

Imran, Bushra to be indicted
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The court adjourned indictment against former premier Imran Khan and former first lady Bushra Bibi in new Toshakhana reference on Saturday as Justice Shahrukh Arjumand of special court went on leave. The couple would now be indicted on Oct 29. It must be noted that the indictment proceedings were also adjourned in the same case a couple of days ago.

 @thefrontierpost

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

Police officer shot dead
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Unidentified gunman opened fire on a sub-inspector namely Haider Ali Shah outside his home in the jurisdiction of Police Station Shehzad Town in Islamabad and killed him. Soon after receiving information about the firing incident, police teams rushed to the crime scene and shifted the critically injured policeman to Polyclinic Hospital but he died on way to the hospital.

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Israel attacks Iran military targets

DUBAI (Reuters): Israel struck military sites in Iran early on Saturday, but its retaliation for an Iranian attack this month did not appear aimed at the country's most sensitive oil and nuclear targets after urgent calls from allies and neighbours for restraint.

The risk of a wider conflagration between heavily armed Israel and Iran has convulsed a region already on fire with warfare in Gaza and Lebanon, but it was not clear whether the overnight strikes would trigger further escalation. Israel's military said scores of jets had completed three waves of strikes before dawn against missile factories and other sites, and warned its heavily armed arch-foe not to hit back.

Iran said its air defences had successfully countered the attack but two soldiers were killed and some locations suffered "limited damage". A semi-official Iranian news agency vowed a "proportional reaction" to the Israeli strikes. Tensions between

Iran and Israel have grown rapidly since the Oct 7, 2023 attack on Israel by Iran-backed Hamas. Fears of an escalation have increased since Oct 1 when Iran launched about 200 ballistic missiles at Israel, killing one person in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, in response to earlier Israeli moves.

Worsening conflict in Lebanon, where Israel is waging an intense campaign against Iran's main regional ally Hezbollah to stop it firing rockets into northern Israel, has raised the temperature still further. With the United States and many Middle Eastern countries urging restraint, all eyes are on Iran for how it will respond to Saturday's strikes.

Tehran's Foreign Ministry said Iran was "entitled and obligated" to defend itself, but added that it "recognises its responsibilities towards regional peace and security", a more conciliatory statement than after previous bouts of escalation. Two

regional officials briefed by Tehran told Reuters that several high-level meetings were held in Tehran to determine the scope of Iran's response. One official stated that the damage was "very minimal" and that "several Revolutionary Guard bases inside Tehran and near the capital were targeted as well".

Iranian news sites aired footage of passengers at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, seemingly meant to show there was little impact. Local media had reported blasts over several hours in the capital and at nearby military bases. Israel's military, signalling it did not expect an immediate Iranian response, said there was no change to public safety restrictions across the country. Israel's military said it had struck missile manufacturing facilities and surface-to-air missile arrays, adding its planes had safely returned home.

"If the regime in Iran were to make the mistake of beginning a new round

of escalation, we will be obligated to respond," the military said. Targets did not include energy infrastructure or Iran's nuclear facilities, a US official said. US President Joe Biden had warned that Washington, Israel's main backer and supplier of arms, would not support a strike on Tehran's nuclear sites and had said Israel should consider alternatives to attacking Iran's oil fields.

Iranian authorities have repeatedly warned Israel against any attack but made no specific vow on Saturday to retaliate. "There is no doubt that Israel will face a proportional reaction for any action it takes," the semi-official Tasnim news agency said on Saturday, citing sources. A senior Biden official said Israel's "targeted and proportional strikes" should be the end of direct exchange of fire between the two countries, but the US was fully prepared to once again defend Israel if Iran should choose to respond.

Videos carried by Iranian media showed air defences continuously firing at apparently incoming projectiles in central Tehran, without saying which sites were coming under attack. Tasnim reported Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps bases that were attacked were not damaged and said Iran was resuming flights from 9 a.m. (0530 GMT) after a suspension during Israel's attack. Neighbouring Iraq was also resuming flights, its state news agency said.

Jordanian television quoted a source in the country's armed forces as saying no military planes had been allowed through its airspace. A Saudi official also said that Saudi airspace had not been used for the strike. Israel launched airstrikes against some military sites in central and southern Syria early on Saturday, Syrian state news agency SANA reported. Israel has not confirmed striking Syria.

Israel said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defence

Minister Yoav Gallant and other officials followed the operation at the military's command and control centre in Tel Aviv. Gallant spoke to US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin shortly after Israel's strikes began. Austin emphasized the enhanced force posture of the United States to defend US personnel, Israel and its partners across the region, the Pentagon said. Israel notified the US before striking, but Washington was not involved in the operation, a US official told Reuters.

Saudi Arabia, which has mended fences with Iran after years of regional rivalry, and had been edging towards better ties with Israel before the war in Gaza, condemned the attack as a violation of Iranian sovereignty and international law. Efforts to secure a ceasefire and hostage-release deal in Gaza, which could help cool the wider conflict, are expected to resume in Doha when negotiators fly there on Sunday.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari administering oath of office to Justice Yahya Afridi as Chief Justice of Pakistan a ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PM reiterates Pakistan's strong support for IIOJK

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said Pakistan had always expressed its unwavering solidarity with Kashmiri brothers and sisters and it will continue to extend its full moral, diplomatic and political support to them until the final resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

In his message on the occasion of 'Kashmir Black Day' - 27 October 2024, the prime minister said on this day 77 years ago, Indian forces landed in Srinagar. India has since stifled the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people to determine their own destiny. It has failed to fulfill its obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

He said the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) had suffered countless hardships during the last seventy-seven years. However, their resolve to realize their inalienable right to self-determination remains as firm as it was in 1947. "This day, I pay my heartfelt tribute to the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people in their continued struggle for the right to self-determination. Undoubtedly, their sacrifices will not go in vain", he

said.

The prime minister said India had been taking successive steps to tighten its grip over IIOJK since 5 August 2019. India's nefarious designs are aimed at undermining the disputed status of IIOJK and denying the Kashmiri people their democratic right to decide their own future. Today, he said the Kashmiri people were enduring the most egregious and painful curbs on their daily lives and livelihoods.

He said the number of political prisoners remains in the thousands and the Indian occupation forces act with impunity under draconian counterterrorism laws. However, he said these oppressive measures cannot dampen the Kashmiri people's yearning for self-determination. "As I recently reaffirmed in my address to the United Nations General Assembly, Pakistan has consistently maintained that peace and stability in South Asia remain contingent upon peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiris. India must realize that it cannot suppress the genuine aspirations of the Kashmiri people by its coercive tactics," he added.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif felicitated Justice Yahya Afridi on taking oath of the office of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and expressed his good wishes for him.

The prime minister, earlier attended the oath taking ceremony of CJP at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi's experience, acumen and legal expertise would provide guidance to judiciary towards dispensation of justice and strengthening the rule of law, PM Office Media Wing with media, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying. He further expressed his confidence that under the CJP's leadership, the judiciary would continue providing justice to the public with honesty.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also said that Pakistan strongly condemned a recent Israeli act of aggression against Iran and it stood with Iran and its other neighbours in pursuit of peace. He also urged all parties involved in the conflict to act with restraint to avoid further escalation. On X handle, the prime minister posted, "Deeply worried by the recent act of Israeli aggression against Iran. Such actions threaten not only regional peace and stability but also violate principles of sovereignty and international law."

6 including four cops martyred in N Waziristan

F.P. Report

MIR ALI: At least six people including four police officials were martyred and six others injured in a suicide attack on a police post in Eidak area of Mir Ali tehsil in North Waziristan on Saturday.

Police said the attack targeted Aslam Pickett, a police post in Eidak area of Mir Ali tehsil. Four of the slain individuals were police personnel, they added. The injured who also included police officials were shifted to hospital after a rescue operation was launched. Meanwhile, the area was cordoned off by the security forces.

President Asif Ali Zardari expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives of innocent civilians and police personnel in a suicide attack in Mir Ali area of North Waziristan.

Strongly condemning the suicide attack on a police check post, the president said the attack on the policemen was a cowardly act. "Terrorists will never succeed in their evil designs," the president said in a statement issued by the President House. He stressed the need for taking all possible measures to completely eradicate terrorism. Paying tribute to the martyred personnel, President Zardari prayed for patience for the bereaved families, and wished a swift recovery for the injured.

Justice Yahya Afridi was elevated to the Bench of the Peshawar High Court as Additional Judge in 2010 and later confirmed as a Judge of the Peshawar High Court on March 15, 2012. Justice Afridi became the first judge from the Federally Administered Tribal Area to assume the office of the Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court when he took oath on December 30, 2016 and served in that office until his elevation as a Judge of the

House of former senator blown up: Unknown miscreants destroyed the house of former Senator Saleh Shah in Upper South Waziristan, police informed.

Police said miscreants blew up the house of former Senator Saleh Shah with explosive, completely razing the structure to the ground. Soon after receiving information, security forces and police reached the site and cordoned off the area before initiating a search operation. The house of former Senator Saleh Shah situated at Gomal Tank Road was targeted earlier some years ago. He had played a role in bringing the Taliban and government to the dialogue table.

Tissue factory burnt into ashes

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The fire fighters on Saturday night here succeeded in extinguishing a fire at a tissue factory in Hayatabad's industrial estate after two hours with no casualty reported.

According to police, the fire erupted in a factory of tissues papers and diapers in the industrial area with loss of equipment worth millions of rupees. Eight fire trucks, two water browsers and 50 firefighters used to douse the fire. Fire department started the cooling process after curbing the flame, which lasted for an hour. The reason behind the fire could not be ascertained and that no casualty reported in the incident, police confirmed.

Justice Yahya Afridi sworn in as CJP

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday administered the oath to Justice Yahya Afridi as the Chief Justice of Pakistan in an oath-taking ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Services Chiefs, Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Governors, Chief Ministers, Ministers, judges of the Supreme Court, high courts, former chief justices, law officers, office bearers of the lawyers' bodies, lawyers, and media persons.

Justice Yahya Afridi was nominated by a special parliamentary committee as the next CJP among the three senior most judges of the Supreme Court under the newly adopted 26th Amendment of the Constitution, and a summary in this regard was afterwards forwarded by the prime minister to the president, who accorded approval to the appointment of Justice Afridi as the 30th CJP.

Born in Dera Ismail Khan on January 23, 1965, Justice Yahya was enrolled as an advocate of the High Court in 1990 and as an advocate of the Supreme Court in 2004. He also served as an Assistant Advocate General for the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and as a Federal Counsel for the Government of Pakistan while in practice.

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PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said on Saturday that Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi represented the entire nation.

He said that it was his as well as his party's duty to get former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan released from jail. "And right now we are focusing on it," Gandapur said that Imran's wife Bushra Bibi not only had issues with her ears but also with her teeth. "She is an apolitical person. She does not interfere in politics," he said.

KP CM said that this time when the PTI workers would come out on roads to protest, they would not only block Islamabad, but the entire country. He accused the Islamabad Police of taking the law into their own hands and levelling baseless allegations against the PTI. "We will not tolerate it," he said categorically. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur on Saturday congratulated the cricket team and nation on winning the test series against England.

In a message, the Chief Minister said Pakistan cricket team exhibited remarkable performance in the Pindi Test series and hoped that the team will continue such amazing performance in future. He said the team's performance was a source of pride for the whole nation adding that he would pray for more tri-

umphs in the cricket field for the Pakistani team.

It is worth mentioning that this win comes after an eight-year gap in series victories over England. In their previous encounter in the UAE, Pakistan won a three-match Test series against England 2-0 in 2015-16. The victory at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium is also noteworthy, as it is the first time Pakistan has triumphed over England at this venue.

KP govt committed to empower LG govt: A meeting to address the issues facing the elected representatives of local governments was held here under the chair of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur the other day. The meeting was attended by Provincial Minister for Local Government Arshad Ayub, officials from the Local Government and other concerned departments. It was also attended by a delegation of the elected representatives of Local Governments.

The delegation included Himayatullah Mayar, Inamullah Khan, Sardar Shuja Nabi, Farhad Khan, Azizullah Afridi and others. The meeting discussed the proposed amendments to the Tehsil Local Government Rules of Business 2022 suggested by the local bodies representatives, and almost all of the proposed amendments were agreed in principle which would be tabled in the provincial cabinet for final approval. It was also decided that a meeting will be held to address other legiti-

mate demands of the local bodies representatives.

Talking on this occasion, the Chief Minister said that the approval of these amendments would empower the local governments, making them more effective. He emphasized the provincial government's commitment to strengthening local bodies financially and administratively, aligning it with the vision of PTI founder chairman Imran Khan.

The Chief Minister remarked that empowering local governments would enable them to address public issues at the grassroots level, benefiting both the provincial government and the citizens, and the current provincial government is taking priority steps to resolve issues faced by local representatives adding that monthly remuneration and allowances for Tehsil chairmen has been increased from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 80,000. Whereas Rs. 466 million was released for village and neighborhood councils in settled districts, and Rs. 94 million for those in merged districts recently. Moreover, he added that, Rs. 548 million had been released for TMAs (Tehsil Municipal Administrations) in settled districts and Rs. 33 million for merged districts.

The chair further informed that Rs. 350 million was approved hold sports activities under local governments in the merged districts, whereas provision of vehicles for Tehsil chairmen would be completed within few days.



CM approves 500 electric buses project for Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a joint meeting of different departments at CM House here Saturday to review the progress of the projects in the pipeline and some new projects that could be launched with the assistance of the donor agencies.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, Minister Transport Sharjeel Memon, Minister Energy Nasir Shah, Minister Industries Jam Ikram, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman P&D Najam Shah and concerned secretaries.

During the meeting, the CM observed that Karachi's public transport system was overwhelmed by its growing population and outdated fleet, resulting in overcrowded, inefficient, and environmentally harmful services. He added that the induction of Peoples Bus Service, electric Buses and Pink Buses have made a difference but even then a big fleet of buses was required to resolve the public transport issue of the city.

Minister Transport

Sharjeel Memon told the CM that to tackle these challenges and promote sustainable urban mobility, his department had proposed him the induction of 500 fully electric buses into the city's transportation network. He added that the move would enhance the commuter experience, reduce traffic congestion, and significantly lower air pollution.

The CM said that the proposal of the transport department has started discussions with the donor agencies, and hopefully, he will secure the funds. He directed the P&D and transport departments to finalise the required paperwork 300 Diesel-hybrid Buses: Cm Murad Shah said that the transport system across Sindh, outside of Karachi, was in dire need of modernisation and expansion to meet the growing demands of its population. "As the province continues to develop economically and socially, the current public transport offerings struggle to keep pace," he said.

Minister Transport Sharjeel Memon said that his department was working on a proposal aiming to

procure 300 diesel-hybrid buses, allocating 60 buses to each of the five divisions of Sindh, to enhance connectivity, improve environmental standards, and ensure a reliable and efficient mode of transport for all residents. He said 60 buses would be given to each Division – Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Mirpurkhas and Shaheed Benazirabad.

Another project of procurement of 300 EV buses for Intercity Transportation in the province was discussed in the meeting. Minister transport told the CM that 300 diesel-hybrid/EV buses for inter-city transportation, connecting divisional headquarters across the province.

The CM said that the initiative should provide a cost-effective, safer, and environmentally friendly transport option for the public, countering the fare hikes imposed by private operators and addressing safety concerns. Sharjeel Memon said that under the plan 60 EVM buses would be given to Karachi, 50 each to Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana and Shaheed Benazirabad and 40 to Mirpurkhas.

Briefing the CM, the transport minister told that for the supply and operation of Yellow Line BRT project, private operator would be offered to finance, procure, supply, operate buses and maintain various systems and provide related services.

The CM was told that the design of corridor was a 3rd Generation BRT. The main BRT trunk corridor comprises of 21km long dedicated corridor from Dawood Chowrangi to Numaish. Sharjeel said that the Battery electric buses technology option was under consideration. The CM directed the Transport department to complete the

feasibility by the end of November 2024 so that the project could be taken up. The West Karachi Recycled Water Project-I (WKRWP) envisages treating 35 MGD wastewater and supplying 27 MGD, approximately industrial-grade water to industries in SITE Karachi, he said.

The CM said that the project would supply water to the industrial area, reducing their dependency on freshwater needed elsewhere in the city. He added it would also enhance environmental sustainability by discharging treated water into the sea.

Murad Ali Shah directed the Local Government department to relaunch the project with a revised transaction structure by November 24 so that donor agencies could be approached for funding.

The TP-4 project envisages the construction of a 22 km Interceptor, primary and secondary wastewater treatment plant of approximately 120 MIGD along with Tertiary treatment and RO of 40 MIGD to supply industrial-grade water to the industries in Korangi Industrial Area of Karachi.

The CM said that the donor agencies have pledged funding, and his Cabinet has approved the funding for the project. Minister P&D Nasir Shah told the CM that the project was under the feasibility Stage. The CM directed the P&D department to get its feasibility study completed within the next two months.

The CM said that the Coal Gasification Technology is successfully being used in many developed countries like South Africa, USA, China and others. He added that Pakistan has huge coal reserves (184 B.ton) that can be utilised by the application of appropriate technologies starting with the production of SNG.



ISLAMABAD: Posters and banners are displayed on the eve of Kashmir Black Day in front of Parliament House in solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. —APP Photo

History will forever remember October 27 as Black Day: Ayaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, said on Saturday that October 27th serves as a day to highlight India's forcible occupation of Kashmir and the atrocities committed against the Kashmiri people.

On this day in 1947, Indian forces entered Srinagar in an attempt to illegally occupy Kashmir—a day history will forever remember as "Black Day."

In his message regarding Black Day, Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed that the right to self-determination is a fundamental right of the Kashmiri people, who have made immense sacrifices in pursuit of this cause. He added that India has employed every possible means of oppression and brutality to

suppress this right, but has failed and will continue to fail.

Ayaz Sadiq condemned India's actions on August 5, 2019, describing them as blatant violations of international law. He urged India to reverse its illegal actions and end human rights abuses in occupied Kashmir.

Referring to India's constitutional amendments and the sham elections held in Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), the Speaker emphasized that the Kashmiri people have categorically rejected these moves.

He reiterated that Pakistan fully supports the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination and stands in solidarity with them. Paying tribute to the heroes of Kashmir's freedom move-

ment, he said that their sacrifices will always be remembered with honor. Ayaz Sadiq declared that the Kashmir issue remains an unfinished agenda of the partition of India and Pakistan.

He stressed that sustainable peace in the region requires resolving this issue in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

He also affirmed that Pakistan will continue to provide political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri people at all levels and will raise its voice on international and regional platforms. The Speaker further urged the international community to play its role in resolving both the Kashmir and Palestine issues.

NAB DG assures compensation, justice to affectees

LAHORE (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore, under the supervision of Director General Amjad Majeed Aulakh, conducted its monthly open court session at the regional bureau office, here on Saturday.

The session was attended by over 250 affectees to seek justice and recovery of their looted money. The DG listened to all affectees and issued on-the-spot instructions while updating them on the progress of their ongoing cases. Affectees from various housing societies and Ponzi schemes, including State

Life Cooperative Housing Society, Palm Vista Housing, Prime Zone, and Bold Vision, as well as employees of ForU Real Traders, New Lahore City project, Qasim Garden, Defence Paradise, Faisalabad and employees of Rahim Store participated in the Open Court session.

Regarding Palm Vista Housing, the DG NAB Lahore justified prompt action on complaints and revealed arrest of two directors named accused Mahmoud Tariq and Amer Azeem. The accused persons face allegations of embezzling Rs1.4 billion from 295

affectees in said scam. To further investigations and recovery of looted funds, the accused have been remanded to custody until October 30.

The DG also informed affectees that efforts are underway to repatriate the main absconding accused named Qasim Khan, through Interpol. However, all movable and immovable assets of those involved in the fraud have been frozen. State Life Cooperative Housing Society affectees sought affiliation and NOC from NAB. The DG assured them that NAB Lahore will provide 6,750 affectees with

developed plots worth Rs50-60 billion within a month.

He also informed that NAB Lahore had previously helped 650 affectees of this Society in securing plots worth millions of rupees from the Society's administration, ten years ago.

Regarding ForU Real Traders, DG NAB stated that NAB Lahore has received 800 claims worth Rs583 million and has got placed the accused on the Exit Control List (ECL) and assets details from other government departments are also sought. Further investigations are underway in the scam.

accelerating the pace of prosperity

EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES AUTHORITY

Ministry of Industries & Production Government of Pakistan

No. SEC/III/089

Dated: 22-10-2024

INVITATION TO BID

The Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) invites bids (Technical & Financial Proposals) in accordance with PPRA Rules 2004, under "Single Stage Two Envelopes Procedure" from the service providers/ bidders/ firms registered with Federal Board of Revenue/ Respective Revenue Boards for Income Tax and Sales Tax and who are on Active Taxpayers List (Income Tax and Sales Tax) of the Federal Board of Revenue/ Relevant Tax Authority for hiring of Security Services for Karachi Export Processing Zone, Sialkot EPZ, Risalpur EPZ and Gujranwala EPZ.

2. Bidding documents and terms and conditions can be downloaded from www.epza.gov.pk, EPADS and PPRA websites.

3. The bids prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents, must be submitted through EPADs on or before November 06, 2024 by 11:00 am and will be opened on the same day at 11:30 am.

4. In case of any query, Secretary (EPZA) may be contacted on UAN No. 021-111-777- 222 during office hours (Monday to Friday excluding Public Holidays).

PID K.1308/24

Chulam Yaseen Sanghro

Secretary (EPZA)

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
CHILD PROTECTION INSTITUTE

The Child Protection Institute, Ministry of Human Rights invites the applications against the vacant positions on permanent basis from Pakistani National as per the following details;

| S. No. | Designation | Number of Posts | Qualification | Experience | Age limit | Fall under Quota |
|--------|--|-----------------|--|--|-------------|--|
| 1. | Director (BPS-19) | 1 | Master's degree in Social Work/Sociology/ Anthropology, with 2nd Division from the HEC recognized University. | 12 Years' experience in the field of child protection child rights, human rights, administration, project management, monitoring, evaluation, research related to international covenants / conventions on human rights in public or private sector. | 32-40 years | Open Merit |
| 2. | Child Protection Officer (Legal) (BPS-17) | 1 | L.L.B with 2nd Division from the HEC recognized University. | 2 years' experience in Human Rights/ Child Rights/ Women Rights in public or private sector. | 22-30 years | Punjab Merit including ICT=01 |
| 3. | Child Protection Officer (Social Welfare) (BPS-17) | 02 | Master's degree in Social Work, Sociology, and Anthropology with 2nd Division from the HEC recognized University. | 2 years' experience in Human Rights/ Child Rights/ Women Rights in public or private sector. | 22-30 years | Punjab Merit including ICT=01 Sindh (R)=01 |
| 4. | Assistant Director (Admin & Accounts) (BPS-17) | 1 | M.Com/ MBA (Finance)/MPA with 2nd Division from the HEC recognized University having three years' experience in public or private sector. | 2 years' experience in administration/ accounts in public or private sector. | 22-30 years | Punjab Merit including ICT=01 |
| 5. | Assistant Director (DBMS) (BPS-17) | 1 | Master's Degree in Computer Science / IT / Software Engineering / equivalent in the relevant field with 2nd Division from the HEC recognized University. | 2 years' experience in Computer Sciences / IT / System Analysis/ Networking/ Programming/ Database Design/ System Development life cycle in public or private sector. | 22-30 years | Punjab Merit including ICT=01 |
| 6. | Computer Programmer (BPS-17) | 1 | Master's Degree in Computer Science / IT / Software Engineering / equivalent in the relevant field with 2nd Division from the HEC recognized University | 2 years' experience in Computer Sciences / IT / System Analysis / Networking / Programming / Database Design / System Development life cycle in public or private sector. | 22-30 years | Punjab Merit including ICT=01 |

DS(A) Note 2024

Terms & Conditions

- The selection shall be made purely on merit basis observing regional/provincial quota as per Govt. Policy
- Interested candidates can apply online through National Job Portal at [website www.njp.gov.pk](http://www.njp.gov.pk) within 15 days from the date of publication of advertisement. Applications by post/by hand will not be entertained.
- Advertisement can be downloaded from website www.mohr.gov.pk.
- Only short-listed candidates will be called for written test/ interview. The eligible candidates will be informed for test / interview through post or on the given Email.
- Candidates already in Government Service should apply through proper channel, along with NOC from their organizations clearly stating the length of service and other particulars.
- Candidates will have to produce original documents at the time of interview. Candidates already in Government Service, will also have to produce original NOC from their departments/organizations.
- The general age relaxation of 5 years and others in upper age limit would be granted as admissible under the rules.
- No TA/DA shall be admissible for appearing in test/interview.
- If a candidate is interested to apply for more than one post, he should apply separately.
- The competent authority reserves the right to cancel the process of recruitment at any stage without citing any reasons.

Director General

Child Protection Institute Ministry of Human Rights
Shaheed-e-Millat Road, G-6/3, Islamabad

PID (I) 2840/24

PAKISTAN AIRPORTS AUTHORITY (PAA)

پاکستان ایئر پورٹس اتھارٹی

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids (in accordance with **PPRA Rule No. 36(b)**) are invited by below mentioned office for the following requirements in Pak Rs.:-

| S.#. | Description & Bid No. | Fixed Bid Security (PKR) | Bid Submission Date / Time Through E-PAD Portal & Physical | Bid Opening Date/Time/Place | Basis PKR (Price) |
|------|---|--------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| 01 | Procurement / Installation & Commissioning of Multifunctional PA System for Conference Room at DG Secretariat Karachi, IIAP Islamabad Airport & QIAP Quetta Airport I/T No. HQCAA/1992/264/XXLN | Rs. 445,800/- | 18-11-2024 1100 Hours | 18-11-2024 1130 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch) | F.O.R |
| 02 | Procurement of Qty.35 VHF (FM) Walkie Talkies (5 watts) for Communication I/T No. HQCAA/1992/263/XXLN | Rs. 120,000/- | 19-11-2024 11:00 Hours | 19-11-2024 1130 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch) | F.O.R |
| 03 | Procurement of Qty.10 UPS 06KVA for CNS Equipment I/T No. HQCAA/1992/266/XXLN | Rs. 125,000/- | 20-11-2024 10:30 Hours | 20-11-2024 1100 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch) | F.O.R |
| 04 | Procurement of Qty.25 UPS 03KVA for CNS Equipment I/T No. HQCAA/1992/265/XXLN | Rs. 187,500/- | 20-11-2024 11:00 Hours | 20-11-2024 1130 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch) | F.O.R |
| 05 | Procurement / Installation & Commissioning of Video Conference System for ANS Mini Conference Room at HQPAA I/T No. HQCAA/1992/268/XXLN | Rs. 14,900/- | 21-11-2024 11:00 Hours | 21-11-2024 1130 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch) | F.O.R |

Bids may be submitted as per conditions set out in Bidding documents available on PPRA E-PAD System <http://eprocedure.gov.pk>. Bids should be submitted electronically through PPRA EPADS web portal <http://eprocedure.gov.pk>, as well as physically submitted (sealed envelope) before closing time & date at below-mentioned address, otherwise the submission shall not be considered.

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Governor expresses condolence over North Waziristan attack

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Saturday expressed deep sorrow and offered heartfelt tributes to the brave security personnel who lost their lives in North Waziristan.

He emphasized that the nation takes immense pride in those who achieve martyrdom while defending the homeland.

Governor Kundi highlighted the sacrifices made by security forces, saying that their contributions in the fight against terrorism will never be forgotten.

He reiterated the com-

mitment to continue operations against terrorists to ensure the safety and security of the province.

The Governor extended his condolences to the families of the martyrs, affirming that the government stands in solidarity with them during this difficult time.

Governor prayed for the departed soul in eternal peace and early recovery of the injured.

At least six people including four police officials were martyred and six others injured in a suicide attack on a police post in the Eidak area of Mir Ali

tehsil in North Waziristan on Saturday.

Police said the attack targeted Aslam Picket, a police post in the Eidak area of Mir Ali tehsil. Four of the slain individuals were police personnel, they added.

The injured who also included police officials were shifted to hospital after a rescue operation was launched. Meanwhile, the area was cordoned off by the security forces.

Governor grieved over fire incident at Dain Factory: The Governor expressed grief and sorrow and took immediate notice

of the fire incident at Dain Factory Hayatabad.

He contacted the Commissioner of Peshawar to ensure all necessary assistance.

The Commissioner briefed the Governor on the details of the ongoing relief efforts.

In light of the situation, Governor Kundi issued directives for the Pakistan Air Force to deploy helicopters to aid in firefighting efforts.

He emphasized the need for all relevant departments to take emergency measures to address the incident effectively and efficiently.



PESHAWAR: A view of collapsed building at Milad Chowk. One person dead while another injured in incident.

Faculty, students of FLC visit Judicial Academy

PESHAWAR (APP): The Dean Faculty, KPJA extended a warm welcome to the visitors and shared insights into the Academy's history and mission. He explained that the Academy was established in July 2012 through an Act of the Assembly, and it commenced its regular training programs in August of the same year. The primary aim of the Academy is to provide training to Judges of the District Judiciary and all other stakeholders in the justice system, including court staff and lawyers. He stated that these training courses are designed to meet modern requirements, with the ultimate goal of strengthening public trust in the existing justice system and facilitating the prompt and cost-effective delivery of justice. He noted that the Academy has played a significant role in improving the judicial system by offering training programs to representatives of all

institutions associated with the justice system.

The Dean Faculty encouraged lawyers to continually develop their professional skills and provide tireless services to the public to ensure swift and affordable administration of justice.

Providing additional insights to the delegation, Director Instructions-I described the Academy's structure, which operates under the Board of Governors, chaired by the Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court. The Board consists of eleven other members, including the Director General of the Judicial Academy, who serves as the board's secretary. The Academy boasts several departments, such as Administration, Academics, Research & Publication, Information Technology (IT), a Radio Meezan Station, and a Modern Library. Additionally, a Day-Care Center for children is also

available.

An interactive session was also arranged for the students with directors of the Academy. The students discussed various matters including those relating to careers in legal and judicial professions.

Akhtar Ali Khan Advocate, Founder and Director of Frontier Law College thanked and praised the Judicial Academy's remarkable achievements in the field of judicial education and training. He commended the Academy for its significant contributions in a relatively short span of time.

The occasion was marked by an exchange of souvenirs between the two institutions, symbolizing their commitment to collaborative learning and judicial excellence.

At the end, faculty members and students from Frontier Law College were given the opportunity to tour various departments of the Academy.

Ph.D dissertation on diagnosis and vaccination successfully defended

PESHAWAR (APP): Hayatullah Khan, a student of Agriculture University Peshawar, has successfully defended his Ph.D dissertation on diagnosis and vaccination against a debilitating infectious disease of goats, and sheep.

The research titled "Proteomic approaches for the establishment of effective diagnostics and vaccines against Mycoplasma capricolum subsp. capripneumoniae Pakistan-strain" is completed under the supervision of Dr. Farhan Anwar Khan, Associate Professor, College of Veterinary Sciences, The University of Agriculture, Peshawar (UAP).

The public seminar was attended by expert panel, faculty members, University officials and distinguished guests including Prof. Dr. Abdur Rahman (Dean FAH&VS), Prof. Dr. Murad Ali Khan (Principal CVS), Prof. Dr. Syed Muhammad Sohail (Chairman Department of LM, AB&G), Dr. Asad Sultan (Associate Professor, Chairman Department of Poultry Science), Dr. Hamayun Khan (DASAR, UAP) and postgraduate scholars other respected professionals.

Explaining his research, Hayatullah said the primary goal of this project was to create tools to help Pakistani farmers mitigate an economically debilitat-

ing infectious disease (contagious caprine pleuropneumonia- CCPP) of primarily goats and sheep.

These are staple livestock in many regions of Pakistan, and this disease impacts the poorest of farmers most gravely.

Pakistan has got 3rd largest population of goats (87 Million) in the world.

The goats population is 1st largest in Pakistan compared to other domestic animals. Goat is known as "Poor man's Cow" in the subcontinent.

Hayatullah said CCPP is listed by World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) as a notifiable terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases, causing a considerable economic loss in terms of high morbidity (80-100%) and mortality (60-80%) in affected goat flocks.

Currently, diagnostics and vaccines for this pathogen are lacking due in part to the uniqueness of strains endemic to Pakistan and in part to the lack of attention worldwide to goat and sheep infectious diseases which are less economically significant in wealthy countries that rely more heavily on cattle as livestock species.

The PhD research work revealed promising antigenic proteins of the pathogen (Mycoplasma capricolum subsp. capripneumoniae- Mccp) causing CCPP.

Later on in this study, the scholar developed specific and sensitive ELISA kit based on the proteins extracted from Mccp local strain.

The developed ELISA kit detected the anti-Mccp antibodies in experimental animals by day 07 post infection with Mccp local strain.

Additionally, the inactivated vaccine prepared for the prevention of CCPP in goats was found safe and induced more protective immune response in experimental goats compared to the commercially available vaccine.

Commercialization of the established ELISA kit would help in the early detection of CCPP infection and eventually help the poor farmers in early and rational treatment of their infected goat flocks.

It would ultimately lower the expense of irrational treatment on farmers.

Similarly commercialization of vaccine would expectedly reduce the mortality from 60-80% to 10-20 % in vaccinated flocks in Mccp enzootic areas of the country.

Accessibility of local farmers to relatively cheap diagnostic assay and vaccine for 18-20 million goats in the province and 87 million in the whole country would have a huge economic impact, he hoped.

KP CM congratulates nation

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur on Saturday congratulated the cricket team and nation on winning the test series against England.

In a message, the Chief Minister said, "Pakistan cricket team exhibited remarkable performance in the Pindi Test series and hoped that the team will continue such amazing performance in future."

He said the team's performance was a source of pride for the whole nation adding that he would pray for more triumphs in the cricket field for the Pakistani team.

It is worth mentioning that this win comes after an eight-year gap in series victories over England.

In their previous encounter in the UAE, Pakistan won a three-match Test series against England 2-0 in 2015-16. The victory at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium is also noteworthy, as it is the first time Pakistan has triumphed over England at this venue.

Saif warns govt against harming PTI workers

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Saif on Saturday blamed the federal government for arresting the PTI workers for something "they didn't even commit."

Responding to Federal Information Minister Federal Information Minister Atta Tarar's allegations of accusing the PTI workers of attacking police vans, Saif blamed the government for fuelling lies.

He pointed out contradictions between the statements of the federal minister and police, adding that no incident of firing or baton-charging occurred.

"Atta Tarar should tell why Attock bound van was turned towards Islamabad. Why were arrested PTI workers being roamed around on the roads," he deplored. He said the government would have to face criticism once the truth was revealed after transparent investigations.

Kashmiris prepare to mark black day against illegal occupation

PESHAWAR (APP): The Kashmiris living in all provinces of Pakistan including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Kashmir are all set to observe Kashmir black day on Sunday.

They would hold banners and placards to condemn the illegal occupation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir by India on October 27, 1947. From Chitral to Khyber and Waziristan to Kohistan, Kashmiris settled in all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have planned different programs including protest demonstration, walks and rallies to strongly condemn the illegal annexation of Indian troops at Srinagar 77 years ago which is sheer violation of Indo-Pakistan patrician plan and UN Charter.

Besides rallies and seminars, photo exhibitions highlighting Indian forces' war crimes and human rights abuses would be highlighted.

Similarly, debate competitions on different aspects of the lingering issue and

significance of UN Security Council's resolutions would be held in schools and colleges of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Transporters and Rickshaw unions also planned rallies in front of press club in connection with the day.

Professor Dr Ejaz Khan, former Chairman, International relations Department at University of Peshawar said that India went against Indo-Pakistan's partition plan after illegally landing its troops in Srinagar on October 27, 1947 that was widely condemned by the international community.

He said Kashmiris stood up against India's illegal occupation and launched the freedom movement that led to independence of Azad Kashmir.

On August 5, 2019, he said India had made a deep-rooted conspiracy to rob Kashmiris of their history, language and ethno-cultural identity after abolishing the special status of IIOJK.

He said Indian occupation forces' continued oppression, human rights abuses and organized state terrorism at IIOJK were one of the root causes of an indigenous freedom movement in the held valley that was virtually turned into the world's largest jail in modern history.

He said India can't change IIOJK autonomous status unilaterally in presence of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, and the illegal acts of the fascist Modi Govt taken on August 5, 2019 were neither endorsed by the UNSC nor by any foreign country. He said the Hinduvata regime was now repenting after internationalizing the Kashmir dispute that put peace in South Asia at stake.

Dr Ejaz said the strategic stability has been threatened by India as it continues to receive abundant supply of conventional and non conventional weapons, adding the unprecedented increase in India's military budget and expenditures in recent years have characterized the global security landscape as grim.

He said the illegal occu-

pation of Kashmir valley by India negated multiple articles of the 30 fundamental human rights of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) drafted by representatives from all the regions of the world including India on December 10, 1948 and subsequently was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

"This declaration was applied to all the signatory members of the UN including India and restrained them from all kinds of abuses, exploitation, maltreatment and violence besides violation of any fundamental rights protected in UDHR."

He urged international community to look beyond trade and business interests and step forward with collective action to stop genocide of oppressed Kashmiris besides pressurize Modi government to reverse all its illegal actions of August 5, 2019 and give right of self-determination to them for lasting peace and stability in South Asia.



PESHAWAR: A man busy in making barbeque for customers.

Successful mission—a view of what did by a Governor in four provinces of war stricken Afghanistan

Shamim Shahid

No doubt despite some dots, all those who remain occupants of important offices from December 2011 till mid of August 2021 have did a lot for Afghanistan and its war affected people. Prolonged external aggression, interference and investment had made devastated the one time most civilized and beautiful Afghanistan. At one stage, almost Afghans have lost hopes regarding future, especially restoration of lost infrastructures both public and private, centralized authority and revival of the well civilized society. But it was made possible by former presidents Hamid Karzai and Dr. Ashraf Ghani and their most competent, talented and dedicated aides like Abdul Jabbar Naemi who had served four provinces as its

Governor.

Serving as or occupying office of Governor is no any difficult or strange but serving the most complicated four provinces as Governor was a difficult task. Though nature of imposed extremism and terrorism in war devastated Afghanistan is same and similar but it has different roots and causes at regional and provincial levels. Jabaar Naemi had served Central Maidan-Wardak, South Eastern Khost, North-Eastern Kunduz and Eastern Laghman provinces. Khost is bordering with Pakistan's Waziristan region, therefore, one may be in a better position to know about threats and challenges for the person who remain occupant of top administrative office. He remained Governor of Khost when thousands of North Waziristan families, slipped

into (Khost) when Pakistan army initiated most accomplished Zarb-i-Azab operation against militants. On such grounds, he had accredited him as host of North Waziristan displaced families, majority of whom are still waiting for repatriation.

Besides Khost, serving the Kunduz province bordering with Tajikistan because it was hub of first Afghan Taliban and later on of Islamic States (IS) also called Daesh. Along Afghan Taliban, the Hizbe Islami Afghanistan of Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar having strong roots in this region. Similar was the position of Laghman province, which is surrounded by Nooristan, Kunar, Badakhshan and Kapisa provinces. Soon after 9/11 and dislodging of Taliban regime, militants continued sheltering in their hideouts throughout

Maidan Wardak province and these militants controlling or dislodging was not an easy task. But Naemi did the job.

The Successful Mission is the book comprising details of all sorts of development schemes and projects, executed under Jabbar Nameemi supervision from 2002 till 2021. Besides others it included a serious of educational institutions including universities, colleges and schools. Similarly he in his governed provinces made successful reconciliations with a large number of opponents-called Taliban, enabling the Afghans to remain in peace.

Associated with moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) of late Pir Syed Ahmad Gillani, Jabbar Naemi had first served as a diplomat in Pakistan for two terms. After empowering of

President Hamid Karzai, he was assigned the task to serve as his Election Agent in 2004. At that time he was also occupant of Governor office in Maidan Wardak. And he had played a key role in victory of Hamid Karzai. As a Governor, he had executed record development, social and welfare projects in all four provinces of Maidan Wardak, Khost, Kunduz and Laghman provinces. For the purpose, he had not only made agree former Presidents Hamid Karzai and Dr. Ashraf Ghani for grants and funding but he had convinced almost foreign missions and embassies. On the request of Jabbar Naemi, foreign countries and missions contribution in reconstruction process in these four provinces is very well accomplished in his book.

Jabbar Naemi in his book states, "It is more

important to restore the mind than to restore the building." During his stay in Governor Houses of four provinces, Jabbar Naemi preferred meetings, consultations and discussions with common people, through which he was succeeded in restoration confidence of common people in government institutions. He always focused his views on creating unity and cohesion amongst the war-scattered Afghans which had helped him in execution of extra ordinary developments in all such four provinces.

Diverting attentions of global community towards miseries and hardships of war affected Afghans, Mr. Naemi states, "above all nations, the people of Afghanistan aspire for peace, security and comfort having endured hardships and sorrows unmatched in the history of humanity.

The establishment of enduring peace hinges on the establishment of a unified national will. By fulfilling their Islamic and national responsibilities to uphold peace and security, every individual in Afghanistan can actively contribute to this endeavor. Moreover, I all political parties align themselves with the national interest and if every political and national figure disseminates a positive message to the people, the strong call for peace from every household and the collective opposition to war from mosques, Madrasas and schools will undoubtedly bring an end to the current challenges and issues."

Jabbar Naemi has always opposed wars and hostilities and advocated for unity, patience and tolerance, which he believes the right way towards getting the objectives of peace,

progress and prosperity. He states, "to achieve lasting peace and put an end to the conflict, it is essential to priorities unity, uphold the national will, communicate a positive message, show respect for Islamic and national principles, reject war, demonstrate courage, exercise patience and embrace national tolerance. Our firm belief in the power of collaboration and the effective implementation of measures, which can fortify our political system and ultimately lead to the establishment of peace and the cessation of hostilities in our nation. The wide-open doors to peace present a favourable opportunity for armed opponents to choose the right path and abandon the futile pursuit of war."

(The writer is a journalist and expert on Afghan affairs as well as nationalist political movements)



In brief

Woman commits suicide F.P. Report

SHAHADADKOT: A married woman Seema khatoun wife of Ayaz Ali Chandio, residential of Noonari mohalla Naseerabad city of Qamber Shahdadkot district, committed suicide by drinking poison due to some domestic problems of house.

Seven gangsters arrested

SIALKOT (INP): The Sialkot district police have arrested seven members of two gangs including the ringleaders involved in dacoity and robbery incidents. According to a police spokesperson, SHO City Daska police, along with a police team, traced the accused by using scientific methods of investigation. During interrogation, Rs. 250,000 in cash, 11 motorcycles, two pistols and several bullets were recovered from the robbers. Police have sent the accused behind bars after registering cases against them.

65 absentee teachers dismissed F.P. Report

QUETTA: Balochistan education department, on the directions of Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, has dismissed almost 65 habitual absentee teachers from jobs over not performing their duty well. According to details, upon the order of the chief minister to take stern action against the ghost employees of education department, the education department will gradually terminate the services of around 800 absentee teachers after completing the necessary legal actions. The Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, in a social media post on X said that the Balochistan government is committed to improve the education system and provide best education to the children at the far-flung areas of the province. He expressed his determination to ensure the presence of teachers in schools and restore the non-functional schools in the province. "Every closed school in Balochistan will open and every child in the province will go to school," he added.

4-member bike lifter gang busted F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Dera police during the successful operation against criminal elements arrested four-member gang involved in multiple incidents of theft cases and recovered 04 motorcycles, mobile phones and cash money from their possession in the limits of City police station here on Saturday. According to the police spokesman, under the supervision of District Police Officer Dera Nasir Mehmood, Police Station City Police under the leadership of SDPO City Circle Muhammad Adnan along with SHO Muhammad Taimur Khan with police team arrested the four members gang involved in the several incidents of theft cases. The police recovered 04 motorcycles stolen in various incidents, cash money of 01 lakh 75 thousand rupees, 02 mobile phones and 01 battery from the possession of arrested accused. Police had registered the cases against the criminals separately in police station and started proceedings. DSP City Muhammad Adnan said that further investigation is going on with the arrested accused, it is the responsibility of the police to protect the life and property of the people, and the police is always engaged in action against the criminal elements. The police is continuing its work to arrest thieves, drug dealers, dacoit gangs and other criminal elements.

Grand Sports Gala organized in Kohat



Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: The 7-Days Grand Sports Gala organized by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sports Department under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Program "Awami Agenda", in Tribal Sub Division(TSD) Darra Adam Khel (DAK) concluded on Friday evening at the ground of Government Degree College Darra Adam Khel in a colorful program.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister on Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate was the chief guest of the closing ceremony while Tehsil Mayor DAK Shahid Bilal and Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram were the guests of honor. The ceremony beside the Assistant Commissioner DAK Amir Nawaz, Additional Assistant

Commissioner DAK Tanzil and DSO DAK Sajid Afridi was largely attended by the sports lovers.

The final cricket match of the Sports Gala was played between Bosti Khel Eagles and Lala Star Club, which was won by the later while the Football match, played between the Mushatarika Akhorwal and the Mushatarika Shipalkiwal, was won by the Earlier.

Besides the Cricket and Football, Badminton, Volleyball, Basketball, Athletics, Tug-of-War and Traditional Games including Shooting, Chindro, Goli Danda etc were also held in which local teams and individuals actively participated. The Chief Guests apart from giving Trophies to the winning teams, also distributed individual prizes among the players and encouraged

them. The Law Minister also announced Rs.1 Lac each for the players and the organizing committee.

The Minister and Deputy Commissioner Kohat in their addresses said that sports not only play an important role in the physical and mental nourishment of youth, but it also have a key role in character and capacity building and preventing them from negative activities. They said that youth are our precious asset and it is our utmost responsibility to encourage them and provide them with better sports facilities and a healthy environment. Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram, on this occasion also announced the holding of Cricket and Football Leagues consisting of 12 teams each and Sports Kits to the players of both the Games.

Wana vegetable market needs govt attention

F.P. Report

WANA: The famous vegetable market of Lower Waziristan, Wana, has reportedly turned into a place filled with filth and mud, causing difficulties not only for the general public but also for fruit agents and other traders. Poor sanitation and alleged negligence by the administration are impacting business, while the public is said to be enduring unbearable stench and filth.

Market vendors and traders reportedly claim that the Town Municipal Administration (TMA)'s neglect has made their lives miserable. According to them, the streets are filled with mud, and no one has been removing the piles of garbage. This filth and odor, they say, have been discouraging customers from shopping in the market, negatively affecting

business.

Prominent political leader of Wana, Taj Muhammad Wazir, has expressed strong discontent with the situation. He reportedly stated that the current state of the vegetable market was a clear indication of the government's and administration's failure. According to him, it has become nearly impossible for traders and fruit agents to conduct business in these conditions. He urged higher authorities to take immediate action to ensure the cleanliness of the vegetable market and relieve the public and traders from these challenges.

The piles of garbage in the market are also said to be causing not only foul odors but also raising concerns over the potential spread of various diseases. The increasing number of mosquitoes and other

insects has led to worries about possible outbreaks of diseases like dengue and malaria.

Local residents reportedly say that despite repeated complaints, TMA officials have shown little interest in resolving the market's issues. A shopkeeper claimed there was no sanitation system in place and that officials are merely present in name. Residents and traders have warned that if immediate steps are not taken to clean the vegetable market, they may be forced to protest. They are demanding the restoration of the sanitation system and strict action against responsible officials to prevent such negligence in the future. The situation has raised the question of whether the government will take practical measures to address public concerns or if this issue will be neglected like others.

Webinar held at IUB to mark Kashmir Black Day

F.P. Report

BAHAWALPUR: A special webinar was organised at The Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) on the Kashmir Black Day, under the direction of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Kamran.

Senior Kashmiri leader Mashaal Hussain Malik was the chief guest at the webinar and Dean Faculty of Social Sciences Professor Dr. Rubina Bhatti presided over the webinar. Mashaal said that despite all negative tactics of India, the Kashmiri people never accepted the illegal occupation of India and started the struggle for freedom through a popular uprising in 1947 which continues to date. She appreciated the leadership of Islamia University Bahawalpur Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Kamran and the role of teachers in apprising the issue of Kashmir with the new generation. With India banning all activities of the Hurriyat Conference, Pakistan is the only voice that is expressing the apologetic conscience of Kashmiris to the world.

Professor Dr. Rubina Bhatti said that India's unjust occupation is about to complete 77 years. This dispute is not a regional problem but international and its solution is based on the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. It is possible only through a referendum. The issue was also taken to the United Nations by India, where a resolution recognized the right of self-deter-

mination of the people of Occupied Kashmir and asked both India and Pakistan to ensure that the people of Occupied Kashmir are given a referendum. They should be given the right to decide for themselves whether they want to be a part of India or Pakistan.

India, Pakistan, and the Kashmiri people are all parties to this issue. India accepted this resolution. India had given a special status to the Occupied State in its constitution, under which the people of Occupied Kashmir were entitled to certain concessions due to being a special territory, by removing that provision, it has created new problems for the Kashmiris. All this is being done under a well-thought-out plan whose main objective is to change the population ratio in Occupied Kashmir to turn the Muslim majority into a minority.

Chairman of the Department of Political Science Professor Dr. Maswar Hussain Bukhari said in his address that after the arrival of Indian forces in Kashmir, the massacre of Muslims started to change the status of the population of the valley. The Kashmiri people never accepted the illegal occupation and in 1947 started their struggle for freedom through popular uprising. Meanwhile, the Indian government approached the United Nations Security Council on January 1, 1948, seeking its help in resolving the Kashmir dispute.

Chairman of Public Administration Department

Dr. Shabbaz Ali said that we have to inform the new generation about the facts on which basis India is establishing its dominance over Kashmir. For this, we have to use all the means of modern media. Advisor Kashmir and Ideology of Pakistan Society, Islamia University, Bahawalpur Dr. Ramzan Tahir said that on 27 October 1947, the suffering of the people started with the landing of the Indian army in Jammu and Kashmir, therefore, Pakistanis and Kashmiris all over the world celebrate this day as Black Day.

Adulterated milk discarded F.P. Report

MULTAN: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) escalated its ongoing operation against the sale of adulterated milk, seizing and discarding 550 litres of substandard milk in Multan during recent inspections.

Acting on the directives of PFA Director General Asim Javed, enforcement teams conducted roadside checking on multiple milk-carrying vehicles and inspected local milk shops to ensure compliance with food safety standards. In Gulgasht Colony, one milk shop was fined Rs 25,000 after tests revealed water adulteration in the milk. Similarly, two milk supply vehicles operating in the Bun Bosan area were found selling milk with insufficient natural fat and nutrients.

3 siblings killed as roof collapses in Mardan F.P. Report

MARDAN: Three siblings lost their lives while another critically injured when roof of their room collapsed in Baghicha Dheri of Mardan district, Rescue 1122 informed on Saturday.

On receiving information, the Rescue 1122 medical and disaster teams reached the site and shifted the victims to hospital. Those who died in the incident were identified as Aziz Jan (10), his two sisters aged from 18 to 12 years and another 16-year-old girl was injured. Moving scenes were witnessed in the locality when bodies of the three siblings were brought from the hospital to the house.

Meanwhile in another incident in Rampura area of Peshawar, a laborer was killed after falling from the roof of an oil store. The owner of the store also sustained injury in the incident and was shifted to hospital.

GGC Chamla students resent teachers F.P. Report

BUNER: The government girls college Chamla students have strongly resented five teachers transfer and threatened of protest on roads if teaching staff not posted in a week. The principal of the college Madam Mumlikat has confirmed there were only thirteen teachers out of them 5 science subject teachers recently transferred due to which the students suffered.

The students told media they were got admitted being locals and unable to go to far away GGDC Daggar. Students added in the GGC Chamla, total sanctioned teaching staff position are 25 out of them only thirteen were posted but recently five of them transferred i.e bio, chemistry, physics, botany due to which students suffered. They also complained of no teaching staff for teaching urdu and other subjects.

Students complained of no boarding facility in spite having hostel building and demanded of the MPA,MNA district administration and minister education early solution to their problems otherwise to face music on roads. The AC Mandanr Madam Maryam Bakhtawar has paved visit to the college and meet with the worried students and principal and got her abreast of the situation and assured administration would best present before high ups and try its level best to address.

FC KP arranges sports festival F.P. Report

WANA: Frontier Corps (FC) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa South has arranged various events for recreation of youth in sports festival that is underway in South Waziristan. The grand sports festival was being arranged from October 1 to November 1 in ten different places of South Waziristan.

More than 100 local teams participated in sports events of cricket, volleyball and football that continued from October 1 to October 22. The second phase of the sports festival comprising inter-tehsil events would continue till October 29. Third phase of sports festival that would be held in Wana include events of tug-of-war, circus, atn and traditional sports.

Large number of locals witnessed various sports events in the festival that was held to promote positive activities among local youth and provide them chances of recreation.

Couple killed SHEIKHUPURA (INP):

Two including husband and wife were killed when a truck overturned on a motorcycle here Friday-Saturday night. According to details, the accident took place on Gujranwala road near Kot Ranjeet in Sheikhupura where a truck carrying 'Monji' turned turtle on a motorcycle carrying a couple near Kot Ranjeet.

Promotion of agriculture sector top priority: Minister

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Provincial Minister Agriculture and Dairy Development Punjab Syed Ashiq Hussain Karmani has said that promotion of agriculture sector and improvement of socio-economic condition of farmers is top priority of the Punjab government under leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif while Kisan Cards and Green Tractor Scheme are ideal programmes of agriculture department and government of the Punjab.

While talking to media-men at district complex Hafizabad, Syed Ashiq Hussain Karmani said that Kisan Cards were being given to 10 lakh farmers and 15 lakh farmers were submitted their applications for getting Kisan Cards in the province including district Hafizabad so far whereas three lakh Kisan Cards were distributed among farmers so far across the Punjab.

He said that through Kisan Cards, government was given seeds, fertilizers and pesticides worth Rs.1.50 billion during last four days. Under the kisan friendly vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, 10 thousand subsidiary green tractors would be given to farmers and government will be provided Rs. 10 lakh subsidy to farmers for procurement of

green tractor each, he stated.

Minister said that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif was taking result-oriented steps to bring agriculture revolution and progress of the farmers while Agriculture Rental Services were being launched in 70 Tahsils of the province and farmers could get agriculture machinery on rent from theses Agriculture Rental Services besides agriculture centers, one window operation and Agriculture malls were also be established for giving oil, seeds, fertilizers and other agriculture inputs on cheaper price to growers.

He also said that farmers would get rid of heavy markup on loans and present government was disbursing markup free loans among farmers in the history of the country.

Earlier, Minister presided over a meeting. He also visited helipad and place of Kisan Convention to review security and other arrangements made ahead to expected visit of Chief Minister Punjab, on 28 October.

Ex-Federal Minister Saira Afzal Tarar, MPA Mian Shahid Hussain Bhatti, DC Abdul Razzaq and DPO Faisal Gulzar were accompanied by him.

Meanwhile, Deputy Managing Director Punjab Education Foundation Muhammad Najeeb said

that outsourcing of government schools for promoting education and enhancing literacy rate in the province is revolutionary and education friendly steps of the Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif while with outsourcing of government schools, not only enrolment of students will be increased but jobs opportunities also be available to educated and jobless youth in the province.

While addressing a meeting of offices of education department held at Hafizabad, he directed the officers to improve monitoring of outsources schools for success of education friendly vision of the Chief Minister Punjab. CEO Education Nazia Shahzadi, DEO Secondary Muhammad Anwar Javed, DEO Elementary Sahib Aalam, DEO (Female) Samina Yasmeen, AEO (Female) and Focal Person Ishtiaq Nazir and other officers attended the meeting.

DMG Punjab Education Foundation Punjab Muhammad Najeeb further said that in first phase, 98 schools were handed over to PEF and by the grace of almighty Allah, literacy in rural areas would be increased and all school going age children would be enrolled in the schools. He also visited government primary school Dhunni and reviewed building structure, attendance of staff and students.

Fifth Latif literature and music festival kicks off

HYDERABAD (APP): The fifth Latif Literature and Music Festival themed "Parado Soi sad," organized by the Siraj Institute of Sindh Studies, started on Saturday at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam.

Eminent writer Dr. Fehmida Hussain presented research paper on modern explanation of the poetry of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai and shed light on the various aspects of the life of Siraj ul Haque Memon. She said that Siraj ul Haq Memon had dedicated his life in the field of education and literature. Secretary Information Nadeem ur Rehman Memon was also present in literature festival.

Lunching of different books was also held including a research book on

'Sindhoo Alphabet and Siraj' written by Shabbir Kumbhar and short stories book 'Kandi Kilyan vich main' written by Fehmida Hussain. Taj Joyo sharing his review on the book 'Sindhi Alphabet and Siraj' said that Shabbir Kumbhar

has worked on digitalization of Sindh Language however more literary work was needed for complete digitalization of Sindhi Language.

He said that Siraj ul Haque at age of 25 years regarding Sindhi Language had said that Sindhi Language is language of this region which was also endorsed by Dr. Nabi Bux Khan Baloch. Professor Dr. Abida Ghanghro presented a research paper on the importance of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai's poetry for the

youth in the age of science and technology.

She said that Shah Abdul Latif always valued youth and moral training of the youth, the youth of this era believe in logic and reason, so they do not believe in the assumptions related to Shah Latif's personality. She said that Shah Latif wanted to bring change by breaking the status quo of the society, thus the traditional thinking has been rejected in his poetry.

In the event, Amar Sindhu presented his comment on Dr. Fahmida Hussain's book 'Kandi Klin Vich' and said that the youth of today should read this book of short stories by Dr. Fahmida Hussain because it is a book about the problems faced by women in the society.

Commissioner visits Citrus research institute

SARGODHA (APP): Commissioner Sargodha Division Jahanzeb Awan visited the Citrus Research Institute on Saturday and called upon the district administration and agriculture scientists to work together and inform farmers about the benefits of research carried out by the institute.

He stressed the need for convincing farmers to make full use of social media, FM radio and other mass media to ensure practical steps for enhancing their production. He said that the Department of Agriculture (Extension) would have to play a key role to strengthen contacts between Citrus Research Institute and farmers.

Attending the briefing session at the Citrus Research Institute, he said that citrus was the hallmark of Sargodha. Therefore, there was a

need to identify the government land and build an orange park here. He said under the initiatives of the Punjab chief minister, work was being started on a big project for cultivation of citrus plants. The commissioner said that practical steps would have to be taken to improve the quality of agricultural research and new varieties should be introduced to increase production.

Chief Scientist Akbar Hayat Sago told the meeting that 2.2 metric tons of citrus were produced in Pakistan, of which 97pc was produced in Punjab. He said 90pc of kinnow produced here was exported. He said that the research institute had 150 varieties of citrus available, including 41 new varieties, 14 have been approved while 5 are in the pipeline. He said that under the chief minister's

initiatives, work on new varieties was under way in Sargodha.

Two new research stations have been opened at Layyah and Sargodha and citrus would be very strong commodity of the region in next four years. He said that changes in prices of agricultural products, salt water in Sargodha and climate change had adversely affected local citrus production; however, the Citrus Research Institute was continuing to work on many varieties for higher production and restoration of citrus under these conditions.

Apart from inspecting the new varieties, the commissioner also inspected the nurseries of the institution. Director Agriculture Shahid Hussain, ACR Malik Ashraf and other scientists of citrus research were also present.

7th central convention of National Party starts

F.P. Report

QUETTA: The 7th National Congress of the National Party commenced on Saturday with the president of the party, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch in the chair.

The central convention of the National Party will continue for four days in Quetta in which delegations of the party from all over the country would be participated in the event. The Congress of the National Party was organ-

ized on the commemoration of Mukhtiar Bacha, the former President of the National Party, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter.

On the first day of the Congress of the National Party, former Chief Minister Balochistan and Member of Provincial Assembly, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, addressed the opening ceremony and welcomed all the delegations coming from all over the country.

On the occasion, the

Chairman National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting and Member of the National Assembly Pullain Baloch, Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi and members of the Provincial Assembly were also present. The secretaries of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan presented their reports. The political situation will be discussed in this four-day national congress.



Poland’s center-right govt installed by EU

BUDAPEST. Hungary (AP): Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán suggested that Poland’s government and its prime minister, Donald Tusk, were installed by the European Union as part of a plot to remove the country’s previous right-wing populist leadership.

Orbán provided no evidence to substantiate his claims about Poland’s government, which was elected in 2023 with record high voter turnout of nearly 74%. The comments came two days after Orbán, a nationalist who has taken an increasingly adversarial approach to the EU, told supporters in a speech that the bloc seeks to topple his government and install a puppet regime in Hungary.

Speaking to state radio, Orbán lashed out at EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and the leader of the bloc’s largest political group, European People’s Party president Manfred Weber, claiming they were seeking to replace his government as he said they had in Poland in 2023, when a coalition led by Tusk defeated the governing Law and Justice party in national elections. “It’s not even a secret conspiracy against Hungary, it is an openly represented, announced plan,” Orbán said of the alleged plot against him, for which he has not provided evidence. “The same thing happened in Poland. The Poles also went their own way, they also took an independent Polish policy on migration, gender and the economy.”

Von der Leyen and



Weber, he continued, “did their best and openly announced that the conservative Polish government should go and be replaced with a new one. This is how our friend Tusk became prime minister in Poland. The same scenario is now happening in the case of Hungary.” In a text message to The Associated Press, a spokesman for Poland’s Foreign Ministry, Pawel Wronski, said: “A free parliamentary election took place in Poland on Oct. 15, 2023. The current government in Poland, just like the previous governments, was not installed but has been elected and is the expression of the will of the Polish voters.”

Orbán has frequently clashed with the EU, which has withheld billions in financial support from Hungary over its alleged breaches of rule-of-law and democracy standards. Poland’s previous nationalist-conservative government also spent years wrangling with the EU over democratic deficiencies. In

response, Orbán has taken an increasingly combative approach to the bloc, which Hungary joined in 2004, and rallied euro-skeptic parties across the EU to create a far-right political force in the bloc’s legislature. He has also moved Hungary closer to autocracies like Russia and China, seeking foreign investment and loans from Moscow and Beijing as EU funds dried up over his conduct.

Tusk’s government has sought to restore Poland’s democratic institutions that he sees as having been dismantled under the previous Orbán-allied government, but has maintained some conservative policies such as a tough stance on illegal immigration. Orbán, who faces national elections in early 2026, compared the EU to the former Soviet Union in the interview. “They’re going to be working on this. They need a puppet government. Let’s speak plainly, every empire is like that. The Soviets were like that, weren’t they?” he said of the EU.

Venezuela vents its anger at Brazil’s Brics snub

CARACAS (BBC): Venezuela’s foreign ministry described the move, which came at the group’s summit in Russia attended by more than 20 heads of state, as an “immoral aggression”. Relations between the two left-wing governments have worsened since July’s contested presidential election in Venezuela. President Nicolás Maduro said he had secured re-election, despite evidence that the opposition’s Edmundo González won by a landslide.

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva initially supported Maduro, but eventually said he would not accept the official results until a breakdown of the vote was released. Multiple foreign governments have said they believe the opposition won the election in Venezuela, but stopped short of recognising González as the president.

“The Brazilian foreign ministry has decided to maintain the veto that [former Brazilian president] Jair Bolsonaro has applied against Venezuela for years, reproducing the hatred, exclusion and intolerance promoted from the centres of power in the West,” the Venezuelan foreign ministry said in a statement. “The Venezuelan people feel indignation and shame at this inexplicable and immoral aggression,” it added.

Venezuela had lobbied hard to join the Brics, with Maduro even making a surprise appearance at the summit in the city of Kazan and declaring that his country was “part of the Brics family”. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who hosted the summit, said he agreed with Venezuela’s position, but added that it would only be able to join the Brics if there was a consensus in favour among its members.

“We know Brazil’s position. We don’t agree, Venezuela is fighting for its survival,” Putin said at a news conference. He said he discussed the issue with Lula when they spoke on the phone this week. Lula was scheduled to travel to Russia for the summit, but cancelled the trip after injuring his head in an accident at home on Saturday.

Putin added that he would work to help the two South American neighbours mend relations. The Brics began as a grouping that unites Brazil with Russia, India, China and South Africa. Last year, however, the original members agreed to admit a number of new joiners, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

Lula is a passionate advocate of the Brics as a means of reforming global governance and giving a greater voice to the developing world. He has criticised the “paralysis” of global institutions, while praising the expansion of the Brics as strengthening the fight for more diverse perspectives.

But other observers retort that the Brics are themselves paralysed by their own internal contradictions, with Russia at war in Ukraine, while China and India have their own mutual squabbles.

Putin says it is our affair if Russia uses North Korean troops

MOSCOW (Reuters): President Vladimir Putin said that it was Russia’s business whether or not it decided to use North Korean troops and said that if Ukraine wanted to join NATO then Moscow could do what it wanted to ensure its own security. The United States said that it had seen evidence that North Korea has sent 3,000 troops to Russia for possible deployment in Ukraine, a move that the West is casting as a significant escalation of the Ukraine war. Ukraine’s military intelligence service said that the first North Korean units trained in Russia had been deployed in the Kursk region, a Russian border area where Ukrainian forces took a chunk of Russian land in August.

“When we have to decide something, we will decide... but it is our sovereign decision whether we will apply it, whether we will not, whether we need it,” Putin told Russian state television. “This is our business.” Putin said that the West repeatedly said that it was up to Ukraine how it ensured its security - “with or without NATO.”

“The sooner they realise the futility of such an approach in relations with Russia, the better it will be for everyone, and perhaps, above all, for themselves,” Putin said. Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a comprehensive strategic partnership agreement during Putin’s visit to Pyongyang in June. Article 4 of the agreement says: “If one of the Parties is subjected to an armed attack by any state or several states and thus finds itself in a state of war, the other party will immediately provide military and other assistance with all means at its disposal.”

Putin did not deny US claims that North Korea had sent troops to Russia but said it is up to Moscow how to run its mutual defence clause with Pyongyang and accused the West of escalating the Ukraine war. Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin said his relationship with the United States after the presidential election would depend on what attitude Washington adopts, as he welcomed comments by Donald Trump on his desire to end the Ukraine conflict as “sincere.”

But the Kremlin leader struck a hardline tone, warning the West it was an “illusion” to think Russia could be defeated on the battlefield and that any peace deal would have to recognise Russia’s control of swathes of Ukrainian territory. Putin was speaking at the end of the BRICS summit in the city of Kazan where he had faced calls from some of Russia’s most important allies for the fighting in Ukraine to end. “How Russian-American relations will develop after the election will depend on the United States. If they are open, then we will also be open. And if they



don’t want it, then fine,” Putin told reporters.

Relations between the two superpowers have sunk to their lowest ebb since the Cold War amid Moscow’s military offensive on Ukraine. Next month’s US election is set to be critical to the course of future ties and the conflict in Ukraine.

Republican presidential candidate Trump has repeatedly expressed scepticism over Washington’s multi-billion-dollar aid to Ukraine and claimed that if elected he could end the fighting in a matter of hours. Putin said Trump “spoke about his desire to do everything to end the conflict in Ukraine. I think he is being sincere. Of course we welcome statements like this, whoever they come from.” Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among around 20 leaders who gathered for the BRICS summit, the largest diplomatic event in Russia since Putin ordered troops into Ukraine in February 2022. The Kremlin leader said Moscow was open to considering peace initiatives and welcomed BRICS leaders offering to mediate. But he said any deal must consider the “realities on the ground” -- a reference to Ukrainian territory controlled by Russian forces.

“We are ready to look at any proposals for peace negotiations that are based on the realities on the ground. We won’t accept anything else,” he said. Putin has previously demanded Kyiv effectively capitulate by pulling its troops back as a precondition to ceasefire talks. And he blasted the West for thinking Russia could be defeated on the battlefield.

Moscow’s opponents “do not conceal their aim to deal our country a strategic defeat”, he said. “I will say directly that these are illusory calculations, that can be made only by those who do not know Russia’s history.” Russia has faced fresh accusa-

tions of escalating the conflict this week with the United States, South Korea, NATO and Ukraine all saying North Korea had sent troops to Russia.

Kyiv said it had intelligence that the soldiers had already been deployed to Russia’s western Kursk region, where Ukraine is mounting a cross-border offensive. Putin refused to confirm or deny the reports, instead accusing Ukraine and the West of aggravating the conflict.

Putin also held talks with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in the pair’s first meeting since April 2022. Guterres reiterated his position that the Russian invasion of Ukraine was in violation of the United Nations Charter and international law”, a readout from the UN chief’s spokesperson said after their meeting. Guterres also emphasised his commitment to “establishing freedom of navigation in the Black Sea,” saying the move was vital for both Ukraine and Russia, as well as global “food and energy security.”

The UN chief had pleaded earlier for a “just peace” in Ukraine in a speech delivered in front of Putin. The Russian leader gave a dry response, saying Guterres had noted “we should all live as one big family”. “In families, unfortunately, there are often quarrels, scandals, division of property, and sometimes even fights,” Putin said, with a smirk.

Ukraine has strongly criticised Guterres’s decision to meet Putin. Guterres also demanded an “immediate ceasefire” in Gaza, the release of hostages and an “immediate cessation of hostilities” in Lebanon. Other world leaders at the summit also called for an end to Israel’s wars in Lebanon and Gaza, with Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas saying Israel was trying to starve Gaza’s civilians and drive them from their territory.

Turkey strikes Kurdish targets in Syria, Iraq

ANKARA (AP): Turkey struck suspected Kurdish militant targets in Syria and Iraq for a second day following an attack on the premises of a key defense company that killed at least five people, the state-run news agency reported.

The National Intelligence Organization targeted numerous “strategic locations” used by the Kurdistan Workers’ Party — the PKK — or by Syrian Kurdish militia that are affiliated with the militants, the Anadolu Agency reported. The targets included military, intelligence, energy and infrastructure facilities and ammunition depots, the report said. A security official said armed drones were used in strikes. Turkey’s air force carried out airstrikes against similar targets in northern Syria and northern Iraq, hours after government officials blamed the deadly attack at the headquarters of the aerospace and defense company TUSAS, on the PKK.

Defense Minister Yasar Guler said that 47 alleged PKK targets were destroyed in airstrikes — 29 in Iraq and 18 in Syria. “Our noble nation should rest assured that we will continue with increasing determination our struggle to eliminate the evil forces that threaten the security and peace of our country and people until the last terrorist disappears from this geography,” Guler said.

The assailants — a man and a woman — arrived at the TUSAS premises on the outskirts of Ankara in a taxi they commandeered after killing its driver, reports said. Armed with assault rifles, they set off explosives and opened fire, killing four people at TUSAS, including a security guard and a mechanical engineer. Security teams were dispatched as soon as the attack started at around 3:30 pm, the interior minister said. The two assailants were also killed and more than 20 people were injured in the attack.

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya named the assailants as Mine Sevinj Alicicek and Ali Orek and identified them as PKK members. There was no immediate statement from the PKK on the attack or the Turkish airstrikes. In Syria, the main US-backed force said Turkish strikes in the north of the country killed 12 civilians and wounded 25.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said Turkish warplanes and drones struck bakeries, power stations, oil facilities and local police checkpoints. Amir Samu, an administrator at the al Sweidiya oil refinery in Derik, northern Syria, said overnight strikes at the facility resulted in the deaths of seven workers and guards.

“They were all poor workers working in the refinery to make a living. It is a civil

institution, not military or anything like that,” he said. Samu stated that al Sweidiya was the only refinery “feeding” the area. “The damage will have effects on diesel, petrol and gas,” he said. TUSAS designs, manufactures and assembles civilian and military aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles and other defense industry and space systems. Its defense systems have been credited as key to Turkey gaining an upper hand in its fight against Kurdish militants.

The attack occurred a day after the leader of Turkey’s far-right nationalist party that’s allied with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raised the possibility that the PKK’s imprisoned leader could be granted parole if he renounces violence and disbands his organization. Abdullah Ocalan, who was captured in 1999, is serving a life sentence on a prison island off Istanbul.

In a related development, his nephew Omer Ocalan announced on the social platform X that family members were allowed to visit him for the first time since March 2020. Omer Ocalan, a lawmaker from Turkey’s pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Equality and Democracy Party, also conveyed a message from Abdullah Ocalan, saying he was being kept in isolation and offering to work to end the conflict “if the conditions are right.”

Georgia prepares for a divisive election

JAVAKHETI (AP): When Vahan Agayan goes to the polling station in Georgia’s parliamentary election, he says he and his wife will vote as directed to by officials of the ruling Georgian Dream party. Agayan has a sheep farm near the border with Armenia and Turkey, 135 kilometers (83 miles) west of — and a world away from — the Georgian capital, Tbilisi. There, tens of thousands of demonstrators marched in a pre-election demonstration in favor of joining the European Union.

But in the mountainous Javakheti region, what Agayan wants most is stability. A few years ago, wolves got into his barn and killed half the sheep, almost destroying the livelihoods of dozens of families. For Agayan, the EU is far away; what matters are the local leaders who have the power to make or break small farmers like him.

“Most people” will vote for the regional lawmaker from Georgian Dream, he said. “An old dog is always better than a new one,” he said, suggesting a change in power could be unpredictable. Many in this South Caucasus country of 3.7 million people believe the election will be the most important of their lives, a pivotal vote on the chance to join the European Union. It pits a coalition of opposition parties against Georgian

Dream, which has governed in an increasingly authoritarian fashion since 2012.

Polls indicate around 80% of Georgians favor joining the EU, and the constitution obliges leaders to pursue membership in both the bloc and NATO. In July, Brussels put Georgia’s bid for EU entry on hold indefinitely after Georgian Dream passed a “foreign influence law,” modeled on similar legislation in Russia. It requires media, non-governmental organizations and other nonprofit groups to register as “pursuing the interests of a foreign power” if they receive more than 20% of their funding from abroad.

Georgian Dream argues it is needed to curb harmful foreign actors trying to destabilize the country. Many journalists and activists say its true goal is to stigmatize them and restrict debate before the election. Georgia has long had an uneasy relationship with Russia. For most of the last century, it was ruled from Moscow until it gained independence in 1991, following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In 2008, Georgia fought and lost a brief war with Russia, which still occupies some of its territory. When Georgian Dream came to power in 2012, it vowed to restore civil rights and “reset” relations with Moscow.

The party — set up by Bidzina Ivanishvili, a shadowy billionaire who made his fortune in Russia — also promised to pursue EU membership.

That reassured many Georgians who had seen “with their own eyes,” the threat from Russia and looked to the West to protect them, said Natia Seskuria, executive director of the Regional Institute for Security Studies in Tbilisi. But then Georgian Dream started tracking toward Moscow: passing the foreign influence law despite mass protests, abstaining from international sanctions on Russia over its war in Ukraine, and severely curtailing LGBTQ+ rights.

However, the party’s authoritarian swing cannot be explained by influence from Moscow alone, Seskuria said. Instead, she suggested, the purpose of the foreign influence law is also “power preservation.” She indicated Georgian Dream’s leaders watched the Kremlin use new laws to successfully crack down on critics and decided to do the same.

Some businesspeople who support Georgian Dream also have an interest in seeing the party reelected as they have profited from its tenure. At a pro-government rally in Tbilisi, family members of people who were awarded plum jobs in railways and

infrastructure were spotted in the crowd. Georgian Dream is conducting a “hybrid war” against its citizens, said Zurab Chiaberashvili, foreign policy secretary from the United National Movement opposition party. Ahead of the election, campaign ads for the ruling party claimed a “Global War Party” was seeking to influence the EU and the US, widen the conflict in Ukraine, and force Georgian Dream from power. Billboards also appeared, contrasting black-and-white images of destruction in Ukraine with colorful images of life in Georgia alongside the slogan, “Say no to war — choose peace.”

“Everyone is afraid of war,” said Nairik Ukanyan, the owner of a village shop in the Javakheti region, which is populated by ethnic Armenians. Like Ukanyan, many people speak Armenian and Russian but limited Georgian. Ukanyan said he got his news about Georgia from Russian television, which says relations between the two countries are friendly.

“Why do we need a relationship with Europe?” he asked. Agayan, the sheep farmer, agreed: “Even if I had 20 children, I would not send them to Europe.” The West, he said, is “afraid of Russia and wants everyone to abandon it.” Georgian Dream

after they had surrendered.

“It is all very disappointing, and it looks dark for the future,” said Santiago Aguirre, the head of Miguel Agustín Pro human rights center. “Everything is breaking down, and instead of taking care of these priority issues, all the government’s political capital is being wasted on a judicial reform that will cause more problems than solutions.” Sheinbaum has said all the incidents are under investigation, but she has dedicated only a few minutes in her first three weeks in office to talking about them, compared to the hours she has spent extolling the virtues of the judicial reform. She says electing judges will remedy corruption.

But critics note the real problem isn’t corrupt judges releasing suspects; it’s the fact that civilian police and prosecutors have been so under-funded and ill-trained that over 90% of crimes never make it to court in the first place. It was Sheinbaum’s predecessor and political mentor, former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador — who left office Sept. 30 — who decided to

make the armed forces the centerpiece of his security strategy and give up on the slow, steady work of reforming police and the judiciary to root out corruption.

Sheinbaum has vowed to continue all of López Obrador’s policies, including the “hugs, not bullets” strategy of not confronting the cartels, but rather seeking to drain the potential pool of recruits through scholarships and job training programs. López Obrador failed to significantly reduce Mexico’s historically high homicide rate, but the charismatic former president had a talent for depicting himself as the victim, brushing off past incidents and accusing media reports on violence as “sensationalism” meant to smear him. But since Oct. 1, the abuses have come so fast that Sheinbaum has had neither the charisma nor the time to brush off the incidents. A drug cartel set off two near-simultaneous car bombs in the state of Guanajuato, injuring three police officers and strewing burning wreckage across streets.

cerned about threats to democracy.

These moves are “good news for Russia,” Seskuria said, because the Kremlin is “inherently interested” in Georgia being cut off from the West, including the loss of financial support and through sanctions. Many Georgians fear if Georgian Dream is reelected, it could kill off aspirations to EU membership entirely. “We are at a crossroads — either becoming a Russian puppet state or being independent and free,” said Tina Bezhanidze, 26. Wrapped in the Georgian flag, she was one of tens of thousands who joined a pro-EU demonstration in Tbilisi.

Bezhanidze, an economist, came to the demonstration with her parents and three younger sisters, in a show of cross-generational support for Georgia’s European ambitions. Even in remote Javakheti, not everyone thought aligning with Russia was a good idea. “Of course we need the European Union,” said Eghsam Manasyan, who was collecting potatoes in her vegetable patch. She and her husband Artur told AP they wished there were more jobs in the region. “All our lives we were with Russia and the Soviet Union,” Artur Manasyan said, adding that Georgia needs to “look everywhere” for opportunities. “We still don’t really know what Europe is,” he said.

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Will Israel's strikes on Iran trigger an all-out ME war?

WITH tensions intensifying, a "sixth Middle East war" seems to be taking shape. Israel's various actions in this round of conflicts not only halt the normalization process in Israeli-Arab relations but also trigger an unprecedented coordinated response from the "axis of resistance" represented by Iran, engaging in direct confrontation with Israel. Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthi rebels in Yemen and various Iraqi militia groups have also frequently launched missiles and drones into Israeli territory in an attempt to hinder Israel's military operations in the Gaza Strip.

The risks of war loom over the Middle East, but fortunately, up to now, other countries have shunned direct involvement in the conflicts. However, if Iran escalates further, it could truly escalate into a new Middle East war. The impact could be greater than the previous five wars because Iran is a major oil-producing country in the Persian Gulf region. This could trigger a new oil crisis and conflict, but so far, it has not reached that point.

This is partly why Israel's precision strikes are more about "precise deterrence", and the US may have played a big role in restraining Israel. The US has stated that it is not participating in the attacks. It should be noted that previous processes also included multiple rounds of consultations between Israel and US officials, including a phone call between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Joe Biden.

The US administration is being extremely cautious to avoid being dragged into the conflict, and Israel is also refraining from such actions. This is why they are playing a balancing act. The US has introduced the THAAD missile defense system in Israel and deployed new F-16 fighter jets in the Middle East operated by American personnel. The THAAD system is providing security guarantees for Israel and also serving as a deterrent against Iran. In short, Israel may currently not be inclined to take extreme actions because it relies on the US for military assistance and security assurances. Israel chose to strike Iran on the Sabbath to achieve a tactical surprise. Hopefully, Israel's strikes focusing on several military targets outside the capital are more symbolic. The Middle East needs to restore peace and cannot afford to take bigger risks of war.

Kamala Harris worst candidate

WHOSE fault was it? That of course is going to be the overwhelming question Democrats will be asking themselves after Kamala Harris loses on November 5. It is worth stressing that a question can also be an accusation. Cicero reminded us of this in his first oration against Catiline, which opens with more than half a dozen questions spat out like bullets from a Gatling gun. Quo usque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra? "How long, Catiline, will you go on exhausting our patience?" Quam diu etiam furor iste tuus nos eludet? "And how long will that madness of yours mock us?"

The biased circus concession that we call much of the media has an interest in drawing out the festivities surrounding an election. So in the case of Trump vs Harris, the answer to Cicero's questions is "as long as possible". "The race is neck and neck, it's just so close, it could break either way." But by mid-October, everyone knew that the race was not close. Harris finally sat for a few interviews – with 60 Minutes, with Bret Baier, for example. They were catastrophes one and all. It did not help that CBS later edited Harris's response to make her sound more coherent and then refused to release the unedited transcript of the exchange.

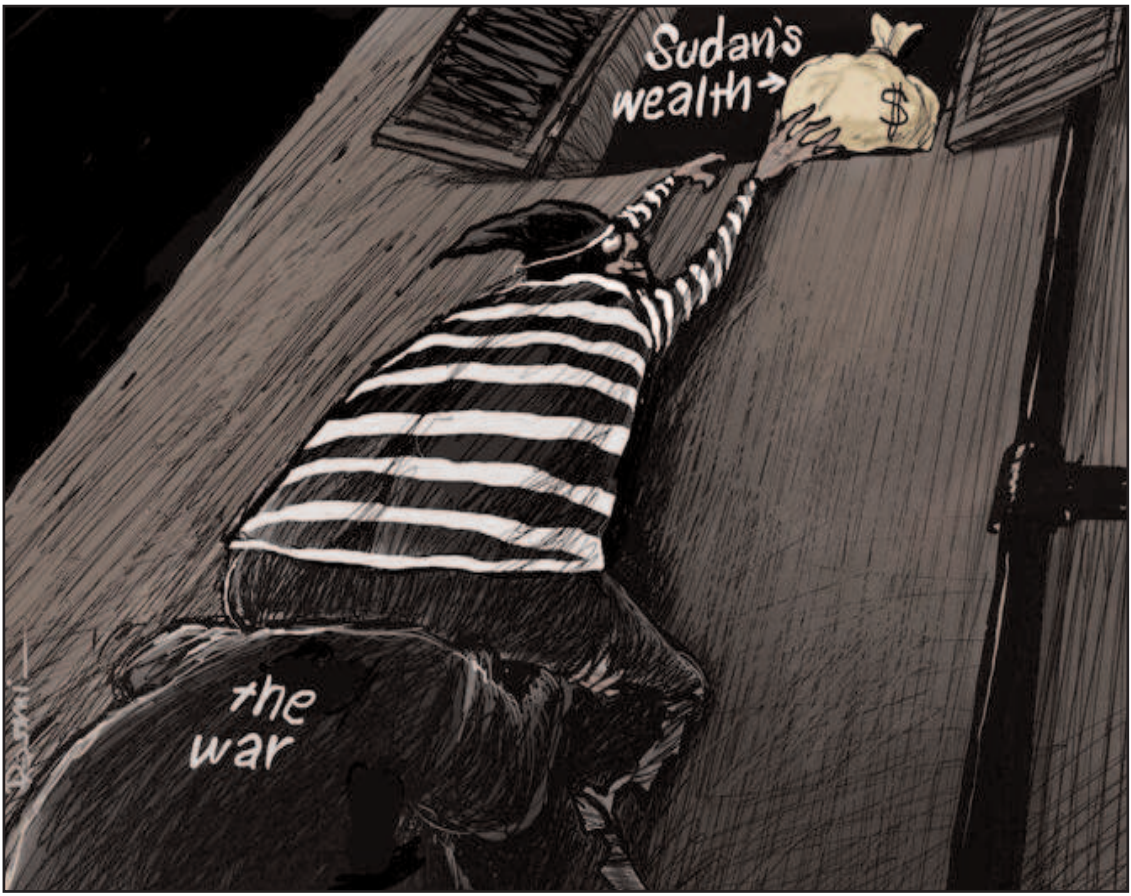
Harris held a "town hall" where she was supposed to answer audience questions off the cuff. But some alert spectator noted that Harris at least appeared to be reading answers off a teleprompter. More embarrassment, Harris decided to skip the AI Smith dinner in New York, the single most important Catholic event of the election season. Catholics, it is worth noting, make up more than 20 per cent of the electorate. Instead, Harris sent in a brief, pre-recorded video that, so far as I can tell, was universally panned as insulting to Catholics. For his part, Donald Trump noted in his remarks for the dinner that the last presidential candidate to skip the event was Walter Mondale. That was in 1984. Mondale lost that election to Ronald Reagan 49 states to one.

Kamala Harris claimed to have worked at the fry station at McDonald's. There is no record of that, but several days ago Donald Trump showed up at a McDonald's franchise in Pennsylvania, where he made french fries and served customers at a drive-through window. That bit of theatre drove the Left nuts but everyone knew it was a masterly PR triumph. As one commentator noted, "President Trump is a marketing genius. He turned Kamala Harris's lie about working at McDonald's into millions of dollars in free advertising." Harris, of course, still maintains that her claim is true.

John F Kennedy is supposed to have remarked that "victory has a thousand fathers, but defeat is an orphan". As Algernon Moncreiff might have put it, that is perfectly phrased, but I am not sure about its truth. Kamala Harris' defeat will have many parents. There will be truckloads of blame to go around. Already, less than two weeks out, we can see the frenetic finger-pointing, backtracking, exit-searching panic in and around the campaign. Harris is outpacing Trump by about three to one. But the cash is not moving the needle. Someone else is always to blame. Her campaign workers. That meanie Bret Baier, who had the temerity to ask her real questions. Villain number one, of course, is Donald Trump, whom Harris regularly describes as "Hitler," "a fascist," the single greatest threat to "democracy" the world has ever seen. No thinking person believes it. If you say "there are a lot of unthinking people about," I would agree. But that only prompts the observation that the efficient cause of Kamala Harris' defeat will be – Kamala Harris. She is the single worst candidate for president from any party in the history of the Republic.

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Trump really could be the next president

Jonathan Freedland

THERE is a good chance that in 10 days' time, Americans will elect the first fascist president of the United States. It sounds hyperbolic, it sounds hysterical. Indeed, for exactly those reasons, many of his opponents long held back from using that word about Donald Trump. But the hour is late. Voting is already under way. It's time to spell out what Trump has said and done, what he threatens to do, what he is.

Put aside the personal grossness, on display again in recent days with his reference to the size of the late Arnold Palmer's manhood. Put aside the fact that he's a twice-impeached, four times indicted, convicted felon who has been found liable by a court for rape. Put aside the latest accusations from a former model who says she met Trump through Jeffrey Epstein, and that the former president groped her in what she believed was a "twisted game" between the two men. Focus instead on the F-word. In recent days, the taboo on that word has been broken, starting with a warning from a former head of the US military, Mark Milley, that the president he once served is a "fascist to the core". In an interview a few days later, the former House speaker Nancy Pelosi told me she shared that view, and Kamala Harris herself has spoken in similar terms. But this week came perhaps the most detailed, and therefore persuasive, deployment of that term.

It came from a man who worked exceptionally closely with Trump, serving as his White House chief of staff: General John Kelly. Like Milley, Kelly did not use the word "fascist" to mean racist or really rightwing, as some loosely throw around that term, but rather to describe Trump's attitude to power. Indeed, Kelly took pains to be precise.

In an interview with the New York Times, he read aloud a definition of fascism: "It's a far-right authoritarian, ultranationalist political ideology and movement characterized by a dictatorial leader, centralized autocracy, militarism, forcible suppression of opposition, belief in a natural social hierarchy," he said, adding that Trump fit

that description. "In my experience, those are the kinds of things that he thinks would work better in terms of running America."

It's not a stretch to speak of "autocracy". Kelly and others have told how Trump believed all power should reside in him, how he bridled at the insistence by senior officials in the government or military, including those he called "my generals", that their loyalty was to the constitution rather than to him personally. Trump saw that and all such constraints on his authority, including the law, as irritating – if not illegitimate.

ed judges, granted the president sweeping legal immunity.

What especially alarms the retired generals is Trump's repeated threats to use the US military against American citizens, to crush dissent. When the Black Lives Matter protests erupted in Washington DC in 2020, Trump sent in the national guard, but now he talks, explicitly, about going much further, promising to use the army against those he calls "the enemy from within". When pressed to say who he had in mind, he did not cite terrorists or criminals but Adam Schiff, a Democratic

confirmation that, more than once, Trump spoke positively of the Nazi dictator: "You know, Hitler did some good things, too," he would say.

Given all this, it should be shocking that Trump is even a contender for the White House, let alone one who, polls suggest, is locked in a tie with his opponent. But too many Americans are fed up with high prices and fearful about immigration; too many blame the incumbent Democratic administration and see Harris as part of that status quo. In that context it didn't help that, when asked if she would have done anything differently from Joe Biden these last four years, Harris replied, "Not a thing that comes to mind."

In her closing argument, Harris is rightly focusing on the threat Trump poses to democracy and freedom. But she has to make that threat ever more concrete. Polls show she is losing ground among Black and Hispanic voters, especially men. Why not, as the Atlantic's Ron Brownstein has argued, remind those voters that Trump threatens to cut federal funding to police departments that don't implement "stop-and-frisk", a practice that disproportionately targets Black men? Or that Trump plans a door-to-door operation against undocumented immigrants, a programme of mass deportation that could see the rounding up of 11 million people? This is not a niche issue: there are 4 million young US citizens with at least one undocumented parent. And if you're wondering where they would all go, recall that Stephen Miller, one of Trump's closest advisers, has said that "illegals" awaiting deportation will be sent to massive internment camps.

On Monday, Donald Trump will address a rally at Madison Square Garden. Others have already noted the uncomfortable echo of the vast America First rally held in that same venue in 1939, when an earlier variant of American fascism was at its height. The US, and the world, got lucky then, as that movement was steadily eclipsed by events. On 5 November, America and the world desperately need to get lucky again – and time is running out.

The Guardian

Earlier he had called for ABC's licence to be "terminated" because he didn't like the way his debate with Harris had gone. Presidents cannot block TV networks on a whim, but they do appoint the board that hands out broadcast licences – so it's not an empty threat.

That was troubling enough in his first term, but it would be more alarming in a second. For one thing, Trump will not repeat his mistake of appointing lieutenants who believe their duty is to serve the country rather than him, even if that means thwarting his will. Next time, he will be surrounded by loyalists. Some of them have been remarkably candid about their plans. In the words of one, Russell T Vought, speaking of how Trump aims to take direct control of every corner of the US federal government, "What we're trying to do is identify the pockets of independence and seize them."

An obvious early target will be the department of justice. Trump has left little doubt that he will not respect that body's independence. Instead he will use it as a weapon to get the "retribution" he has promised by prosecuting his enemies. What's more, a second-term Trump will be emboldened by an extraordinary ruling of the supreme court. In July that bench, remade in his image with three Trump-appoint-

congressman from California.

The same instinct animates his serial threats to the free press. "CBS should lose its license," Trump posted on social media last week, after the network displeased him with an interview with Harris: "60 Minutes should be immediately taken off the air." Earlier he had called for ABC's licence to be "terminated" because he didn't like the way his debate with Harris had gone. Presidents cannot block TV networks on a whim, but they do appoint the board that hands out broadcast licences – so it's not an empty threat.

This, remember, is a man who gushes like a teenager in his admiration for Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping and Kim Jong-un, but rarely has a good word to say for America's democratic allies. This is a man who has promised to be a dictator "on day one". What more does he have to do to tell us who he is, short of dressing up in jackboots and doing a Hitler salute? And before you dismiss that as a joke, recall Kelly's

US election interference row tells us this

Martin Kettle

GORDON Brown famously brought his moral compass to the prime ministership. Boris Johnson, notoriously, did not. Under Keir Starmer, there is a moral compass in Downing Street once more. But something else has gone missing. Too often, Labour now seems to lack not a moral compass, but a fully functioning political one. It has never needed one more than it does today.

Recent history suggests that any government's political compass is a powerful embodiment of its survival instinct. The compass addresses the dangers, as well as the attractions, of a course of action. It recognises that the way an action will be portrayed is a reality as powerful as the intention behind it. It prioritises grip, speed and proactive flair, as well as discipline about priorities.

The most recent evidence that Labour's political compass has been lost is in the unnecessary and overwrought row about its role in the US election. Here, once again, Labour has allowed its actions to be defined by its critics. As such, it fits a pattern: the failure to spot the danger in the freebies-for-ministers revelations; the tangled rise and fall of Sue Gray; the peremptory cull of winter fuel payments. With a good political compass, all of these could have been avoided.

The US election row shows how easily a small fumble can become a needlessly damaging challenge. Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are already running massively well-funded campaign leviathans. They don't need Labour's assistance. But a formal Labour intervention would also be foolish, potentially embarrassing for Harris, and a propaganda gift for Trump. No one in the Labour chain of command seems to have spotted the dangers. Where was Labour's political acumen when it was needed?

It is not clear whether Labour Harris campaigners were given advance legal advice about the rules on foreign involvement in US elections. Labour says the volunteers have not been paid or supported in other ways. The Trump campaign alleges they may have. The now withdrawn comment on LinkedIn by Labour's head of operations Sofia Patel that "we will sort your housing" could imply some party subsidy. That Patel is a full-time Labour official could arguably be read as direct Labour involvement too.

But here's the point. Where were Labour's political antennae in all this? For the last few weeks, perhaps like some of you, I have been bombarded with US emails asking me to donate to the Harris campaign. And, yes, part of me wants to do so. But, as a foreign national, I would be committing a federal offence by donating, and the Harris campaign would be doing the same by accepting one. So I cheer from the sidelines and stay within the rules.

It would be surprising if nobody at the Labour party stopped to ask themselves similar questions. But they should have done. That's because Labour's responsibility goes beyond not breaking any laws. It extends to the prime minister's, the party's and the country's relations with Trump if he is elected next

month. Here, in particular, is where an embarrassment should have been scrupulously avoided.

Many readers will be bridling at all this. They will say Nigel Farage's US campaigning is far bigger but gets far less scrutiny. Or that the rightwing press is out to discredit anything that Labour does. Or that nothing Labour may do is remotely as dangerous as the Russian or Chinese tampering with western elections.

They might go further, by saying that all UK parties get involved in US politics a bit, as ex-Tory minister Robert Buckland has acknowledged, so it is wrong to single out Labour. Or that it's useful for political professionals to get a close-up view of the latest campaign techniques in other countries. Perhaps, above all, they will say that the defeat of Donald Trump is so important that it has to be our business too.

Some will also point out that this row is a textbook dead-cat manoeuvre. Throw a dead cat on the table and everyone starts obsessing about the new distraction, not something really important. On Wednesday, the environment secretary Steve Reed went on Radio 4's Today programme intending to talk about the shambolic state of the water industry, but had to talk about Labour and Trump first. Substance was ousted by marginalia.

There is some truth in all of these objections. But they all miss the main one. The point is that Labour is in government. The UK and the US are allies. Allies don't mess in one another's elections. If they did, the voters would be angry, legitimately so. Imagine the indignation here if a rich megalomaniac offered UK voters the kind of rewards Elon Musk is currently deploying in Pennsylvania and other swing states. It could happen, and the UK government should look at the relevant law to make sure it does not.

Getting involved in any foreign election puts the national interest on the line. Sensible governments with a strong sense of self-preservation don't mess with that. Labour has rightly tried to build a relationship with Trump, as any UK government always would. It may not work – and probably will not – but the national interest requires them to try. Stumbling into a row about a few Labour volunteers is just bad politics, even though most UK citizens want Trump to lose. Labour should not have done it.

In the end, the US election involvement row, along with the other rows that preceded it, are telling Labour something that still requires corrective action. Given how obvious it was for so long that Labour would win in 2024, it has proved remarkably badly prepared for government. This needs tackling before the next avoidable stumble occurs. Starmer is now at risk of allowing himself to be defined in the long term by stumbles over short-term issues that he considers marginal. This may well be an unfair outcome, but it is a real possibility. He cannot afford much more of it. A political compass would be telling him this. Everything now depends on trusting the compass unerringly over the budget next week. It will be a defining test.

Europe needs strength now, not living in the past

Friedrich Merz

A short trip to Germany instead of the planned state visit: a four-way meeting in the Chancellery instead of the conference in Ramstein to coordinate aid for Ukraine with about 50 participating states, including numerous heads of state and government. With Hurricane Milton in Florida preventing US President Joe Biden from adhering to his planned itinerary this month, the entire European political scene was thrown off course.

There is no other way to describe these events. Worse yet, what happened – or, more accurately, what didn't happen – in Germany exemplifies the desolate state of European foreign and security policy at a critical moment. Why did the Ramstein conference have to be canceled? Was it only because the American president could-

n't be there? Were the Europeans not strong enough to host a conference without his participation, or, if necessary, with the US Secretary of State or Secretary of Defense present?

The new German-UK defense pact suggests that where there is a will, action can be taken. But Europe needs more than such narrowly tailored bilateral agreements, no matter how positive they can be. The reason is abundantly clear: Ukraine is desperately waiting for more help. The third winter of the war Russian President Vladimir Putin launched in February 2022 is just around the corner, and the country's situation is getting worse by the week. That Ukraine will get "all the help it needs, and it will get it for as long as it needs it" has been the routine refrain heard in most European capitals, especially from the German government, for two and a

half years. But this claim is simply wrong, no matter how many times it is repeated.

The history of aid to Ukraine is a history of constant dithering and hesitation, of stalling and tactics. When nothing else helps, the American president is called upon to break the political logjam. But Biden spent much of this year, before his withdrawal from the presidential race, on the campaign trail. Now he is on a farewell tour. A new president will be elected on Nov. 5, and if his name is Donald Trump, there will be no slipstream for the Europeans to hide in. The canceled Ramstein conference would have been the perfect opportunity for Europe to at long last take the lead.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz should have shown what the Zeitenwende ("turning point") he declared after Russia's invasion means for Europe as a whole. Together with France and Britain, he should have made clear statements to Putin: If you did not end your war of terror against Ukraine's civilian population within 24 hours, the range limits on the weapons being supplied to Ukraine will be lifted.

If that were not enough, it could have been added that Germany would supply Taurus cruise missiles to Ukraine to destroy the Russian army's supply routes into the country. France and Britain are already supplying cruise missiles with the range needed to hit the Russian army's supply lines and are apparently prepared to go down this path. Fear and the desperate hope of being able to portray himself as a "peace chancellor" shortly before Germany's federal

election next year have become Scholz's dominant motives. But "fear is the mother of all cruelty," as Michel de Montaigne, the 16th-century French philosopher, put it. French President Emmanuel Macron has no doubt read Montaigne and understands that warning.

Instead of acting decisively at Ramstein, Scholz had a nice coffee with Biden, shortly before the US president was awarded the special level of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. But that award ceremony was a moment that united Britain, France, Germany, and the US merely in nostalgia, not in defining the decisive action and sense of purpose that Europe needs today.

Indeed, the ceremony recalled nothing so much as how Germany's government behaved in the years before the fall of the Berlin Wall and reunification,

before the division of Europe was overcome, before the war in Ukraine. The old Europe of the Cold War sought comfort in the past and confidence in the solitary US leadership that defined the era. Europeans forging their own decisions were rarely even an afterthought back then. For example, did no one even think of inviting Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk to the meeting in Berlin?

Biden's flight back to Washington following the aborted Ramstein conference and the diminished meeting in Berlin's Chancellery may take on an almost symbolic significance in the future: the last Atlanticist US president for a long time bidding farewell to Europe. And the Europeans, without leadership and without the slightest idea of what lies ahead, waving goodbye to him, dreamily reminiscing about earlier times.

The West’s addiction to ‘soft power’ is leaving us dangerously exposed to those who wish us ill

Charles Moore

Do you know exactly what, or where, the “Global South” is? If you don’t, please do not feel ashamed. I am not sure anyone really does, but it is a sobering fact that, according to Google’s Ngram Viewer, the English-language use of the term has multiplied 36 times between 2000 and 2024. Quite a lot of people, including some Commonwealth leaders with whom our Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary are currently rubbing shoulders in Samoa, like using the phrase.

Why? As a way, I think, of asserting that every wrong in the world is the fault of the West and of trying to mobilise everyone who feels that way. Why not the “Global East”, then? As in the Cold War, it is the East – China and Russia – which leads the charge against wicked Americans and Europeans. Use of the word East would not work in this context, though, because it leaves out several continents inhabited by what the Marxist revolutionary thinker Frantz Fanon called “The Wretched of the Earth” – places like Africa, the South Seas and Latin America. They were made wretched, you see, by imperialism.

Once it became clear, in the second half of the last century, that destroying Western capitalism in its home countries would be slower work than Marx had predicted, his followers widened their theory of exploitation to apply to any place where the white man’s foot had trod.

For this, various phrases were tried out and various conferences and organisations devised. In the 1950s, there was “the Bandung spirit”. The idea of the “Third World” became current. In the 1960s, the Non-Aligned Movement was formed to claim a Third-World position balanced between East and West. It tended, in practice, to lean to the Soviet bloc. In 1969, an American political activist called Carl Oglesby wrote an essay including the phrase “the north’s dominance over the global south”. In

1980, the former German chancellor Willy Brandt published his famous report on international development. Its title was, North-South: A Programme for Survival.

It is true that Russia, host to this week’s BRICS conference in Kazan and pretender to great sympathy for the Global South, is undeniably not southern, as anyone arriving in Moscow with bermuda shorts and flip-flops can attest. The Kremlin therefore tends to prefer the term “Global Majority” – another phrase often on the lips of Anglican bishops and international NGOs. But whether you call this global thing “south” or “majority”, the aspiration, and the fallacy, are the same.

In its excellent new examination of all this, The Myth of the Global South, the think tank Policy Exchange describes the Global South as “an imagined community” rather than one of genuine shared interests or geography. There is little real community, for example, between the Caribbean countries currently clamouring for reparations from Britain for the wrongs of slavery more than 200 years ago and the Pacific islanders, whose chief concern is the physical shrinking of their nations because of climate change.

Nevertheless, what is imagined can be more exciting than what is real. What excites the leaders, though not necessarily the people, of so many countries involved, is the thought that their economic failures can be blamed on richer countries far away and that they might be able to wrest enormous sums, in reparations, subsidies, aid and soft loans out of those countries, eg Britain.

It is, of course, true, always and everywhere, that the strong tend to exploit the weak. So there are many sins that can rightly be laid at the door of any colonial power (though one must always remember the many answers to the famous Monty Python question, “What have the Romans ever done for us?”).

It is also true that modern Western

leaders have, in effect, been inviting this trouble. This week, the foreign minister of the Bahamas, Fredrick Mitchell, has fairly pointed out that both Sir Keir Starmer and David Lammy, before gaining office, spoke eloquently and often about the dreadfulness of the colonial legacy. Mr Lammy even encouraging talk of reparations. Who can ever forget the vivid photograph of Sir Keir and Angela Rayner “taking the knee” to Black Lives Matter?

Not unreasonably, Mr Mitchell wants to take them up on their obeisance now they are in power. He is understandably annoyed that Sir Keir looks a bit shifty and tells him that what matters is what happens in the future rather than arguing about the past. Sir Keir is by no means as adroit as our King, with his long experience of Commonwealth language, in navigating such issues.

To Mr Mitchell, Mr Lammy’s “progressive realism” in foreign policy must look incoherent. “You’ve admitted guilt,” he might say, “so pay up.” “You’ve just surrendered the Chagos Islands to Mauritian sovereignty and Chinese power,” he might unkindly add, “What can you offer our sunny, but exploited islands?”

Labour does not know how to rebut this stuff. I suspect that Kemi Badenoch, who has had rich experience of Global South cant, will have no such problem if she becomes Conservative leader.

The key issue for the West here – or what is more accurately described, since it includes Japan, Taiwan, Ukraine, Australia and Argentina, as the free world – is not the sufferings of the poorer countries on the planet, real though they are. These can be better remedied by extensive bilateral links (especially Britain’s), by freer trade, and through all sorts of existing international institutions.

The key issue is that the Global South is being turned into a tool of power by those who wish us ill. It is almost beyond satire, for example,

that China and Russia should pose as a friend of the sub-Sahara, when the actions of the former’s Belt and Road Initiative and the latter’s Wagner Group mercenaries are perhaps the most blatantly imperialist ventures in the world today. This is the 21st-century’s re-creation of what, towards the end of the 19th century, was called “The Scramble for Africa” by the European powers. In both cases, raw materials and even rarer power politics were the driving forces.

In the face of such threats, the West is dreadfully weak. Contrast, for example, America’s and Britain’s refusal to let Ukraine use the missiles we have given them on Russian territory because we fear Vladimir Putin crying foul with Putin’s order for thousands of North Korean troops to help him lay waste a sovereign country. Non-European powers contemplate Western feebleness, and naturally hedge their bets. Look at Turkey, despite its Nato membership. Look at India, despite its hatred of China. Look at Egypt, which Barack Obama let down so badly after the Arab Spring.

The same applies to international organisations. António Guterres, the UN Secretary-General, is supposed to be the main formal supervisor of world peace. But he chooses to assail Israel, make nice to Hezbollah and Iran, and turn up in Kazan this week literally to bow (look at the photographs) to Putin. Take the World Health Organisation’s refusal to condemn China’s leak of the Wuhan virus, which killed 10 million. Take this week’s decision by HSBC to split in two so that one arm can join China’s alternative to the Swift international payments system. Britain and many other Western countries, militarily enfeebled, are wedded to “soft power” diplomacy just when hard power is becoming more ruthless and unconstrained than at any time since 1945. The wider world starts to see us as losers. If enough of them think that for long enough, we shall indeed lose.

The Telegraph

Cities must build resilience to effects of climate change

Sara Al-Mulla

climate hazards.

Many trailblazing cities have policy roadmaps that prioritize sustainability and resilience. Copenhagen aims to become the world’s first carbon-neutral capital by 2025, setting an ambitious goal, in close collaboration with industries, universities, and communities. Their climate plan encompasses a number of transformational projects, such as investing in energy-efficient infrastructure and fossil-free energy resources, promoting a circular economy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector, and expanding afforestation efforts.

Melbourne has a Climate Change Adaption Strategy that includes initiatives focusing on increasing stormwater harvesting, increasing green space, increasing permeability across the city to reduce the impacts of flooding, and improving building performance in extreme weather. Paris aims to become a climate-resilient city by reducing carbon emissions by 100 per cent, expanding urban green spaces, and developing overhear protection roofs through its 2024-2030 Climate Action Plan.

By prioritizing resilience, city governments can protect their inhabitants, foster economic stability, and lead the transition to sustainable urban living amid ever evolving and unpredictable climate threats. The policy roadmap should encompass actionable solutions that revolve around risk assessment and mitigation, investment in sustainable infrastructures, implementation of nature-based solutions to boost resilience, and engagement with communities and industries. Urban planners would need to conduct a full assessment of cities, identifying potential risks and hazards to vital assets – including roads, power lines, health facilities, residential zones, or educational institutions – in order to design impactful solutions that safeguard their communities.

Designing climate-resilient cities requires building and retrofitting infrastructure that can withstand the effects of climate change. One key element is the development of green buildings that use energy-efficient materials, renewable energy sources, and smart technologies to reduce emissions and lower energy consumption. Additionally, cities must

invest in low-emission public transport networks, biking lanes, and electric vehicle charging stations to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. Equally important is protection from rising sea levels and floods, via coastal barriers and upgrading drainage systems.

Further opportunities lie in leveraging nature-based solutions within urban planning. For instance, urban green spaces such as parks, green roofs, and vertical gardens reduce the urban heat island effect, improve air quality, and provide beautiful recreational spaces. Restoring ecosystems, such as wetland preservation and afforestation, helps cities absorb excess carbon and act as natural sponges for water from floods and rains. For instance, the Chulalongkorn Centenary Park in Bangkok is designed to capture four million liters of rainwater.

Additionally, governments need to integrate climate resilience into building codes, ensuring that future developments are built to be energy-efficient and able to withstand climate risks, such as flooding, heatwaves, and rising sea levels. Community engagement is also essential, as city governments must create awareness on the importance of sustainable practices and consider vulnerable populations who need assistance during climate hazards.

Governments will increasingly require businesses to transition to nature-positive solutions and, therefore, stimulus packages and financing initiatives for climate-resilient and green infrastructures will be essential, as exemplified by Germany’s \$146 billion program for green technology and South Korea’s \$313 billion green financing plan. City governments can also consider collaborating with other cities, regional governments, and international organizations to enhance knowledge-sharing and funding for climate adaptation initiatives. Existing networks include the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and the 100 Resilient Cities, which have delivered great strides in this area. Together, all these design elements can help shape cities that are more resilient and better equipped to handle the long-term impacts of climate change, thereby protecting the well-being of their communities and enhancing their economic vitality.

The Generals’ Plan is a recipe for disaster and destabilization

Hani Hazaimeh

THE current events unfolding in the Gaza Strip are far more than another episode in the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict. They mark a dangerous escalation under a new strategy called the “Generals’ Plan,” a military proposal initiated by retired Israeli Maj. Gen. Giora Eiland and embraced by a significant number of Israeli military leaders. This plan represents a chilling shift in the aggression toward Gaza, not just militarily but in its potential to destabilize the entire region.

Developed in

September, the Generals’ Plan is aimed at forcibly displacing the population of northern Gaza. Through a brutal, all-encompassing siege, the plan blocks all supplies – not just military aid, but also essential humanitarian resources like food and medicine. The objective? To starve the remaining civilians and resistance fighters, forcing them into a corner with two grim choices: either surrender or die of starvation.

This is not just a military maneuver – it is a strategy

of attrition designed to systematically break the will of Gaza’s people. By turning northern Gaza into a “closed military zone,” the plan seeks to eradicate any trace of Hamas. Proponents believe this blockade will be the quickest, least costly way to end the war, particularly in terms of Israeli soldier casualties. But in focusing on Israeli military costs, the architects of this plan blatantly disregard the enormous humanitarian price that innocent civilians will be forced to pay.

What is being overlooked here is that more than a million Palestinians

live in northern Gaza and they are now being used as pawns in a high-stakes geopolitical game. Starving civilians to achieve political aims is a clear violation of international law. In fact, such tactics are outright war crimes under the Geneva Conventions. The suffering that would result from this blockade is incalculable, while the forced expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians would lead to yet another refugee crisis – a catastrophe for a region already overwhelmed by displaced populations.

The implications of the Generals’ Plan stretch far beyond the borders of Gaza. Forcing Palestinians from their homes would inevitably lead to mass migration into neighboring countries, which are already grappling with significant economic and social challenges. Countries across the Arab world, many of which already host millions of Palestinian refugees, would be forced to contend with yet another wave of displacement.

Moreover, the plan is likely to spark new rounds of violence and resistance. Rather than weakening Palestinian factions, the siege could serve as a rallying cry for further armed resistance against Israel, risking broader military escalations across the region. Gaza, instead of being neutralized, could become a flashpoint for larger and more dangerous conflicts, undermining regional stability.

The international community, particularly Arab nations, must act with urgency to stop the implementation of this disastrous

WITH its GDP close to \$4 trillion, ASEAN is now the world’s fifth-largest economy, trailing only the United States, China, Germany and Japan. Its population of nearly 700 million, with a high percentage of working-age people, makes ASEAN a key player in the global market.

Coupled with this demographic dividend, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ consumer markets are undergoing rapid development, with the digital economy at the forefront. In 2023, ASEAN’s digital economy was worth about \$218 billion, and is projected to reach \$295 billion by 2025. This growth is being driven by rising internet penetration, a burgeoning young population, and overall economic stability of the ASEAN member states. ASEAN’s internet penetration rate now is more than the global average and is expected to reach 91.97 percent by 2029.

And by 2030, ASEAN is set to overtake Japan as the world’s fourth-largest economy. Like China, ASEAN’s progress in digital technology and infrastructure is fostering the growth of various industries and digital culture. This technological momentum is triggering “chemical reactions” across sectors, creating ripple effects globally. A prime example is the Chinese video game Black Myth: Wukong, which has been acclaimed globally. ASEAN’s digital cultural sector is likewise promoting the creation and global dis-

semination of local cultural products, enhancing respect for cultural diversity and fostering dialogue between civilizations based on equality.

Despite cost constraints that prevented Black Myth: Wukong from offering perfect translations for some countries like Vietnam, local players embraced the game wholeheartedly. Soon after its release, a community translation team took on the task of localizing the game, by inserting signs and voiceovers in the game. This illustrates the unique power of digital cultural products, where culture is transmitted widely through the digital media.

Interestingly, following the game’s release, searches for Celestial Symphony, the English version of the 1986 Journey to the West theme song, surged on the internet. The show’s impact on ASEAN member states, including Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia and Singapore, is well-known. It even drew praise from Nguyen Phu Trong, the late general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Actor Liu Xiao Ling Tong, who played the Monkey King, has visited Vietnam three times, receiving a warm welcome every time. Today, ASEAN’s burgeoning digital culture sector is fostering shared cultural identity between China and ASEAN members.

Chinese entertainment plat-

Sun Jiashan

forms such as Tencent, iQIYI and Youku, along with short-video apps such as TikTok and Bilibili, have established strong footholds in ASEAN.

Tencent’s overseas platform, WeTV, boasts more than 70 million social media followers in its region, reaching over 10 percent of ASEAN’s population. Chinese dramas, from Story of Yanxi Palace to Reset, enjoy widespread popularity, while reality shows such as Street Dance of China and Sisters Who Make Waves are sparking conversations on social media. Games like Genshin Impact and Honor of Kings have also tasted success, contributing to an increase in the use of Mandarin and simplified Chinese by younger generations.

In Vietnam, Street Dance of China achieved impressive ratings, and its local version was a hit. The Vietnamese winner even became a contestant in the Chinese version. And joint productions such as Chuang Asia by China and Thailand have attracted talents from across ASEAN, showcasing Asia’s diverse cultures.

As China’s long-form video platforms expand, traditional broadcasters like Hunan TV have quietly adapted to the trend. Its streaming service, Mango TV, has localized content in Vietnamese, and its Chinese Restaurant series is popular across ASEAN. These digital cultural products not only resonate with ASEAN’s youth but

are part of broader efforts to promote cultural exchanges across Asia.

In June 2024, during Chinese Premier Li Qiang’s visit to Malaysia to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties, the two countries agreed to jointly apply to UNESCO to include the “lion dance” on its Intangible Cultural Heritage list. This cultural collaboration was built on earlier successes, such as the joint submission of the Wangchuan ceremony to UNESCO to get a heritage tag in 2020. Such efforts highlight the growing cultural resonance between China and ASEAN, as both sides seek to preserve and promote their shared heritage in the digital age.

Therefore, we must advocate for a collaborative and inclusive digital space, fostering fair and open competition in the market. As the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership drives the creation of a unified regional market, it is crucial for ASEAN to seize the opportunities of the digital economy while finding development models that suit their unique needs. The China-proposed Global Civilization Initiative emphasizes the importance of mutual understanding and respect, fostering peace and cooperation through cultural exchanges. We hope ASEAN and China, through the use of digital culture, will continue to build shared experiences and improve the lives of their peoples.

The China Daily

Resolving conflicts in Middle East

Rana Mohammad

THE just-concluded 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, saw the deepening of global cooperation, with China’s Middle East policy advancing regional stability as part of its broader foreign policy to support development across the Global South. The Middle East has been of great importance to China, and is high on the country’s foreign policy agenda. It is one of the most geopolitically important regions in the world.

That China pays great attention to the Middle East is evident from the nature of China’s political, economic, commercial, cultural and technological cooperation with the countries of the region. China aims to contribute to the stability of the Middle East by deepening economic cooperation with the region, which hopefully may serve as a counterbalance to the ongoing conflicts, and even help end them.

China’s economic cooperation with other countries and regions is based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence including mutual benefit, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, as well as the principle of resolving crises and political problems through political means. China’s proposal of and efforts aimed at building a community with a shared future for mankind prompt it to use every possible

opportunity to mediate peace between warring parties in different regions and help resolve conflicts and disputes through negotiations. China has also begun making joint efforts to deal with some political and security crises and issues.

“Pragmatic cooperation” has indeed become a cornerstone of China’s foreign policy, shaping its approach to international relations, particularly in the Middle East. The pragmatic cooperation framework underpins various Chinese initiatives, including the Belt and Road Initiative, which is aimed at improving connectivity and boosting economic development across regions by building and/or revitalizing infrastructure facilities and trade routes that connect China with the Middle East and other regions.

China is also strengthening collaboration with other countries on technology transfer to boost local industries, and bolstering partnerships in oil and gas to ensure the smooth supply of energy. But the most important factor that defines China’s role in the Middle East and other regions is its efforts to develop a just and fairer world order. China’s discourse is centered on justice, especially in the case of the Palestinian people. China advocates for the rights of the

Palestinian people, positioning itself as a supporter of their cause against perceived injustices. Its stance aligns with its broader narrative of ensuring that all countries’ sovereignty and territorial integrity are respected.

Therefore, China’s approach is one of striking a balance between pragmatism and principles. While safeguarding its economic and strategic interests, China seeks to uphold the values of justice and equality, and safeguard human rights. The commitment to resolve crises, especially in the Middle East, is one of the most prominent components of China’s foreign policy.

While trying to resolve the crises in the Middle East, China’s moves are based on several key determinants, including maintaining stability, balancing relations and using diplomacy to address problems. For long China has been calling for dialogue to help resolve the conflicts in the Middle East, during which it has urged all parties to exercise restraint and avoid taking actions that could further escalate tensions.

The fact that China has been making efforts to restore peace in the Middle East became absolutely clear when it successfully brokered a rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran in March 2023. It

عظیمکمال کے ریکیڈز کے مطابق مسماۃ حیدری بیوہ خیال دزیر
یکمل خان، ہدایت اللہ پیران مسماۃ حیدری اور خان زادہ، ولی
خان، ہدایت اللہ پیران، خیر خواہ اور نوموزادہ دختر خیال دزیر
میں سبھی ناموں کی شہادت ہے۔ جبکہ شہادتیں کارڈوں میں صحیح ناموں کی
تفصیل ذیل ہیں۔ مسماۃ حیدری بیوہ خیال دزیر نیک ملی
خان، ہدایت اللہ پیران جبکہ خان زادہ، ولی خان، سر ساروہ
مندراور بختر خان بی بی انوروم دختر خیال دزیر بیوہ خیال
دزیر ہیں۔ پلڈ عظیمکمال کے ریکیڈز میں درگئی کی جائے۔



In brief

Naqvi decides to appoint Rizwan white-ball captain

R A W A L P I N D I (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has decided to appoint wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan as captain for national T20 and ODI teams. Sources said Head Coach Gary Kirsten had recommended the name of Rizwan, adding that selectors had threw weight behind the decision. It comes after the PCB chief held a meeting with Rizwan following a Test series won by Pakistan against England in Rawalpindi. Furthermore, Naqvi had also decided to appoint Salman Ali Agha as vice captain. Rizwan will replace Babar Azam, who had been appointed Pakistan's white-ball captain in March earlier this year.

Army secures first place in senior poomsae

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Army emerged victorious in the senior poomsae category, taking first place at the National Taekwondo Championship at Liaquat Gymnasium on Saturday. Competing fiercely, the team outperformed contenders from various sectors to claim the top spot. The WAPDA, known for its strong presence in national sporting events, secured second place, while the Higher Education Commission (HEC) team finished third, demonstrating significant skill and determination. The championship witnessed a high level of competition among the teams, showcasing the athletes' commitment to taekwondo and the growing popularity of martial arts across Pakistan.

Pak army hosts all KP football championship

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Army successfully organized the All Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Football Championship aimed at empowering the youth through sports. The event saw participation from 72 teams across the province, showcasing the talent and passion of local athletes. In an exciting final match, Swat Football Club triumphed over Bannu Football Club, capturing the championship title. The competition aimed to encourage youth engagement in extracurricular activities and promote sportsmanship. Major General Zulfikar Ali Bhatti, General Officer Commanding Kohat, graced the event as the chief guest, where he presented cash prizes and awards to outstanding players for their exceptional performances. Local community leaders and youth expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the Pakistan Army for facilitating such a significant event, highlighting its positive impact on the region's youth.

Vinicius Jr favourite to win first Ballon d'Or

MADRID (Reuters): Vinicius Jr's remarkable performances at Real Madrid have put the 24-year-old forward as the odds-on favourite to claim his first Ballon d'Or when the award for the best player in the world is announced in Paris on Monday. Vinicius scored 24 goals and provided 11 assists in 39 appearances that were key to help the Spanish powerhouse to a near perfect 2023-24 campaign in which they reclaimed the LaLiga title and grabbed a record-extending 15th European Cup. The Brazilian scored in the Champions League final and was named as the competition's best player. Bookmakers backed Vinicius to win the award ahead of Spain and Manchester City midfielder Rodri and Englishman Jude Bellingham.

Pakistan thrash England to win series

RAWALPINDI (Monitoring Desk): Sajid Khan and Noman Ali routed England in the Rawalpindi Test as the duo shared 19 wickets among them to help Pakistan beat England by nine wickets on day three of the Rawalpindi Test. The victory ensured Pakistan clinched the three-match series 2-1 on Saturday.

Shan Masood-led Pakistan took only 19 balls to chase down the meagre 36-run target as they cruised to their first home Test series win since February 2021 and first home series win over England since 2015.

After Jack Leach removed Saim Ayub for eight off five balls including two fours, Shan hit four consecutive fours while the winning runs came off a solitary six that sealed his second win as Test captain.

After England resumed from their overnight score of 24-3 in nine overs, they could only manage to add 88 runs to their total before being bundled out for a mere 112 in 37.2 overs, taking a 36-run second-innings lead.

Noman and Sajid led the bowling charge once again, taking 6-42 and 4-69, respectively. Sajid, with his match haul of 10-197, also became the first spinner and overall third player to take a ten-wicket haul in Rawalpindi.

Noman was the first to strike on day three when he got Harry Brook caught behind in the 20th over for 26 off 40 balls including two fours. An over later, Noman pinned the Ben Stokes (3, 9b) leg-before as he left one which hit his pads.

Joe Root (33, 52b, 1x4), England's top-scorer in the second innings, ran out of partners soon as Jamie Smith walked down the wicket against Sajid in the 25th over to be bowled for a 16-ball three. Two overs later, Root too nicked one behind against Noman.

Gus Atkinson and Jack Leach contributed ten runs each as the last three England wickets added 27 runs before England were all out for 112. For Pakistan, Sajid and Noman bowled in tandem sending down 18 and 18.2 overs, respectively, after Saim Ayub sent down one over opening the bowling late on day two.

Saud Shakeel was named player of the match for brilliant century in the first innings while Sajid was named player of the series for his 19 wickets in two games.

Scores in brief
Day 3 of 5 – Pakistan beat England by nine wickets
England 267 all out, 68.2 overs (Jamie Smith 89, Ben Duckett 52, Gus Atkinson 39, Zak Crawley 29; Sajid Khan 6-128, Noman Ali 3-88, Zahid Mehmood 1-44) & 112 all out, 37.2 overs (Joe Root 33, Harry Brook 26; Noman Ali 6-42, Sajid Khan 4-69)

Pakistan 344 all out, 96.4 overs (Saud Shakeel 134, Sajid Khan 48 not out, Noman Ali 45, Shan Masood 26; Rehan Ahmed 4-66, Shoaib Bashir 3-129, Gus Atkinson 2-22) & 37-1, 3.1 overs (Shan Masood 23 not out; Jack Leach 1-27)

Player of the match – Saud Shakeel (Pakistan)
Player of the series – Sajid Khan (Pakistan).



RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Cricket team celebrate to win the last match as well as the series by 1-2 against England Cricket team at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Stokes says Pakistan spin duo just too good after series defeat

RAWALPINDI (AFP): Captain Ben Stokes admitted that Noman Ali and Sajid Khan were too good for his England team after the spin duo propelled Pakistan to a series victory on Saturday.

The hosts sealed a nine-wicket win in the third Test in Rawalpindi with Noman taking 6-42 and Sajid 4-69 in the second innings as England were bowled out for just 112. The irrepressible pair shared 39 wickets in the last two Tests to spur Pakistan's revival from an innings defeat in the first match.

"You've got to hold your hands up to say that those two in particular were obviously too good for our batting line-up in those last two games," Stokes said.

Noman and Sajid both came into the side following Pakistan's heavy defeat in the first Test in Multan, their inclusion proving pivotal in the hosts' 2-1 series triumph. "Credit to Noman and Sajid, the way in which they bowled in the second Test match and in this game, you know it was very good and challenging," said Stokes.

Stokes said the series defeat was all the more disappointing with England having whitewashed Pakistan 3-0 away two years ago. "Losing games for England hurts so it's disappointing," said Stokes, who missed the first Test in Multan with injury and failed to find form with the bat on his return.

The talismanic Stokes has been central to England's attacking philosophy, which saw records tumble in the victory in the first Multan Test. But he said consistency had been an issue since. "We need to do things for longer," said Stokes, whose team next tours New Zealand for a three-Test series in late November.

Masood: Pakistan need stability after famous England win

RAWALPINDI (AFP): Captain Shan Masood said Pakistan need stability to build on Saturday's memorable victory over England, their first home Test series win in nearly four years.

Masood's team thrashed England by nine wickets in the third and final Test inside three days in Rawalpindi for a 2-1 series win.

England destroyed Pakistan by an innings in the first Test, before the hosts roared back with their spinners doing most of the damage.

"Like London buses they come together," a relieved Masood told reporters. "The first win came after a long time and it was backed up by a series win. It's special."

Until Pakistan levelled the series in Multan last week, Masood's tenure had been tainted by a string of six successive defeats, including a 2-0 loss at home to Bangladesh.

He faced loud calls for his resignation. Pakistan cricket has been struggling in all formats recently, with a revolving door of leadership overseeing chopping and changing among both players and management.

"For me the biggest thing is progress," said Masood.

"The Pakistan team needs stability at the moment," he added. "But when we think that changes are necessary to put the team on a winning track, we will do so."

Spinners Noman Ali grabbed 6-42 and Sajid Khan 4-69 to bowl England out for 112 in 37.2 overs.

The duo did not feature in the first Test, which saw England post a record first innings score of 823 and led to the axing of star players Babar Azam and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Noman and Sajid combined for a spectacular 39 wickets in the subse-

quent two Tests, tearing through the England batting and delivering a famous series triumph.

"Noman and Sajid were outstanding, like they were in the second Test," said Masood. "To be here and standing as the winning team, it's the most special thing for us."

Between the duo's spin wizardry across both England innings, Pakistan were buoyed by a gritty century from middle-order batter Saud Shakeel, ensuring they had vital runs to defend.

"People have grown in stature," said Masood. "It's about the whole team and its spirit."

Saturday's match ended with Masood smashing Shoaib Bashir for six to chase down the 36-run target in 3.1 overs before lunch.

Pakistan next play a two-Test series in South Africa in December.

Man City beat Southampton to go top of table

LONDON (AFP): Erling Haaland fired Manchester City to the top of the Premier League as the striker sealed a 1-0 win against Southampton, while third-placed Aston Villa were frustrated by Bournemouth's last-gasp leveller on Saturday.

Haaland had gone three league games without a goal but he ended that mini drought in the first half at the Etihad Stadium. That was enough to lift Pep Guardiola's side into first place, two points ahead of second-placed Liverpool, who can regain pole position if they win Sunday's blockbuster clash with title rivals Arsenal.

City have not lost a league game at the Etihad for two years, a run encompassing 35 games, and bottom of the table Southampton, who have only one point from nine games this season, were never likely to shatter that impressive streak. With Jack Grealish and Jeremy Doku ruled out, Guardiola made four changes to the team that thrashed Sparta Prague in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Haaland had scored an audacious goal against Sparta and while his effort to kill off Southampton was more prosaic, it was arguably far more valuable given the context of a tense title race.

Matheus Nunes's cross reached Haaland in the fifth minute and the Norwegian showed strength and desire to get to the ball ahead of his marker for a close-range strike.

City spurned several chances to increase their lead but Haaland's 14th goal in all competitions this season gave the unbeaten champions seven wins from nine league matches as they chase a fifth successive title.

"The way Southampton played, they are so demanding. Big credit to them, it was not because we were sloppy or flat. I don't have that feeling," Guardiola said.

"We created chances and unfortunately couldn't score the second. I think we were there and sometimes they are good. We have to accept that." Aston Villa's hopes of pushing for the title suffered a setback as Bournemouth snatched a 1-1 draw at Villa Park.

Villa are unbeaten in the Champions League, sitting top of the table after seeing off Young Boys, Bayern Munich and Bologna. But they couldn't follow their latest European success with a domestic victory despite taking the lead in the 76th minute. Ian Maatsen crossed and Leon Bailey teed up Ross Barkley to hook in his first goal for the club. But Evanilson rescued Bournemouth with the headed equaliser six minutes into stoppage-time.

Wolves fightback
Brentford beat fourth-bottom Ipswich 4-3 in a thrilling clash in west London. Ipswich's Sam Szmodics produced a fine finish from 15 yards in the 28th minute before George Hirst clipped a composed strike past Mark Flekken three minutes later.

But Yoane Wissa netted in the 44th minute and Harry Clarke's own goal seconds later hauled Brentford level. Bryan Mbeumo's 51st minute penalty, awarded for Clarke's foul on Keane Lewis-Potter, put Brentford 3-2 up.

Capping a miserable day for Clarke, he was sent off in the closing stages after fouling Lewis-Potter to earn a second booking.

Liam Delap's 86th minute equaliser appeared to have spared Clarke's blushes, but Mbeumo snatched victory with the last kick of stoppage-time.

Second-bottom Wolves staged a superb fightback to draw 2-2 at fifth-placed Brighton.

Danny Welbeck bagged his sixth goal of the season in first half stoppage-time and Evan Ferguson struck with a clinical finish from Tariq Lamptey's 85th minute cross to leave Brighton in control.

But Rayan Ait-Nouri got one back three minutes later and Matheus Cunha saved winless Wolves from a sixth successive league defeat with a deflected equaliser deep into stoppage-time. Everton face Fulham in Saturday's late game at Goodison Park.

Nasser: Pakistan have found 'kryptonite to Bazball' with England series win

LONDON (AFP/APP): Nasser Hussain said Pakistan had found the "kryptonite to Bazball" after wrapping up a 2-1 series win over England with an emphatic nine-wicket victory in Rawalpindi on Saturday.

England were beaten inside three days after suffering a dramatic collapse where they lost their last seven wickets for 46 runs.

All 20 England wickets fell to spinners for the second match in a row as Pakistan, thrashed by an innings and 47 runs in first Test, completed an impressive recovery. Hussain, a former England captain, said Pakistan had "exposed England when the ball spins" and demonstrated that "when it spins and when it's gripping, England don't play spin as well or bowl spin as well as Pakistan".

England, under coach

Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes, have become known for their aggressive 'Bazball' style in Test cricket, particularly when batting, as they showed while compiling a mammoth 823-7 on a flat surface in the series opener in Multan. But it was a very different story as spinners Noman Ali and Sajid Khan, who did not feature in the first Test, took 39 of the 40 England wickets that fell in the next two matches.

"They (Pakistan) made a real, drastic change, new selectors, different pitches completely - as in they used the Multan pitch again, complete turner, came here (Rawalpindi), made it turn - and they found the kryptonite to Bazball," said Hussain in his role as a Sky Sports pundit. "When it spins and when it's gripping, England don't play spin as well or bowl spin as well as Pakistan."

Several England batsmen struggled for runs in Pakistan, with Ollie Pope managing just 55 runs in five innings, skipper Ben Stokes 53 in four innings and opener Zak Crawley 139 in five visits to the crease.

- 'Little bit lost' -

Hussain added while the difference in pitch conditions offered some explanation for increasingly low scores, the "discrepancy with England is a concern".

"It shouldn't be so drastic that you play so well on flat pitches and you can hit through the line, and the moment it then grips you can't play like that, so you're then a little bit lost," he said. Michael Vaughan, another former England captain, said England needed to have "some serious conversations" about Pope's position at number three.

"His returns suggest he does not have the mentality or technique to thrive against the very best bowlers," wrote Vaughan in his column for Britain's Daily Telegraph.

England, following a 4-1 series defeat in India earlier this year, have now lost six of their last seven Tests in Asia, with Hussain saying the focus on the Ashes, particularly on winning the 2025/26 campaign in Australia, was unhealthy. "All you ever hear about is the Ashes, the Ashes away," said Hussain. "We play so many series away before the Ashes, the conditions here are so different from Australia...It can't be about one series every four years away from home. You're almost not taking Pakistan or India seriously, you've got to be across the board."

NZ clinch historic Test series win in India

PUNE (AFP): New Zealand made history with their first Test series triumph in India as spinner Mitchell Santner inspired a 113-run win in the second match on Saturday to stun the Pune crowd.

The visitors bowled out India for 245 in their chase of 359 on day three to take an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. It is India's first Test series defeat at home since December 2012, when Alastair Cook's England beat them 2-1. Before now New Zealand had never won a Test series on Indian soil dating back to 1955 and the Black Caps celebrated to stunned silence.

"Immensely proud to be in a position of winning two Test matches here. Proud of the group," skipper Tom Latham said of his history-makers.

"Lot of New Zealand teams have come over the past 69 years and 13 series, and to be the first team to win a series here is special," Santner, whose 7-53 in India's first innings of 156 set up the famous win, rattled the Indian chase with six wickets on a turning pitch and trumped the hosts at their own spin game. "Every time you take wickets you get a little more confident," player of the match Santner said. "I felt that today. Every time I got a wicket, it got a little better."

The left-hander bowled unchanged from one end, returning



figures of 6-104 in 29 overs. Ajaz Patel took the final two wickets and ended Ravindra Jadeja's resistance on 42 when the batsman holed out in the deep. With the series defeat, India's record of 18 consecutive bilateral home series wins -- the longest such run for any team -- came to an end. "I don't think we batted well enough to get runs on the board," India skipper Rohit Sharma said. "It is a collective failure. The team has failed to accept the challenge thrown at us."

Rohit hurting
Rohit, whose side travels to Australia for a five-Test series starting next month, added: "We lost the game and the series, that is hurting." But we won 18 series in

India and that means we did a lot of good things (in the past). I will not think too much into this. "We had two-three bad innings, but it happens sometimes." India's famed batting has flopped twice in the series including getting bowled out for 46 for their lowest total at home in the opener in Bengaluru.

India still lead the World Test Championship table but Australia are a close second, India bowled out New Zealand for 255 inside the first hour of play and opener Yashasvi Jaiswal in his 65-ball 77 came out attacking to raise hopes of a miracle. The hosts lost Rohit for eight but raced to 81-1 at lunch in 12 overs. Santner took down Shubman Gill for 23 soon after the break to

end a 62-run second-wicket stand with the left-handed Jaiswal, who powered on after reaching his fifty.

The in-form spinner finally had Jaiswal caught at slip, then ran out Rishabh Pant for a duck and trapped Virat Kohli lbw, dousing India's remote chances. Glenn Phillips chipped in with the wicket of Washington Sundar for 21.

India spinners Sundar and Jadeja shared seven wickets between them in the second New Zealand innings, with Jadeja claiming three of the five to fall on Saturday morning. Sundar, a lanky off-spinner, returned to the Indian Test team after more than three years and took 7-59. New Zealand made 259 in their first innings riding on knocks from Devon Conway (76) and Rachin Ravindra (65) before Santner took charge.

New Zealand have now won four Tests in India after their opening triumph, which marked their first on Indian soil since 1988. The series victory comes after New Zealand's recent 2-0 loss in Sri Lanka on a sub-continent tour that began with a washed-out Test against Afghanistan near New Delhi. Tim Southee stepped down after the Sri Lanka defeat and Latham took over as Test captain. The final match starts November 1 at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.



In brief

Firecracker dealer held

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi police confiscated a large quantity of fireworks and arrested a dealer here on Saturday. According to a police spokesperson, the detained dealer was identified as Naveed in the jurisdiction of Race Course police station. Naveed was reportedly involved in the business of selling firecrackers. Police have registered a case against him, and further investigation was in progress. SP Potohar praised the police team for their efforts in apprehending the dealer, emphasizing that those who put citizens' lives at risk with fireworks will face strict legal action. He stated that all such illegal businesses would be shut down to ensure public safety.

IRSA releases 108,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 108,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 61,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1532.93 feet and was 134.93 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 32,200 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1193.00 feet, which was 143.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 6,300 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 60,600, 43,900, 42,500 and 10,700 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 12,700 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Police farewell ceremony honors SI

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police host a farewell ceremony was held in honour of Sub Inspector Riaz Mekan on Saturday. A public relation officer told APP that, SP Dolphin Muhammad Mehfooz Kiyani graced the ceremony as chief guest, while other police officers were also present on the occasion. He said the ceremony was held in recognition of the services of the retiring police officer. Sub Inspector Riaz Mekan. Speaking at the occasion, the SP Dolphin said that retirement is part of the service as the one who joins the service has to retire one day. Mehfooz Kiyani asked the serving police officers to do their best to earn respect for the department. He was of the view that public service only could earn a good name for the officer and the department. SP Dolphin recognized the services rendered by the Sub-Inspector Riaz Mekan and added that the department in return gave him respect and honour. SP presented police shields and gifts to the retired police officer and also expressed best wishes for his future endeavors. **AIG Umrani holds orderly room to resolve ICT Police issues:** Assistant Inspector General (AIG) Establishment Abdul Haq Umrani led an orderly room session at the Central Police Office here Saturday, which was attended by Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police officials. A police spokesperson told APP that during the orderly room, the officers presented both personal and official concerns to the AIG. He said immediate directives were issued for the resolution of urgent issues, while senior officers were instructed to address the remaining matters promptly.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam addressing a Press Conference along with APHC leadership on Kashmir Black Day.

NA Speaker congratulates Justice Afridi on taking oath as CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Saturday extended his heartfelt congratulations to Justice Yahya Afridi on assuming the esteemed position of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). In a statement he expressed his best wishes for Chief Justice Afridi. The Speaker noted, "Becoming the Chief Justice of Pakistan is both a tremendous honor and a profound responsibility, one that Justice Afridi will undoubtedly uphold with wisdom and integrity."

He further remarked,

"Fair and effective system of justice is essential for a thriving democracy and for the nation's progress."

Ayaz Sadiq stressed the importance of justice in sustaining any society, expressing optimism that Justice Afridi would strengthen the judicial system in alignment with Pakistan's constitution and legal framework.

While highlighting the role of the parliament, he said, "The parliament is a beacon of hope and the voice of 250 million Pakistanis", adding that the Chief Justice's appointment was made in accordance with constitutional provisions, public opinion, and the national interest.

The Speaker reiterated, "Adherence to the Constitution is a fundamental duty of every citizen, and that all state institutions should fulfill their constitutional roles responsibly to contribute to the country's development."

The Speaker also extended prayers for Justice Yahya Afridi's success as the Chief Justice of Pakistan, expressing confidence that he would ensure the provision of prompt and impartial justice for all.

Wani calls for global action to resolve Kashmir conflict

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), Altaf Hussain Wani describes India's 1947 invasion of Kashmir as the root of ongoing unrest in South Asia, urging global intervention to resolve the conflict and bring peace to the region.

While speaking to APP, Wani emphasised that it is high time for the global community to take serious note of India's prolonged military occupation of the disputed territory and fulfill its responsibility to help resolve the conflict in line with UNSC resolutions. The KIIR chairman warned that if the dispute remains unresolved, it will likely lead to further loss of life and heightened unrest in this highly volatile region.

Wani described October 27 as the darkest day in Kashmir's recent history, emphasizing that India's aggression on this day in 1947 remains the root cause of the Kashmir conflict, which still threatens peace and stability in South Asia after 76 years. He urged influential world governments and institutions to take decisive action on the issue. He stated that the Indian act of aggression not only obstructed the smooth and successful implementation of the partition plan but also plunged the entire region into a quagmire of chaos and instability.

The KIIR chief remarked that the bloodshed initiated by India in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir in 1947 continues unabated, lamenting that the blood of innocent Kashmiris is being spilled with impunity on the streets.

Pointing to India's colonial history in Kashmir, he observed that the Indian government's settler colonialism policies, akin to those of Israel, have fostered a sense of fear among Kashmiris, making them feel increasingly unsafe and insecure in their own homeland. He stated that the deadly conflict has now escalated to dangerous levels following the Indian fascist regime led by the BJP's removal of the region's special status, which was guaranteed under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution.

Wani described India's aggressive military occupation of Kashmir as a significant threat to peace and stability in the region, expressing concern that world powers have been neglecting this perilous dimension of the prolonged conflict. He expressed regret that, in addition to employing their repressive state apparatus, Indian rulers have utilized Machiavellian strategies and colonial tactics to suppress the legitimate political aspirations of Kashmiris and silence democratic dissent in the region.

He said while highlighting the areas of trade and investment for Pakistani traders in his country.

He further highlighted Kyrgyzstan's historical ties with Pakistan and stressed the need to foster close relations. The ambassador discussed Kyrgyzstan's relaxed visa policies, enabling easier access for visitors from 62 countries, with plans to further ease restrictions for Pakistani businessmen, investors, and tourists. The meeting was attended by RCCI's Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, and other members.

Kyrgyzstan Ambassador meets RCCI body

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan, Avazbek Atakhanov visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and held a meeting with the chambers' top brass to discuss matters pertaining to strengthening economic and trade ties between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.

RCCI President Usman Shaukat provided an overview of RCCI's ongoing activities and upcoming events, highlighting the potential for joint ventures in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and tourism. Acknowledging the modest \$20 million trade volume between the

two nations, he called for increased interaction and cooperation to realize their shared economic potential.

Ambassador Atakhanov expressed optimism about boosting the trade volume to \$500 million, underscoring Kyrgyzstan's interest in deepening ties with Pakistan. "Pakistan offers unique opportunities, from the bustling port of Gwadar to the scenic Karakorams," he said.

The ambassador informed that his country's economy has expanded 2.5 times in the last four years, presenting tremendous opportunities for collaboration. "This is the message we want to send to

our friends in Pakistan", he said while highlighting the areas of trade and investment for Pakistani traders in his country.

He further highlighted Kyrgyzstan's historical ties with Pakistan and stressed the need to foster close relations. The ambassador discussed Kyrgyzstan's relaxed visa policies, enabling easier access for visitors from 62 countries, with plans to further ease restrictions for Pakistani businessmen, investors, and tourists. The meeting was attended by RCCI's Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, and other members.

Pakistan to observe Kashmir Black Day in effective manner: Noon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman National Assembly's Special Committee on Kashmir Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon on Saturday said that Pakistan would continue to support the Kashmir cause morally, politically and diplomatically and to observe Kashmir Black Day effectively.

Addressing a round table conference at the National Press Club (NPC) held in

collaboration with the Kashmir Committee and Kashmir Liberation Cell, the chairman said that on the completion of 77 years of Indian illegal occupation and aggression in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the international community should play its role to pressurize India to stop gruesome human rights violation.

He said that Prime Minister Muhammad

Shehbaz Sharif during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) comprehensively highlighted the Kashmir issue.

He said that the present government was trying to make a comprehensive policy in which scholarship programs were being commenced for Kashmiri children while Kashmir study centers would be established in universities across the country.

Amir urges people to participate in walks on Kashmir Black Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engr Amir Muqam on the observance of Kashmir Black Day saluted the courage and valour people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), who had rendered countless sacrifices in their struggle for realization of the basic rights.

Addressing a press conference on the eve of the 77th anniversary of Kashmir Black Day, marked to protest India's illegal occupation of Kashmir on October 27, 1947 – the minister assured the Kashmiri people of complete Pakistani government support in their struggle for the right to self-determination and termed the Indian subjugation of Kashmiris a gross human rights violation.

During the press conference, Engr Amir Muqam was accompanied by All Parties Hurriyat Conference Leaders including Muhammad Farooq Rehmani and Parliamentary Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan MNA Anwar ul Haq Chaudhry.

The minister said that October 27 was the blackest day in world history when India on this day in 1947 landed its army in Kashmir and illegally occupied the valley against the will of the people.

He urged the international community to play an effective role in resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolution and the aspiration of the Kashmiri people.

He said that the incumbent government under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad

Shehbaz Sharif was highlighting the Kashmir issue at all appropriate platforms including United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Amir Muqam asked all parliamentary parties and people from all walks of life to participate in the walk from Radio Pakistan to D Chowk Islamabad around 10:00 am on the occasion of Black Day on October 27 to give a strapping message to India that the government and people of Pakistan were united on the Kashmir cause.

He said the harassment of innocent people, arbitrary detentions, cordon and search operations, and extra-judicial killings had become a matter of routine in IIOJK.

The minister urged the international community to pressure India to end gruesome and widespread human rights violations in IIOJK, reverse its unilateral and illegal actions of August 5, 2019, repeal draconian laws; release political prisoners and implement relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

Amir Muqam said Pakistan would continue to play its role to ensure a free and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. "Our strong moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people would continue till the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination", he said.

The minister also briefed the media about the planned activities for Black Day to be observed on October 27, including walks, seminars and awareness drives, particularly the ceremonies

scheduled to be held at Pakistan's diplomatic missions across the world.

He said that the government has chalked out a comprehensive programme to observe the day in an effective manner by highlighting brutalities and massive human rights violations being perpetrated by the Indian troops to suppress the Indigenous freedom struggle of Kashmiris who want their legitimate right to self-determination in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Leader Muhammad Farooq Rehmani thanked the Pakistani government and Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan in observing the Kashmir Black Day on October 27 in an effective manner to give a strapping message to the world to play its role in impeding Kashmiris genocide and bloodshed.

He said that Pakistan had always supported and raised a voice for the Kashmir cause at all national and international forums highlighting Indian gruesome human rights violations.

He said that India illegally landed its occupied forces in Kashmir on October 27, 1947, adding that despite Indian nefarious and reprehensible tactics, the Kashmiri people were making the lingering alive.

APHC leader said that Kashmiris were struggling for their basic right to self-determination to get freedom from Indian illegal occupation. He urged the people belonging to all segments of society to participate in walks on Kashmir Black Day.

IHC directs CDA to complete license renewal for TJ restaurant

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to complete the license renewal process for Tandoori Junction (TJ), a restaurant located in F-7 Markaz, within seven days.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, presiding over the case, instructed the civic body not to disrupt the restaurant's operations until the renewal process is finalized within the prescribed time.

During the hearing, Advocate Qaiser Imam, representing the petitioner Javed Asif, argued that despite fulfilling all legal formalities for the license renewal, the CDA has been causing undue delays in completing the process.

Javed Asif, the owner

Earlier, the IHC had issued notices to senior officials of the CDA, the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), and the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration for non-compliance with previous court orders in the TJ case.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq had served the notices to CDA Chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Ali Randhawa, MCI Director of Management and Administration Sania Hameed, and Assistant Commissioners Farhan Ahmed and Ghulam Murtaza Chandio of the ICT Administration, along with Magistrate Ali Javed directing them to submit a formal response within two weeks.

Javed Asif, the owner

of TJ restaurant, had filed a contempt petition under Article 204 of the Constitution and relevant provisions of the Contempt of Court Ordinance, 2003. The petition was filed against the aforementioned officials for allegedly breaching the IHC's previous order, dated September 27, 2024, which had directed the de-sealing of the restaurant.

Advocate Qaiser Imam contended that despite the court's suspension of a notice issued on September 20, and the order to de-seal the restaurant, the relevant authorities had conducted an operation, removing utensils and other materials from the premises, thereby violating the court's directive.

AIOU honoured with Meritorious Award 2024

ISLAMABAD (INP): Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) has awarded the AAOU Meritorious Service Award 2024 to Dr. Zahid Majeed, Director of Academic Planning & Course Production at AIOU.

This award acknowledges and appreciates Dr. Zahid's 23 years of effort and contribution to the field of Open and Distance Learning. Ultimately, they unanimously selected Dr. Zahid Majeed of AIOU, Pakistan.

The jury recognized Dr. Zahid's 25 years of contributions to ODL, particularly his research, writing, curriculum development, and innovative approaches to include students with special needs in the ODL system.

They also commended his efforts to raise awareness within higher education institutions, particularly open universities, about the importance of supporting special needs students in an accessible, affordable, and feasible educational framework like ODL.

As a faculty and advocate of Special and Inclusive Education with over 25 years of experience, Dr. Zahid has authored several books

and articles, developed learning materials, and proposed inclusive education models for ODL.

Additionally, he collaborated with UNESCO to create guidelines for incorporating students with special needs into the ODL framework. Besides his efforts in inclusive education, the jury also recognized Dr. Zahid's contributions in teacher training, consultancy, research projects, and his active involvement in AAOU.

The Vice Chancellor of AIOU expressed that it is a great honor for both AIOU and Pakistan that Dr. Zahid's tireless efforts have been recognized with this prestigious award. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Zahid thanked AAOU, stating,

"This is a great honor for me, my parents, family, colleagues, university, and my country, Pakistan." He also added that this recognition has further motivated him to contribute even more towards the promotion of ODL in Pakistan and across AAOU member countries.

Sabrina named new envoy

ROME (Amu TV): Italy's Foreign Ministry has appointed Sabrina Ugolini as the nation's new ambassador to Afghanistan, underscoring her focus on human rights and the plight of women and girls under Taliban rule. Ms. Ugolini said she would work closely with international efforts centered in Doha, Qatar, as part of her new role. "I assume with responsibility and pride the position of ambassador of Italy to Afghanistan, working in the Doha process," she said.

Afghan migrants homes sealed

KABUL (Amu TV): Authorities in Taybad, a city in Iran's Khorasan Razavi province, have sealed 16 residences rented to Afghan migrants, Iranian media reported. The move comes amid Iran's heightened enforcement of regulations governing undocumented foreign nationals. Hojat Sediqi, the attorney general of Taybad, warned that individuals renting homes to undocumented migrants could face legal consequences.

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

Investor interest in urban uplift rising

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing reported an increase in interest from domestic and foreign investors in housing and urban development. Mohammad Kamal Afghan, spokesperson for the ministry, said that investors from Iran, Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey, Qatar, and China have expressed interest in investing in these areas. According to Afghan, domestic and foreign investors have invested in projects such as New Kabul, the Qatari project in Khushal Khan, the Nile Bagh project in Darul Aman, and various other housing projects in the provinces of Kandahar and Helmand. The spokesperson of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing

said, "Qatar and China are investing in housing in Afghanistan as grants, and other investors from countries like Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and South Africa have held meetings with the minister, and preliminary discussions have also been conducted with them." Some economic experts consider foreign investment in urban development and housing not only significant for creating job opportunities for the Afghan people but also vital for urban planning. Abdul Zahoor Madbar, an economic expert, said: "It is essential to establish correct economic and strategic relations with the world, providing facilities for them, and if they are interested in investing in sectors like agriculture, infrastructure, and development, having proper rela-

tions can reflect these facilities back to us more broadly, allowing us to reap significant and optimal results." Abdul Shakoar Hadawal, another economic expert, said, "We ask the Islamic Emirate to urgently provide facilities for these countries and their traders so Afghanistan can move towards prosperity and employment opportunities can be created for the people." Previously, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, in outlining its annual achievements, had announced the approval of 57 urban development plans in the past year, adding that identifying over 3,100 cases of urban violations and monitoring 443 construction projects were among the ministry's key achievements over the past year.

Baradar inaugurates construction of road



KABUL (Ariana News): Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar inaugurated the construction of a second road between Kabul and Jalalabad cities on Saturday. Mullah Baradar said at a ceremony that the road project is important for transportation as it would connect the two major commercial and strategic provinces of Kabul and Nangarhar. He added that trade facilities between the two important economic, commercial and transit provinces would not only

contribute to the growth of domestic trade, but also play an important role in the development of trade relations with countries in the region and beyond and can contribute to the national economy of the country. Mullah Baradar said that the road will be built based on the decree of the leader of the Islamic Emirate and with toll collected on Kabul-Jalalabad highway. He said that with the completion of the second Kabul-Jalalabad road, traffic congestion in the first road will be reduced, which will reduce traffic accidents.

Mullah Baradar said that the construction of the road will facilitate traffic, safe, low-cost and fast transportation of commercial goods, and will also lead to the growth of small and medium-sized businesses along the road. The second road of Kabul-Jalalabad highway, which is 150 kilometers long, starts from Bagrami district of Kabul and passes through Kabul's Khak Jabbar district and Hesarak, Khogyani and Surkhrod districts in Nangarhar province before it is connected to Nangarhar's ring road.

Lack of govt offices

B A D A K H S H A N (TOLONews): Some officials and government employees in the Shohada district of Badakhshan province report that due to a lack of suitable government office buildings, they are forced to work in rented, substandard houses. They are calling on the government to address this issue as soon as possible. Kabir Ahmad Amiri, the deputy governor of Shohada district, said: "Except for the district police headquarters, other government departments in Shohada

district lack civilian buildings, and we are facing challenges because of this." Abdullah, a government employee, said: "There's a lot of dust, water seeps in during winter, and all our files get ruined." Habibullah Sarim, the governor of Shohada district, said: "Once the project is completed and handed over to us, eighty percent of our problems will be solved." However, the deputy governor of Badakhshan said that the construction of government buildings in

nine districts of this province is scheduled to begin soon. Aminullah Tayeb, the deputy governor of Badakhshan, said: "Thanks to the guidance of Sheikh Sahib Amir al-Mu'minin and other leaders, delegations have come to this province and conducted surveys, and we hope the construction work on buildings in nine districts will start soon." According to local officials in Badakhshan, out of the 28 districts in the province, 13 currently lack government buildings.

Minister inaugurates major development projects in Logar



LOGAR (BNA): The Acting Minister of Higher Education, Mawlawi Neda Mohammad Nadim, inaugurated eight essential development projects at the Logar Institute of Higher Education during his recent visit to Logar Province. These projects, launched with a budget allocation of 66 million Afghanis, are aimed at fortifying the institute's facilities and resources to better serve its academic community. According to sources from BNA, the newly initiated projects encompass comprehensive upgrades, including the construction of the institute's perimeter wall, enhancements to the main entrance, and completion of remaining struc-

Displaced persons request assistance

KHOST (TOLONews): Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in central Khost province are calling for support to meet their essential needs. These IDPs say that lack of access to clean drinking water and electricity are other serious challenges they face. The IDP camp in the Shamal Farari area, located in the center of Khost, houses around 400 families, many of whom are in extremely difficult economic conditions. Shari Zazi, an IDP, said, "They come and take down names, but we have not seen any help. We don't know if someone is selling it off or if we're just not counted among the displaced. These people are all suffering — widows, orphans, and people without land or homes in their villages." Another IDP, Mohammad Jan, added, "Many people here rely on one or two kilos of flour to cook meals at night. We have not received any substantial aid, and if any has come, it only reached five families and was very little." Musa Gul, an IDP, pointed to water issues, saying, "Our water is very unsafe. We dug a well, but it's shallow and highly contaminated." Several other IDPs report that their area has no school, and due to economic hardships, they cannot enroll their children in private schools. Mustafa, another IDP, said, "All these children are uneducated and do not attend school. We want a public school to be built here. Private schools are too expensive, and people cannot afford them." Another IDP, Ghazni Gul, added, "We live five kilometers from Khost city, but some here still don't have electricity and face many challenges. The road is bad, and there is no school here." Rozi Gul, another IDP, described the housing conditions: "They've given us simple rooms made of blocks and weak wood, costing 186,000 afghani each. During the rains, people are worried water accumulates between the houses with no drainage." The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations stated that they have initiated a process to return IDPs to their areas and will provide the necessary facilities.

Abdul Mutalib Haqqani, spokesperson for the ministry, said: "Our priority is to return these people to their areas, and if it's not viable, we are in continuous contact with partner agencies. Last week, we signed an agreement with the Ministry of Education to provide educational facilities and basic needs in the camps." The ministry reports that there are currently 3 million internally displaced families across the country, most residing in Kabul. Iran is seeking to encourage Afghan entrepreneurs and investors to invest in Iran's major projects by facilitating conditions and removing obstacles, Iran's special envoy for Afghanistan Hassan Kazemi Qomi said. Speaking on the sidelines of an international expo in Mashhad city, Qomi said that the development of Iran's Chabahar port requires the attraction of large capitals and that the route between Iran and Afghanistan can create a transit corridor for the region from north to south and east to west. He said that countries in Central Asia and Afghanistan are interested in developing economic cooperation with Iran. "This includes the

Kabir highlight relations between Afghanistan, UK



KABUL (BNA): Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, highlighted the importance of fostering positive relations between Afghanistan and the United Kingdom during a meeting with Robert Dickson, the UK Chargé d'Affaires to Afghanistan. The Deputy Prime Minister commended Dickson's commitment to maintaining these relations and noted the mutual benefits of continued dialogue. The meeting, which included Hafiz Anas Haqqani, a member of the Islamic Emirate's Political Commission, focused on enhancing diplomatic and economic cooperation. During the meeting, Mr. Dickson described the dialogues between Afghan and British representatives as constructive and emphasized the UK's commitment to supporting Afghanistan's stability. He assured that the UK government does not permit anti-Islamic Emirate activities on

British soil and reiterated London's continued support for humanitarian aid and climate resilience efforts in Afghanistan. Dickson also praised the Islamic Emirate's effective coordination of emergency relief for recent natural disasters and expressed satisfaction with the managed repatriation process for Afghan refugees from neighboring countries. He proposed further bilateral engagements to address shared objectives, emphasizing London's interest in strengthening ties with Afghanistan and facilitating broader connections with Western countries. Additionally, Hafiz Anas Haqqani conveyed gratitude for British humanitarian support and stressed that improved security in Afghanistan provides a solid foundation for foreign diplomatic engagement. He noted the value of the Afghan Embassy in London in providing consular services and called for enhanced collaboration in this area. In his remarks, Mawlawi Abdul Kabir underscored the Islamic Emirate's commitment to upholding human rights and acknowledged the progress made in reducing narcotics production and supporting addiction treatment programs. He reaffirmed Afghanistan's commitment to constructive international relations and reiterated the importance of sustained, positive engagement with the United Kingdom.

IEA's restrictions on girls' education cannot be called Islamic: Khalilzad

KABUL (Ariana News): Zalmay Khalilzad, former US special envoy for Afghanistan peace, has criticized the Islamic Emirate's restrictions on girls' education, saying that the move cannot be called Islamic. Khalilzad said in a post on X that the current IEA leadership has "sadly turned Afghanistan into the only country in the entire world where female education above elementary school is not allowed."

Islamic world, leading to the conclusion that what is being done on girls' and women's higher education can not be called Islamic. In fact, calling it Islamic is a disgrace," Khalilzad said. "It is not shared by even one other Islamic country." The former diplomat mentioned that BRICS in their summit statement added their voices to the uniform global opposition to this policy of the IEA. The Islamic Emirate has previously said that laws in



Afghanistan are based on education is an internal Sharia, and that the girls' matter.

'Iran seeks to attract Afghan investment in its major projects'

KABUL (Ariana News): Tehran is seeking to encourage Afghan entrepreneurs and investors to invest in Iran's major projects by facilitating conditions and removing obstacles, Iran's special envoy for Afghanistan Hassan Kazemi Qomi said. Speaking on the sidelines of an international expo in Mashhad city, Qomi said that the development of Iran's Chabahar port requires the attraction of large capitals and that the route between Iran and Afghanistan can create a transit corridor for the region from north to south and east to west. He said that countries in Central Asia and Afghanistan are interested in developing economic cooperation with Iran. "Considering the good experiences that started in the field of construction post-war, Iran's policy is



based on helping the stability and security and construction of other countries, therefore, a serious role to participate in the reconstruction of countries like Afghanistan exists," Qomi said.

Iran reports 4.5-fold increase in Afghan refugee deportations

KABUL (Khaama Press): Ehsan Haidari, Director-General of Foreign Nationals and Immigrants Affairs at Tehran's provincial government, announced the commencement of the eighth campaign to regulate and deport Afghan migrants. He stated that the deportation of undocumented migrants in Tehran during the first half of this year has increased 4.5 times compared to the same period last year. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported on Friday, October 25, that the latest phase of the operation to regulate and deport undocumented migrants was carried out in Quds village. Haidari emphasized that during this operation, a number of migrants were identified and handed over to camps for deportation. Meanwhile, Vahid Gholi Kani, the governor of Quds, commented, "The illegal presence of foreign nationals creates challenges in our policymaking." According to IRNA, Iranian officials have once again warned employers not to hire undocumented migrants. The ongoing deportations are part of Iran's broader plan to expel nearly two million migrants by the end of this year. Reports indicate that hundreds of Afghans are being deported daily, and even some with valid visas and residence documents are being detained and expelled by Iranian police. The forced deportations are worsening the plight of Afghan refugees, many of whom face a dire humanitarian crisis and the harsh winter ahead in Afghanistan.

CSTO okays plan to strengthen Tajikistan, Afghanistan border

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) announced that the organization will approve a plan to strengthen the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border. Imangali Tasmagambetov stated that at the CSTO meeting scheduled for the 28th of November this year, the border reinforcement program will be on the agenda. According to RIA Novosti News Agency, the CSTO Security Council meeting will be held in the city of Astana. It has been reported that the draft plan for strengthening the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border has been studied and agreed upon by the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) member countries. In recent years, regional organizations, including the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), have repeatedly expressed concerns about the risk of extremism spreading from Afghanistan to Central Asia. Previously, representatives from more than 40 countries expressed growing concerns over the rise of extremism, radical religious teachings, and racial discrimination in various countries. At a meeting in Moscow, they warned that this situation could lead to catastrophic consequences. This report highlights the urgency and preparedness of regional organizations like the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) to address security challenges at the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border. Russia and Central Asian countries, especially Tajikistan, are increasingly concerned about the rising threats of "terrorism" originating from Afghanistan under Taliban rule. The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) was established based on the Collective Security Treaty on May 15, 1992, initiated by Russia, and currently has six members. The member countries of this organization are Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Currently, the presidency of the Collective Security Treaty Organization is held by Kazakhstan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi and others offering funeral prayer of martyred Sub Inspector, Haider Ali Shah, at Police Lines.

124 killed after Sudan's RSF attack village

CAIRO/DUBAI (Reuters): Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) killed at least 124 people in a village in El Gezira State, activists said, in one of the deadliest incidents of an 18-month war and largest in a spate of attacks in the state.

Following the surrender of high-ranking RSF officer Abuagla Keikal to the army last Sunday, pro-democracy activists said the RSF has carried out revenge attacks in the farming state where he comes from, killing and detaining civilians and displacing thousands. Gezira has already faced a months-long rampage in which residents told Reuters the RSF looted homes, killed scores of civilians and displaced hundreds of thousands.

Al-Sireha village, in the north of the state, experienced the worst of the recent violence when at least 124 were killed and 100 injured in the RSF raid, the Wad Madani Resistance Committee, a pro-democracy group, said on Saturday. In a statement, the RSF accused the army of arming civilians in Gezira and of using forces under Keikal's command, prompting its attacks.

The army and the RSF did not respond to requests for comment. The RSF has seized control of large parts of Sudan in a conflict with the army that the United Nations says has caused one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. The war has displaced more

than 11 million people, driven parts of the country to extreme hunger or famine, and drawn in foreign powers that have given both sides material support.

It began in April 2023 when tensions between the RSF and the army, who had previously shared power, erupted into open conflict at a time when Sudan should have been transitioning to civilian rule after a 2021 coup. "The RSF militia is raiding east, west, and central Gezira, and committing extensive massacres in one village after another," the committee said.

Images on social media shared by the committee and others purported to show dozens of bodies wrapped for burial and mass graves being dug. "The people of Gezira are facing genocide by the Rapid Support Forces and it is impossible to treat the injured or even evacuate them for treatment. Those who have left on foot have died or are faced with death," said the Sudanese Doctors Union, calling for safe passages.

A video circulated on social media purported to show an RSF soldier who said he was in Sireha and who filmed troops lining up men of all ages at gunpoint, using racial epithets, and forcing them to bleed like goats. Another video, shared by the resistance committee, showed an RSF soldier pulling an elderly man to his feet by his beard.

Reuters could not immediately verify any of the videos. Sudan's Combating Violence Against Women Unit, a government body, said in a statement it had received reports of RSF soldiers raping women in Gezira villages as a tactic to humiliate the men and drive people out of the area. Keikal's defection occurred as the army renewed a push to regain territory across the country.

Sudanese army general Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan posted on X late that as more civilian blood was spilled, the Sudanese people's determination to resist the RSF grew stronger. But his comments were met with a wave of criticism that the army had not protected civilians in Gezira or elsewhere in the country. The RSF is accused by the United States and others of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing, particularly in West Darfur.

The army is also accused of war crimes after carrying out extensive airstrike campaigns that have frequently led to high civilian death tolls but done little to push the RSF back. "We are monitoring the latest, shocking RSF attacks on civilians in Gezira. The killings and sexual violence are reprehensible," the US Special Envoy for Sudan Tom Perriello said on X, adding both the RSF and army were failing to protect civilians.

Bilawal supports Kashmiris struggle

F.P. Report

KARACHI/ISLAMABAD/LAHORE/MUZZAFARABAD, October 27: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has reaffirmed his unwavering support for the Kashmiri people in their enduring struggle for justice and self-determination, as Pakistan and Kashmir observe Black Day to mark the tragic occupation of Kashmir on October 27, 1947.

According to a press release from the Media Cell Bilawal House, Chairman PPP, in his message, condemned the relentless human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and the oppression faced by those demanding basic rights and freedom. "Pakistan stands resolutely with our Kashmiri brothers and sisters. Their right to self-determination, enshrined in United Nations resolutions, is a human right that must not be denied through force or injustice," he stated. "We urge the international community to act decisively to bring peace, justice, and freedom to this long-suffering region."

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also highlighted the rich legacy of PPP's dedication to the Kashmir cause. He paid tribute to the vision of Quaid-i-Azam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, whose fierce advocacy for Kashmir remains unmatched, and to the tireless efforts of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who consistently championed Kashmir's voice on global platforms.

He further acknowledged President Asif Ali Zardari's efforts, noting how, during his first tenure, he elevated the Kashmir issue to global prominence, tirelessly championing the rights of the Kashmiri people on the international stage. President Zardari remains steadfastly dedicated to advancing this cause with unwavering resolve.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari urged all Pakistanis to unite in solidarity with the Kashmiri people, raising their voices against the atrocities they face and advocating for a just and peaceful resolution in line with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and under the framework of the United Nations. The PPP, he assured, stands steadfast in honoring the sacrifices and struggles of Kashmiris and will continue to bring their voices to every national and international platform.

Doctors advise Bushra Bibi rest

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The doctors of Peshawar Shaukat Khan Hospital advised Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi to take rest after medical checkup.

It reported in media that Shaukat Khanum's two doctors conducted a medical examination at the Chief Minister's House. The sources said that after the examination, doctors declared Bushra Bibi as fully recovered except for treatment of ear and tooth infection. No one can meet Bushra Bibi at CM's House in Peshawar, the sources said.

Chinese hackers targeted phones affiliated with Harris campaign

WASHINGTON (Reuters): Chinese hackers who tapped into Verizon's system targeted phones used by people affiliated with the campaign of Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris, a person familiar with the situation said. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and his running mate, JD Vance, were also targeted, according to media reports. Reuters could not confirm those reports.

The New York Times reported investigators were working to determine what communications, if any, were taken from Trump and Vance. The Trump campaign was made aware this week that Trump and Vance were among a number of people inside and outside of government whose phone numbers were targeted

through the infiltration of Verizon (VZ.N), opens new tab phone systems, the Times report added. The Trump campaign did not confirm that Trump's and Vance's phones were targeted. Steven Cheung, the campaign's communications director, said Vice President Harris has emboldened China and Iran to attack US infrastructure to prevent Trump from returning to office.

While noting that it was not aware of the specific situation, the Chinese embassy in Washington said China opposes and combat cyber attacks and cyber thefts in all forms. "The presidential elections are the United States' domestic affairs. China has no intention and will not interfere in the US election," an embassy spokesperson said when reached for comment.

The Harris campaign did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Trump campaign was hacked earlier this year. The US Justice Department charged three members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps with the hack, accusing them of trying to disrupt the Nov. 5 election. The FBI and the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency said they were investigating unauthorized access to commercial telecommunications infrastructure by people associated with China. The joint statement by the agencies did not name the targets of the incident. Verizon said it was aware of a sophisticated attempt to reportedly target US telecoms and gather intelligence.

Rival London marches pass off peacefully

LONDON (Reuters): Right-wing, anti-immigrant protesters and opposing anti-racism demonstrators held large rallies in London on Saturday, with both passing off peacefully amid a beefed-up police operation to prevent any clashes between the rival groups. Several thousand people waving English and British flags joined the "Unite the Kingdom" nationalist rally by parliament, organised by anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim activist Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, known by the pseudonym Tommy Robinson.

A counter-protest of anti-racism campaigners and trade unionists also took place nearby, with marchers carrying banners saying "Refugees Welcome" and "Smash the Far Right". Police officers were drafted in from around the country to avert

possible unrest, but the London force said on X only a handful of arrests had been made. Britain saw days of rioting in towns and cities across the country at the end of July in the wake of the murder of three young girls at a dance workshop in Southport, after misinformation on social media wrongly identified the suspected killer as a Muslim migrant.

The unrest, which Prime Minister Keir Starmer described as racist and blamed on far-right thugery, targeted hotels housing asylum seekers and mosques. It ended after police made more than 1,500 arrests and charged about 1,000 people. The right-wing protesters who marched on Saturday describe themselves as "patriots", and say Britain is under threat from migrants and

Islamification. Their critics, including most lawmakers, say their number includes racists, far-right supporters and soccer hooligans bent on violence.

Yaxley-Lennon, who was accused by some media and politicians of inflaming tensions which led to the July riots, was not present at the march as he is being held in police custody ahead of a contempt of court case to be heard on Monday.

He was also charged under terrorism laws with failing to provide his mobile phone PIN code when he left Britain in July. Saturday's protests came as official figures showed the number of asylum seekers crossing the Channel this year from Europe in small boats - an issue that has angered many in Britain - had hit 29,578, more than for the whole of 2023.

Zain Qureshi steps down as party's deputy parliamentary leader in NA

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), MNA, Zain Qureshi stepped down as the party's deputy parliamentary leader in the National Assembly. Zain Qureshi, who has been issued a show-cause notice by the party over his alleged indiscipline during the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment, said that he resigned from the post to ensure impartial inquiry.

The PTI MNA said that he has officially responded to the show-cause notice. "I was loyal to PTI founder Imran Khan and my father Shah Mehmood Qureshi and will remain loyal to them," Zain Qureshi added. Earlier, PTI MNA Zain Qureshi that he chose to go into hiding on advice of his father, Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

In a video statement, Zain revealed that he was ordered to disappear by his father Shah Mehmood Qureshi. "I could never think of voting for this constitutional amendment," Zain stated, debunking reports of him supporting the tweaks. He labeled these claims "baseless propaganda. Zain further explained that his father summoned him to Lahore, where he remains imprisoned in a different case.

According to Zain, his father insisted against approving the constitutional amendment in any case. "Misleading propaganda is being spread against me regarding my support for the constitutional amendment," he said. It may be noted here that the PTI issued show-cause notices to members of parliament for allegedly defying the party on the 26th constitutional amendment.

Power consumers flay inflated bills

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Power consumers in front of the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO)'s authorities outcry about inflated bills, unscheduled power outage, unavailability of electricity meters and staff's negligence in official duties. The consumers made the complaints during an open kutcheri held at PESCO office in Saddo here on Saturday. The PESCO deputy director Swat circle Hazrat Hussain, executive engineer Asad Ali Khan, PESCO SDOs, leaders of Hydro workers' union and other officials were present on the occasion.

Representing power consumers, Zafarullah, Malik Ziaul Haq, Wiqar Abid, Sultan Zeb, Syed Amjad Ali Shah, Ishfaq Khan and others complained that unscheduled power outage, heavy fines, inflated bills and unchecked meter reading had put them in troubles. They said that decades' old transmission lines caused electricity losses and the consumers were forced to pay for it.

The speakers said that consumers were fined heavily and they had to visit the Superintendent Engineer (SE) in Swat for correction of their bills despite the fact that the XEN had the power to resolve a problem up to 15 kilowatts. They complained that due to shortage of meter readers, several consumers were forced to pay for unutilized electricity.

115 dead in massive flooding in Philippines

TALISAY, Philippines: The number of dead and missing in massive flooding and landslides wrought by Tropical Storm Trami in the Philippines has exceeded 100 and the president said Saturday that many areas remained isolated with people in need of rescue.

Trami blew away from the northwestern Philippines, leaving at least 81 people dead and 34 others missing in one of the Southeast Asian archipelago's deadliest and most destructive storms so far this year, the government's disaster-response agency said. The death toll was expected to rise as reports came in from previously isolated areas. Dozens of police, firefighters and other emergency personnel, backed by three backhoes and sniffer dogs, dug up one of the last two missing villagers in the lakeside town of Talisay in Batangas province Saturday.

A father, who was waiting for word on his missing 14-year-old daughter, wept as rescuers placed the remains in a black body bag. Distraught, he followed police officers, who carried the body bag down a mud-strewn village alley to a police van when one weeping resident approached him to express her sympathies. The man said he

was sure it was his daughter, but authorities needed to do checks to confirm the identity of the villager dug up in the mound.

In a nearby basketball gym at the town center, more than a dozen white coffins were laid side by side, bearing the remains of those found in the heaps of mud, boulders and trees that cascaded Thursday afternoon down the steep slope of a wooded ridge in Talisay's Sampaloc village. President Ferdinand Marcos, who inspected another hard-hit region southeast of Manila Saturday, said the unusually large volume of rainfall dumped by the storm — including in some areas that saw one to two months' worth of rainfall in just 24 hours — overwhelmed flood controls in provinces lashed by Trami. "The water was just too much," Marcos told reporters.

"We're not done yet with our rescue work," he said. "Our problem here, there are still many areas that remained flooded and could not be accessed even big trucks." His administration, Marcos said, would plan to start work on a major flood control project that can meet the unprecedented threats posed by climate change. More than 4.2 million people were in the path

of the storm, including nearly half a million, who mostly fled to more than 6,400 emergency shelters in several provinces, the government agency said.

In an emergency Cabinet meeting, Marcos raised concerns over reports by government forecasters that the storm — the 11th to hit the Philippines this year — could make a U-turn next week as it is pushed back by high-pressure winds in the South China Sea. The storm was forecast to batter Vietnam over the weekend if it would not veer off course. The Philippine government shut down schools and government offices for the third day to keep millions of people safe on the main northern island of Luzon. Inter-island ferry services were also suspended, stranding thousands.

Weather has cleared in many areas on Saturday, allowing cleanup work in most areas. Each year, about 20 storms and typhoons batter the Philippines, a Southeast Asian archipelago which lies between the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea. In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest recorded tropical cyclones, left more than 7,300 people dead or missing and flattened entire villages. — Aljazeera

Rival sides claim victory in Georgia's key elections

TBILISI (AFP): Georgia's governing party and the opposition groups have claimed victory in the key parliamentary elections, each pointing to different exit poll numbers, while all eyes remain on the results that will determine the future path of the former Soviet republic.

One of the surveys showed the governing Georgian Dream party winning comfortably while two other polls projected the pro-West opposition to win a majority. The union of four opposition alliances received a combined 51.9 percent of the vote, with the governing Georgian Dream party on 40.9 percent, according to an exit poll commissioned by a pro-opposition TV station from US pollster Edison Research. An exit poll by the Georgian Dream-supporting Imedi TV channel showed the governing party winning 56 percent.

Many voters believe the election may be the most crucial vote of their lifetimes,

determining whether Georgia gets back on track to EU membership or embraces authoritarianism and leans towards Russia. "Most Georgians have realised that the current government is dragging us back towards the Russian swamp and away from Europe, where Georgia truly belongs," 48-year-old musician Giorgi Kipshidze told an AFP news agency reporter at a polling station in central Tbilisi.

In power since 2012, Georgian Dream initially pursued a liberal pro-Western policy agenda. But over the last two years, it has reversed course. Its campaign has centred on a conspiracy theory about a "global war party" that controls Western institutions and is seeking to drag Georgia, still scarred by Russia's 2008 invasion, into a war that only Georgian Dream could prevent. "Right now, some people don't understand the danger they might face if we're defeated.

But we will try our best to win and show the people the correct path," Georgian Dream activist Sandro told the Reuters news agency.

Georgia, which lost swaths of its territory to Russian-backed separatists in the 1990s and was defeated in a brief Russian invasion in 2008, was for decades one of the most pro-Western states to emerge from the Soviet Union. But since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Georgian Dream has moved the country decisively back towards Moscow's orbit, accusing the West of trying to lure it into war. Opposition parties and President Zourabichvili accuse Georgian Dream of buying votes and intimidating voters, which it denies. Georgian Dream's adoption of a controversial "foreign influence" law this year targeting civil society prompted weeks of mass street protests and was criticised as a Kremlin-style measure to silence dissent.

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سردی آنے سے پہلے کر لو تیاری

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سروس کروائیں تاکہ آپ اضافی بل
کے بوجھ سے بچ سکیں

لہذا پروٹیکٹڈ گیٹری میں
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