people," he said.

Mohsin Naqvi paid tribute to leaders of all democratic parties, acknowledging their collective efforts. He reiterated that the approval of the constitutional amendment bill is Parliament's right.

Interior Minister stated that the collective efforts and consensus-building have yielded positive results, adding that this amendment holds key importance for balancing powers among institutions.

BISP, Population council to work together for child care facilities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid and Population Council Country Director, Dr. Zeba A. Sattar in a meeting agreed to initiate efforts for improving maternal and child care facilities.

The meeting, held at BISP headquarters, focused on joint efforts to improve women's reproductive health, promote adequate birth control, and support the healthy

development of newborns through the cooperation of BISP and the Population Council.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted BISP's ongoing initiative Benazir Nashonuma to combat malnutrition in children by providing nutritious food to pregnant and lactating mothers and their children under two years of age, along with conditional financial assistance.

She emphasized the importance of maternal

health to ensure the birth of healthy children.

Both parties also agreed on the need for consultations with top provincial health officials to enhance measures related to reproductive health, birth control, and newborn care.

They discussed the proposal to establish Population Council desks near Benazir Nashonuma Centers, where women can access essential awareness and guidance on these health related issues.

ANF recovers over 86 kg drugs in 13 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 13 operations across the country managed to recover over 86 kg drugs worth over Rs 15 million and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 2.4 kg hashish was recovered from an accused netted in Baldia Town, Karachi.

1.2 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects arrested near a university in Islamabad.

The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educa-

tional institutions.

In an operation, 60 kg hashish was recovered from Kuchlak area in Quetta.

14 kg ice was recovered from RCD Road, Hub and 662 grams weed was recovered from three parcels sent from foreign countries at a courier office in Rawalpindi.

44 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from a passenger going to Sharjah from Islamabad Airport.

940 grams ice was recovered from a parcel sent to Bahrain at a courier office in Sialkot.

In GPO office Multan,

720 grams weed was recovered from a parcel sent from Bangkok.

3 kg ice was recovered from a parcel at a courier office in Quetta.

In an operation, 1 kg heroin and 1.2 kg hashish were recovered from two suspects rounded up in Daewoo Bus Terminal, Gujranwala.

1.2 kg hashish and 600 grams ice were recovered from an accused in Al-Asif Square, Karachi.

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

NUML hosts seminar on 'Disaster Management'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Department of Translation and Interpretation at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) organized a seminar on 'Disaster Management' in collaboration with the Pakistan Red Crescent.

The seminar aimed to equip students with essential knowledge and practical skills for responding to emergencies and disasters, fostering a culture of preparedness and resilience.

Muhammad Ibrahim, Assistant Director, Disaster Preparedness at Pakistan Red Crescent, an esteemed NUML alumnus, along with his team, conducted a hands-on training session.

The session focused on first aid techniques and disaster response strate-

gies, demonstrating life-saving procedures that are crucial in emergencies. Ibrahim emphasized the importance of disaster preparedness, highlighting how timely actions could save lives.

The seminar provided students with insights into various types of disasters and educated them on effective response techniques. By raising awareness of first aid and disaster management, the session encouraged community engagement and social responsibility, ensuring that students are better prepared to assist others during crises.

The Head of the Department for Translation and Interpretation, Hina Shahab, spoke on the importance of first aid

services.

She underscored the need for individuals to play a humanitarian role in society, noting that community service added significant value to personal growth and societal welfare.

Students showed great interest in the seminar, actively participating in the orientation session and engaging with experts by asking questions related to first aid and disaster preparedness.

Looking ahead, the Pakistan Red Crescent will offer professional first-aid training to NUML students, culminating in certification. This certification will enable students to effectively respond to emergencies by providing essential first aid services.

Crackdown in Islamabad: 74 beggars, 18 shopkeepers arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): The district administration of Islamabad has ramped up its efforts to address growing concerns over illegal activities in the Federal Capital, leading to the arrest of 74 beggars and 18 shopkeepers in separate operations.

The spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration said that this action was part of a larger initiative to maintain public order and enforce price regulations. Islamabad's district administration continues its aggressive campaign against the alms-seekers in the city and arrested 74 professional beggars over the past 48 hours.

All the Assistant Commissioners (ACs) were actively involved in the crackdown. The AC Saddar, Maheem Hassan accompanied by the district administration teams have arrested 38 beggars from sectors G-10 and G-11, and F-11 area

while the AC Rural, Kamran detained 21 beggars in the Sihala police station area. Additionally, the AC Industrial Area, Farwa Batool apprehended 15 beggars and transferred them to Margalla police station.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon emphasized the need for increased surveillance and quick responses to any information regarding professional beggars.

He instructed the administration to take immediate action when reports are received.

Meanwhile, in a parallel operation, the district administration also took action against shopkeepers who were not adhering to the official price list. Eighteen shopkeepers were arrested for overcharging customers during market inspections.

Assistant Commissioner City

Farhan Ahmad has arrested eight shopkeepers, while Assistant Commissioner Saddar detained another eight in separate operations. The AC Industrial Area arrested two shopkeepers and imposed a fine on one for violating the price regulations. These operations were carried out in the city's Sunday markets, where price gouging had become a common issue.

The Deputy Commissioner urged citizens to follow the official price list when making purchases and report any violations. DC Islamabad assured that price control magistrates are present in markets to monitor compliance at all times.

However, the district administration has called on the public to cooperate with these efforts and report any further violations as it continues to tighten control on illegal activities across the capital.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam talking to a delegation of IRFC that called on her led by country head, Farid Abdulkadir Mohamed Aiywar to discuss climate resilience and environmental sustainability related matters. —APP Photo

Media role crucial in fight against polio: Ayesha Raza

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq on Monday urged to strengthen collaboration and foster media engagement in the ongoing fight against polio.

She was addressing a group of health journalists at media engagement session at the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication (NEOC), organized by the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme.

The event brought together health reporters from various print, electronic, and online media outlets, aiming to provide them with accurate data, present the programme's current strategy to fight poliovirus, and address media questions ahead of the nationwide polio vaccination campaign set to begin on October 28, 2024.

Ms. Ayesha Raza provided journalists with critical updates on the current status of the polio programme efforts in the country.

NEOC Coordinator Anwarul Haq presented the key challenges facing the eradication efforts, including persistent vaccine hesitancy, population movement, and security concerns in high-risk areas that affect consistent access to children with the vaccine.

Ms. Ayesha Raza emphasized the government's strong commitment to polio eradication from the highest office of PM to the provincial and district levels. She said that polio eradication is being taken forward as national priority agenda with a consensus roadmap being implemented to interrupt virus transmission by mid-2025.

Speaking about the resurgence of poliovirus this year, she said that 39 polio cases have been reported this year which highlights that the Programme is maintaining effective disease surveillance and not missing the virus anywhere in the country. "Protecting our children from the scourge of polio remains our collective topmost priority," she said.

"While we are concerned about the surge, every new virus detection is taken as an opportunity to better understand the current dynamics of virus transmission which in turn helps us in refining the response and curb its further spread."

The Prime Minister's Focal Person said the upcoming nationwide campaign, scheduled to begin on October 28, is a significant step towards countering the spread of poliovirus. She highlighted the media's role in creating a positive environment for vaccine acceptance.

Ms. Ayesha Raza said, "The media has traditionally been a great ally of the Polio Programme and plays an essential role in shaping public perception and ensuring accurate information is disseminated."

"To defeat polio, we need your continued help in promoting vaccination and good hygiene practices, enhancing the risk perception about polio as a devastating disease and combating misinformation about

the vaccine which is a real challenge in the age of digital media and causes parents to refuse the vaccine or hide their children from vaccinators."

NEOC Coordinator Muhammad Anwarul Haq highlighted the programme's roadmap, a strategic roadmap made in consultation with the provinces and aimed at interrupting poliovirus transmission by mid-2025.

"With the government's backing, we are implementing multiple high-quality vaccination campaigns and outbreak responses while improving routine immunization and addressing vaccine hesitancy."

"Surveillance has been enhanced to track the virus, and we expect more cases to emerge in the coming months as we continue to detect the virus in the environment," he said.

The NEOC Coordinator said that the Programme is planning two more polio vaccination campaigns before the end of December to boost children's immunity against polio.

Dengue claims one more life

RAWALPINDI (APP): Despite reducing the trend in dengue cases in Rawalpindi district, fatalities have reached 8 after one more dengue patient has died.

The deceased Wajid Zareen 38, died in a private hospital on 13th October. According to the details shared by the District Health Authority Rawalpindi here Monday, the patient belonging to District Murree was hospitalized in Islamabad.

The data shows seven dengue fatalities in Rawalpindi district as the latest death was from outside it.

During the last 24 hours, 61 new patients have been reported with dengue fever. So far 3522 patients have been diagnosed with dengue fever in the current year.

The report issued by the health authority on Monday shows that 262 patients are under treatment in different allied hospitals.

As many as 4650 FIRs have been registered against the dengue SOPs violations along with other penalties.

Bukhari praises Bilawal's role in passing 26th Amendment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Secretary General Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari on Monday commended party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his relentless efforts and pivotal role in the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment by the parliament.

Bukhari, in a news statement, lauded Bilawal's hard work, describing him as a "strong and effective voice for upholding the Constitution both inside and outside the Parliament."

Bukhari expressed pride in Bilawal's leadership, stating that his commitment to constitutional supremacy reflects the core values of the PPP.

He further acknowledged the contributions of other key leaders, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Mian

Nawaz Sharif, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, and others, for achieving another milestone in Pakistan's democratic journey.

The 26th Amendment, approved by both the Senate and National Assembly, he said was presented by a special parliamentary committee, a mandatory part of the parliamentary process. Bukhari congratulated the government's coalition partners and other political parties for their collective success in passing the amendment.

"This amendment marks a significant step toward improving the judicial system, ensuring faster justice delivery, and promoting equal representation," Bukhari noted. He emphasized that the judicial reforms, a promise made in

Benazir Bhutto's Charter of Democracy, are now coming to fruition. Additionally, he mentioned that the Pakistan Bar will also have representation in the commission for appointing judges in higher courts, alongside members of Parliament and judiciary.

Bukhari also appreciated Bilawal's facilitation of the PTI's negotiation delegation during their meeting in jail, showcasing the PPP's commitment to maintaining a flexible and cooperative political approach. He urged opposition members to adopt a responsible attitude for the betterment of the nation. He remarked that the amendment was passed with a two-thirds majority, signaling broad political support for judicial reforms aimed at improving Pakistan's justice system.

TikTok organizes event to empower Pakistani creators

ISLAMABAD (APP): For the first time, creators and publishers from across Pakistan gathered for the TikTok Experience, a one-day event curated exclusively for the platform's thriving community.

According to a news release on Monday, the event featured an engaging lineup of insightful panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and interactive activities designed to inspire and elevate the TikTok community in Pakistan. Renowned industry experts shared valuable insights on content strategy, community building and navigating emerging trends.

TikTok Experience was also elevated by an impressive lineup of speakers, including The Coke Studio team, representative of Turkish media giants Turkavaz Media Group and the crème de la crème of Pakistan's entertainment industry. The evening climaxed with a surprise musical performance by Young Stunners.

The event's sessions

included 'TikTok My busters,' which debunked common myths about high-quality content, encouraging creators to produce engaging content that resonates with their audience. This was followed by a session on CapCut which showcased cutting-edge editing technologies, empowering creators to enhance their content's production quality.

A standout panel discussion, 'How did Blockbuster become a blockbuster,' shared the success story of Coke Studio's 15th edition on TikTok. The Coke Studio team, including Muhammad Imbrahim and singer Umair Butt, provided valuable insights into creating viral content, leveraging creator partnerships, and promoting hero content.

Saif Mujahid, Head of Content Operations & Marketing - Pakistan at TikTok, said, "At TikTok, we're committed to empowering local creators and publishers with the tools, knowledge, and sup-

port needed to thrive in the ever-changing digital landscape.

The inaugural TikTok Experience event marks an exciting milestone in our journey to foster creativity, innovation, and growth within the Pakistani creative community."

The event concluded with an overview of TikTok's creator tools advancements, introducing the latest features designed to support creator growth and success. A musical performance by Young Stunners rounded out the event, providing a celebration of Pakistan's vibrant creative talent.

The TikTok Experience in Pakistan marked an exciting milestone for the local creative community, fostering an environment where talent, innovation, and collaboration flourished.

As TikTok continues to evolve, the platform remains dedicated to providing creators and publishers with the support needed to succeed.

Oil extraction raised

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Economic Deputy Office of the Prime Minister said that with the activation of 25 new oil wells in the Amu Darya oil field, the daily oil extraction in this area will reach 3,000 tons. Hamdullah Fitrat, the Deputy Spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, added that currently there are 24 active wells in this field, from which 1,300 tons of oil are extracted daily. According to Fitrat, the extracted oil is processed within the country.

The Frontier Post

Rabi-us-Sanni 18 1446 — Tuesday, October 22, 2024

UN creates short-term jobs

KABUL (Khaama Press): The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has announced that since 2023, it has created short-term jobs for 272,600 people in Afghanistan. In a statement, FAO mentioned that it has assisted Afghan farmers in irrigating and safeguarding their farmland. The organization emphasized that access to sufficient food is a basic human right, and it remains committed to ensuring this right for those in need in Afghanistan.

‘Seditious group responsible for Ghor attacks neutralized’

KABUL (BNA): The spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mawlawi Zabihullah Mujahid, announced that a seditious and brutal group was neutralized in Ghor province late Sunday night.

Mawlawi Mujahid, in a post on his X, stated that the group was responsible for attacking Shia civilians in Ghor on September 13th, resulting in over 20 casualties. He noted that this group was also involved in several other attacks in Ghor, Kabul, and Bamyan provinces.

According to Mawlawi Mujahid, special Mujahideen forces of the Islamic Emirate initiated operations against this group last week, leading to the capture of several members who have confessed to their crimes.

He further stated that a key operation was conducted on late Sunday night in the Marko area, central Ghor, resulting in the death of the group’s leader and one of its



significant members. Weapons and ammunition were also seized during the operation.

Mawlawi Mujahid revealed that this group was directly led by Daesh (ISIS) commanders, with orders coming from the Khorasan branch of Daesh in the region. Several other associates of the group were apprehended.

Qatar, Indonesia sign pact for Afghan students

KABUL (Ariana News): Qatar and Indonesia have signed MoU that provides Afghan students scholarships to study in Indonesia.

Qatar’s Minister of State for International Cooperation Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater signed the MoU with Indonesia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi.

According to a statement issued by the Qatari Foreign Ministry, the MoU aims to establish a cooperation framework to build human capacities of the Afghan people by providing scholarships to study in the Republic of Indonesia.

The scholarship program is part of the two countries’ broader shared vision and mission to support education and development projects in Afghanistan locally and globally, with a particular focus on creating opportunities that empower Afghan youth to build a brighter and more prosperous future in their country, Al Khater said.

She also affirmed Doha’s unwavering support for Afghanistan and spoke about Qatar’s \$75 million pledge to support the country.

Al Khater said the MoU would boost the Qatar-Indonesia mutual commitment to establish a framework of cooperation to help build human capacities of the Afghan people by providing scholarships for Afghan students to study in Indonesia. She also said Qatar would continue to provide humanitarian and development assistance to the Afghan people, in partnership with Indonesia and other countries in the fields of health, food security and capacity building.

Indonesia’s minister of foreign affairs, Marsudi in turn said that the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan underscores the urgent need for education, especially for Afghan women and girls.

She pointed out that currently there are more than 20 Afghan students benefiting from scholarships in Indonesia and that the signing of the MoU will enable more Afghan students to pursue higher education at Indonesian universities.

She also pointed out that Indonesia provided this year 10 million polio vaccine doses and humanitarian aid to the Afghan people affected by natural disasters, in addition to its cooperation with a local non-governmental organization to organize a psychosocial project that includes 400 Afghan women, providing them with the opportunity to participate in social life and enabling them to overcome their challenges.

Affirming her belief in the importance of creating a favorable environment for Afghan women and providing further job opportunities, Marsudi highlighted her country’s readiness to help develop a business model for Islamic microfinance that is appropriate for Afghanistan.

Wide variety of Afghan products go on display at expo



KAZAKHSTAN (Ariana News): An expo of Afghan products opened officially in Almaty, in Kazakhstan in the presence of Afghanistan’s acting Minister of Commerce and Industry, Nooruddin Azizi and Serik Zhumangarin, the deputy prime minister of the host country.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the expo, Azizi welcomed the initiative and said such events

were effective in expanding trade and business relations between the two countries.

Zhumangarin said in turn that Astana is interested in maintaining commercial, economic, transportation, logistics and energy relations with Kabul.

The expo will be held over three days and Afghan products are being displayed in more than 70 booths.

On display are numerous

products from Afghanistan including carpets, jewelry, construction materials, household and industrial chemicals, vegetables, fruit, and food products.

The expo runs from October 20 to 22, at the Atakent Exhibition Center in Almaty, and over 250 Afghan traders are taking part.

Kazakhstan has increased efforts recently to boost trade with Afghan-

istan and in June, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev announced that his country had removed the Islamic Emirate from its list of militant organizations.

In late August, Kazakhstan’s Foreign Ministry then accredited a chargé d’affaires of Afghanistan in order to expand trade, financial, and humanitarian cooperation between the two countries.

Afghan migrants once again targeted by Irani forces’ gunfire

KABUL (Khaama Press): The human rights organization “Halvash” has reported that a landmine explosion and gunfire targeted a group of Afghan migrants at the Kalgan border in Iran.

According to the organization’s report on Monday, October 21, a group of at least 150 Afghan migrants was attacked by Iranian border forces on the evening of Thursday, October 17, in eastern Iran.

The report states that the group of migrants, attempting to enter Iran from the Kalgan border in Saravan illegally, was first hit by a

landmine explosion, followed by gunfire from Iranian forces. Over 260 migrants were killed, injured, or went missing as a result of the attack.

Halvah has stated that it is working to gather more precise information about the incident, while Khaama Press has also been unable to obtain further details.

A few days prior to this shooting, a similar report from eastern Iran was published, and several independent media outlets confirmed its accuracy based on eyewitness accounts.

The recent escalation of

violence at the Iran-Afghanistan border has raised concerns about the safety and treatment of Afghan migrants.

Amid ongoing border violence, both Iran and Pakistan have been forcibly deporting Afghan refugees, exacerbating the dire humanitarian crisis in the region.

These deportations come at a time when Afghanistan is already struggling with extreme poverty, conflict, and political instability.

Human rights organizations have raised concerns about the treatment of

Afghan refugees, citing numerous reports of harassment, torture, and violations of basic rights by both Iranian and Pakistani authorities.

The lack of proper protection and support for these refugees in host countries has left them vulnerable, with many facing dangerous conditions upon their forced return to Afghanistan. The international community is increasingly calling for immediate action to address these violations and provide protection to the displaced Afghan population.

Kabul’s second-hand clothing market thrives as temperatures drop

KABUL (TOLOnews): With the arrival of the cold season, second-hand clothing vendors in the capital express satisfaction with the growth of their sales in recent days.

According to them, the lack of suitable locations to sell these clothes remains one of their major challenges. Cinema Pamir area in Kabul is a place where for many years, many shops have been selling second-hand clothes.

Mohammad Azeem, a vendor, told TOLOnews: “Our sales are better because people cannot afford to buy new clothes. These clothes are both affordable and of good quality, and people are buying them.”

Mohammad Nasir, another vendor, said: “Since the weather has gotten cold, our sales have been good, but traffic causes problems for us. It prevents us from working, and we don’t have a proper place to sell.”

According to Kabul residents, economic problems



and unemployment are the main reasons for the booming second-hand clothing market.

A buyer, Keyhan, said: “People have a lot of interest in second-hand clothes because they are both cheap and of good quality.”

Another buyer, Yama, said: “The weather is getting colder, so we came to

shop. Second-hand clothes are both affordable and high-quality, making them more economical for us than new clothes.”

At the same time, several vendors of new or first-hand clothing complain about the lack of customers.

Nasratullah Amin, a vendor, said: “Right now, I can say that the market is not

like it used to be, and the main reason is poverty and unemployment.”

Economic challenges, lack of job opportunities, low prices, and good quality have led, according to some citizens, to the growing trend of buying second-hand clothes, as people obtain their necessities from these markets.

China to build 20 mw solar power plant in Bamyan



BAMYAN (TOLOnews): Abdul Latif Mansour, the acting Minister of Energy and Water, who has traveled to Bamyan province with the Chinese ambassador, has announced the construction of a solar power plant in the province.

This plant, with a production capacity of 20 megawatts of solar energy, will be built with China’s grant assistance.

The acting Minister of Energy and Water said, “China has promised to provide 20 megawatts of solar power, including 10 megawatts from batteries and 10 megawatts from solar energy.”

Matuallah Abid, the spokesperson for the Ministry of

Energy and Water, said: “The technical team that has come to Bamyan has completed the initial survey and promised to submit a proposal from the Chinese embassy to their government to finance the project.”

The residents of Bamyan hope that with the activation of solar power production, many of their problems will be solved.

Abdullah Sarhadi, the governor of Bamyan, said, “The people pledge that the land belongs to the government, and they are demanding electricity. If the Chinese ambassador cooperates, the people will be very happy.”

Mohammad Amin, one of the residents of Bamyan,

said, “The lack of electricity has caused many problems for the people. Phones are off, and homes are dark.”

Ismail, another resident of Bamyan, said, “Providing electricity is very beneficial for the people, especially for businesses and the region’s economy, which will improve with this project.”

Currently, about 4 megawatts of solar and diesel power are produced in Bamyan, which is used to light more than 4,000 families.

However, thousands of other families in Bamyan’s center and districts light their homes using small solar panels and batteries.

Body focuses on aligning rates with global standards

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum recently convened a session of the Gemstone Pricing Committee, chaired by Mawlawi Hossamuddin Saberi, alongside various committee members.

The meeting aimed to assess and finalize the pricing structure for precious, semi-precious, and decorative stones, with a particular focus on strategic resources such as serpentine, iron, and industrial minerals.

According to a statement from the Ministry’s press office, the committee’s approach to pricing was carefully structured, taking into account local, regional, and global market rates. The meeting highlighted the importance of aligning the royalty rates with international standards while ensuring that local market dynamics are also reflected.

Mawlawi Hossamuddin

Saberi emphasized the vital role that Afghanistan’s rich mineral resources play in the country’s economic growth, noting that accurate and competitive pricing of these resources is critical for attracting both local and international investors.

He reiterated the Ministry’s commitment to transparent and fair pricing policies that will maximize the value of Afghanistan’s mineral wealth.

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\$36m worth of dried fruits exported from Kandahar to foreign markets



K A N D A H A R (TOLOnews): More than 36 million dollars were exported from Kandahar province to foreign countries.

The Kandahar Chamber of Commerce and Investment has announced that most of the fig exports

were sent to India and Pakistan.

Abdul Baqi Bina, Deputy of the Kandahar Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said: “Our fig exports to India and Pakistan started later than usual this year for better

sales, but only in the month of Sunbula(22 August), we exported 6,960 tons of figs worth 36 million dollars, and this figure is still increasing.”

Meanwhile, dried fruit traders in Kandahar say that global demand for Afghan

dried fruits is on the rise.

Toryalai, one of the traders, said: “Every week, we process and send between 20 to 40 tons of dried fruits, including figs and raisins, to various countries around the world.”

Agha Mohammad, one of the workers, added: “We pack according to global demand in sizes of 250 grams, 100 grams, and other measurements, and then export them.”

Juma Gul, another worker, said: “Initially, the dried fruits are cleaned from the dust and dirt of the orchards, then they are sent to machines, and afterward, they are packed in special boxes and prepared for export.”

According to the Kandahar Chamber of Commerce and Investment, most of the province’s dried fruits are exported to India and Pakistan, from where they reach markets in Asian and European countries.

Nearly 1.5m students enrolled in Afghan private schools: Union

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Union of Private Schools of Afghanistan said that nearly one and a half million students are enrolled in private schools across the country.

Azim Maydanwal, the head of the union, also reported that among these, two to three hundred thousand are female students.

The head of the Afghanistan Private Schools Union said: “We have one and a half million students in private schools, of which two to three hundred thousand are girls

studying from grades one to six.”

At the same time, several students from private schools say they are receiving both theoretical and practical education, and all necessary facilities are provided to them.

Niyayesh, a student, said: “I have been studying at this school for three years. We have very experienced teachers who give us homework and seminars, and we are learning both theoretical and practical lessons.”

Shahidullah, another

student, said: “We are learning physics, biology, and computer science practically, and in addition to practical lessons, we also receive theoretical education.”

Some teachers emphasize that alongside public schools, the private sector has also created good opportunities for students to receive education. They call on the government to provide more support to the private sector.

Bihesta Bahar Morzad, a teacher, said: “The private sector is a strong arm of the

government, and private schools have provided better educational opportunities for students.”

Tasekeen, another teacher, said: “All the educational resources that a student needs have been made available in these schools to ensure that students receive a proper education.”

According to the Afghanistan Private Schools Union, there are currently 3,500 private primary, middle, and high schools across the country, serving students.

26th amend victory of democracy: Tarar

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, on Monday hailed the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment as a victory for democracy, one that will be etched in history.

"The approval of the 26th constitutional amendment marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's history; a new dawn has begun," the information minister stated. Tarar extended congratulations to Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Ameer Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the members of the federal cabinet,

all coalition parties, and the entire nation on the successful passage of the amendment.

He emphasized that the amendment would bring greater stability to Pakistan's constitutional and legal framework. "Extensive consultations were held to ensure as much consensus as possible on the amendment," Tarar added. The minister noted that the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah laid the foundation for constitutional thought in Pakistan. "History will confirm that this constitutional amendment is in the best interest of the people," he asserted.

The amendment, according to Tarar, will eliminate obstacles to the swift deliv-

ery of justice. He stressed that politics requires flexibility, and there is no place for stubbornness. "Today, the people of Pakistan, the state, and democracy have emerged victorious," he said. He further explained that the approval of the constitutional amendment fulfills the democratic agenda, reinforcing the rule of law and the supremacy of the Constitution in Pakistan.

The amendment is also expected to introduce greater transparency in the judicial appointment process and the evaluation of judges' performance. "Parliament will now be empowered to function as the supreme institution, in line with the spirit of the 1973 Constitution," Tarar concluded.

Commodore Shahzad of Pak Navy promoted



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Commodore Shahzad Iqbal of Pakistan Navy has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral. Rear Admiral Shahzad Iqbal was commissioned in Operations Branch in 1995. The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore, and National Defence University, Islamabad. He has also done B.Sc. in Naval Sciences from University of Karachi and Gunnery Officer Command Course from China.

The Admiral has an illustrious career covering vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments. His command appointments include Commanding Officer PNS SAIF, Commander Jinnah Naval Base, Ormara, and Commander 25th Destroyer Squadron. He also served as Senior Staff Officer (Operations & Plans) at HQ Commander Pakistan Fleet, Director Foreign Military Collaboration, Director Naval Operational Plans and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Flag Officer has been awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military).

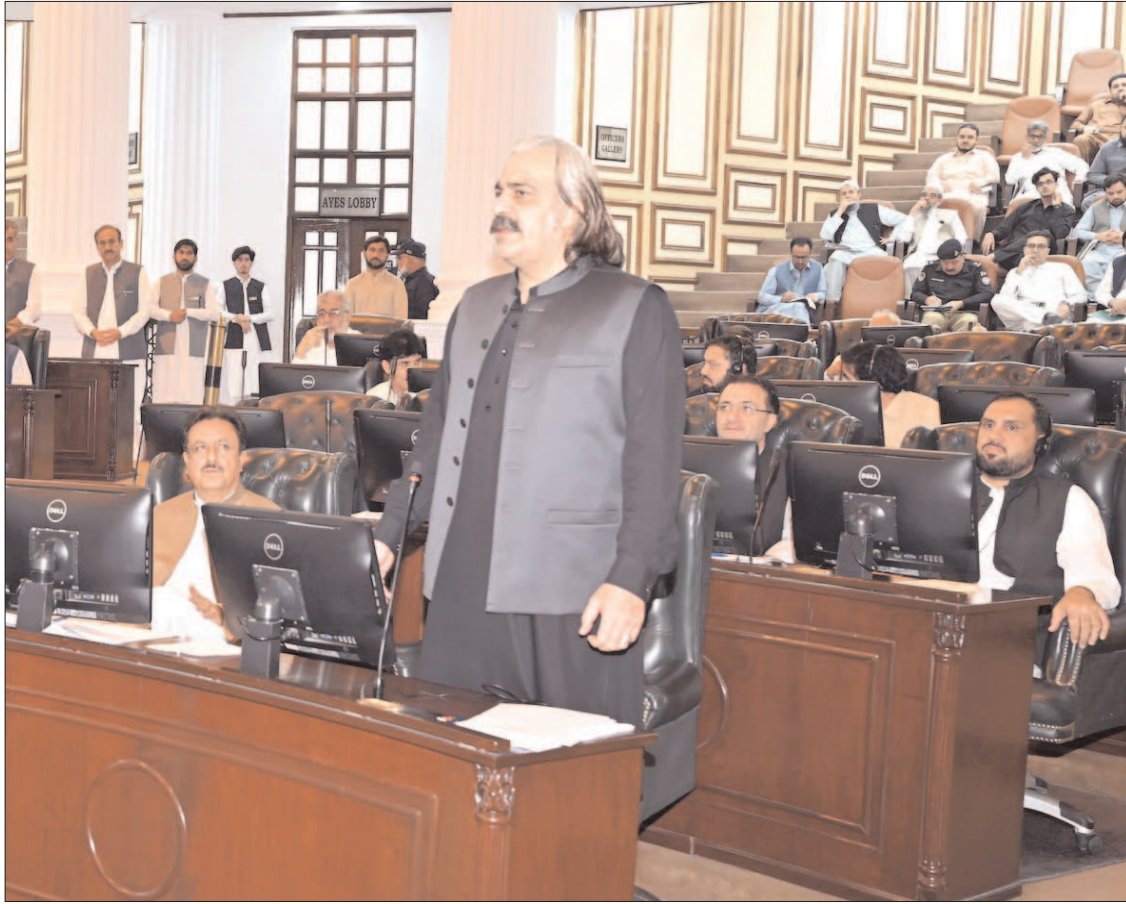
Trump blames Biden for Mideast crises

RIYADH: Former US President Donald Trump criticized Joe Biden and his administration's foreign policy failures for the wars on multiple fronts saying that if he were president, the Oct. 7 attack on Israel wouldn't have happened.

In an exclusive interview with Al-Arabiya's Nadia Bilbassy-Charters, aired, Trump said: "If I were president, that war would have never started. You wouldn't have all those dead people... (and) demolished cities and areas. (We) wouldn't have had Oct. 7." The Republican presidential candidate also discussed the escalating conflict between Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israel, the Russia-Ukraine war and his desire to expand the Abrahams Accords if he wins the elections.

It was when Trump was US president that the Israel signed normalization agreements with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, in what had become known as the Abraham Accords. With Trump as at the White House on September 15, 2020, the accord was by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the foreign ministers of the UAE and Bahrain. In their bilateral agreements, the UAE and Bahrain recognized Israel's sovereignty, enabling the establishment of full diplomatic relations. Sudan and Morocco followed suit by signing their own agreements with Israel. Recently, however, Bahrain's parliament moved to end the country's economic ties to Israel following Israel's indiscriminate and unrelenting assault in Gaza, which has left at least 42,603 people dead and 99,795 injured as of Sunday October. Disregarding growing calls for an end to hostilities, Israel has expanded the violence by attacking wide areas of Lebanon in its war with Iran-backed Hezbollah and Palestinian groups and their allies.

US President Biden's failure to restrain Netanyahu has divided American Muslim voters on whether or not to support the Democratic candidate, US Vice President Kamala Harris, in the November 5 US presidential election. In a press conference on Sept. 27, Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, has said that he could get Israel to end the war, which he said must end "one way or another." In the Al-Arabiya interview on Sunday, Trump said that if he becomes president again he would work with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman to restore peace in the region. — Arab News



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur addressing the provincial assembly session.

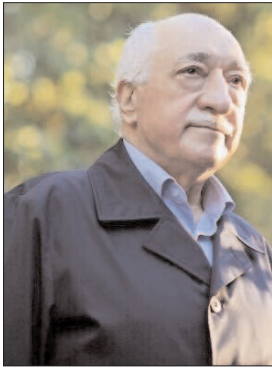
Erdogan rival Fethullah Gulen dies in exile at 83

ISTANBUL (AFP): US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, who was accused by Ankara of organising a failed 2016 coup, has died in exile in the United States aged 83, his movement and the Turkish government said Monday.

Turkish-born Gulen, who had lived in the United States since 1999, was once a close ally of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan before the two became bitter enemies. "Our intelligence sources confirm the death of the leader of the FETO organisation," Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told a press conference, using Turkiye's term for Gulen's once-influential Hizmet movement.

Turkiye's TRT public television said the preacher, who had lived in Pennsylvania for a quarter of a century and was stripped of his Turkish nationality in 2017, died in hospital overnight. In a message on X, Gulen's website Herkul, which is banned in Turkiye, said he died on "October 20", pledging to share details about his funeral.

Gulen moved to Pennsylvania in 1999, ostensibly for health reasons, and from there he ran Hizmet which, at the time, had a sprawling network of public schools on every continent. In 2013, he had a major falling out with Erdogan and three years later the Turkish strongman



accused him of plotting to overthrow him, dubbing Hizmet "the Fethullah Terror Organisation" (FETO).

Some 250 people died on July 15, 2016, when a rogue military faction tried to overthrow Turkiye's government using warplanes and tanks, with Erdogan blaming Gulen supporters within the military. "This organisation has become a threat rarely seen in the history of our nation," Fidan said, accusing its followers of "being used as a weapon against their own country".

Despite Gulen's death, Turkiye would continue "the fight against this organisation, which poses a national security problem", Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc wrote on X. Once an ally who helped Erdogan when he became prime minister in the early 2000s, Gulen's ties with him became strained in 2010. Three years later, Gulen became persona non grata when a corruption scandal engulfed the Turkish pre-

mier's inner circle.

Erdogan blamed Gulen and later began accusing him of terror links although the preacher repeatedly insisted his movement was merely a network of charitable and business institutions. Things worsened after the coup, with the authorities prosecuting more than 700,000 people and handing a life sentence to some 3,000 Gulen followers for their alleged involvement in the putsch.

Bayram Balci, a researcher at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences-Po) told AFP that the death of the once-charismatic preacher would have little impact in Turkiye. "Since the break with Erdogan in 2010 and especially after the attempted coup in 2016, Gulen's image has been very bad. Few people hold him in high esteem," he told AFP. There was no chance Ankara would allow Gulen's body to be repatriated for burial, and he would likely be buried near his home in Pennsylvania, he said.

Hizmet is "no longer the big movement that it once was" with its influence much reduced and its vast network of schools now only mainly operating in Germany, the US, Nigeria and South Africa. Turkiye still regularly rounds up Gulen followers and demands their extradition from countries where his network is active.

Security situation: PHC asks six question

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmad asked six question in a petition filed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council (KPBC) regarding the deteriorating security situation in the province in written order while adjourned hearing for today (on Tuesday).

PHC directed the government to answer: 1. What is the procedure for providing security to judicial complexes, courts, and bar rooms? 2. Are Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) being implemented for security, and if not, why?

3. How many police personnel are deployed for security at judicial complexes and bar rooms? 4. How many and which kind of security equipment, fencing, security vehicles, metal detectors, and bag scanners are available with the police?

5. What SOPs are in place for judges' residences, and how is security being provided? 6. Are modern security devices available with police personnel, and what measures are in place to address security lapses?

PHC also sought information regarding security arrangements for judges' movement and transportation, allocation of official residences to judges and security measures for those without official residences and additional security measures in sensitive areas.

PHC inquired regarding existence of a separate security unit for courts and judges, as per international standards and accountability procedures in case of security breaches while adjourned hearing for today.

PHC grant transit bail: Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Sahibzada Asadullah granted transit bail to Pakistan Threek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former lawmaker Col (Retd) Ajmal Sabir Raja while directing him to appear before the relevant courts by 7th November. The counsel Alam Khan Adenzai advocate argued that the petitioner belongs to the opposition party and is a former Punjab Assembly member. Eight cases are registered against him in Rawalpindi and Attock, the lawyer added. The petitioner wants to appear before the relevant courts but fears arrest before reaching the court. Therefore, he seeks protective bail, the lawyer stated. PHC granted transit bail and directed Col (Retd) Ajmal Sabir Raja to appear before the relevant courts by 7th November.

I have not voted for amend: Zain

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The PTI leader Zain Qureshi stated that he had not voted in favor of the 26th constitutional amendment. In a video statement issued following the approval of the constitutional package in the parliament, Qureshi asserted: "Propaganda is being done against me over the matter."

"I would like to assure the PTI leadership and masses of my constituency that I cannot even imagine voting in favor of this constitutional package," he maintained.

Blinken heads to ME, Gaza truce prospects uncertain

WASHINGTON DC (Reuters): Secretary of State Antony Blinken is heading again to the Middle East, making his 11th trip to the region since the war in Gaza erupted last year and as Israel steps up attacks against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The State Department said Blinken would depart Monday for a weeklong trip to Israel and a number of Arab countries on a visit that also comes as Israel weighs retaliation against Iran for a ballistic missile attack earlier this month. His other stops are likely to include Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, officials say. The trip had been expected after President Joe Biden said last week he would dispatch Blinken to the region following Israel's killing of Hamas military chief Yahya Sinwar, a move that some believe could open a window for new talks on a ceasefire proposal that has been languishing for months.

In Israel on Tuesday, Blinken will meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog, according to Israeli officials. "Secretary Blinken will discuss the importance of bringing the war in Gaza to an end, securing the release of all hostages, and alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people," State Department spokesman

Matthew Miller said in a statement.

In the region, Blinken will discuss planning for when the conflict ends and "the need to chart a new path forward that enables Palestinians to rebuild their lives," Miller added. He said Blinken also would underscore the need for a dramatic increase in the amount of humanitarian aid reaching Gaza, something that Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin made clear in a letter to Israeli officials last week. That letter reminded Israel that the Biden administration could be forced by US law to curtail some forms of military aid should the delivery of humanitarian assistance continue to be hindered.

In addition to the conflict in Gaza, Blinken will also raise the importance the administration places on reaching a diplomatic resolution to the escalating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and elsewhere. "He will reaffirm the US commitment to work with partners across the region to de-escalate tensions and provide lasting stability," Miller said in the statement.

Since the Hamas attacks in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, and the Israeli response, Blinken has traveled to the Middle East 10 other times seeking an end to the crisis. His previous trips have yielded little in the way of

ending hostilities, but he has managed to increase aid deliveries to Gaza in the past. Since just last month, the situation has grown increasingly tense, sparking renewed fears of a wider regional war, particularly since Israel began ground operations in Lebanon against Hezbollah and killed its leader Hassan Nasrallah in a massive airstrike in the Beirut suburbs.

Iran has responded to Israeli attacks against its proxies with ballistic missile launches, the latest of which Israel has yet to retaliate for. Biden administration officials have cautioned Israel about its planned retaliation and believe they have won assurances from Israeli leaders that they will not hit nuclear or oil facilities. However, Netanyahu has said repeatedly that while Israel will listen to American advice, his country will act in its own national interest. And previous US warnings about escalation have gone unheeded. Meanwhile, President Joe Biden was "deeply concerned" about the unauthorized release of classified documents on Israel's preparation for a potential retaliatory attack on Iran, White House national security spokesman John Kirby said Monday. US officials said an investigation is underway.

Hospitals under fire in Gaza

CAIRO (Reuters): Israeli forces besieged hospitals and shelters for displaced people in the northern Gaza Strip on Monday as they stepped up their operations against Palestinian militants, residents and medics said. Troops rounded up men and ordered women to leave the Jabalia historic refugee camp, they said. An Israeli airstrike on a house in Jabalia killed five people and wounded several others, medics said.

The UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA said Israeli authorities were preventing humanitarian missions from reaching areas in the north of the

Palestinian enclave with critical supplies, including medicine and food. "People attempting to flee are getting killed, their bodies left on the street," UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini said on X.

Medics at the Indonesian Hospital told Reuters that Israeli troops stormed a school and detained the men before setting it ablaze. The fire reached hospital generators and caused a power outage, they added. Health officials said they had refused orders by the Israeli army, which started a new incursion into the territory's north over two weeks ago, to evacuate

the three hospitals in the area or leave the patients unattended.

Troops remained outside the hospital but did not enter, they said. Medics at a second hospital, Kamal Adwan, reported heavy Israeli fire near the hospital at night. "The army is burning the schools next to the hospital, and no one can enter or leave the hospital," said one nurse at the Indonesian Hospital, who asked not to be named. Palestinian health officials said at least 18 people had been killed in Jabalia and eight elsewhere in Gaza in Israeli strikes.

Nepra imposes new slabs on consumers

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has converted surcharges into slabs for those consumers who will pay their electricity bills after expiry of deadline.

According to new slabs, five to ten percent slab will be imposed on those consumers who will pay electricity bills after expiry of deadline. Five percent surcharge will be imposed on consumers who will pay their electricity bills in three days after expiry of deadline.

Ten percent surcharge will be levied on those consumers who will pay their electricity bills more than three days after expiry of the deadline. Prior to this 10 percent late payment surcharge (LPS) was being collected from electricity consumers, now no surcharge will be received from consumers after expiry of three days. Online electricity bills will be issued to LESCO consumers. Consumers will be able to pay their electricity online after obtaining extension in deadline from revenue department.



DAMASCUS: Israel launched an air strike targeting a civilian car in the residential neighborhood of Mezzeh, Syria. The attack resulted in the martyrdom of two civilians and injury of three others, in addition to material damage to private property in surrounding area.