

**Five die in road mishap**  
**F.P. Report**  
MANSEHRA: At least five people were killed and two others injured when a passenger coaster overturned in Mansehra on Tuesday morning. Local police said the passenger coaster, on its way to Rawalpindi from Gilgit overturned at Kalgan Mor in Gandhian area, killing four passengers at the scene and injuring three others.

# PM hails Saudi Arabia's support for economic revival

RIYADH: Highlighting the importance of deep-rooted brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday appreciated the Kingdom's support for the economic revival and stability.

PM Shehbaz met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the sidelines of the eighth session of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh, read a statement issued by the PM Office Media Wing.

Apprising the crown prince on his government's economic, institutional and policy reforms agenda, the prime minister said that the Kingdom had a central role in Pakistan's future economic plans. The prime minister appreciated Saudi Arabia's efforts to promote regional peace and stability in the Middle East and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to standby the country in these efforts.

The two leaders exchanged views on regional developments and agreed to closely coordinate positions on regional issues. The prime minister conveyed best wishes for the health and wellbeing of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

Separately, on X handle, the prime minister posted that he had the honour of meeting Mohammed Bin Salman, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia along with his delegation. "Conveyed my deep gratitude for the Kingdom's valuable support to Pakistan in securing the IMF (International Monetary Fund) program."

The premier said that Pakistan's ties with the kingdom are historical and time-tested. "Thanked him for his gracious hospitality. Pakistan's ties with Saudi Arabia are historical and time-tested. During our very productive talks we reviewed the progress in Pakistan-KSA relations across multiple sectors and reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening bilateral ties, particularly in areas such as trade and investment, culture, innovation, technology, and beyond," he further posted.

It is pertinent to mention here that PM Shehbaz Sharif is currently in the Kingdom to attend the eighth edition of two-day Future Investment Initiative (FII) being held in Riyadh. Attended by global leaders, this year's FII is themed "Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow" and focuses on global investments aimed at addressing

major issues such as artificial intelligence, robotics, education, energy, space, finance, healthcare, and sustainability.

The participating countries engage in the dialogue for the promotion of investment and a sustainable future while highlighting the strength of their respective economies. The FII conference featured discussions on artificial intelligence, robotics, education, energy, space, public health, and challenges confronting sustainable development.

During the plenary session, PM Shehbaz invited global companies to invest in Pakistan and bring their expertise and creativity as "we build a future rooted in resilience and shared prosperity." "Pakistan stands ready to join those who dare to dream big," he said, noting that no nation could overcome today's challenges alone and no single country could harness the potential of tomorrow without the support of others.

While underscoring the importance of knowledge-based economy driven by innovation in domains of artificial intelligence, education and health, the premier called for collective global efforts and partnerships to overcome the contemporary challenges. — Agencies

# US addresses concerns over democracy & HRs in Balochistan

**Jalil Afridi**  
WASHINGTON: In yesterday's Press briefing, US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller discussed various issues, including US elections, the Gaza conflict, and Balochistan's political climate, responding to questions from The Frontier Post correspondent. The exchange reflected both serious diplomatic concerns and moments of humor.

The conversation began with a query about a recent poll showing that 60% of Muslim voters in Michigan preferred former President Donald Trump, a notable shift from their historical support for Democrats. The correspondent suggested that this change might stem from dissatisfaction with Democratic

policies toward Gaza. Miller declined to comment, citing the State Department's policy against discussing domestic electoral issues.

The correspondent then referenced a monument recently unveiled in Pakistan inaugurated by Mr Faiz Isa, former chief justice, which some journalists have dubbed a "graveyard" for symbolizing struggles within Pakistani institutions under the former Chief Justice Isa. In a humorous nod, the correspondent proposed a "donut monument" for the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who also loved donuts according to media reports, referring to Miller's earlier "donut answer" that went viral. Miller responded lightheartedly, noting that the conversation had drifted from formal diplomatic topics.

The discussion then shifted to

Balochistan, where prominent activist Mahrang Baloch recently alleged that Baloch senators, including Akhtar Mengal of the Balochistan National Party, were coerced into supporting Pakistan's 26th constitutional amendment and later targeted with what she called "fabricated cases." She argued that such actions stifle peaceful activism and democratic engagement in Pakistan.

Miller affirmed the US commitment to supporting democracy and human rights, emphasizing that all individuals deserve the right to participate freely in democratic processes. The exchange underscores the importance of Balochistan's concerns within both US and Pakistani political discourse, highlighting calls for democracy, fair development, and recognition for all citizens.

## Asma Jahangir group secures victory in SCBA elections

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) elections concluded with Rauf Atta from the Asma Jahangir Group (AJG) winning the presidential seat by a narrow margin. Rauf Atta claimed victory with 350 votes, edging out his rival, Hamid Khan Group's (HKG) candidate Munir Kakar, who received 331 votes.

Out of 769 registered voters, 682 Supreme Court lawyers cast their ballots at the principal seat, reflecting a high turnout for the association's annual elections. He also secured 558 votes in Lahore, outpacing his rival from the Hamid Khan Group (HKG), who garnered 484 votes.

Early reports from Multan indicate that Rauf Atta received 125 votes, surpassing HKG candidate Munir Kakar's 85 votes by a margin of 40. In Islamabad, 682 of the 769 registered lawyers cast their ballots, where Atta also leads with 190 votes, while Kakar follows with 160 votes.

Rauf Atta's influence extended into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where he swept the polls, winning by narrow margins across multiple cities.

In Peshawar, he achieved victory with 127 votes compared to Kakar's 123. In Bannu, Atta secured 21 votes against Kakar's 10, and in Dera Ismail Khan, he led with 25 votes over Kakar's 11. In other key victories, Atta won by 7 votes in Abbottabad, 11 in Bannu, 14 in Dera Ismail Khan, 8 in Swat, and 4 in Peshawar. In Hyderabad, he claimed 50 votes, outstripping Kakar, who received 34.

# KP govt finalizes Maizban tourism promotion project

**F.P. Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government finalized 'Maizban' a homestay project to promote tourism in the province. The project will be finally launched on December 15, 2025. Initially, the project would be launched at a cost of Rs. 395 million, providing interest-free loans of up to Rs. 3 million to local house owners in tourists' attractive districts to offer quality accommodation facilities to tourists.

The decision was made in a meeting of the Tourism Department, held here at Chief Minister's Secretariat on Tuesday with Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in the chair. Besides, Advisor to Chief Minister on Tourism Zahid Chan Zeb, Secretary Tourism Bakhtiar Khan and Director General (DG) KP Culture & Tourism Authority (KPCTA) Tashfeen Haider, the representatives of other relevant departments also attended the meeting.

The meeting thoroughly reviewed the various aspects of project implementation and made important decisions to this effect. The meeting decided that locals interested in providing accommodation to tourists within their premises would either build at least two new rooms or renovate existing ones as per standard set by the department. These rooms would offer all essential facilities for tourists, including bathrooms and kitchens. It was decided that, initially, the project will be launched in Upper Chitral, Lower Chitral, Upper Dir, Lower Dir, Mansehra, Abbottabad, and Swat districts. The loans to be provided to local residents, would be distributed through the Bank of Khyber, with a repayment period of five years, starting from the second year after receiving the loan.

Addressing the participants of the meeting, Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur highlighted the vast tourism potential in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stating that the effective utilization of these opportuni-

# Imran to decide Fawad return to party: Gohar

**F.P. Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar on Tuesday dismissed any divisions within the party by saying "there is no forward bloc in the party."

He said there were no differences among the ranks of the PTI rather it was "difference of opinion". Speaking to media outside the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad, the

PTI chief said the PTI was a democratic party, claiming that leadership and workers of the party were treated equally.

"We are receptive to concerns of everyone from leadership to a worker of the party. We don't endorse stifling the voices of the people," he reiterated. Responding to a question regarding former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry's remarks about the current party leadership, Gohar



RIYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif delivering keynote speech at the 8th meeting of Future Investment Initiative in Saudi Arabia.

## 5 labourers killed in Panjgur attack

**F.P. Report**

PANJGUR: Spokesman for provincial government, Shahid Rind on Tuesday said that five labourers died and two sustained injuries after unidentified assailants fired at the labourers working at Promom dam in district Panjgur of Balochistan province.

In a statement, he said that bodies and injured had been shifted to District Headquarters Hospital Panjgur for completion of codal formalities and treatment, adding that condition of two injured of the incident was stable. He said that authorities of district administration were present at the site of incident, adding further investigation was underway.

President Asif Ali Zardari condemned the firing of armed men in Panjgur and expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the terrorist attack.

According to President House press wing statement, President Asif Ali Zardari expressed his condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the incident. President Zardari said that terrorists were enemies of the country's development and prosperity of the province. He said that terrorists do not want to see Balochistan to develop. The President prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured of the attack. The President also prayed for high ranks of the departed souls in Jannah and patience for the bereaved families.

## Gandapur warns to shut down country

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Tuesday warned of shutting down everything under the sun if Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder had any complaints from the government regarding his condition in jail.

In a recorded video statement, the KP Chief Minister blamed the federal and Punjab government for meting out "worst treatment" to the PTI founder. "At times, Imran Khan is not even provided with meal and electricity," he claimed.

He said Khan was not being given basic human rights in Adiala Jail by the government. "We are counting days till we get rid of this fake government after shutting down whole country. This government has stolen our mandate which we will take back. The government is compelling us not to remain peaceful," he asserted. Speaking about the PTI defectors, Gandapur said there was no space for anyone who turned on against the PTI founder when the party was facing a tough time.

# Orakzai police lose two policemen

**Syed Adnan**  
Eliminate 3 terrorists in polio team attack

PESHAWAR: In a tragic but heroic incident in the Orakzai tribal district, two police officers sacrificed their lives while successfully foiling a terrorist attack on polio workers in the remote village of Sam Malakhel (Badan). The officers were providing security to the polio vaccination team when a group of armed terrorists launched a sudden assault. According to Deputy Commissioner Orakzai, Irfan Uddin, the attack claimed the lives of officers Abdul Hameed and Muzzamil, who fought bravely until the end.

In response to the ambush, additional police reinforcements and personnel from the Orakzai Scouts surrounded the attackers, initiating an intense firefight. During the exchange, three terrorists were killed, and one was wounded and taken into custody by the police and security forces. The area is now under a heightened security operation to ensure no remaining threats are present. Funeral prayers for the martyred officers were held with full honors, attended by the Commandant of Orakzai Scouts, DC Orakzai, DPO, and other dignitaries.

Speaking with *The Frontier Post*, DC Irfan Uddin vowed that operations would continue against those seeking to destabilize peace in the region, stating, "We will not allow anyone to disrupt the security of Orakzai. The sacrifices of our police officers will not go in vain." He emphasized

that public cooperation is vital in maintaining stability and eradicating criminal elements from the district.

In his remarks, District Police Officer (DPO) Nazir Khan expressed pride in the Orakzai police's readiness and capability, stating, "Orakzai police are prepared to face anti-state elements head-on. Our forces will continue to protect the citizens and ensure the safety of those serving critical national missions like the polio vaccination campaign."

This marks the first time Orakzai police have successfully repelled a terrorist threat directed at polio workers, a victory underscoring the courage and resilience of the security forces in safeguarding public health initiatives against militant violence.

**Special Branch Lakki official martyred, cop injured in Tank:** An official of the Special Branch was martyred when armed motorcyclists fired at him in Lakki Marwat district on Tuesday. Police said the official of the Special Branch, Arif Ullah was going for duty when armed men riding a motorcycle shot him dead near his house in Kotka Sher Khan area.

In another incident, a police constable deputated at the gate of Civil Hospital Tank, was shot and injured by unknown armed men. The constable was badly injured and was later referred to Dera Ismail Khan hospital. The attackers managed to flee the scene. Area police have launched a search operation to arrest the attackers.

# Pak-Russia vow to boost security, defence ties

**F.P. Report**  
RAWALPINDI: As the Pakistan-Russia ties are on an upward trajectory, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation Colonel General Alexander V Fomin called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

According to a statement issued by the military's media wing, "The meeting remained focused on bolstering military cooperation and industrial collaboration between the two sides while exploring new avenues to fortify existing ties through joint military exercises and technical support for equipment."

During the meeting, Air Chief Sidhu emphasised on strengthening military ties with Russia, focusing on collaborative training programs, joint military drills and industrial collaboration. For his part, Colonel General Fomin commended the recent impressive advancements in the PAF under the current leadership.

The Russian deputy defence minister reiterated his resolve to play his role in further consolidating the existing collaborative defence partnership with Pakistan through military-to-military cooperation and technical support for the PAF equipment. In addition to this, the

Russian Deputy Minister for Defence also called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters today.

Russian Federation's Deputy Minister for Defence, Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. During the meeting, professional matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaboration and regional maritime security were discussed. The Naval Chief expressed that Pakistan greatly values its relations with the Russian Federation and desires to forge a long-term, multi-dimensional partnership with Russia. Various avenues including bilateral training, exchange of visits and conduct of bilateral naval exercises between the two Navies were also focused.

The visiting dignitary appreciated and acknowledged the Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security. Both the leaders agreed to further strengthen and diversify the scope of existing bilateral defence relationship particularly in maritime domain and naval technologies.

# IHC orders university to re-conduct MDCAT

**F.P. Report**  
ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday instructed the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical and Dental Council (PM&DC), Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir announced the verdict on the medical and dental colleges admission test (MDCAT) within one month.

The court noted that the 30 questions of the test were out of syllabus as per the report of Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PM&DC). Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir announced the verdict on the petition filed by medical students.

The petitioner students have adopted the stance that the university had added out of syllabus questions in the test. They also stated that the results were not updated on website of the university immediately.





**KARACHI:** On instructions of Prime Minister, Pak NDMA Dispatched 17th Consignment of 17 tons of relief items for affected people of Lebanon through chartered flight from Jinnah International Airport.

## CM discusses IDEAS 2024 to fortify Pakistan's global alliances

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the International Defense Exhibition and Seminar—IDEAS 2024 would not only strengthen Pakistan's strategic relationships with international partners but would also enhance commercial exchanges among delegates, trade visitors, defense officials, and OEMs from across Pakistan and around the globe.

He said this while addressing the 3rd Steering Committee meeting of the 12th Edition of the International Defense Exhibition and Seminar—IDEAS 2024. Provincial ministers, Major General Asad Nawaz Khan Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military), DG DEPO, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, representatives from federal ministries, the Sindh government, the Armed Forces of Pakistan, law enforcement agencies, and others attended the meeting.

Shah convened the meeting to finalize the comprehensive plans for the upcoming 12th edition of the International Defense Exhibition and Seminar—IDEAS 2024. IDEAS 2024 is set to take place from November 19 to 22 at the Karachi Expo Centre. Shah said, "IDEAS

has, since its inception in 2000, become a hallmark of the national and international defense industry."

He added that this biennial event has steadily evolved into a renowned gathering, showcasing state-of-the-art technology and fostering knowledge exchange within Pakistan and beyond. The CM said that IDEAS is now recognized worldwide, a testament to the deep-rooted and mutually beneficial relationships we maintain with our international partners.

"It provides a shared platform dedicated to advancing global peace, stability, and prosperity, bringing together foreign delegates, defense manufacturers, and thought leaders to discuss today's defense and security challenges," he said. He added, "Today's meeting is pivotal, allowing us to assess and ensure alignment with the plans presented by various organizations and departments."

He said and added that he would like to reaffirm the full support and cooperation of his government in all areas necessary to bring this extraordinary event to life. To support the ongoing national-level preparations for this strategically important event, the Director General of DEPO, Major General Asad Nawaz

Khan, HI(M), informed the meeting about the finalization of administrative, security, and support plans by various government departments, the Armed Forces of Pakistan, and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).

"The event, in line with tradition, will feature a range of remarkable activities, including demonstrations of cutting-edge defense technology, international seminars, cultural shows, and opportunities for business expansion through well-organized business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-government (B2G) engagements," DG DEPO emphasized.

He also announced that the Karachi Show would be held exclusively for the residents of the city at Sea View (Nishan-e-Pakistan) on November 21. At the end of the meeting, the CEO of Badar Solutions, Zohair Naseer, the event manager, said, "With the support of armed forces, federal and provincial governments, and law enforcement agencies, the IDEAS 2024 is to be held in a befitting manner." During the meeting, all government organizations and departments pledged their full support for the successful accomplishment of IDEAS-2024.

## DC reviews polio drive on its second day

LAHORE (APP): Deputy Commissioner Syed Musa Raza inspected various locations in Allama Iqbal Zone to oversee the ongoing polio vaccination campaign on second consecutive day in the provincial capital.

During his visit to WAPDA Town and surrounding areas, he evaluated the performance of polio teams actively administering vaccinations. He engaged with workers to assess the implementation of the micro-plan and address any challenges related to the new application used in the campaign.

DC Musa Raza praised the dedication of polio workers, who are diligently going door-to-door to vaccinate children under age of five. He stressed the importance of parents ensuring their children receive the vital two drops of the vaccine.

He reiterated that combating polio is a collective responsibility, urging the community not to neglect their roles in this crucial initiative. To ensure the campaign's success, he directed that all available resources be mobilized. The DC emphasized the need for continued commitment to the vaccination efforts, underscoring that any lapse in this matter is unacceptable.

Meanwhile, following the directives of DC Syed Musa Raza, Assistant Commissioner (AC) City Rai Babar officially inaugurated the new fish market here on Tuesday.

The market has been relocated from Urdu Bazaar to Haneen Pura, Shahdara. The DC Lahore noted that this move will improve traffic flow and enhance sanitation standards in the area.

The new facility spans 20 kanals of government land and consists of 32 single-story sheds. The construction was prioritized to ensure timely completion.

Local traders expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the DC for facilitating the smooth relocation of the fish market.

## Qureshi advocates for Pakistan's innovative insurance Ombudsman system

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Wafaqi Mohtasib Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi said that Pakistan was among the few countries in the world which has a unique distinction of establishing a dedicated insurance ombudsman institution which offers a sound oversight mechanism for judicious protection of the interests of various stakeholders.

He was addressing an international webinar organized by the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) in cooperation with the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat at Islamabad today. Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi is the current President of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA), which is a 47-member strong non-political, professional body of ombudsman institutions in the Asian region.

Addressing the participants Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi said that the commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights is a corner stone of

the country's Constitution. Pakistan has ratified several human rights instruments on the subject and is committed to achieving the collective aspirations of the internationally recognized human rights regime.

He referred to the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council and underlined the need to address the adverse human rights impact resulting from the business activities.

The institution of the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO), therefore, has a significant role in promoting and protecting the best standards of business practices in the insurance industry, he added.

Later, Mr. Mumtaz Ali Shah, Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO) made a presentation on the mandate and the scope of work of the institution which was established under the Insurance Ordinance 2000.

He said that the FIO offers a sound oversight mechanism based on contemporary and equitable

principles and takes cognizance of maladministration in the insurance industry of Pakistan. He added that the institution since its inception is providing free and expeditious relief to the aggrieved citizens at their doorsteps.

The Webinar is intended to share Pakistan's experiences, best practices and the exchange of knowledge on the framework of Insurance Ombudsman's institution with the ombudsman fraternity in the Asian region and beyond.

The Webinar was attended by over one hundred participants representing Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA), OIC Ombudsman Association (OICOA), various insurance regulatory bodies and commissions working in different countries.

It was also attended by a large number of insurance companies in the country and representatives of the specialized ombudsman institutions in the field of Banking, Taxation as well as other stakeholders.

## Swedish ambassador, CM Punjab agrees to strengthen cooperation

LAHORE (APP): Swedish Ambassador to Pakistan Alexandra Berg von Linde called on Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif here on Tuesday.

The meeting explored avenues for strengthening bilateral relations.

The discussions focused on potential collaboration in various sectors, including education, health, IT, agriculture, trade, and environmental

sustainability, with an emphasis on creating a conducive investment climate in Punjab.

CM Maryam Nawaz emphasized a strong focus on agriculture and support for farmers, stating, "There is a favorable environment for investment in Punjab." She assured investors that they can invest in the province without fear of risk.

The Swedish ambassa-

dor commended the Punjab government's initiatives to protect minority and women's rights, noting that recent investor-friendly measures are commendable. She indicated that Swedish investors are eager to explore opportunities in Punjab.

Honorary Consul General of Sweden, Syed Haider Ali, and other officials were also present at the meeting.

## Kayani questions global silence on Palestinian genocide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member of the National Assembly (MNA) and Member of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), Bilal Azhar Kayani, on Tuesday questioned the silence of the international community regarding the ongoing genocide in Palestine.

Speaking at the 47th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), hosted by Pakistan, he

voiced disappointment that international human rights organizations remain passive in the face of atrocities being committed by Israel against the innocent people of Palestine.

During a session titled "Effective Cooperation in the Fight Against Impunity for International Crimes," Kayani also highlighted the United Nations' failure to implement its resolutions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and

Kashmir (IIOJK), where he said that innocent civilians continue to face violence by Indian forces.

He urged the international community to abandon its double standards in addressing international crimes. Kayani also extended a warm welcome to parliamentarians from around the world attending the event in Pakistan, along with international representatives from global bar associations.

## EU delegation meets Sindh PA Speaker

KARACHI (APP): Head of Cooperation at European Union Mission to Pakistan Jeroen Willems called on Speaker Sindh Assembly Syed Awais Qadir Shah here on Tuesday.

Jeroen was accompanied by Huma Ikramullah, Provincial Coordinator for "Mustehkam Parlamaan", and Barbara from the European Union.

Speaker Awais Qadir Shah welcomed the European Union delegation to the Sindh Assembly.

Matters of mutual interest, including capacity building of the Provincial

Assembly of Sindh, parliamentarians, Caucuses, committees and officers, were discussed during the meeting.

Strategic plans for 2024-2029 were also deliberated, focusing on how the European Union and the Provincial Assembly of Sindh can collaborate to ensure effective implementation.

Important issues such as the Internship Program, E-Parliament Program, and Inter-Parliamentary Exchange Programs were also part of the discussion.

The European Union

delegation thanked Speaker Syed Awais Qadir Shah for his time and valuable input during the meeting.

Speaker Syed Awais Qadir Shah expressed his gratitude to the European Union for its efforts toward the welfare of the people of Pakistan and for being a steadfast partner to the country.

As a gesture of honor, Speaker Awais Qadir Shah presented the delegation with a legacy shield of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, along with a traditional Sindhi Ajrak and Sindhi cap.

## Mayor orders completion of ongoing road projects

KARACHI (PPI): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has directed the Engineering Department to complete ongoing road construction, repair, and carpeting projects within a week.

According to a KMC statement on Tuesday, he emphasized that there should be no negligence in improving the city's basic infrastructure and urged that machinery and manpower be increased to expedite developmental work.

He specifically mentioned accelerating construction work on I.I. Chundrigar Road, Liaquat Road, Mai Kolachi Road, M.T. Khan Road, Old Queens Road, Mumtaz Hasan Road, and Jinnah Bridge. Additionally, he instructed that streetlights be converted to LED and permanent lighting arrangements be made for all historical buildings. The project director, engineers, and other officials should focus on resolving citizens' issues and prioritize their efforts accordingly. He noted that restoring public trust in the

organization requires providing prompt relief to citizens.

This was stated during a high-level meeting chaired by the Mayor Karachi with officials from the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation's Engineering Department. Municipal Commissioner Afzal Zaidi, Director General Engineering Azhar Ali Shah, chief engineers, XENS, project directors, and other officials were also present.

During the meeting, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab reviewed the ongoing work related to road and bridge construction and the maintenance of streetlights in various areas of the city. He highlighted that the deterioration of roads is causing difficulties for citizens in commuting, and therefore, resurfacing and repair work should be completed as quickly as possible. He instructed that obstacles along the road from KPT to Three Swords Clifton be cleared to ensure smooth traffic flow. After completing the resurfacing work on Jinnah Bridge, lane marking should

be done within a week, and streetlights on Qayyumabad Bridge should be restored as soon as possible.

## Commissioner reviews measures to control smog

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Divisional Commissioner Zaid bin Maqsood, during a meeting on smog control initiatives here on Tuesday, reviewed the measures taken to tackle dust. Punjab Secretary for Environment Raja Jahangir Anwar also attended the meeting.

DG Environment Punjab Imran Hameed briefed the meeting that effective from Oct 25, a ban had been imposed on the entry of uncovered sand and soil trucks into Lahore. Approximately 450 trucks and trolleys enter the city daily. To enforce this ban, check-posts have been established at six entry points where these trucks enter. Inspectors from neighboring districts will rotate duties at these points every three weeks, while teams from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and traffic police are conducting joint operations.

The Commissioner emphasized that the check-posts will be monitored using cameras from the Punjab Safe City Authority.

He highlighted that dust from uncovered trucks significantly contributes to smog and stressed the urgent need for preventive measures. He also called for action against overloaded trucks, which emit more smoke due to engine strain.

Additional Commissioner Hamid Mahmood Malhi, DC Lahore Syed Musa Raza, CTO Lahore Ammara Athar, DG PHA Tahir Wattoo, DG Environment Imran Hameed, and CEO LWMC Babar Sahib Din attended the meeting.

## LESCO detects 590 power pilferers in 24 hours

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 590 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara) during its anti-power theft campaign in the last 24 hours. The LESCO spokesman told media here Tuesday that the company has also submitted FIR applications against electricity thieves, out of which 220 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 40 accused have been arrested by the respective police.



## PAF BASE, KOHAT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders / bids are invited from the firms / contractors to rent out under-mentioned PAF Land for agriculture purpose:

(a) Tank Airfield located at Tank — D I Khan Road, Distt Tank.

(b) Kahi Airfield located at Thal — Hangu road, Kahi, Distt Hangu.

Tenders / bids for each area (separate envelopes) should be submitted to the office of Officer Incharge Personnel Squadron, PAF Base, Kohat on, or before **14 November, 2024** at 1000 hrs. The Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1200 hrs. The applications / bids received after due date will not be entertained. Undersigned reserves the rights to accept / reject any tender on technical grounds.

**Officer Incharge Personnel Squadron**  
**PAF Base, Kohat**  
**Tel: 0922-9260095 Ext: 5031**  
**Mobile: 0323-9452311**

## PAKISTAN AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

پاکستان ایئر پورٹس اتھارٹی

### TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited in accordance with **PPRA Rule No. 36(b)** from contractors/firms having engineering expertise/resources and valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in at least C-6 Category with EE-04, EE-05 & EE-06 codes and Electrical Contractor License of any region. The bidder must have successfully completed the installation & commissioning of at least three (03) Airfield Lighting Projects for a government, semi-government or private organization.

Name of Work	Earnest Money	Date and Time of Submission	Date and Time of Opening
Improvement in AFL systems at PN RWY 08R/26L Turbat Airport	Rs. 500,000/- (Five lakh rupees)	19-11-2024 1100 Hours	19-11-2024 1130 Hours

- Bids must be submitted electronically as per conditions set out in the bidding documents and guidelines provided by PPRA available on PPRA E-PAD System <http://eprocure.gov.pk> before closing time & date.
- Bidders are required to submit hard copies of the Earnest Money in the form of a bank challan, deposit slip or pay order made payable to the account title "CAA Works Unit, Makran Coastal Area". Tenders submitted without the required Earnest Money will not be entertained.
- PAA reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all the tenders for sufficient and cogent reasons which will be communicated to the bidder on request.

**WARNING:** "Pay orders/bank drafts or any other financial instruments to be submitted by bidders and contractors as Tender Cost, Earnest Money/Bid Security and Bank Guarantee, if found fake or dishonoured by issuing bank/financial institution at any pre/post-contract stage of the case, would call for blacklisting and legal action as per law of the land".

**Divisional Engineer E&M (Makran)**  
JIAP, Karachi Telephone No.: 021-9907-1982/1837

**Address:** Divisional Engr ES E/M (Makran Division)  
Old Sogea Building, Jinnah Annexe, Jinnah Int'l Airport, Karachi

[www.caapakistan.com.pk](http://www.caapakistan.com.pk)



**KARACHI:** A boy pumps water with a hand pump to fill his pots for domestic use as the city faces a water shortage. —APP Photo



# Simulation session on climate change held at Governor’s House

PESHAWAR (APP): A simulation session on climate change, organized by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, was held at the Governor’s House in Peshawar.

The event was attended by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, Prime Minister’s Coordinator for Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam, Chairperson of the Human Rights Standing Committee Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, and Executive Director of Pak Mission Society Adedl Anwar, along with students from various schools.

During the COP session, students were educated about climate change, encouraged to share their suggestions, and actively participate in discussions on the topic.

The seminar emphasized the urgent need for reforms to secure a brighter future for the younger generation, while raising awareness about the impacts of climate change on their lives.

Romina Khurshid Alam said that youth are the future of the country.

She stressed upon youth to get awareness about climate change.

She appreciated Governor Kundi for his efforts regarding climate change and environment.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi praised the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment for organizing the session at the Governor’s House, calling it an excellent initiative.

He invited other ministries to hold seminars and conferences on public interest issues at the Governor’s House.

“Climate change is affecting the global environment,” Kundi stated. “The youth are our asset and the future of the country. We must all work together to protect the country from the impacts of climate change.”

As a token of appreciation, the participating school children presented the Governor with a signed souvenir showcasing their constructive contributions related to climate change.

Later Crescent Art Gallery exhibition was held which was also attended by the mentioned leaders.

Speaking at this event Romina Khurshid Alam appreciated Governor Kundi for taking measures to present the soft image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi remarked that Governor House is open for all kinds of people. He said that holding of such events will promote the skills of our country.

Governor Kundi said that we are ready to provide good opportunities to our skillful people to highlight the name of our country.

He said that KP is full of technical and skillful people but unfortunately they were ignored.

**Governor Kundi for promotion of merged districts**

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday urged the development of a comprehensive operational proposal to attract donor funding, highlighting that the Red Crescent should actively engage in fostering interest among potential donors regarding the merged districts.

He said this in a meeting of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) merged districts chapter was convened at the Governor’s House.

The meeting included participation from the chairman, Imran Wazir, Vice President Farzand Wazir, members of the managing committee, and various officials.

During the session, comprehensive briefings were provided on the objectives, duties, financial management, and administrative matters of the merged districts branch.

Key discussions focused on the availability of relief supplies for natural disaster response, annual income and expenditures, securing funds from donors, and the importance of volunteer services.

Governor Kundi emphasized the effective use of PRCS-managed properties and the necessity of utilizing funds responsibly.

He also stressed the need for accurate reporting on bank rates related to the funds for the merged districts.

He said that various donor countries are keen to work in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the Red Crescent must promote the areas of work effectively.

The Governor underscored the importance of enhancing fundraising efforts and directed the PRCS merged districts chapter to activate its social media platforms to better engage the community.

He acknowledged the severe impact of terrorism on the local population and called for improvements in infrastructure to bolster relief efforts in the merged tribal districts.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur chairing a meeting regarding tourism in province.

## ETEA completes preparations for shift to computer-based testing

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Educational Testing and Evaluation Agency (ETEA) has finalized preparations to gradually transition from paper-based to computer-based testing (CBT), as per directives from the provincial government. This transition marks a significant step forward in modernizing the testing process, aiming to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accessibility.

As part of this shift, ETEA is set to establish partnerships with public universities, colleges, and select private institutions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

These collaborations will enable educational institutions to serve as designated testing centers, utilizing their infrastructure to offer candidates convenient access to testing facilities closer to home. Initial agreements with Virtual University are already underway, with plans to use its facilities for launching computer-based exams.

The CBT system will incorporate an automated question-generation mechanism, drawing randomized questions from a secure question bank to ensure each candidate receives a unique set of questions. This approach will strengthen transparency and minimize the risk of cheating. Additionally, candidates will receive immediate results upon completing their exams, expediting the process and improving result accuracy.

To ensure data security and uphold test integrity, the CBT system integrates advanced encryption technologies and strict video monitoring protocols within examination centers. ETEA’s Executive Director, Adil Safi, highlighted the advantages of the new system, stating, “The introduction of computer-based testing will elevate testing standards, providing candidates with a faster, fairer, and more transparent examination experience. This initiative opens a new chapter of innovation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s education sector.”

ETEA remains committed to continuously enhancing its examination framework to meet the evolving needs of candidates. The move towards computer-based testing represents a crucial milestone in its ongoing mission to improve testing standards across the province.

## CS presides Provincial Interfaith Harmony Committee meeting

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, chaired a meeting of the Provincial Interfaith Harmony Committee at the Civil Secretariat, Peshawar. The meeting brought together prominent religious figures, including Chief Khateeb Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as representatives from Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Bahá’í, and Kalash communities. Senior officials from relevant government departments and law enforcement agencies were also in attendance.

In his address, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry emphasized the collective responsibility of all communities in fostering inter-religious harmony, underlining that Islam teaches respect for all religions and their followers. “Interfaith harmony and brotherhood are imperative in today’s world, and we must unite as one nation to play our part in the country’s development through mutual respect and love,” he stated.

The meeting included a comprehensive briefing on interfaith harmony initiatives and challenges at the district level. It was highlighted that district-level interfaith councils have been instrumental in addressing and resolving local concerns effectively.

Chief Khateeb Maulana Tayyab Qureshi, while addressing the committee, acknowledged the peaceful coexistence among various religious communities within Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, noting the strong sense of brotherhood present within society.

He, along with other community representatives, expressed gratitude towards the provincial government for its continued efforts in promoting religious harmony and peaceful coexistence. The participants unanimously reaffirmed their commitment to playing a positive role in building a harmonious and peaceful nation.

Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry also highlighted the provincial government’s dedication to ensuring minority participation in sports, scholarships, and other development projects, affirming that special attention is being given to the establishment of peace and stability, recognizing its critical connection to economic growth.

The meeting concluded with a special prayer led by Chief Khateeb for the integrity, stability, development, and unity of the nation.



## Tordher for liaison among industries’ subsidiaries

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Tordher has emphasized on maintaining a coordinated liaison among between the subsidiaries of the Department of Industries and Technical & Vocational Centres and Colleges at the local level.

He has directed that all the sub-sectors of the industries should fulfill their responsibilities for service delivery in accordance with the guidelines of the government so the trading and industrial sectors could be put on the track of accelerated development to achieve the targets of the sustainable growth.

The Special Assistant issued these directives while presiding over a progress review meeting here on Tuesday at Civil Secretariat regarding the implementation of the targets given to the Industries Department and its sub-operational institutions in the light of the instructions of the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Besides, the Managing Director (MD) Small Industries Development Board (SIDB) Habib Ullah Arif, Additional Secretary Industries Rehman Gul Khattak, officiating Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC) Adil Salahuddin, Deputy MD SIDB, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BoIT) representatives and other officers also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, a progress review of the implementation of the instructions given by the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regarding industrial development in the province was presented by the authorities of the KP-EZDMC.

The meeting was briefed in detail regarding the overall performance of the SIDB, KP-BoIT and Industries Department and progress made towards the achievement of the targets.

On this occasion, the Special Assistant directed all sub-sectors of the department to fulfill their responsibilities regarding progress on the directives given by the KP Chief Minister within the stipulated timeline.

He said that the government is paying more attention to the development of the trading and industrial sectors as the overall economic development of the province lies in giving priority to these sectors.

## KP supported Punjab farmers by purchasing their wheat, claims Saif

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif, has strongly urged Punjab’s “fake Chief Minister” Maryam Nawaz to stop political point-scoring over the “Kisan Card” and instead address the pressing concerns of Punjab’s farmers.

Responding to Maryam Nawaz’s recent statements on the Kisan Card, Barrister Dr. Saif questioned why individuals responsible for defrauding Punjab’s farmers of 300 billion rupees continue to hold influential positions, despite mounting grievances from the agricultural community.

He highlighted that farmers in Punjab are now forced to protest daily in the streets, as their concerns about unsold wheat stocks remain ignored.

Barrister Dr. Saif added that due to Maryam Nawaz’s flawed policies, millions of tons of wheat grown by Punjab’s farmers are still unsold. Recently, Punjab’s farmers held a press conference to expose the failures of the “so-called” provincial government, and the dire situation has even driven some to the brink of despair and suicide.

The Advisor emphasized that the Punjab government should, in fact, be thankful to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, which stepped in to support Punjab’s farmers by purchasing their wheat when the Punjab Administration failed to do so.

Commenting on Maryam Nawaz’s conduct, Barrister Dr. Saif noted that her press conferences seem incomplete without taking aim at the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He condemned the apathy shown by the “inept and unrepresentative” government, which has turned a blind eye to the critical issues faced by Punjab’s farmers.

“Farmers are the backbone of our national economy,” he stated, “and their exploitation poses a serious threat to the nation’s welfare.” Instead of hiding behind the Kisan Card, he urged the Punjab government to take tangible action by purchasing the wheat directly from the farmers, thereby addressing their long-standing grievances.

## Thunderstorm, rain forecast

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: The Met Office on Tuesday predicted thunderstorm-rain with gusty winds in most parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during next 24 to 48 hours thus bringing the mercury level down and causing cold in upper parts.

According to Met Office, rain with thunderstorm is expected in Chitral, Upper and Lower Dir, Swat, Malakand, Shangla, Buner, Bajaur, Kohistan, Mansehra, Battagram, Torghar, Abbottabad, Haripur, Swabi, Mardan, Nowshera, Charsadda, Peshawar, Mohmand, Khyber, Kurram, Orakzai, Kohat, Hangu, North Waziristan Karak, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, South Waziristan, Tank and Dera Ismail Khan districts.

The chief amount of rainfall recorded during the last 24 hours was, Saidu Sharif 49 mm, Balakot 20, Timergara 43, Drosh, Kalam and Dir 06 each, Pattan 36, Malamajbba 47 and Mirkhani 02. Meanwhile, snowfall was reported in Naran, Kaghan, Babusar Top. Owing to heavy snowfall on Babusar Top, the road leading to the tourist point has been closed for traffic.

The weather remained mainly partly cloudy in most parts of the province during the last 24 hours, however, thunderstorm and rain occurred at scattered places in Chitral, Upper Dir, Lower Dir, Swat, Mansehra, Kohistan, Bajaur, Khyber and Buner Districts.

## Giyarhveen Shareef Conference held

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: Under the auspices of Anjuman Milad-e-Mustafa Qadriya Junaidia Miria, the “Giyarhveen Shareef Conference” was held, presided over by Dr. Asif Mir Jan.

The event saw participation from prominent scholars, Sufis, and hundreds of other attendees. The purpose of the Giyarhveen Shareef was to pay tribute to the services of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA) for Islam. While addressing the gathering, Dr. Asif Mir Jan, the Pir of Tariqat and President of Anjuman Milad-e-Mustafa Qadriya Junaidia Miria, emphasized that the extraordinary contributions of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA) to Islam provide valuable insights for today’s youth into the lives of their predecessors.

He further noted that Allah says in the Holy Quran, “I have bestowed favors upon my Prophets, the truthful, the saints, and the martyrs.”

These are the people whom the Quran has testified for, stating that “the friends of Allah have no fear.” Dr. Mir Jan stressed that the company of Allah’s saints is the best companionship, and participating in such gatherings is essential.

The event also included speeches by other speakers, such as Hafiz Hameedullah and Muhammad Ayaz.

The gathering featured recitation of the Holy Quran, praises of Allah, and Naats, along with a special prayer for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of the Muslim Ummah.



PESHAWAR: A young shoe polish girl balances study and work, teaching her brother while earning at Chowk Yadgar.





## In brief

### Groom spends wedding night in police station

SUKKUR (INP): The Sindh police arrested a groom near Bandar Road in Sukkur for aerial firing and fireworks during a wedding procession yesterday night. Sources revealed that the police intervened in the wedding ceremony following chaotic scenes caused by aerial firing and fireworks by participants the previous night. The local police gathered bullet shells as evidence from the venue, but the wedding guests managed to escape. The groom was taken into custody and shifted to the Shaheed Gul Hassan Police Checkpost's lockup. The situation escalated when a large crowd, including relatives of the groom, assembled outside the checkpost, demanding his release with slogans. After some time of detention, the groom was released. Interestingly, a similar incident occurred on June 15, 2024, in Sialkot, Punjab, where a groom, Mudassar Ali, aged 27, along with his brothers and some relatives, faced police action for lavish displays of wealth. Sialkot police booked them for throwing money, mobile phones, and precious clothes among the participants on the main road during the wedding rituals. The display caused severe traffic disruptions and chaos at the venue. Despite bans on aerial firing and such extravagant displays in both provinces, these practices, including firing and showering valuables like currency notes, coins, and mobile phones, remain common in wedding celebrations across Punjab and Sindh.

### Centers to facilitate farmers F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: Director Agriculture (Extension) Faisalabad Division Choudhry Khalid Mehmood said that the establishment of Kissan Sahulat Centers in cotton growing areas under the direction of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is a good step. He said that agricultural medicines are available at the centers at a discounted price of 20 percent from general market. Advisory desks have also been established for technical guidance of the farmers. Experts at the centers provide guidance on good crop care. The Director further said that The Kissan Card will be a game changer for the prosperity of farmers. Regular monitoring of the purchase process with these farmer cards will also be done. In the end, Ch.Khalid Mehmood said that under the Chief Minister Punjab Green Tractor Scheme, tractors will be distributed to the farmers through transparent lottery.

### Man held for murder

MUZAFFARGARH (INP): Ali Pur city police arrested a man within 24 hours after he allegedly killed his teenage orphan nephew for property, police said on Tuesday. District Police Officer (DPO) Syed Husnain Haider ordered DSP Ali Pur Fayyaz Ul Haq and SHO Shakeel Ahmad to arrest the killer(s) soon after the murder of 14-year-old orphan Muhammad Yasir was reported to police. The police team, employing modern technology, tracked down the killer and it turned out the accused was the real uncle of the deceased boy and he killed him to usurp his property. The police said, the accused killed his nephew and later portrayed it as if the boy had hanged himself. SHO Shakeel said, investigations were ongoing and any other person, if found involved in the murder, would also be made to face the law.

# PTI failed to deliver in KP: Muqam

F.P. Report

MINGORA: Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs and States and Frontier Regions, Engr Amir Muqam here Tuesday that Pakistan Tahrir e Insaf has completely failed to address masses' problems despite its third consecutive government term in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Addressing a big public gathering after formal inauguration of two electricity feeders at Khwazakhela here, Engr Amir Muqam said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were deceived on the name of so called "Change" since 2013 and the province were deprived of economic growth and development.

As a result of poor governance, rampant corruption, maladministration and agitation politics in KP, he claimed that unemployment, poverty and illiteracy have significantly increased in the province where provincial ministers and advisers started leveling corruption allegations against each other.

Engr Amir Muqam further claimed that the country was put at the verge of bankruptcy during rule of PTI founder after started confrontation with national institutions, resultantly people of Pakistan's suffer. He said the poor governance of the PTI founder have plunged the country into unprecedented price hike, inflation and devaluation of rupee, marring the country's overall economic growth.

Instead of focusing on the problems of people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said that CM KP has led protest demonstrations at Lahore and Islamabad by using Govt. machinery and taxpayer money for personal politicking. He said PTI would not be allowed to deceive people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through hollow sloganeering on social media any more. He said that faces of the commission and corrupt mafia in KP were fully exposed before the masses.

Engr Amir Muqam said that the pro western lobby of PTI founder has openly come out for his support in a bid to carry their agenda forward. "I ask from the pro PTI founder's foreign lobby that are they not seeing the Human Rights abuses at Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir where over one lakh innocent Kashmiris were extra judicially killed, children orphaned and women made widows besides the genocide war of Israel at Gaza Palestine and May 9 vandalism in

Pakistan," Muqam questioned. He deplored the lackluster participation of PTI leadership and workers in the Kashmir Black Day rallies at D Chowk Islamabad. The Federal Minister said that on the other side, "we have dynamic and committed leadership in the form of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who were working tirelessly for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan."

He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has saved the country from an imminent economic default, reduced price hike from 40 percent to nine percent and his Govt economic and financial policies were highly appreciated by the top international monetary institutions.

"Our politics is linked with progress and prosperity of people of Pakistan," he said, adding provision of gas facility, construction of Nawaz Sharif Kidney Hospital, roads network and electricity system in Swat was the hallmark of PMLN Govt. He said the youth of Pakistan would prosper only when the country made progress in all sectors, advising them to keep a distance from politics of negative and hooliganism.

He said the successful holding of SCO meeting at Islamabad has sent a positive image of Pakistan abroad, adding the 26th constitutional amendment would help provide speedy justice to all litigants and address cases backlog in Supreme Court. Engr Amir Muqam said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has left from Saudia Arabia and expressed the hope that his historic visit would bring great laurels for the country.

"Despite terrorist attacks, I have served people of KP especially of Malakand division with best of my abilities and raised voice for the resolution of their problems at every forum including federal cabinet and national assembly," Engr Amir Muqam also took credit of exempting of Malakand division of taxes on several occasions. On this occasion, the Federal Minister announced several projects for development of Khawazakella and adjoining areas after people's request. The public meeting was attended by local political leaders including Qamoos Khan by reposing full confidence in Engr Amir Muqam's leadership. The people raised full throated slogans in favor of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Engr Amir Muqam.

## Transparency int'l legal advice camp held

F.P. Report

BUNER: Transparency International Pakistan (TIP) in collaboration with Rural Development Organization (RDO) organized free Legal Advice camp at Karapa area of Buner district, on Tuesday.

The legal advice camp aimed to empower communities on how they can seek redress for their issues under relevant laws. A male and female lawyer explained the legal procedures and rights that citizens have when dealing

with governance-related issues and briefed the citizens on the legal avenues available for seeking justice.

A number of issues such as the absence of water supply, lack of infrastructure, unavailability of medicines, deterioration of schools and sewerage system besides other governance-related issues were raised by the citizens. Facilitators shared TIP regularly organizes legal camps to raise awareness among the citizens about their rights and entitlements and send citizens' concerns and complaints to the relevant government departments to seek their attention for resolution.

TIP hopeful for accessibility of legal knowledge at the community level will bridge the gap between citizens and government, ensuring that public concerns are heard and addressed promptly. This initiative is a step towards fostering a transparent and accountable system where public grievances are not only heard but also acted upon, facilitators claimed while concluding the camp.



QUETTA: A polio worker administering drops to a child during anti-polio vaccination campaign.

## Youth killed in police custody, inquiry ordered

F.P. Report

LARKANA: The relatives of a youth arrested in connection with a theft case from the famous Lab-e-Mehran area of Larkana city protested after the body was recovered from the lockup of Waleed police station. The resident Sajid Ali Solangi was previously some days ago arrested by the police of the Waleed police station in the alleged false case of theft and locked up at the police station.

Provincial Home Minister Ziaul Haque Lanjar took notice of the matter and asked for a detailed report from SSP Larkana and ordered to conduct a comprehensive investigation and find out the facts, to inform about the relevant details and police action on the inquiry

report and to inform the Waleed police station, further said that the issue of the body recovered from the lockup should be resolved as soon as possible.

On the other hand, the parents of the deceased youth, Saeed Ahmed Solangi, protested by accusing the staff of the Waleed police station and said that the police have tortured my son after he was arrested innocently. He asked the Chief Minister of Sindh and the Inspector General of Police Sindh to arrest the killer police men, while the staff on duty at the Waleed police station is giving the color of suicide to the incident.

**Doctors protested against unavailability of facilities:** House-job officers of Bibi Asifa Dental College

Hospital (ADCH) Larkana, staged a protest demonstration for the fourth day against the lack of facilities and the non-payment of fixed monthly stipends as well as the issuing of explanatory notices.

There were placards and banners on which slogans were written to remove the principal and save the college and issue fixed monthly stipends. Addressing the demonstration, House Officer Dr. Nisar Ahmed Chandio, Sohail Mustafa Shaikh, Imtiaz Shar and others said that Bibi Asifa Dental college hospital does not have the tools, machinery, gloves, masks and other protective equipment for dental surgery and examination, due to which we perform surgery and treatment of patients.



QUETTA: A view of rush during Supreme Court Bar Association election at Balochistan High Court.

## Residents demand wood cutting permits F.P. Report

SHANGLA: The residents demanded provision wood cutting permits as Forest's department playing delaying tactics which has created problems for local populace with the emergence of winter season, on Tuesday.

According to details, the cold weather had knocked the hilly areas of Pakistan after heavy downpour as beginning of winter season work going on there. During the on-site briefing, the Project Director and the Construction Manager briefed the Chairman about the milestone achieved on these sites.

The residents blamed forest's officials for incompetency and playing delaying tactics to create hurdles in livelihood of local population. They argued Chief Minister and Chief Justice Peshawar High Court to ensure implementation of Right to Services Act which has provided time-frame for delivery of public services.

## ANP flays KP CM F.P. Report

MARDAN: Awami National Party termed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur for committing grave injustice against the financially burdened people of the province by handing over a check of 30 million rupees to the Punjab Bar Council delegation. On one hand, the Chief Minister claims that the provincial treasury is empty and there is a severe shortage of funds to complete development projects, but on the other, he has provided a Rs30 million assistance check to the Punjab Bar Council delegation.

This was stated by ANP Mardan president Imran Mandori and general secretary Fazal Rehman alias Binyamin This action is tantamount to a severe injustice against an indebted province. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has been in power in the province for nearly eleven years, yet during this period, PTI has taken no concrete steps to improve the development of the province or the lives of its people. Instead, the projects initiated by Amir Haider Khan Hoti have been left in limbo under the excuse of insufficient funds.

Not only are there no funds for developmental projects in the provincial treasury, but government employees are also deprived of their salaries. Due to delayed payments of two to three months, government employees are forced to protest, which clearly indicates the provincial government's poor performance.

## Snowfall at Babusar Top

NARAN (INP): Babusar Top, Lulusar Lake and Bata Kanda areas of Mansehra received heavy snowfall which also enhanced beauty of these tourist destinations.

Sources said that after heavy snowfall traffic between Bata Kandi and Babusar Top on Shahrah-e-Kaghan was completely suspended. Residents of the area said that as the temperature is decreasing gradually after the snowfall, a severe cold wave has gripped the area.

## WAPDA Chairman visits Tarbela Dam

F.P. Report

TARBELA: WAPDA Chairman Engr. Lt. Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani Tuesday visited under-construction 1530 MW-Tarbela 5th Extension and reviewed the progress on the project.

The Chairman had a detailed visit of the key sites, which include the Raised Intake, the Tunnel and the Power house, and witnessed construction work going on there. During the on-site briefing, the Project Director and the Construction Manager briefed the Chairman about the milestone achieved on these sites.

Temporary support work in the tunnel is complete paving the way for commencement of construction on the connecting tunnel. Installation of equipment such as draft tubes of all three units – Unit No. 18, 19 and 20 – is in progress at the Power house Site.

While, the Contractor is all set to resume construction work on the Raised Intake structure once the water in the reservoir recedes to the required level. Following the site visit, the Chairman



presided over a meeting at the project office attended by the GM Tarbela Dam, PD T5, the Consultants and the Contractors.

Overall progress on the project was discussed during the meeting. It was briefed that construction is continuing on all 6 work fronts simultaneously. The project is likely to be completed in 2025-26. Thorough deliberations were also made on the work plan for meeting the timelines.

The Chairman was of the view that concerted efforts are needed on part of the Consultants and the Contractor to complete the project as per the schedule. Deployment of additional resources is also inevitable for the purpose, he said.

Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project is a component of green, clean and least-cost energy generation plan of WAPDA.

World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank are providing financial assistance for the project to the tune of US\$ 390 million and US\$ 300 million respectively. Under the 5th Extension, three generating units – of 510 MW each – are being installed at Tunnel No. 5 of Tarbela Dam Project and it will provide 1,347 billion units hydel electricity to the National Grid on the average every year. Installed capacity at Tarbela Dam will surge to 6418 MW from 4888 MW after completion of Tarbela 5th Extension.

## GHS showcases artwork on climate change

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Government High School (GHS) Janu area of Tehsil Khwazakhela hosted an inspiring event where school children showcased artworks and models offering solutions to mitigate climate change impacts and environmental pollution.

Children from various government schools presented innovative models and artworks focusing on adapting to climate change effects and promoting environmental sustainability. Their creative expressions emphasized the importance of tree plantation, conservation, and eco-friendly practices.

Fazal Khaliq, Deputy District Education Officer, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Anwar Ali, Project Manager of Lasona, parents, and a large number of students attended, acknowledging the children's hidden talents. The climate change group shared their efforts, presenting thought-provoking tableaux and stressing the urgency of tree plantation.

Deputy DEO Fazal Khaliq praised the initiative, stating, "Such programs will raise awareness among children, and we hope similar events in other schools will yield remarkable results." Anwar Ali, Project Manager of Lasona, highlighted their ongoing programs to combat climate change, prioritizing child engagement. "We're conducting awareness training in Swat and Deer, focusing on hand washing, food security, and environmental sustainability," he added.

This event demonstrates the potential of youth-led initiatives in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable practices. By fostering creativity and awareness, these students are paving the way for a more environmentally conscious future.

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## Unknown culprit kills minor girl

F.P. Report

MARDAN: A five-year-old girl was killed and her body was thrown in front of her house in Sokai village of Toru-Mera area of Mardan district.

According to the sources, the five-year-old girl went to play in the neighborhood in the afternoon and later her body was found lying in front of the house. According to the police, there were injury marks on the girl's head and neck. After the incident, the girl's body was first shifted to the local hospital in Toru and later to the Mardan Medical Complex (MMC) from where she was shifted to Bacha Khan Medical Complex.

Samples have been taken from the body of the girl and sent to the forensic lab for analysis. There are fears of killing the girl after being raped. However, a final opinion can be given in this regard only after the medical report is received. The staff of Toru police station has registered a case

against the unknown accused under Section 302 of the Child Protection Act on the report of the girl's father.

**Second Mukha tournament concluded:** The second Aman Mukha Exhibition Tournament, held in Tehsil Rustam, has come to an end. The Seray Charbagh team from Swabi defeated the Jalal team from Tehsil Rustam and claimed the trophy. According to the organizing committee members, Abdullah Bacha, Jehar Ali, Adil Khan, and Salman Akhtar, 20 teams participated in the event. Through remarkable performances, the Jalal team from Tehsil Rustam and the Charbagh team from Swabi reached the final.

In the final match, the Charbagh team from Swabi won the tournament trophy by defeating the Jalal team from Tehsil Rustam by one point. During the awards ceremony, speakers including the focal person MPA PK-55 Tufail Anjum for Sports Chairman Ejaz Sheikh,

social personalities Ziauddin, Javed Zada Turmizi, Chairman Bahar Bacha, and others, stated that the Mukha game is a famous Pashtun cultural sport that has been played for a long time in Jalal, Tehsil Rustam, District Swabi, and the Shamozai and Babozai areas of Tehsil Katlang.

They said that organizing such events spreads a message of peace to the world through regional culture, and it's a great joy that the Mukha Exhibition Tournament in Jalal, Tehsil Rustam concluded in a pleasant atmosphere, which is a living testament to the establishment of peace in the region.

In the end, Focal Person Chairman Ejaz Sheikh, on behalf of the Chief Minister's Special Assistant Tufail Anjum, announced fifty thousand rupees for the organizing committee and ten thousand rupees each for the winner and runner-up teams. Afterward, trophies were distributed among the players of the winner and runner-up teams.





## Attack on Chad military base kills 40 soldiers

CHAD (AFP): At least 40 Chadian soldiers have been killed after their base was attacked, the presidency says. President Mahamat Déby has ordered a counter-mission to track down the culprits, according to a statement from his office.

The attack reportedly happened on an island called Barkaram, in a vast marshy region that was once covered by the waters of Lake Chad before its dramatic shrinking in recent decades. No suspects for attack are named in the presidency's statement, but the area is close to the border zones of Nigeria and Niger where Islamist militants are known to operate. Latest UN figures indicate more than 220,000 people have been forced from their homes following years of insecurity and violence from armed groups. Attack is one of the worst suffered by Chadian soldiers since 2020, when about 100 soldiers died in a raid which prompted then-President Idriss Déby to launch an operation against Islamist militants.

Local residents have told the AFP news agency they believe fighters from Boko Haram - an Islamist militant group based over the border in Nigeria - were to blame for this latest attack, and say at least 200 soldiers were stationed at the garrison at the time. The attackers had time to seize ammunition and equipment before they left, AFP adds. It is a blow to President Déby, who is an elite soldier by training, and the son of the former president who was killed three years ago in battle with rebels close to the Libyan border. In its public communications the Chadian presidency has presented Déby as a hands-on leader with military nous, who visited the site of the attack, "assessing the situation on the ground, paying his respects to the deceased soldiers, showing his compassion to the wounded, and lifting the morale of his brothers-in-arms".

The Lake Chad basin is bordered by Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria - all

of which are part of a Multinational Joint Task Force that seeks to stamp out the armed groups operating in the region. But Islamists "often regroup when troops withdraw", and better funding and planning is needed, says the International Crisis Group. In recent years, there have been several coups in the region, in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso. The military in each country cited the inability to deal with the Islamist militant threat as one of the reasons for the ouster of the civilian governments.

Analyst Paul Melly writes that, surrounded by so many regional crises, Chad stands out as an island of continued stable partnership with the West - and is now deepening relations with Russia in a ploy that irritates and pressures France and the US. Chad has also reportedly become a key conduit for arms flowing into Sudan, though it denies this, and is hosting large numbers of refugees from Sudan's civil war in camps near its eastern border.

### Building collapse in Nigeria's leaves 7 dead

ABUJA (AP): A building collapsed in a suburban area of Nigeria's capital over the weekend, killing at least seven people, police said. The building, located in the Sabon-Lugbe area of Abuja, had already been partly demolished and its structure was further compromised by scavengers looking for scrap metal, the Abuja police said.

Abuja police spokesperson Josephine Adeh said five people were rescued from the rubble. Building collapses are becoming increasingly common in Nigeria, with more than a dozen such incidents recorded in the last two years. Authorities often blame such disasters on failures to enforce building safety regulations and on poor maintenance. Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, has recorded 22 building collapses between January and July this year, according to the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria. In July, a two-story school collapsed in north-central Nigeria, killing 22 students. The Saints Academy college in Plateau state's Busa Buji community collapsed shortly after students, many of whom were 15 years old or younger, arrived for classes.

### Deadly new drugs found in fake medicines

LONDON (BBC): Super-strength drugs linked to hundreds of deaths have been found in samples of fake medicines bought across the UK, the BBC can reveal. We found more than 100 examples of people trying to buy prescription medicines such as diazepam - commonly used to treat anxiety, muscle spasms and seizures - and instead receiving products containing nitazenes.

The synthetic opioid drugs have been connected to 278 deaths across the country in a year, according to the National Crime Agency (NCA). Nitazenes can be stronger than both heroin and fentanyl, a prolific killer in the US. Martin Raiethelhuber, an illicit synthetic drug expert from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, said the BBC's findings were a "very worrying development". A government spokesperson said it was "securing our borders from the threat" through "world-leading intelligence, dedicated cross-government taskforce and extensive international networks". The contaminated substances were identified in anonymous samples submitted to WEDINOS, the only national drug-checking service in the UK. It said the fake medicines looked like "the same kind of packet you might get from your chemist on the high street" but were "most likely purchased from illicit online pharmacies". Anne Jacques had never heard of nitazenes when a police officer knocked at her door in the early hours of 17 July 2023 and said her son had been found dead at his student flat. Alex Harpum, 23, had been preparing for a career as an opera singer and had been accepted for a two-year masters course. "Watching him sing was one of the biggest joys in my life ever," Ms Jacques said. It was initially suspected the cause of his death was sudden adult death syndrome, but eight months later Alex's family learned he had taken a substance contaminated with a nitazene. Phone records suggested he had tried to buy tablets usually sold as Xanax, which are only available with a private prescription in the UK. Ms Jacques believes Alex was doing so because he often struggled with sleeping while taking medication for his attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The traces of nitazenes were only detected after she queried with police why earlier tests had not looked for them. Ms Jacques said she remained in "disbelief" at the lack of testing, adding: "If I hadn't pushed for better answers in the middle of massive grief, then to this day I would have no idea how he actually died. "Unless we're testing for them, how is anyone going to be aware and informed [of the dangers]?" A Scotland Yard spokesperson said there had been "delays beyond the control of the Met" relating to the need for, and timing of, specialist testing in this case.



BEIRUT: Journalists filming as smoke rises from buildings hit in Israeli air strikes in Tyre, southern Lebanon.

## Hundreds of US ballots destroyed after drop boxes targeted by fire

WASHINGTON: Hundreds of United States election ballots have been ruined after two drop boxes were destroyed - one in Oregon and one in Washington state - in incidents that authorities believe are linked. One of the boxes was targeted in Portland, Oregon, and a few hours later, another was targeted in Vancouver, Washington.

Incendiary devices were attached to the outside of the boxes and the FBI has been called to help with the case. "It's heartbreaking," said Greg Kimsey, the elected auditor in Clark County, Washington, which includes Vancouver.

"It's a direct attack on democracy," Kimsey told reporters. Both of the boxes had a fire suppression system. But the one in Vancouver appeared not to have worked properly and was unable to stop hundreds of ballots from being destroyed, according to Kimsey. At a press conference in Portland, officials said enough material from the incendiary devices was recovered to show the two fires were connected. They believe they are also linked to an October 8 incident, when an incendiary device was placed at a different ballot drop box in Vancouver. No ballots were damaged in that incident. Officials in Portland believe just three ballots were destroyed in the attack. Taking place less than 10 days before Election Day, the incidents triggered anxiety among many, as well as a hope they would not be repeated.

The city of Vancouver is the

largest community in Washington's third congressional district, where Democrat Marie Gluesenkamp Perez is trying to hold off a challenge from Republican Joe Kent. Kent, a one-time member of the US military's Special Forces, has the backing of Donald Trump. The battle for the seat, which Perez won by fewer than 3,000 votes when she beat Kent in 2022, has often been heated. Perez, who runs a car repair company, says she is one of the few working-class members of the US House of Representatives. Both Perez, 36, and Kent, 44, denounced the attacks and vowed they would not be stopped. The Democrat said she had requested there be a police presence at all ballot drop boxes in Clark County until Election Day. "There is absolutely zero place in our democracy for political violence or interference against our fellow citizens, election workers, or voting infrastructure," she said in a statement. "I hope the perpetrator of this reprehensible act is quickly apprehended - and local and federal law enforcement have my full support in working to keep our democratic process safe and secure." She added: "Our right to vote needs to be protected under all circumstances. We can't yield to intimidation."

Kent urged his supporters not to be intimidated, and said it should not deter anyone from voting. "I condemn these attacks against our democratic process. I know everybody else out here in southwest Washington does as well," he said in a video post-

ed on X. "I have full confidence in our law enforcement that they're going to get to the bottom of this. Stay focused."

It was later reported that surveillance cameras had captured a Volvo pulling up to the drop box in Portland shortly before security personnel nearby discovered a fire inside the box. Ballot drop boxes have faced increasing criticism from Republicans and have been the focus of baseless conspiracy theories, tied to former President Donald Trump's false claim that the 2020 election was rigged.

The boxes, designed to be tamper free, are often installed outside places such as election offices, libraries and other government buildings, for people drop off their ballots. Six Republican-dominated states - Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina and South Dakota - banned their use after 2020. The office of Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs said that if a returned ballot was not marked as "received", voters could print a replacement ballot or visit their local elections department for a replacement. "We take the safety of our election workers seriously and will not tolerate threats or acts of violence that seek to undermine the democratic process," Hobbs said. "Despite this incident, I have complete confidence in our county elections officials' ability to keep Washington's elections safe and secure for all voters." — Aljazeera

## Tehran executes German-Iranian over 'terror' conviction

TEHRAN: A German citizen of Iranian descent, who was convicted of 'leading terrorist operations', has been executed in Iran, according to the Iranian state media. "After going through the judicial process and the final approval of the court decision by the Supreme Court, the death sentence of Jamshid Sharmahd ... was carried out this morning," the news site Mizan said.

Mizan described Sharmahd as "a criminal terrorist" who "was hosted by American and European countries and was operating under the complex protection of their intelligence services". Sharmahd, who also holds United States residency, was sentenced to death in 2023 on charges of "corruption on earth", a capital offence under Iran's Islamic laws. He was convicted of heading a pro-monarchist group accused of a deadly 2008 bombing and planning other attacks in the country. Germany's

foreign minister strongly condemned Iran's "inhuman regime" for the execution of the 69-year-old German citizen. "The killing of Jamshid Sharmahd shows once again what kind of inhuman regime rules in Tehran: a regime that uses death against its youth, its own population and foreign nationals," said FM Annalena Baerbock, adding that Berlin had repeatedly made clear "that the execution of a German national would have serious consequences".

Sharmahd was seized by Iranian authorities in August 2020 while travelling through the United Arab Emirates, according to his family. Iran, which does not recognise dual citizenship, announced his arrest after a "complex operation", without specifying how, where or when he was seized. Sharmahd's arrest was also announced in an intelligence ministry statement that described

him as "the ringleader of the terrorist Tondar group, who directed armed and terrorist acts in Iran from America." Based in Los Angeles, the little-known Kingdom Assembly of Iran, or Tondar, says it seeks to restore the Iranian monarchy that was overthrown by the 1979 Islamic revolution. It runs pro-Iranian opposition radio and television stations abroad. The European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights condemned the execution as "shocking".

"It is another sign of the weakness of the government, which does not allow justice, because Jamshid Sharmahd was denied a proper trial with an independent defence," Wolfgang Kaleck, ECCHR's secretary-general, said in a statement. Kaleck added: "The unlawful abduction of Sharmahd, his subsequent torture in custody, the unfair show trial and today's execution are exemplary of the count-

less crimes of the Iranian regime." According to human rights group Amnesty International, Sharmahd had been subjected to "enforced disappearance, torture and other ill treatment". Sharmahd, while born in Tehran, does not hold an Iranian passport, and is a German citizen resident in the US state of California, according to his family. Last December, his daughter, Gazelle Sharmahd, wrote a post on X, saying that "the families of German prisoners in Iran have been told by the German government for three years that 'talks behind closed doors are better because publicity endangers the hostages'". "But what has this public silence and confidential dialogue brought us?" she asked. A spokeswoman for the foreign ministry responded and said that Germany's "stance towards the Iranian regime is very clear and we condemn where it violates human rights". — Aljazeera

## Japan PM vows to continue ruling despite bruising loss

TOKYO (BBC): Japan's prime minister Shigeru Ishiba has vowed to continue ruling the country despite a bruising loss suffered by his party at the general election. The country now faces an uncertain political future as the coalition led by the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has lost its majority in parliament, its worst result in over a decade.

Ishiba was sworn in as prime minister just this month after winning the leadership of his party. He had called a snap election to seal his mandate. But in a speech, he admitted the LDP received "severe judgement" from voters, and added his party would "humbly accept" this. "The Japanese people expressed their strong desire for the LDP to do some reflection and become a party that acts in line with the people's will," Ishiba told national broadcaster NHK. The LDP and its much smaller coalition partner Komeito, have altogether taken 215 seats, falling short of the 233-seat majority needed to govern.

It is the first time the LDP has lost its parliamentary majority since 2009. The party has ruled Japan almost continuously since 1955. The result comes after a tumultuous few

years for the LDP which saw a cascade of scandals, widespread voter apathy and record-low approval ratings. The party had seen approval ratings of below 20% earlier in the year, in the wake of a political fundraising corruption scandal. Ishiba pledged to reform "enact fundamental reform regarding the issue of money and politics". "We need to answer to the people's criticism. That is how I will take responsibility for the loss of the election," he said.

He also promised to revitalise rural Japan and tackle inflation. Japan's parliament now has 30 days to convene and choose a prime minister. The chosen PM's party or coalition, will form the government and can do so even without a majority of seats. Ishiba said there are no plans to expand his political coalition at this stage. This raises the likely possibility that he will retain his premiership and his coalition will continue to rule Japan without a majority. But it also means they will no longer have the power to pass laws unilaterally. Another possibility is that the opposition parties unite to form the government - the largest one, the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP),

won 148 seats up from 98 previously. But that is a more unlikely scenario as Japan's opposition parties historically have faced difficulty in uniting or convincing voters they are a viable option to govern. The CDP had an approval rating of just 6.6% before parliament was dissolved. Politics in Japan has been moving at a fast pace in recent months. Ishiba took over as the country's leader early this month following party elections held after his predecessor Fumio Kishida - who had been in the role since 2021 - made a surprise decision to step down in August.

The move to call the election came at a time when the LDP is desperate to restore its tarnished image among the public. Chief among the series of scandals that have dogged the LDP is its relationship with the controversial Unification Church, described by critics as a "cult", and the level of influence it had on lawmakers. Then came the revelations of the slush funds scandal, with dozens of LDP lawmakers accused of pocketing proceeds from political fundraising events.

Those allegations, running into the millions of dollars, has led to the dissolution of powerful factions.

## Hungar's Orban highlights EU dysfunction

BRUSSELS (AP): Prime Minister Viktor Orban is again highlighting how dysfunctional the European Union's family of 27 nations can be, with the Hungarian leader defiantly going against the flow in reacting to Georgia's contested election.

Orban, Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest partner within the EU and Europe's longest-serving leader, currently holds the rotating presidency of the EU, which often is the bloc's global bullhorn and which Orban has used in ways that highlight internal divisions. The Hungarian leader has played the spoiler on showing unity in confronting Russia over its war in Ukraine. Now, another point of contention has emerged in the disputed election outcome in Georgia, where the opposition alleges vote-rigging by the populist ruling party.

Orban's office said he was taking a surprise trip to the Georgian capital to meet with his allies there. EU institutions, meanwhile, had spent much of the weekend carefully weighing a diplomatic statement that would show their displeasure with the claimed win by the Georgian Dream party, which they feel is increasingly leaning toward Moscow and away from Brussels even as many in the ex-Soviet nation favor embarking on a path toward

joining the EU. But Orban, increasingly seen as Putin's voice in the bloc, preempted EU statements even before all votes were counted and congratulated "the Georgian Dream party on their overwhelming victory," adding that Georgians "know what is best for their country, and made their voice heard."

The EU statement that came a full day later called on Georgian authorities "to fulfil their duty to swiftly, transparently and independently investigate" alleged vote rigging. On top of vote rigging allegations, "we have witnessed unprecedented levels of disinformation and harsh anti-EU rhetoric," EU spokeswoman Nabila Massrali said. "Some of the narratives used during this campaign have been clear and directly inspired from Russian propaganda." Anti-EU rhetoric nowadays not only comes from Moscow or Georgia but from Budapest too in a challenge from within not seen since the most heated Brexit days of Britain campaigning to leave the bloc almost a decade ago. Orban's antagonism reached a new milestone last week, when he told a crowd of supporters that the EU seeks to topple his government and "hang a Brussels puppet government around the country's neck." Days later, he accused the EU of having installed the center-right

government in Poland to rid the country of its previous right-wing populist leadership. He gave no evidence to support either claim. Orban's trip to Georgia is not the first time he's drawn the ire of other EU leaders by taking a rogue journey. In July, only days after Hungary took over the bloc's rotating presidency, he traveled to Moscow for meetings with Putin under the auspices of a self-styled "peace mission," a visit the Russian leader viewed as taking place on behalf of the EU presidency. But the bloc's leaders were livid and heavily criticized Orban for meeting with Putin without informing them, and underlined that Orban was not appearing on their behalf. Since July, Orban has increasingly clashed with the rest of the bloc, especially over the war in Ukraine. He has routinely blocked, delayed or watered down efforts to extend assistance to Kyiv and sanction Russia, leading to criticisms that he was damaging the EU and serving Moscow's interests.

In another signal of his political priorities, Orban set off on his trip to Tbilisi while he was scheduled to give a keynote address at a summit of EU member state parliamentary committees in Budapest, an engagement he canceled at the last minute to visit Georgia's Eurosceptic leadership.



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# A cycle of retaliatory violence has no winners

**AFTER Saturday morning's series of Israeli air strikes on three Iranian provinces that claimed the lives of at least four soldiers, the people of the Middle East – again – find themselves holding their breath amid fears that a new cycle of violence is beginning.**

It is notable therefore that a close reading of the many government statements criticising Israel's retaliatory bombardment of Iranian targets reveals a recurring word: restraint. The UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the wider region have rightly urged all sides to avoid exacerbating what is an already-volatile situation. Whether Israel and Iran follow this sage advice to de-escalate remains to be seen.

Tehran has said that it "considers itself entitled and obligated to defend against external aggressive acts". This is perhaps unsurprising, given that it has suffered at the hands of Israeli attacks before, most notably on April 1 when its embassy complex in Damascus – effectively Iranian territory – was destroyed by an Israeli air strike. But many in the region will be hoping that this latest response to the two Iranian barrages launched at Israel this year will be the end of the matter, particularly amid diplomatic attempts to end the two catastrophes taking place in Gaza and Lebanon.

Sadly, some of the signals coming from Israel's political class are not promising. While hardliners such as former deputy prime minister Avigdor Lieberman suggested that Saturday's strikes did not go far enough, figures considered to be more centrist also indulged in some ill-timed sabre-rattling. Opposition member Benny Gantz, a former army chief and defence minister, found common cause with National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, an ultranationalist member of the Israeli Cabinet, when they both cast Israel's strikes as a precursor to further attacks on Iran.

More attacks are the last thing the Middle East needs, whatever the perceived need for self-defence, deterrence or retaliation.

Even the most precise strikes can go wrong, leading to unintended and dangerous consequences. Indeed, such cross-border warfare poses all manner of military and political risks, particularly by violating other countries' air space – as Israel is alleged to have done on Saturday. An unending cycle of retaliatory violence has no winners.

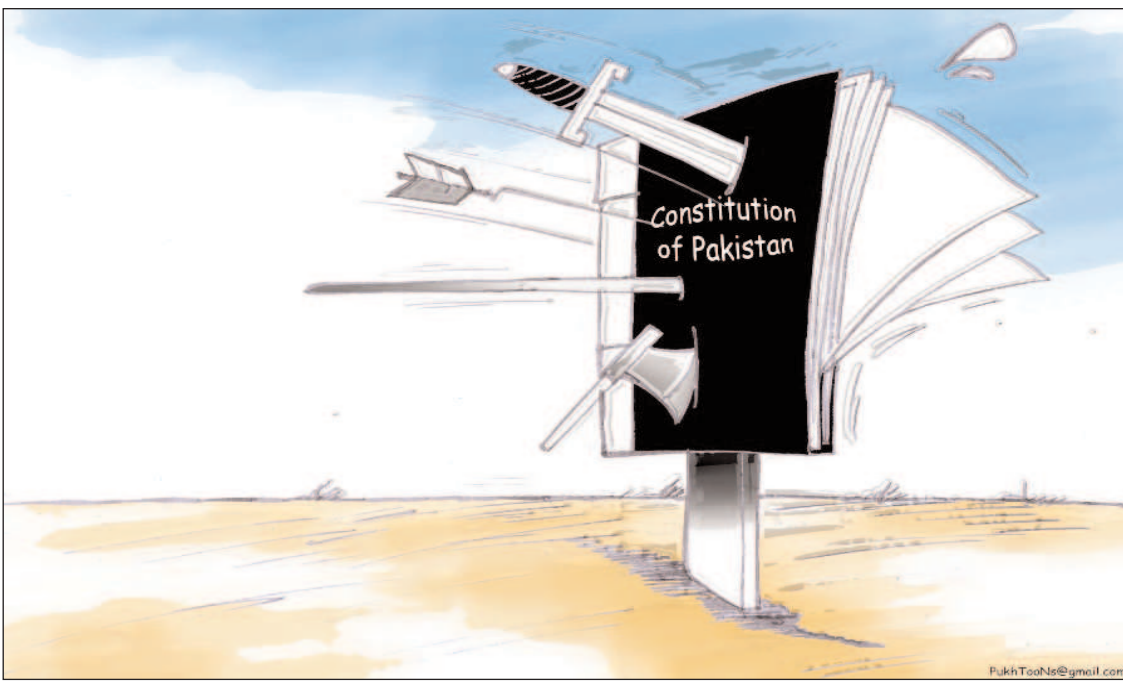
This much was clear in the UAE's statement condemning Saturday's bombardment of Iran. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that enhancing dialogue, adhering to international law and respecting state sovereignty "remain the ideal foundations for resolving the current crises". These are principles to which both Israel and Iran should be able to adhere, to stop fanning the flames of a full-scale conflict in which all sides will suffer.

Such principles need not be confined to this dangerous dynamic playing out between Israel and Iran. The wars in Gaza and Lebanon – both of which are hugely destabilising for the region as a whole – can and should be ended through diplomatic means. Immediate ceasefires by all sides in both locations would serve to effectively and quickly reduce the regional temperature.

The alternative is a Middle East that remains fearful of the future. After decades of conflict, and months of acute and painful suffering in Gaza and Lebanon, it is time for another way.

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# Netanyahu has run out of excuses to extend his wars

Osama Al-Sharif

**THE much-anticipated Israeli strike against Iran has ended, and so it appears the current showdown between the two countries – for now, Israel has claimed to have hit selected military sites related to Iran's ballistic missile assembly and solid fuel manufacturing in a night raid on Saturday involving tens of fighter jets that flew over Syrian and Iraqi airspace. Iran said the damage from the strikes was minimal, but added it will respond when the time is right.**

US President Joe Biden hoped that the Israeli retaliatory strike for Iran's Oct. 1 ballistic attack on Israel meant the end of the face-off, but warned Tehran against responding. US media argued that weeks of White House pressure on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to avoid targeting Iranian oil and nuclear facilities had worked, thus avoiding a regional conflagration.

And so both sides will now stand down as they await the outcome of next week's US presidential elections. However, that does not mean the shadow war between the two regional parties will subside. Iran has not indicated it is putting pressure on its Lebanese ally Hezbollah to accept a conditional truce. However, behind-the-scenes talks may have dealt with the prospects of Israel's land incursion into southern Lebanon and its heavy aerial strikes in the south, as well as in Beirut and the Bekaa Valley.

A seemingly elated Netanyahu delivered a defiant speech on Monday at the opening of the Knesset's winter session. He did not indicate that the war in Gaza was close to an end, while promising to end Hezbollah's threat to northern Israel.

He also vowed to undermine Iran's regional network

through its proxies, as well as prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear bomb.

He called Israel's multi-frontal conflicts since October 2023 a "war of revival," likening it to the country's "war of independence" in 1948. There was no mention of the Palestinians, while he promised to push for "peace in return for peace" deals with Arab countries under the Abraham Accords.

Netanyahu did not mention a day-after scenario to end the wars. He ignored his critics in Israel, including families of the Israeli captives, opposition leaders, the coalition, and even Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who demanded an open inquiry into the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks.

But despite the hubris and the arrogance, Netanyahu's speech failed to masquerade itself as a victory. His objectives for the war remain largely unfulfilled, even though an increasing number of tired and emotionally drained Israelis want the conflicts to end.

Netanyahu is yet to admit that despite using brutal force in both Gaza and Lebanon, Israel is far from achieving a decisive victory. Hamas is weakened and may never rebuild itself as a potent militia again, but Israel is facing an insurgency in Gaza that could go on for years.

The killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in Rafah has been seen as an opportunity for Netanyahu, the US, and the West to end the war, which has become a major political liability for all parties involved.

Hezbollah, which suffered massive blows following the assassination of its top leadership, including Hassan Nasrallah, has managed to regroup, and is now firing tens of missiles daily across northern Israel and as far as Tel Aviv. More impor-

tantly, it is exacting a heavy toll on the Israeli army in southern Lebanon. Hundreds of Israeli soldiers have been killed or injured in the first two weeks of the land incursion.

What Netanyahu has stubbornly refused to admit is that Israelis are not as united today as they were 12 months ago. More than 300,000 soldiers have been deployed in Israel's longest war since its creation. The economy is suffering, while hundreds of thousands of Israelis remain internally displaced with no sign that they will soon go home.

Israel's international reputation has been damaged beyond repair. It is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity daily. While seemingly defiant, it will have to face severe charges of genocide and breaches of the Geneva Conventions, as well as international laws and UN Security Council resolutions, in the near future.

Netanyahu is pursuing his wars for ideological and personal reasons. He has done more damage to Israel than any of its foes ever envisaged doing.

But more importantly, he has failed to realize that Israel can never score a final victory over its perceived enemies as long as it continues to ignore the core of the decades-old conflict: the Palestinians.

Netanyahu's disregard for international law has undermined Israel's allies in Washington and other Western capitals.

The atrocities Israel's soldiers are committing in Gaza and south Lebanon have upended the US-led world order. Against Israel's wishes, the Palestinian cause has gained unprecedented support and sympathy among young Westerners, pummeling Israel's skewed narrative about the core of the conflict, which it has been build-

ing for decades.

Ironically, such an awakening among young voters in the US has pushed the Gaza conflict to the forefront of election issues, especially for Democrats and the Democratic candidate Kamala Harris. She could lose her bid over her weak and patronizing stand on Gaza, especially in the critical swing state of Michigan.

This harsh reality, among other things, is probably what prompted Biden on Monday to announce that the time had come for forging a ceasefire in Gaza. He said that his team would be working to fulfill this aim. Previous attempts to make this happen have been foiled by Netanyahu. But now Biden believes he has many reasons to force Israel into accepting a ceasefire.

Under domestic pressure, Netanyahu may now accept a brief truce, suggested by Egypt, to carry out the exchange of Israeli captives with Palestinian prisoners. The US hopes such a two-day pause in the war may evolve into a lasting one. Hamas wants to see a process where Israel would eventually withdraw entirely from Gaza. That is something that Netanyahu will never accept.

The sliver of hope emerging now may be extinguished sooner than expected. But one thing is certain: Israel is far from pacifying all of Gaza, and it is far from containing Hezbollah. Netanyahu is losing the argument for an endless war.

Regardless of who wins the US presidential election, Israel will have a tough time justifying a war that has no day-after scenario. Netanyahu is wrong to assume that a second Trump presidency will allow him to carry on with a conflict that has lost its meaning for most Israelis and has become unpopular all over the world. His victory lap is unlikely to take place, ever.

# US at crossroads as voters clamor for change

**AS the 2024 US elections approach, the atmosphere is charged with intensity reminiscent of the Cold War era. Since 2016, American society has become increasingly polarized, exemplified by the ongoing rivalry between Donald Trump and his Democratic counterparts. Joe Biden's ascension to the presidency was largely fueled by public dissatisfaction with the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, a sentiment that has led many to question his effectiveness in crisis management, mirroring critiques faced by his predecessor, Trump.**

While the media emphasizes domestic issues such as abortion, immigration, inflation, and taxes, it is crucial not to overlook how foreign policy may sway swing voters, particularly within significant communities such as Arab Americans. The geopolitical landscape, especially the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, will likely play a pivotal role in shaping voter sentiment as we move closer to the elections.

Under Biden's leadership, US policy has thrust Ukraine into a precarious situation against Russia, with the Ukrainian populace bearing the brunt of the conflict. Nearly three years in, Russia remains resolute in its stance against NATO's perceived encroachment on its borders. Following recent BRICS meetings, Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed that more than 30 countries have expressed interest in joining the group, indicating a desire to challenge Western "hegemony" and shape a "multipolar world order."

In Europe,

allies are grappling with the fallout of the conflict, facing unprecedented fuel prices, and a refugee crisis that burdens their economies. The lack of a clear military or political resolution exacerbates these challenges, leaving Europe reliant on US directives regarding potential ceasefires in Ukraine and the broader implications for regional stability.

In the Middle East, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seems to exploit a perception of a US administration as weak and disengaged, as ongoing conflicts draw in regional powers aligned with Iran. This situation raises the specter of a direct confrontation between Israel and its adversaries, a scenario fraught with peril not only for the region but also for international relations.

Democratic candidate Kamala Harris finds herself in a precarious position navigating these complicated foreign policy issues. Her commitment to continue Biden's foreign policy, which has not yielded success in Ukraine or Gaza, leaves her vulnerable to criticism. Her attempts to resonate with Michigan's significant Arab community, such as her assertion to "end the suffering" in Gaza, stand in contrast to her unwavering support for military aid to Israel, highlighting the fractures within the Democratic Party on foreign policy.

Exploring the nuances of this crisis reveals that financial interests often take precedence over political ideologies. Corporations and state institutions have histor-

ically wielded power, sometimes leading to decisions driven more by economic gains than by the well-being of constituents. Wars are often justified through grand rhetoric, but underneath lies a stark reality of "savage capitalism" benefiting arms dealers and the military-industrial complex.

The political scientist Samuel P. Huntington once noted: "The West won the world not by the superiority of its ideas or values... but by its superiority in applying organized violence." While this may prompt reflection on the past, it also suggests the need for a balanced approach in the future. Regardless of the election's outcome, the implications for Europe are significant. Europe must develop a new strategy that navigates its relationship with the US, accounting for shifting dynamics in global politics. The need for a clear articulation of collective interests has never been more pressing as competition from China and ongoing instability in the Middle East create challenges that demand a cohesive response.

In the Arab world, particularly the Gulf states, collaboration among nations will be vital in prioritizing sustainable development and avoiding conflicts. Analysts predict an inevitable and potentially swift American withdrawal from the region, necessitating a reassessment of how Arab nations work together, especially with the Biden administration's evident desire for reduced US involvement.

This transitory phase in American foreign policy

could call into question whether it is the US that is leaving or merely redefining its strategy in a complex landscape. The fallout from military engagement often leaves a legacy of instability, a sentiment echoed by foreign affairs analysts.

Joseph Roth's poignant reflections in "The Emperor's Tomb" on the decline of powerful civilizations resonate with present-day realities, where moral decay and ineffective leadership raise urgent concerns about the future of American democracy. As the country prepares for the elections, it is clear that the American populace itself may emerge as the greatest loser. With divisions deepening and trust in leadership eroding, many yearn for a time when the presidency symbolized national unity and strength.

The upcoming elections will determine not only the future of US leadership but also the implications for global politics. As the US stands at this crossroads, a calculated examination of the interplay between domestic issues and foreign policy will be vital for voters seeking meaningful change in a complex world.

Ultimately, navigating the turbulent waters of the 2024 elections requires a balanced approach that considers both domestic priorities and the intricate web of global relations. As the political landscape evolves, the US public and policymakers must be vigilant and informed, ensuring they champion a vision that promotes unity, moral clarity, and sustainable progress both at home and abroad.

— Arab News

# It's raining bombs in a city by the sea

Lorenzo Kamel

**ON Monday, the Israeli military set about maniacally bombarding the southern Lebanese coastal city of Tyre, striking residential buildings left and right and converting the scene into a typical Israeli-induced horrorscape. Since the beginning of the genocide in neighbouring Palestine in October last year, Israel has killed more than 2,700 people in Lebanon, the majority of them over the past month and a half.**

An ancient Phoenician port sacked by Alexander the Great in 332 BC, Tyre is of course no stranger to destruction. The city bears three sets of Roman and Byzantine ruins – one of which incidentally played host to a more unique form of destruction in 2013 when the convoy belonging to then-United States ambassador to Lebanon Maura Connelly managed to damage the historical site while inexplicably driving over it. This particular episode prompted the Jadaliyya headline: "Tires over Tyre: US Ambassador Ruins Ruins."

On many nights, we would also speed through the villages south of Tyre, and Hassan would recount to me his days as a fighter with Amal, the predominantly Shia Lebanese political party and former militia that participated in the Hezbollah-led resistance to the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon. When I spoke recently to Hassan, he informed me that he was also "fighting" Israel in this latest war – but this time by delivering food and other necessities to displaced civilians from south Lebanon. Amal has largely been excised from international view by a reductionist political and corporate media narrative that prefers to simply cast Hezbollah in the role of reigning Lebanese "terrorists". But in Tyre, martyr posters of militants from both parties line thoroughfares and are plastered to storefronts, a reminder that – as long as Israel keeps slaughtering, displacing and occupying – people are going to keep fighting back. During one of my numerous returns to Tyre over the years, in 2016, I rented a room in the labyrinthine Christian quarter of the city abutting the port, which I used as a base to conduct my own solo hitchhiking expedition through south Lebanon – a journey that brought me into contact with ever more martyr posters and ever more living stories of resistance, as I recorded in my travelogue Martyrs Never Die.

Given its fierce partnership with the state of Israel, the US has certainly had an outsized hand in ruining Lebanon over the course of contemporary history. In 1982, for example, the US greenlit the Israeli invasion that killed tens of thousands of people in the country. And during Israel's 34-day war on Lebanon in 2006, which killed approximately 1,200 people, the US expedited bomb deliveries to the Israeli military while agitating to delay a ceasefire – an approach the Joe Biden administration has now basically supercharged to accommodate the genocide in Gaza.

I first made the acquaintance of the city of Tyre – and the rest of Lebanon – one month after the carnage in 2006, when my friend Amelia and I undertook a hitchhiking tour of the country, both ruined and unruined parts. Heading south from Beirut, we were given a ride by a jovial middle-aged man named Samir, who put us up for several days in his home in Tyre and escorted us on vehicular excursions to battered villages along the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Samir resided with his young son in an apartment building that had barely escaped battering. Just opposite the complex was another residential building that Israeli handiwork had sliced in two, leaving a vertical stack of kitchens on display. In keeping with Lebanese traditions of excessive hospitality, Samir ensured that Amelia and I remained severely overfed for the duration of our stay, plying us with manousheh and other treats at a humble establishment along Tyre's seaside corniche.

The palm tree-lined corniche is currently ravaged by Israeli air strikes, but in non-apocalyptic times it provides a picturesque backdrop for summer evening strolls, family picnics, argileh consumption, and other standard human behaviour in a city Israel would now like the world to believe is a den of terrorists. In World Cup times, it also provides a venue for local motorists to cruise endlessly back and forth with flags and horns, celebrating whichever team has triumphed.

I next returned to Tyre in 2008 in the company of Hassan, a friend Amelia and I had made hitchhiking in 2006, whose father had come to Lebanon on foot from Palestine in 1948, when Israel violently set up

shop on Palestinian land. A passportless refugee, Hassan had taken to compensating for the claustrophobic boundaries of his imposed land of refuge by driving up and down the country, sometimes several times in a day.

I got to ride shotgun for the few months of my visit, and in the evenings we often found ourselves by the sea in Tyre, drinking Lebanese wine out of the bottle and gazing across the water at the sparkling lights of the UNIFIL base at Naqoura on the Israeli border – the only ultra-electrified spot in an otherwise spectacularly electricity-deficient country.

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I hitchhiked to Qana, the site of the legendary water-to-wine conversion by Jesus Christ and of the 1996 Israeli massacre of 106 refugees sheltering at a United Nations compound. And I hitchhiked to Aita al-Shaab, the border village that served as the starting point for the 2006 war and that has now once again been pulverised.

Back in the Christian quarter of Tyre, I frequented a diminutive portside restaurant belonging to the iconic Abu Robert, an octogenarian fisherman and survivor of all manner of Lebanese cataclysms. Abu Robert recommended daily dips in the Mediterranean for longevity and told me about the time in 1948 when he sailed to Palestine with his father for watermelons and returned with a cargo of fleeing Palestinians.

My last visit to Tyre took place in June 2022, when I learned that Abu Robert had passed away earlier in the year and spent the day in his honour on the city's white sand beach. The temperament and colour of the sea in Tyre is in constant flux, but on that day it was placid, crystalline, aquamarine.

As Israel now does its best to bomb the life out of Tyre, it is important to remember that it takes a lot more than bombs to kill a place.



# No, US voters, you don't need to choose between Harris and Trump

**THE world, we are told, is on the eve of witnessing the most consequential US presidential election since witnessing the last most consequential US presidential election.**

The hyperbole has a familiar ring because the so-called "stakes" have a familiar ring.

Anyone with even a passing understanding of American history knows that presidential elections have always been cast as a binary choice between the past and future, prosperity and decay, peace and war, and, lately, democracy and authoritarianism.

The myth that girds these "choices" is that American voters have a choice at all; that the two dominant political parties are, save the glib edges, ideological adversaries when, on, say, urgent matters of war and peace, they remain steadfast soulmates to the core.

The billionaire oligarchs who run the whole decrepit show in America know that "democracy" is a sweet illusion meant to convince the gullible that party 1 is different from party 1a.

That is the stubborn conundrum confronting Arab and Muslim American voters: The leaders of party 1 and party 1a have, on the defining issue of these awful times, promoted and defended a blatant genocide in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

So, who to choose or whether to choose at all? Remember, there is no "daylight" on this cowardly, abominable score between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris.

Both have played willing and enthusiastic handmaidens to their indicted darling in the Middle East, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Both have backed every sickening measure of the state-engineered atrocities that have killed more than 43,000 (and counting) mostly Palestinian children and women – the carpet bombing, the deliberate starvation, the denial of medical care, the spread of disease, the forced marches, and on and on and on. Both refuse, of course, to use the short, sharp word "genocide" to describe – not as a rhetorical cudgel, but as a matter of international law – the crimes being committed by an

apartheid state in Gaza and the West Bank.

Both believe unquestionably that Israel has the absolute "right to defend itself" despite the ongoing "extermination" of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

And when their fellow citizens took to the streets and university campuses to demand a stop to the wholesale killing and apocalyptic destruction, Democrats and Republicans dismissed these enlightened Americans as "terrorist" sympathisers and applauded the draconian efforts by powerful, entrenched interests to silence the "protesters" through force, threats, and intimidation.

But, as election day approaches, fretting Democrats and their compliant allies – among

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**Both believe unquestionably that Israel has the absolute "right to defend itself" despite the ongoing "extermination" of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. And when their fellow citizens took to the streets and university campuses to demand a stop to the wholesale killing and apocalyptic destruction, Democrats and Republicans dismissed these enlightened Americans as "terrorist" sympathisers and applauded the draconian efforts by powerful, entrenched interests to silence the "protesters" through force, threats, and intimidation. But, as election day approaches, fretting Democrats and their compliant allies – among the "progressive" cognoscenti in the mainstream media ecosystem – have grown ever more nervous. Their palpable anxiety has been on puffing display on forgettable cable TV programmes and in forgettable online columns meant to reassure one another that everything will turn out all right. Alas, for the forlorn, a spate of national and state polls – if they are accurate – reveal a deadlocked race for the White House. In some "swing" states with could-possibly-tip-the-scales-sized Arab and Muslim populations, Trump appears to be edging ahead. The prospect that America may soon elect a fascist as commander-in-chief is registering with Kamala Harris and obedient company in the Democratic Party establishment and beyond. Oh heavens, what shall we do?**

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Andrew Mitrovica

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Oh heavens, what shall we do?

"Outreach." Yes, "outreach".

"Outreach" is a euphemism for pretending to "listen to" Arab and Muslim voters when, all along, Harris et al have ignored a grieving community that the

When "outreach" doesn't work, Harris and the "progressive" wailing heads have resorted, in effect, to blackmail.

Arab and Muslim Americans will be responsible, they say, for electing a Muslim-banning autocrat if they cast a "protest vote" against the top of the Democratic ticket.

Apart from being an outrageous affront, blackmail is rarely a convincing strategy.

This is my advice to the Arab and Muslim American voters in crucial bellwether states like Michigan: Do not listen to craven politicians and journalists who, in lock-step with the leaders of party 1 and party 1a, have granted Israel the uncontested licence to kill as many Palestinians as it wants to, for as long

cheap and disposable by heeding their specious advice and choosing between disingenuous leader 1 and disingenuous leader 1a.

Do not be swayed by the predictable stable of apologists who claim that electing Trump would only make matters "worse" for Arab and Muslim Americans.

Muslim and Arab Americans have, for generations, been viewed as fifth columnists who pose an existential threat to America. You cannot be trusted. You remain "outsiders".

Accordingly, you have been treated with disdain. You have been jailed or blacklisted for speaking out. Your loyalty has been questioned. You have been routinely taken for granted.

You are expected to behave. You are supposed to remain invisible and mute.

Do not oblige the charlatans. I implore you, instead, to exercise your agency by depriving leader 1 and leader 1a of what they value most – position and power.

Again, to the uncommitted movement, I urge you to remain uncommitted. Decency and history demand that, together, you shout: "Enough."

It is the right and just thing to do. Opting for leader 1 or leader 1a is a vote – whether you are prepared to admit it or not – for the co-architects of the genocide that have turned Gaza into dust and memory.

You will not be to blame if Trump prevails.

That will be the exclusive fault of millions of intolerant Americans who, in the long, sordid American tradition, consider cruelty and ignorance to be guiding governing principles.

However hard, you survived four years of Donald Trump before. If need be, you will survive him once more.

If this odious election campaign has proven anything, it is this: America is not a shining "city upon a hill". It is a decomposing fiction in the gutter.

Take the long view. If Arab and Muslim Americans are finally to be seen and heard by leaders 1 and 1a, you must make an honourable stand now as a tangible expression of self-respect and fidelity to the horrendous plight of your Palestinian brothers and sisters.

# The US and Israel have nothing to gain from their war on the UN

**IT'S ironic that the United States and its closest ally, Israel, a state born out of the horrors of World War II, have spent the better part of the past 75 years undermining the so-called rules-based international order (RBO).**

After all, the RBO was established in the wake of World War II, under US leadership, to prevent a repeat of that costly conflict, which killed over 50 million people, including six million Jews in the Nazi Holocaust.

The United Nations (UN) is arguably the most important pillar of the RBO.

It is tasked with keeping international peace, preventing wars of aggression, and ensuring that human rights atrocities – such as those committed in the Holocaust – are never repeated.

The US and Israel, however, have long viewed the UN with a special disdain and worked to render it ineffective.

As American international law scholar Richard Falk detailed in his 2008 book, *The Costs of War: International Law, the United Nations, and World Order*, they have "repeatedly and defiantly" broken the so-called "Nuremberg promise" – that legal standards used against the Nazi regime would be applied to all future states, including the US and the rest of the WWII Allied Powers – "thereby undermining any prospect for peace and normalcy in the world".

Falk established that the US, in particular, worked consistently at "weakening ... international law" and "eroding ... the authority of the United Nations."

Indeed, major US foreign policy decisions, such as its 2003 invasion of Iraq, have repeatedly demonstrated what renowned philosopher Noam Chomsky defined as Washington's "contempt for the international system".

Sure, the US also has a history of invoking the importance of upholding the RBO or protecting the United Nations, but it only does to advance its own interests, such as when it seeks to "stigmatize enemies."

Whenever the United Nations refuses to follow the US lead or makes a move that undermines the interests of its allies, Washington swiftly makes its contempt for

Mohamad Elmasry

the organisation clear.

US "contempt" for the international system is perhaps the most evident in its veto record at the UN Security Council.

Between 1972 – when the US first used its veto power to support Israel – and December 2023, the US vetoed 77 resolutions, including 45 critical of Israel.

In February 2024, the US used its veto power for the 78th time since 1972, marking the 46th instance of shielding Israel.

During this time period, no other permanent Security Council member has come close to the US mark – Russia (44), China (16), the United Kingdom (17), and France (9) have used their veto powers a combined total of 86 times.

During the current Israeli war on Gaza alone, the US has vetoed three United Nations Security Council ceasefire resolutions on behalf of Israel.

Meanwhile, under US protection, Israel has intensified its attacks on the UN's Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) since the beginning of its genocide in Gaza.

In January 2024, Israel accused UNRWA of "terrorism", prompting the US to cut funding to the agency, which provides essential services to millions of Palestinians.

Yesterday, the Israeli parliament approved a bill to ban UNRWA from operating in both Gaza and the West Bank, and Israel is also seeking to declare UNRWA as a terrorist organisation.

Israel has long been at war with UNRWA, but these recent actions represent a significant escalation, especially when considered against the backdrop of recent Israeli violence in Gaza.

During the ongoing war, Israel has repeatedly bombed United Nations schools and killed over 220 UN staff members. No other conflict in United Nations history has killed such a high number of United Nations staff.

During the current war, Israel has also demonstrated its contempt for the UN in other, symbolic ways.

In March 2024, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Gilad Erdan, shredded a copy of the United Nations charter in protest

of the UN general assembly's decision to grant certain rights to Palestine.

Last month, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered a speech at the UN, during which he referred to the institution as a "swamp of antisemitic bile," a "contemptuous farce," and "contemptible in the eyes of decent people everywhere".

Shortly after Netanyahu's speech, Israel declared United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "persona non grata," accused him of "backing terrorists, rapists, and murderers," and banned him from entering Israel.

Most recently, Israel launched a series of apparently deliberate attacks on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon.

As Israel has escalated its attacks on the UN, the US has largely remained idle. For instance, when 40 countries condemned Israel's attacks on UN peacekeepers, the US declined to endorse the statement.

The US and Israel have also consistently attacked, insulted and attempted to undermine the International Court of Justice (ICJ) – the UN's principal judicial organ – ever since a case of genocide was raised against Israel there.

Noam Chomsky famously described the United States and Israel as the world's two leading "rogue states".

History shows that rogue actors eventually face serious consequences.

The US and Israel would be wise to rein themselves in sooner rather than later, as a weakened international system risks creating chaos that could hasten their own decline.

The American empire is already in decline, and Israel's war on Gaza is further damaging the US's international standing while jeopardising its strategic and economic interests.

As for Israel, its actions in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon may also be accelerating its own collapse, as suggested by Israeli scholar Ilan Pappe and countless other analysts of the region.

Both Israel and the US should recognise the extent to which they need the United Nations and the RBO, if for no other reason than to safeguard their interests.

— *Aljazeera*

# Calls for de-escalation mount amid attacks

**ISRAEL has claimed Saturday's airstrikes on Iran have crippled facilities producing long-range ballistic missiles and defence batteries protecting them. This has been seen by Israel's uncritical ally the US as a restrained response to Iran's launch of 180 missiles and drones at Israel on October 1st in a tit-for-tat exchange which began in April. Tehran has played down the results of the strikes, suggesting an end for now of the attacks and counterattacks which have escalated regional tensions.**

If Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) had been struck, Tehran would have had to respond with ballistic missiles and drones even though the majority would have been shot down before hitting Israel. It must be recalled that the April 1st, Israeli airstrike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus which slew eight IRGC officers initiated this cycle. For Tehran, the IRGC is sacrosanct as it is a main pillar of the clerical government. Iran responded with missile strikes targeting Israel (after Tehran issued a warning of its intention). Israel replied with a token strike which was followed by Iran's massive October 1st missile launch.

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had hoped that this attack would precipitate all-out war with Iran which

would drag in the US on Israel's side. However, even the supine Israeli-captive Biden administration was not prepared to go along with Netanyahu's oft declared dream.

Instead, the US secured his agreement to confine his targets to military sites rather than oil or nuclear facilities or civilian economic infrastructure. Netanyahu stands to be rewarded with an infusion of weapons by the US for conceding while Iran is threatened with US-Israeli punishment if it retaliates.

A US official stated, "Should Iran choose to respond we are fully prepared to defend Israel and there will be consequences should Iran make that unfortunate decision...as far as we're concerned, this direct exchange, this should be the end of it." By contrast with bellicose Netanyahu and his chums in Washington, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has visited 20 countries in the past 20 days calling for de-escalation and no further strikes.

The question must be asked, "Why does Iran risk attack by taking a stand against Israel? In 1947, Iran was among 13 countries to vote against the UN plan to partition Palestine. In 1949, Iran also voted against Israel's UN admission. In 1950, Israel established a de facto diplomatic presence in Tehran which did not extend formal recogni-

tion until the late 1970s. Until 1979, Iran was dominated by a monarch, a shah, who shared power with prime ministers appointed by the country's elected parliament. The last shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi had the support of Britain and the US which overthrew Iran's

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relations with Iranian opposition movements.

After 1979, Iran also engaged with Hamas and Islamic Jihad and provided them with training and weaponry.

While relations with the PLO soured during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and after Arafat adopted the 1993 Oslo Accord, Iran's ties with Hamas and Islamic Jihad prospered. Despite dramatic reverses on the Palestinian front, Iran has not reduced its commitment to the Palestinian cause which all its presidents – whether hardline or reformist – have regarded as the root of tension and warfare in the region.

Iran's estrangement and break with the US and the West began with the November 4th, 1979, Iranian takeover of the US embassy in Tehran which trapped 50 US diplomats for 444 days.

Once they were released, Tehran attempted to re-engage with Washington and its allies. Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani (1989-1997) was the first to try but was rebuffed. He was followed by reformist Mohammed Khatami (1997-2005) who was elected by 79 per cent of the 80 per cent of the electorate that voted.

He promoted democracy, eased restrictions on freedom of speech, and pressed for an open economy on the domestic level. On the global level, he launched a "dialogue among civilisations" and convinced the UN to proclaim 2001 as the "Year of Dialogue Among Civilisations."

Khatami met with Pope John Paul II, French President Jacques Chirac,

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad, and others and a symposium bringing together Iranian and Western scholars was held on this topic in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Dialogue failed due to US indifference and Iran elected hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who preached against the West, reverting to the policy of alienation and negotiation. He was succeeded by reformist Hassan Rouhani (2013-2021) under whose auspices the 2015 agreement with the US, UK, France, China, Russia, and Germany to limit Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for lifting sanctions was negotiated and implemented in January 2016.

The deal was proceeding well until Donald Trump withdrew the US in May 2018.

A year later Iran began to breach the terms of the deal.

Although Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden pledged to return to the agreement if elected, he prevaricated and procrastinated for so long that Iran elected another hardliner Ebrahim Raisi as president in June 2021. After his death in a helicopter crash, Iran elected another reformist Masoud Pezeshkian who calls for a return to the deal and for regional reconciliation. He has been welcomed in the region and the global south but Washington remains unmoved.





## PSX stays bullish, gains 668 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 668.57 points, a positive change of 0.74 percent, closing at 90,864.09 points as compared to 90,195.52 points on last trading day.

A total of 602,810,650 shares were traded during the day as compared to 567,264,435 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs28,203 billion against Rs29,210 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 440 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 171 of them recorded gains and 219 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 50 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 41,401,611

shares at Rs1.27 per share, Silk Bank Limited with 31,281,039 shares at Rs1.08 per share and Pace (Pak) Limited with 30,208,661 shares at Rs5.73 per share.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs162.00 per share price, closing at Rs19,180.00, whereas the runner-up was Siemens (Pakistan) Engineering with Rs122.62 rise in its per share price to Rs1,348.81.

Hallmark Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs27.38 per share closing at Rs816.66 followed by Sazgar Engineering Works Limited with Rs22.00 decline to close at Rs992.56.

**Rupee sheds 06 paisa against dollar**

Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 06 paisa against the US dollar

in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.74 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.68.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.25 and Rs278.75 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 27 paisa to close at Rs300.23 against the last day's closing of Rs299.96, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.81, whereas an increase of 34 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs360.39 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs360.05.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 01

paisa and 02 paisa to close at Rs75.61 and Rs73.95 respectively.

**Gold prices up by Rs1,600 to Rs285,000 per tola**

The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs1,600 and was sold at Rs285,000 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs283,400 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs1,372 to Rs244,342 from Rs242,970 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs223,980 from Rs222,722, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs3,350 and Rs2,872.08 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$16 to \$2,755 from \$2,72,739, the Association reported.

## Pak-Chinese companies participate in B2B investment meeting

BEIJING (APP): As many as 45 Chinese and 28 Pakistani companies participated in the first Pakistan-China B2B Investment Meeting on Fisheries held on Tuesday in Qingdao, Shandong province on China.

The event was the first in a series of sector-specific meetings to foster joint ventures and partnerships between Pakistani and Chinese companies.

The event is a follow-up to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China in June 2024 to further promote trade and investment between the two countries.

Sun Huanjiang, Committee Member of CPC,

Qingdao Municipal Marine Development Bureau, in his remarks, reiterated the historic All Weather Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China.

He stated that China was willing to strengthen science and technological exchanges, industrial cooperation, trade and investment, and cooperate in Pakistan's development of the blue economy.

Secretary of the Board of Investment Rahim Hayat Qureshi appreciated the strong collaboration between China and Pakistan across various sectors.

He urged for increased partnership among businesses from both countries

to foster mutually beneficial cooperation. Additionally, he delivered a comprehensive presentation detailing the fisheries sector in Pakistan and the incentives offered by the Pakistani government for Chinese investors.

Highlighting Pakistan's vast marine resources, the Ambassador called on the Chinese companies to take advantage of Pakistan's enormous natural resources, low labour costs, and strategic location and explore long-term mutually beneficial joint ventures and partnerships in aquaculture expansion, food processing, and export opportunities.

The event concluded with the signing of eleven MoUs and one contract between Pakistani and Chinese companies worth \$64 million.

An MoU between the Pakistan Fishery Exports Association and the Seafood Specialized Committee of China was also signed to enhance further B2B exchanges, Joint Ventures and trade and investment in the fisheries sector.

The event was part of six planned events to facilitate business-to-business interactions and offer platforms for dialogue and partnership to enhance trade and investment between Pakistan and China.



QINGDAO: Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalil Hashmi and Secretary of Board of Investment Rahim Hayat Qureshi witnessed signing of eleven MoUs and one contract between Pakistani and Chinese companies worth \$64 million.

### President inaugurates PIDC House Branch F.P. Report

KARACHI: The President National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) Rehmat Ali Hasnie has inaugurated the newly renovated PIDC House Branch in Karachi.

The President National Bank of Pakistan congratulated all those who worked tirelessly for completion of the project and recognized the efforts of Logistics, Communications, and Marketing Group (LCMG) and especially the Engineering team.

The President National Bank of Pakistan emphasized the importance of upkeep of Branches and enhanced customer experience.

### Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, X-Press Salween, MSC Pamela, Sea Stellar and South Port are scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice and Furnace oil, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Grain Terminal and FOTCO Oil Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile four more ships, GFS Ruby, PH Giang Minh, Sea Quest and Milaha Ras Laffan are scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Gas oil and LNG arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

Eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, MSC Pamela, African Harrier and EVA Bergen are expected to sail on Tuesday.

Cargo volume of 148,973 tonnes, comprising 78,148 tonnes imports cargo and 70,825 tonnes export cargo carried in 3,205 Containers (1,228 TEUs Imports& 1,977 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Fifteen ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Doris, SC Hong Kong and Milaha Ras Laffan & two more ships, MSC Positano and Navios Tempo scheduled to load/offload Rice, Chemicals, LNG and Containers are expected to take berths at MW-1, EVTL, PGPCL and QICT respectively on Tuesday, while three more container ships, X-Press Anglesey, Maersk Cabo Verde and One Reinforcement are due to arrive at port on Wednesday.

### LCCI, PITB ink MoU

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) and Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with an objective to establish an advanced job-matching and recruitment platform at the LCCI, fostering direct links between job seekers and employers across the province.

The MoU was signed by LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad and PITB Senior Programme Manager Shams ul Islam along with Director Labour North Imran Haider Tipu. LCCI Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman, Vice President Shahid Nazir and Executive Committee Members were also present.

## Fazal demands compensation for fire-affected factory

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fazal Moqeem Khan demanded the provincial government to announce a special compensation package for a factory affected by fire in Hayatabad Industrial Estate Peshawar.

On Tuesday, Fazal Moqeem along with FPCCI former president Ghazanfar Bilour, former presidents Riaz Arshad, Malik Niaz Ahmad, Adeel Rauf, former vice presidents Junaid Altaf, Haris Mufti, and member of the chamber executive committee Hassan Zahideen, Adnan Nasir, Sajjad Zaheer, Industrialists Association Peshawar president Ayub

Zakori visited site of inferno factory in the estate.

The SCCI delegation examined various damaged portions in the factory.

Moqeem in his views on the occasion expressed regret over billions of rupees loss due to fire in the factory.

The chamber president asserted that the government should equip Rescue-1122, firefighters and other institutions, which were dealing with calamity and casualty situations with modern gadgets and facilities.

He called upon the government to announce a special compensation package for the affected factory and take steps for operationalization of the factory as it is a source of employment for

a large number of workers.

The SCCI chief welcomed the provincial government's decision to form a committee to probe into the factory fire.

He said goods worth over Rs2billion were burnt to ashes in the fire.

He, however, thanked Allah Almighty that no casualty had occurred in this incident.

Earlier, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi also visited the site of the damaged factory.

Faisal Kundi assured SCCI chief Fazal Moqeem Khan, industrialists, especially owner/ reps of the affected factory for every possible support and steps to compensate for the huge financial loss.

## 95 illegal connections disconnected by SNGPL

F.P. Report

LAHORE: As part of its ongoing campaign against gas theft, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has disconnected 95 illegal gas connections across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, while imposing fines amounting to Rs 3 million.

In Lahore, 10 illegal connections were cut off, with an additional disconnection for compressor use. Fines totaling Rs 0.75 million were imposed for these violations.

In Gujranwala, 3 illegal connections were severed, along with one for compressor use, resulting in Rs

0.03 million in fines. Similarly, in Gujrat, 1 illegal connection and 2 compressor-related cases were addressed.

The Faisalabad team disconnected 3 illegal connections and imposed Rs 0.02 million in fines, while in Sheikhupura, 2 connections were terminated, with a hefty Rs 1.25 million fine issued.

In Multan, 12 illegal connections and 3 cases of compressor use were dealt with, and in Sahiwal, 5 illegal connections and 2 compressor cases were disconnected, leading to Rs 0.05 million in fines.

Bahawalpur saw 10 disconnections related to com-

pressor use. In Mardan, 5 illegal connections were severed, accompanied by Rs 0.63 million in fines.

In Sargodha, 3 illegal connections were disconnected, and in Rawalpindi, 2 were terminated. Islamabad reported 1 illegal connection disconnection.

Peshawar and Karak saw significant action with 25 illegal connections cut off, along with 1 compressor-related case, leading to Rs 0.32 million in fines.

Lastly, in Abbottabad, 1 illegal connection and 2 compressor use cases were handled, with Rs 0.02 million in fines imposed.

## Pakistan's exports to US increase by 6.18%

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to the United States (US) witnessed an increase of 6.18 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding quarter of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to the US were recorded at US \$1.461 billion during July-September (2024-25) against exports of US \$1.376 billion during July-September (2023-24), SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to the US also

surged to \$511.525 million in September 2024 against the export of \$441.569 million in September 2023.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to the US witnessed an increase of 7.95 percent during September 2024 as compared to the exports of \$473.838 million in August 2024, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 7.82 percent in the first three months, from US \$6.952 billion to US \$7.495 billion, the SBP data revealed.

On the other hand, the imports from the US into the country during the months

under review were recorded at US \$558.562 million against US \$471.776 million last year, showing an increase of 18.39 percent in July-September (2024-25).

On a year-on-year basis, the imports for the US also increased to US \$187.700 million in September 2024, against the export of US \$120.799 million in September 2023.

On a month-on-month basis, the imports from the US into the country witnessed a nominal decrease of 1.12% during September 2024, as compared to the imports of US \$185.606 million during August 2024, according to the data.

## Most global stock markets rise with eyes on megatech results

LONDON (AFP/APP): Most major global stock markets rose on Tuesday

### Public Notice for Rectification

(Corrigendum) It is notified for general information that we published in the Daily Frontier Post on September 13, 2024, that Faiz Muhammad, son of Shah Afzal, is the owner of Plot No. 171, Sector B/III, Zone Three. He has appointed Naeem ul Haq, son of Imtiaz ul Haq, as his general/special attorney through registered Power of Attorney No. 1153, Book No. 4, Page No. 238 (corrected to 239), dated September 12, 2024. Naeem ul Haq now intends to transfer the said property using the aforementioned Power of Attorney. So correction maybe made from 238 to 239 please. Housing Officer (Transfer Regi Model Town, PDA).

with investors looking ahead to the release of US economic data and the earnings reports of tech titans this week.

Oil prices rebounded after a sharp fall the previous day on relief that Israel's strikes on Iran spared the country's energy infrastructure.

Concerns in the oil market have now shifted back to focus on potential oversupply in 2025 and a slowdown in demand from China, the world's largest oil importer, according to analysts.

US stocks closed higher Monday, boosted by the cheaper oil, and as investors look ahead to a busy week of economic indicators with the market already hovering near record highs.

The US government will release its third quarter GDP growth estimate this week, as well as its closely watched monthly labour

market report, which will indicate the health of the world's largest economy.

Investors are also eyeing the earnings reports of five of the "Magnificent Seven" US tech giants due this week, including Google-parent Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Facebook-parent Meta, and Microsoft.

"Although any market focus on earnings will rapidly be diverted to next week's presidential election and Federal Reserve meeting," said Danni Hewson, head of financial analysis at AJ Bell.

Major European stock markets were in the green in late morning trading while Asian markets ended mixed.

London edged up around 0.1 percent as investors awaited the first budget of Britain's new Labour government on Wednesday, expected to include tax rises on businesses.

Shares in banking giant

HSBC rose around four percent, leading gains on London's FTSE 100, after it reported a strong set of earnings that beat profit expectations.

Meanwhile, shares in British oil and gas giant BP dropped one percent after the company reported a slump in profits on weak oil trading and refining margins, despite beating analyst expectations.

In Asia, Tokyo and Hong Kong stocks climbed but Shanghai and Singapore retreated.

Japanese shares gained on the previous day's gains as cheaper oil and the weaker yen outweighed uncertainty after Japan's ruling coalition fell short of a majority in Sunday's general election.

Investors are awaiting the Bank of Japan's rate decision later this week, with the central bank expected to stand pat following two hikes earlier this year.



ISLAMABAD: People selecting and purchasing second-hand warm clothes at Kuri Road neighbourhood as winter season approaching.





## In brief

## Rayyan claims silver at Doha Qatar Squash C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Muhammad Rayyan Zaman on Tuesday secured an impressive silver medal in the Under-11 category at the prestigious Doha Qatar International Junior Squash Championship. According to information received here, the eight-year-old Rayyan, who is the grandson of legendary World Squash Champion Qamar Zaman and son of Asian Champion Mansoor Zaman, demonstrated exceptional skill and determination throughout the tournament. In the thrilling final match, he competed against Malaysia's Dylan Sadan, however, lost the fixture 11-9, 11-19, 12-10. The outstanding achievement marks a bright beginning for the young squash prodigy, who is poised to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious family members. "We are incredibly proud of Rayyan's accomplishment," Qamar Zaman told APP. "His hard work and dedication have paid off, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for him."

## Asjad excels IBSF World Snooker C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Asjad Iqbal reaches round of 16 in the IBSF World Snooker Championship 2024 at Doha, Qatar. According to details, in World Qualifier 1 Stage Round 64, Muhammad Asif (Pak) beat Ali Ahmad Yousufi (Afghanistan) 4-0 (62-51, 62-55, 71-07, 67-21). In Round 32, Simon Lichtenberg (Germany) beat Ahsan Ramzan (Pak) 4-1 (93(62)-0, 71-45, 0-84(84), 63-52, 83-0); Asjad Iqbal (Pak) beat Mohammad Soufi (Syria) 4-1 (73(64)-35, 44-67, 67-15, 58-48, 67-09); Jia Jun Ong (Singapore) beat Muhammad Asif (Pak) 4-2 (83-24, 70(70)-0, 0-97(50), 19-82(82), 82-55, 117-10).

## Sinner out of Paris Masters

PARIS (AFP): World number one Jannik Sinner has withdrawn from the Paris Masters indoor event due to an "intestinal virus", the tournament organisers announced on Tuesday. Sinner, assured since mid-October of finishing the year top of the rankings for the first time in his career at the age of 23, has been replaced in the draw by Frenchman Arthur Cazaux, who was drafted in from qualifying. Cazaux will face either his compatriot Corentin Moutet or American Ben Shelton in his second round opener on Tuesday. Organisers said Sinner was "suffering from an intestinal virus contracted before he arrived in Paris". The major objective at the end of his season, the Masters in Turin, which brings together the eight best players of the year, is scheduled for November 10-17. He is then expected to take part in the Davis Cup finals the following week in Malaga, Spain. Italy are the defending champions. Sinner enjoyed a sparkling 2024 season, winning his first two Grand Slam titles, at the Australian Open and the US Open. In all, he has won seven tournaments since the start of the season, including three Masters 1000 titles, in Miami, Cincinnati and Shanghai. However he is under the threat of suspension in a doping case that came to light several weeks ago, following an appeal by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Sinner has a chequered history with the Paris indoor tournament -- a year ago, he withdrew before his second match.

## PCB chief meets Rizwan, Salman ahead of Australia tour

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday, held a meeting with newly-appointed white-ball captain Mohammad Rizwan and his deputy Salman Ali Agha ahead of the national team's tour to Australia. In a meeting that was also attended by PCB COO Salman Naseer, Naqvi wished the captain and vice-captain good luck for the crucial white-ball series against Australia. He expressed his confidence in the players to showcase their talent on the stiff tour before emphasizing team unity key to success. "Leading the white-ball team is an honour," Naqvi said.

"The nation expects a remarkable performance from the team during the Australia and Zimbabwe series. Our players are talented and professional, and I am confident they will showcase their best talent. "Playing as a united team and fighting till the last ball are keys to success. If the team performs as one unit, no one can defeat you."

In response, white-ball captain Mohammad Rizwan and deputy Salman Ali Agha expressed gratitude towards Mohsin Naqvi for entrusting them with the leadership of the national white-ball side. The duo also vowed to make every effort to meet nation's expectations and flair well on tours of Australia and Zimbabwe. "We are determined to perform well during the tours of Australia and Zimbabwe," Rizwan said. "We will make every

effort to meet the nation's expectations," he added. **Pakistan Squad for Australia Tour**

ODI SQUAD: Mohammad Rizwan (c)(wk), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wk), Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Hasnain, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha (vc) and

Shaheen Shah Afridi. T20I SQUAD: Mohammad Rizwan (c)(wk), Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wk), Jahandad Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Omair Bin Yousuf, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Ali Agha (vc), Shaheen Shah Afridi, Sufyan Moqim, Usman Khan.

## "Selection committee to decide Fakhar Zaman's future," says Mohsin Naqvi

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi broke silence on the exclusion of Fakhar Zaman from Pakistan's white-ball squads and central contracts, stating selection committee will decide the batter's future. In a casual interaction with the media in Karachi, the PCB chief asserted that he never intervened in the selection process while addressing the concerns regarding Fakhar's saga.

"I don't interfere in any player's selection. The selection committee will decide whether Fakhar Zaman will be in the team or not," said Naqvi. "I never told [selection committee] to select or drop a certain player," he added.

The PCB, on Sunday, announced the central contracts for the 2024-25 international season, along with the squads for the tours to Australia and Zimbabwe.

However, Fakhar Zaman's name was missing from the central contract list and squads for the upcoming tours. During a press conference in Lahore, a journalist asked the PCB chairman, Mohsin Naqvi, if Fakhar Zaman was left out due to his social media post defending Babar Azam.

In response, Naqvi acknowledged the controversy surrounding Fakhar's social media post, which has been deemed a violation of the central contract.

However, he emphasized that the primary factor leading to Fakhar's exclusion was due to concerns over the batter's fitness.

"There is the tweet issue definitely. But that doesn't matter as much as his fitness tests. He had two issues: the fitness test and the show-cause notice, which is still pending. That is why he hasn't been included (in the central contracts list)," Naqvi said.

## Australia's Wade retires from int'l cricket

SYDNEY (Agencies): Australian wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade has announced his retirement from international cricket.

The 36-year-old will immediately take up a coaching role with the Australia men's team and will be involved in their T20 international series against Pakistan next month.

Wade is set to continue to play in the Big Bash for Hobart Hurricanes and in various T20 global franchise tournaments.

He made 225 international appearances for Australia in all formats - the last of which came in the Super 8s phase of this year's T20 World Cup against India.

"I was fully aware my international days were most likely over at the end of the last T20 World Cup. My international retirement and coaching has



been a constant conversation over the past six months," Wade said.

"Coaching has been on my radar over the last few years and thankfully some great opportunities have come my way, for which I am very grateful and excited." Wade played 92 T20s for Australia and scored 1,202 runs in 68 innings at an average of 26.13.

In one-day internation-

als the left-hander made 1,867 runs in 83 innings at an average of 26.29, hitting one century and 11 half-centuries. Wade also played 36 Tests for Australia, hitting four centuries, and was part of their side for the 2019 Ashes.

As a wicketkeeper he finished with 240 catches and 26 stumpings across all international formats for Australia.

## PJF, affiliated units celebrate World Judo Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Judo Federation (PJF) and its affiliated units celebrated World Judo Day nationwide, honouring the legacy of Jigoro Kano Shihan, the founder of judo, said a press release issued by Pakistan Judo Federation on Tuesday.

Aligned with the International Judo Federation's theme of "Wellbeing," this year's observance highlights a holistic approach to health, extending judo's influence beyond the tatami to enrich all aspects of life.

For over 13 years, the PJF has marked this day to celebrate the sport and the values it instills, emphasizing physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing as essential for quality of life.

The PJF held the 17th Men's and 10th Women's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inter-District Judo Championship at the Lala Rafique Sports Arena under the auspices of the district government and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judo Association. Matiullah Khan, Secretary of Sports and Youth Affairs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the chief guest. He was accompanied by Pir Abdullah Shah, Additional Secretary of Sports and Youth Affairs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Saleem Raza, Director of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sports Directorate.

International athletes Malaika Noor and Muhammad Abbas also attended the event. Malaika recently became the first junior female athlete from Pakistan to compete in an IJF event, while Muhammad Abbas showcased an impressive performance at the Asian Cadet & Junior Championship in Korea. The PJF Secretary General Masood Ahmad, officials and players joined the celebrations embracing the theme of "Wellbeing."

In the Inter-District Championship, various districts from KP participated, including Lakki Marwat, Kohat, Swat, Abbottabad, Mardan, and Peshawar. Abbottabad claimed the women's title with 85 points, followed by Lakki Marwat with 60 points. In the men's category, Khyber District took first place with 93 points, while Peshawar finished second with 87 points.

The chief guest addressed the judokas, wishing them health and success on World Judo Day and congratulating all athletes and coaches. He highlighted that judo transcends physical activity, acting as an international language that bridges national borders, cultural barriers and language differences.

He noted that the judo bow symbolizes mutual

respect and that judo students gain valuable social skills and form meaningful relationships.

In Islamabad, the Islamabad Judo Association (IJA) celebrated the day by organizing an event with school students, who participated in cake cutting and received certificates. South Asian gold medalist Hamid Ali also joined the festivities.

Following PJF's instructions, the Sindh Judo Association held the World Judo Day event at the Gymnasium Hall in Karachi Coaching Centre. Sindh Judo Association Secretary M. Rafique and their judokas participated enthusiastically. The day was celebrated in Sukkur.

The Punjab Judo Association organized celebrations in Gujranwala District, with a large number of male and female judokas taking part. Secretary Punjab Judo Association Qamer Shakeel joined the students in cake cutting.

National champion Pakistan Army team and runner-up Pakistan WAPDA Runner-also marked the occasion with a cake-cutting ceremony. Numerous male and female judokas across the country actively participated in the activities organized by the PJF, learning about the history of judo and embracing its values.



## Naqvi provides an update regarding Champions Trophy preparations

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday, addressed the prospects of hosting the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan.

The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is scheduled to take place in Pakistan from February to March, however, India's participation in the tournament is uncertain as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) seeks the government's approval to visit the country.

But Mohsin Naqvi, in a casual interaction with the media in Karachi, reiterated that all eight teams will visit Pakistan to participate in the ICC event.

"Do not worry, all teams will come to Pakistan to play Champions Trophy," Naqvi told reporters.

The PCB chief also provided a timeframe regarding the upgradation of major stadiums, a crucial task for the cricketing body to host the multi-national tournament.

"The upgradation of stadiums will be completed by December 15," Naqvi said.

Naqvi also broke silence on the exclusion of Fakhar Zaman from Pakistan's white-ball squads and central contracts, stating selection committee will decide the batter's future.

The PCB chief asserted that he never intervened in the selection process while addressing the concerns regarding Fakhar's saga.

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In response, Naqvi acknowledged the controversy surrounding Fakhar's social media post, which has been deemed a violation of the central contract.

However, he emphasized that the primary factor leading to Fakhar's exclusion was due to concerns over the batter's fitness.

## Army grabs 1st position in sr category of Taekwondo C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Army bagged first position in the senior category of the Combaxx 17th Korean Ambassador Cadet and Senior National Taekwondo Championship 2024 here at the Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex.

The event's closing ceremony saw prominent attendees, with Federal Secretary for the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination, Nadeem Irshad Kayani, being the Chief Guest.

The guests of honor included Koo Bong Kim, Patron in Chief, Pakistan Taekwondo Federation; Bilal Riaz Barki, Joint

Secretary, IB; Omar Saeed, CEO, Pakistan Taekwondo Federation; Mrs. Farah Saeed, Executive Member, Pakistan Taekwondo Federation; Murtaza Hassan Bangash, Secretary General, Pakistan Taekwondo Federation; Col (R) Waseem Ahmed Janjua, President, Pakistan Taekwondo Federation.

Waseem Ahmed thanked Combaxx and expressed gratitude to the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) and Korean Ambassador Park Ki Jun for their support. He also commended all participating departments for their competitive spirit. Medals and awards were presented

at the closing ceremony.

In Female -73 kg.Gold: Ariba (HEC); Silver: Memoona (KPK); 3rd Bronze: Rifat (Police); 4th Bronze: Eman Rashid (Army).

In Female +73 kg. Gold: Manisha Ali (HEC); Silver: Nida Fatima (WAPDA); 3rd Bronze: Aiman (Islamabad); 4th Bronze: Pakeeza Khan (KP).

In Male -87 kg. Gold: Ikhtsham ul Haq (Army); Silver: Adnan Bhatti (WAPDA); 3rd Bronze: Farhad Khan (KPK); 4th Bronze: Tayab Hussain (HEC).

In Male +87 kg. Gold: Hamza Saeed (Army);

Silver: Waqar Ali Shah (WAPDA); 3rd Bronze: Yasir Barki (HEC); 4th Bronze: Tariq Khan (KP).

In Tag Team Results, Gold: Army; Silver: PAF; 3rd Bronze: HEC; 4th Bronze: KPK.

In Best Teams Junior Category, 1st Position: Punjab; 2nd Position: KP; 3rd Position: Islamabad.

In Senior Category, 1st Position: Army; 2nd Position: HEC; 3rd Position: WAPDA.

The championship showcased Pakistan's top taekwondo talent, celebrating excellence and sportsmanship on the national stage.

## Rodri wins men's Ballon d'Or as Real Madrid boycott

LONDON (Agencies): Manchester City and Spain midfielder Rodri was awarded the men's Ballon d'Or on Monday after winning a fourth consecutive Premier League title and Euro 2024, but Real Madrid boycotted the ceremony.

The decision to award the prize for the world's best player to the midfielder came as a surprise, with Real Madrid's Liga and Champions League double winner Vinicius Junior widely seen as the favourite.

Hours before the ceremony in Paris, the Spanish club announced its delegation would not attend the ceremony at Chatelet Theatre because of what it perceived as a snub of Vinicius.

Rodri, 28, played a key role as City

held off Arsenal to win the Premier League title last season and was named player of the tournament at Euro 2024 as unfancied Spain emerged triumphant in Germany. Rodri was diplomatic when addressing the question of Real's no-show in his post-award press conference.

"They have their decision, they didn't want to be here for their reasons," he said. "I just focus on my club and my team-mates."

Despite the French organisers insisting that the identity of the winner was a closely-guarded secret this year, the news appeared to have leaked ahead of the festivities.

Barcelona and Spain star Aitana Bonmati earlier won her second suc-

cessive women's Ballon d'Or, after leading her club to a historic continental quadruple of titles and claiming the Nations League with her country.

- Real Madrid no-show -

The drama started hours before the ceremony as Spanish and European champions Real said if Vinicius was not the winner, then the award should go to his teammate Dani Carvajal.

Like the Brazilian, Carvajal scored in the 2-0 victory against Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League final at Wembley.

Vinicius scored 24 goals and made 11 assists in 39 matches across all competitions for Madrid as he led the club to three titles last season.



LAHORE: Traditional wrestlers (Pehalwans) are busy in practicing during a training session at an Akhara (wrestling pit). 'Kushti', the traditional wrestling is one of the most popular games in Pakistan.





## In brief

### ANF seizes over 21 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations managed to recover over 21 kg drugs worth Rs 2.5 million and arrested four accused, said an ANF spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that in an operation, 100 grams hashish and 5 grams weed were recovered from an accused arrested near a university in Rawalpindi. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to students of educational institutions. In other operations, 1210 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Jeddah at Peshawar Airport. 1160 grams ice was recovered from a Doha-bound passenger netted at Islamabad Airport. 19.2 kg hashish was recovered from an accused arrested near National Highway in Hyderabad. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.

### IRSA releases 114,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 114,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 60,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1530.76 feet and was 132.76 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 32,800 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1190.05 feet, which was 140.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 6,300 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 58,700, 48,100, 38,400 and 7,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 11,600 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

### RDA steps up Anti-Dengue efforts

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) has stepped up its efforts to combat dengue, said RDA spokesperson. He informed that former MNA Haji Pervaiz, the Anti-Dengue Coordinator and Vice President of the Pakistan Muslim League-N, Rawalpindi District along with RDA staff members, including Building Inspector, Mukhtar Ahmed, Building Surveyor, Malik Amir Mehmood and others visited various areas and reviewed arrangements to combat dengue. During the visit, different areas including Asghar Mall, Saidpur and Dussehra Ground Schemes, Sherpao Colony, and Millat Colony Rawalpindi were inspected. Haji Pervaiz emphasized the need for increased health awareness, stating, "This visit highlights our collective responsibility to implement effective measures against dengue." He also interacted with the residents and stressed precautionary steps to avoid dengue. He urged that anti-dengue standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the Punjab government should be implemented fully. Punjab government is making efforts to safeguard the citizens and protect the community from this dangerous disease, he added.

# Governor credits President Zardari for stable coalition govt

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that positive criticism was meant for improvement of the government's performance. He credited President Asif Ali Zardari for a stable current coalition government. "Pakistan People's Party always plays its positive role when the country faces challenges of national integrity and dignity", he said and added that the credit goes to President Asif Ali Zardari for present stable coalition government. The governor remarked this during his address at the 8th annual session of Ghulam

Rabbani Qureshi Welfare Foundation (GRQWF) in Kahuta here Tuesday.

He said that education and health were the responsibility of the government, but unfortunately, the past governments did not pay attention to it. He further said that government owned schools should not be privatized. "Where there is a shortage of staff, the government should fill this shortage", he maintained.

Appreciating the dialysis center and the health facility being provided to the poor by the GRQWF in Kahuta, the governor said that people should come ahead to serve the needy

segments of the society. He said that the poor are treated free of cost in Sindh province. He informed the audience that a dialysis center would soon be established at Tehsil Hospital Pindi Gheb, Attock.

A large number of people including former federal minister Mehreen Anwar Raja and former MNA Ghulam Murtaza Sati participated in the ceremony.

The Governor Punjab visited Al-Fateh Women Vocational Free Technical Center, Computer Lab, Laboratory, Free Kidney and Dialysis Center and other departments established in GRQWF.

## Pakistan offers over 4,000 scholarships to Afghan students

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Government of Pakistan is offering scholarships to over 4,000 Afghan students across various fields, including medicine, engineering, agriculture, management and computer science, aiming to build capacity among Afghan youth through quality education.

Speaking at the 47th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), hosted by Pakistan here Tuesday, Member of the National Assembly Sher Ali Arbab said that at least one-third of the scholarships would be reserved for female students.

During a session titled "Situation in Afghanistan: Navigating Justice, Human Rights, and International Accountability," he said that these scholarships aimed to enhance profes-

sional connections between educational institutions in both countries, support human resource development for Afghanistan's reconstruction and promote greater cultural and social integration between the two nations.

He highlighted Pakistan's liberal visa policy for Afghan nationals, which allows Afghan citizens to open bank accounts in Pakistan and obtain driving licenses, further facilitating integration and mutual benefits.

He said that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan aligns with Pakistan's interests, providing Pakistan access to Afghan and Central Asian markets.

Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees, Claudia Cruz Santos of Portugal, praised

the hospitality of the Pakistani people for extending their support to participants.

Zohar Nawrozi and Fawzia Koofi, Members of Parliament from Afghanistan and exiled representatives of the Internal Security Commission, expressed their disappointment over restrictions barring Afghan girls from attending schools.

Christine Chung, Human Rights Officer at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, voiced concerns over human rights violations in Afghanistan.

Dr. Ewelina U Ochab, Senior Program Lawyer at the International Bar Association, lamented the mistreatment and denial of basic rights for Afghan women, calling it a tragic infringement on human dignity and equality.

## Russian delegation visits PNCA; admires art works



ISLAMABAD (APP): A distinguished Russian delegation during its visit to the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Tuesday expressed their admiration for the creativity and cultural depth embodied in the art works of Pakistani artists displayed at different galleries.

The delegation was led by Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, Ms. Valentina Matvienko.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by Director Publications Research and Reference

(PRR), Dr. Bilal Karim, along with PNCA officers, including Designer Visual Arts Division (VAD), Saba Zia, who guided the delegation during a tour of the Council's galleries.

The delegation had the opportunity to experience a diverse array of Pakistani art, particularly showcasing impressive artwork of masters and modern masters.

During this visit, both sides engaged in meaningful discussions on shared interests and potential collaborations in arts and culture, further strengthening the cultural ties between

Pakistan and Russia.

Director PRR, Dr. Bilal Karim, and Designer VAD, Saba Zia, expressed their gratitude for the visit and presented an overview of PNCA's key initiatives and achievements. To commemorate the occasion, PNCA presented the delegation with cultural books as a token of friendship and mutual respect. This visit marks an encouraging step toward cultural exchange and cooperation, and PNCA remains committed to fostering strong artistic connections on an international scale.

## Effective policing, citizen support key to reducing crime: IG

ISLAMABAD (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi presided over important meetings at the Central Police Office, Islamabad, on Tuesday.

During the meetings, IG Rizvi reviewed the performance of all officers and SHOs, instructing them to ensure effective patrolling within their precincts and to combat street crime and other criminal elements, a police spokesperson told APP on Tuesday.

Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi emphasized that each SHO should eradicate criminal elements in their area with the help of the public, and also ensure the arrest of land grabbers and criminals involved in serious offenses, enhance security duties at

important points, and expand the scope of patrolling.

The IG further said that all police vehicles should be on patrol 24/7 within their respective areas. Patrolling should be made more effective and purposeful, and all beat officers should remain present in their beats and stay informed about local issues.

Ali Nasir Rizvi directed the investigation in-charges to form special raiding teams to ensure the arrest of criminal elements.

All SHOs were also directed to ensure their presence at police stations to address citizen grievances effectively, prioritizing complaint resolution at the station level.

He also met with the offi-

cers of the Dolphin Squad and reviewed their performance. He said that Dolphin Squad patrols should be increased throughout the city, and in case of any incident or emergency, Dolphin Squad officers should respond immediately as first responders.

The IG further reiterated that the primary duty of Islamabad Police was to instill a sense of security in every citizen and to protect their lives, property, honor and dignity, for which continuous hard work was essential.

The meetings were attended by SSP Operations Muhammad Arslan Shahzeb, SP Dolphin Iqbal Khan, as well as the zonal SPs and SHOs from all police stations.



ISLAMABAD: A shopkeeper prepares traditional Kashmiri tea, a beloved winter season treat, to attract passerby at Abpara Market in federal capital. —APP Photo

## Holistic regional dialogue critical for effective int'l law regime: Aqeel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Spokesperson of the federal government on legal affairs, Member National Assembly (MNA), Barrister Aqeel Malik on Tuesday emphasized upon the urgent need of a holistic regional dialogue for ensuring effective international law regime amid rapidly evolving global world order.

In his keynote address at the 45th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) hosted by Pakistan, the government's legal advisor highlighted the need to bring moderation to the existing legal and judicial systems across the globe for ensuring impartial justice.

Barrister Aqeel Malik in his special remarks during the session titled Future Opportunities for International Criminal Justice said that amid a multi-polar world the alleged accusation pertaining of biases and dual standards in the international legal systems were a matter of serious concern that developed a perception of selective enforcement of laws and prejudices among the developing nations facing conflicts, climate and humanitarian crises.

He added that the member countries to the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court (ICC) should have to align their domestic laws as per the global legal framework, and mull over instruments to adapt the Rome Statute.

Barrister Malik recommended the PGA forum to initiate a confidence building measure by amending the Rome Statute and convince the countries abstaining to ratify it to accede to the jurisdiction of the ICC. "Pakistan has always supported independent, powerful, fair and inclusive international forums that are free from double standards that proved to be meaningful in functioning global justice," he said.

Chair of PGA Cameroon National Group, Oliver Bamenju Agho said there was need of a robust mechanism to counter serious international crimes like human trafficking and violence. He added that accountability, strengthening of legal frameworks and institutions was crucial to control impunity alongwith improved investigation mechanisms to cope with international crimes. Chair, PGA

National Group, Canada, Ali Ehsassi said the international criminal justice reminds of ensuring accountability and upholding human rights.

He said in the shifting global dynamics the international criminal justice framework was significant in guiding the nations for a peaceful world. Associate Legal Officer, Trust Fund for Victims at the ICC, Cheikh Fall said the conflict victims across the globe are the same as the share the same pains, tragedies and crises.

PGA member from Zimbabwe, Consilia Chinanzavavana said the international criminal justice was dependent on the willingness of the independent governments to ensure accountability against war crimes, forced disappearances and violence.

The international criminal justice was a critical pillar ensuring accountability, upholding rule of law and human rights, she said, adding, "Ecocide should also be made part of the Rome Statute as fight crime against humanity to contain destruction of environment and strengthen international environmental conventions."

## Rubina condemns attack on anti-polio team

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Tuesday strongly condemned the attack on the anti-polio team in Upper Orakzai.

In a statement, Rubina Khalid acknowledged that great effort and sacrifices had been made to eradicate polio in Pakistan.

"Those who attack the anti-polio team are national criminals," she added.

Rubina Khalid extended her heartfelt condolences to the family of the police officer martyred in the shooting and stressed that there should be no negligence in the immediate treatment of the injured officer.

"Those involved in this unfortunate incident should be arrested and punished as soon as possible", she said.

Rubina Khalid emphasized that the anti-polio team should be provided with complete government support and security arrangements to continue their work without any hindrance.

"The entire nation values the services and sacrifices of the anti-polio team in making Pakistan free of this disease," she said.

## Rashidi calls for sexual violence to be recognized as war crimes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Mahtab Akbar Rashidi, on Tuesday, urged the global community to recognize sexual and gender-based violence as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Speaking on the second day of the 45th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action at the 13th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law, titled "Pursuing Justice for International Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes," Rashidi expressed concern over the insufficient attention given to these issues, which she deemed critical violations of international norms.

She emphasized the need for global multilateral forums such as the UN, UNSC, and PGA to foster consensus among nations on this urgent matter. This, she argued, is vital for ensuring human rights, holding violators accountable, and supporting victims.

Despite the international community's clear stance

against sexual and gender-based violence, Rashidi called for a comprehensive response from nations worldwide. She highlighted the importance of ratifying international frameworks to ensure accountability for perpetrators of such violence.

Additionally, she urged member countries to allocate financial resources to enable the International Criminal Court to operate effectively and deliver swift justice. The session was moderated by Fatoumatta Nijai, Chairperson of the National Assembly Committee on Gender, Children, and Welfare in Gambia and a PGA member.

Roseby Gadama, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Women's Caucus in Malawi and a PGA member, advocated for multi-sectoral approaches and comprehensive strategies to prevent sexual and gender-based violence. She also stressed the importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation to share experiences and best practices in tackling this critical issue.

## Missing child reunited with his family

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Bhara Kahu police station team reunited a missing boy with his parents on Tuesday. A public relations officer told APP that a citizen, Salim Khan, submitted a report at Bhara Kahu police station, stating that his son, Tariq Shah, had been missing from Biji Dan Kot Hathial, Bhara Kahu, and could not be traced despite hectic efforts by family members.

He said Upon receiving the application, the police team registered a case and immediately started the investigation. Under the direction of SHO Bhara Kahu, the police team employed all their skills, utilizing both technical and human resources to locate the missing boy, Tariq Shah, and successfully reunited him safely with his family.

The public relations officer emphasized that children are a valuable asset to society and urged parents to exercise greater care in ensuring their safety. The parents appreciated the police team's efforts, especially the SHO, and thanked the Islamabad Capital Police for their immediate assistance. Citizens are urged to dial the emergency helpline "Pucar-15" or report via the "ICT-15 app."



ISLAMABAD: A street vendor wanders the roads, selling handicraft items from his bicycle to earn livelihood in the federal capital. —APP Photo



### Kandahar's pomegranates

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has announced the successful export of Afghanistan's first shipment of pomegranates to Kazakhstan. A consignment of 23 tons of pomegranates from Kandahar was shipped via the Torgundi border, marking a significant milestone in Afghan agricultural exports to Central Asia. One of the exporters highlighted that this is the first time Kandahar's pomegranates have reached the Kazakh market.

### Minister set to attend summit

KABUL (BNA): Mawlawi Sadr Azam Osmani, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, has traveled to China to participate in a global summit focused on agricultural development and poverty alleviation. According to a statement from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, Mawlawi Osmani is attending this prominent international event in Beijing, which brings together around 300 agricultural officials from various countries.

## Airtour begins direct flights to Afghanistan

KABUL (TOLONews): Iran Airtour Airline has begun flights to Afghanistan for the first time.

Iran Airtour Begins Direct Flights to Afghanistan. Iran Airtour has been operational for over fifty years and is scheduled to operate two weekly flights from two cities in Iran to Kabul.

Mohammad Reza Saberi, the Iran Airtour official, said: "The presence of Iran Airtour planes in Afghanistan today is the result of two and a half years of effort that we have undertaken."

Officials from the Ministry of Transport and Aviation and the director of Kabul Airport have said that they are working to

provide all facilities at Kabul Airport for international flights.

Ghulam Jelani Wafa, Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Transportation and Civil Aviation (MTCA), told TOLONews, "We are fully prepared to meet the conditions and standards of international airport services and to serve them. We aim to consistently operate in line with the principles of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and international standards."

Abdul Hadi Mohammad, the director of Kabul Airport, said: "We assure you that we will make every effort to ensure flights are conducted securely and safely. This is the tenth airline operating flights

from Kabul Airport."

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior has also pledged that Afghanistan's airspace is currently secure for flights.

Abdul Matin Qane, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior, said, "We assure from this platform that Afghanistan's airspace is now secure for flights. The security provided is unprecedented in recent decades, which is why international airlines are operating flights from Afghanistan today."

This comes as, over the past year, international airlines including Turkish Airlines, Air Arabia, and Fly Dubai have also resumed flights to Afghanistan.

## Kabir pledges support for religious education

PANJSHIR (BNA): Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, held a meeting with teachers of the Noor al-Madaris Mata Hashemiyya school in Hissa-i-Awal district of Panjshir Province.

According to a statement from the ARG, religious scholars and several local elders from Panjshir were also present at the meeting. During the discussions, the teachers expressed pride in the establishment of an Islamic government, viewing it as a historic achievement for the Afghan people. They thanked the authorities for their ongoing support, emphasizing the strong cooperation between the local community and the Islamic Emirate.

Community leaders and religious figures highlighted various challenges faced by Noor al-Madaris Mata Hashemiyya and acknowledged the allocation of funds by the Islamic Emirate to religious schools, which has provided essential resources for students.

Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, appreciated the opportunity to meet with the local community and reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing the concerns of the people of Panjshir. He assured the attendees that measures would be taken to resolve the issues faced by the school and to ensure the provision of necessary facilities.

Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) also emphasized that every Afghan citizen can approach the Islamic Emirate to seek solutions to their challenges.

## Karzai praises BRICS stance on Afghanistan

KABUL (Ariana News): Hamid Karzai, former President of Afghanistan, expressed support for the recent position taken by the BRICS group on Afghanistan during a meeting with Dmitry Zhironov, the Russian ambassador to Kabul.

In a statement released by Karzai's office, the former president conveyed his appreciation for Russia's role within the framework of the "Moscow Format" and BRICS meetings. Karzai noted that the BRICS declaration, which advocates for an independent, united, and peaceful Afghanistan, was especially praiseworthy for its emphasis on restoring the fundamental rights of Afghans.

"The BRICS statement, which supports an independent, united, and peaceful Afghanistan, and underscores the restoration of fundamental Afghan rights, is commendable," Hamid Karzai said.

He stressed that the focus on restoring rights for all Afghans, as emphasized by BRICS leaders, including women, girls, and ethnic groups, was a critical and welcome stance.

Hamid Karzai, former President of Afghanistan, also reiterated that achieving long-term peace and stability requires "national understanding" among all parties in Afghanistan.

During their 16th summit, held on October 24 in Kazan, Russia, and BRICS leaders, called for securing the basic rights of Afghan citizens.

They urged the Islamic Emirate to reopen schools and universities for girls and advocated for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing situation in Afghanistan.

The summit in Kazan brought together representatives from 36 countries and six international organizations.

## Construction of cement factory in Jawzjan: IEA signs contract with Turkish company



KABUL (Ariana News): The Islamic Emirate on Tuesday signed a multi-million dollar contract with Turkish 77 Company for a new cement factory in the Yatim Taq area of Jawzjan Province in northern Afghanistan.

The contract was signed in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister for Economic

Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund.

Turkish 77 Company will invest \$163 million in the factory, which will have a daily output of 3,000 tons of cement once completed.

Also in attendance on Tuesday were officials from the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum who stated that the contract, which

allows the Turkish company to explore, extract, produce cement, and deliver social services, is valid for 30 years.

The establishment of this cement production plant will directly create around 1,200 jobs for local citizens.

In addition to the signing of this contract, the min-

istry also inked contracts worth \$476 million with several domestic and foreign companies for cement projects in Jabal al-Saraj, Kandahar, and Herat.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has said this is in line with their aim of propelling the country towards self-sufficiency in the cement sector.

## NDMA and Islamic Welfare Organization sign MoU

KABUL (BNA): Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, Acting Director of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), signed a mutual cooperation agreement with Ahmad Shah Wafa, Acting Head of the Islamic Welfare Organization, along with Rahmatullah Khogyani, Program Officer, and accompanying officials.

He urged the Islamic

Welfare Organization to tailor their aid to meet the specific needs of affected communities and distribute assistance accordingly. He also requested expedited assistance for 300 displaced families in Ghor Province, who were recently impacted by severe flooding.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Shah Wafa highlighted that the Islamic Welfare

Organization has been actively involved in various forms of humanitarian assistance, including providing monetary, food, and non-food aid to families affected by crises. He confirmed the organization's commitment to continued support for flood victims, refugees, and disaster-affected communities across Afghanistan.

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## IE seeks foreign embassies' relocation to Kabul from Doha

KABUL (TOLONews): The head of the Islamic Emirate's political office in Qatar, Suhail Shaheen, said that this office is working to persuade countries to transfer their embassies from Doha to Kabul.

Shaheen told TOLONews that foreign diplomats in Qatar are consistently requested to travel to Kabul and discuss this matter with the senior officials of the Islamic Emirate.

The head of the political office of the Islamic Emirate in Qatar said: "There is always an effort to have all countries move their embassies to Kabul or to see the reality with their own eyes and meet our leaders in person."

The head of the Islamic Emirate's political office in Qatar, Suhail Shaheen, speaking about the recent appointment of Italy's new ambassador to Afghanistan, also mentioned

that he regularly met with Italy's former chargé d'affaires to discuss the relations between the two countries and Italy's assistance in the health sector and economic projects. According to Shaheen, such discussions will continue with the new Italian ambassador as well.

The head of the Islamic Emirate's political office in Qatar, Suhail Shaheen said, "We had regular meetings with Italy's previous chargé d'affaires for Afghanistan, where we discussed Afghanistan-Italy relations and Italy's assistance to Afghanistan, especially in health and economic projects."

Meanwhile, some political analysts say that to reopen Western embassies in Kabul, certain demands of these countries need to be considered.

Salim Paigir, an economic analyst, told TOLONews: "The legitimate



demands of Western and Eastern embassies should be accepted, including the rule of law in the system, issues concerning schools and universities, and the employment of women, so that they may come and reopen their embassies within Afghanistan."

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced last week that Sabrina Ugolini has been appointed as the country's ambassador to Afghanistan, who will operate from Qatar.

## Student builds smartphone controlled farming machine

JAWZJAN (TOLONews): A student in Jawzjan province has successfully built a farming machine with basic resources that can be controlled via smartphone.

This machine can assess weather conditions, identify fertile land, irrigate, and fertilize agricultural fields.

Alugh Beg, an 11th-grade student, displayed this device at a festival held by his school. He mentioned that building the farming machine cost 10,000 Afghanis, and he has more ideas he could bring to life if supported.

Alugh Beg told TOLONews, "We built this project with 10,000 afghani, and if we receive support, we could adapt it for hundreds of thousands of lands in a smart way."

Haseebullah, another student, said, "Science festivals are an opportunity for every student to showcase their talent." Ahmad Siyar, another student, said: "We want more of such events to enhance students' abilities."

Meanwhile, officials from Afghan-Turk Boys' School in Sheberghan, said: "More than 40 scientific projects were displayed at today's festival by around 150 students from our



School said they organized this science festival to encourage creative and innovative students. They said that 150 students presented 60 of their projects at the festival.

Emre Gorbuz, principal of Afghan-Turk Boys' School in Sheberghan, said: "More than 40 scientific projects were displayed at today's festival by around 150 students from our

school. The annual science festival, held by the Turkish Maarif Foundation in Afghanistan, also features projects from Afghan-Turk schools across Afghanistan in Kabul."

Local officials in Jawzjan expressed their support for innovative and creative youth in all fields. Saifuddin Moatasim, head of Jawzjan's Information and Culture

Department, said: "Our support for such youth is at a high level. We've listened to them and provided the tools they need."

In recent months, various exhibitions showcasing young people's handmade creations have been held in different provinces, with caretaker government officials promising continued support and facilities for them.

## Retirees protest in Kabul over unpaid pensions



KABUL (TOLONews): Several retirees once again held a protest gathering in front of the United Nations office in Kabul, protesting the non-payment of their pensions.

They called on the UNAMA office to act regarding the payment of retirees' pensions.

Abdul Hakim, a retiree, said: "We came here to appeal to the United Nations. If the United Nations supports us and wants us to stand on our

own feet, they must pay our pensions."

Abdul Mohammad, another retiree, said: "We have spent everything we had, we have nothing left; only a single mattress remains in our home."

Some other retirees added that they have repeatedly approached the Ministry of Finance and the Pension Fund for the payment of their pensions, but they have yet to receive a clear response.

Ghulam Ehsan Andish, a

retiree, said: "We gathered here because it's been over three years since the retirees' pensions were frozen, and they still haven't been paid to us."

Although the Islamic Emirate has not recently commented on the payment of pensions, a spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate previously said that in the 1403 fiscal year budget, efforts were made to consider the needs of all groups entitled to funds within the budget.

## IOM creates over 2,000 jobs in Afghanistan

KABUL (TOLONews): The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has announced that it created over 2,000 job opportunities in Afghanistan from January 2024 to September of this year. The organization also said: "We support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with capital, equipment, and training to increase employment for displaced people, returnees, youth, and women."

"In Afghanistan, small

projects should be implemented in various sectors so that our brothers and sisters who are at home or unemployed can undertake small tasks to advance their work," said Shams-Ur-Rahman Ahmadzai, an economic analyst.

Meanwhile, some women entrepreneurs have told TOLONews that to improve family economic stability, it is essential to support women entrepreneurs in various fields. Mumtaz

Yousafzai, a businesswoman, told a TOLONews reporter, "We need women to make progress, and the institutions and donors who have come to Afghanistan must support and assist women and cooperate with the people in this regard."

Ministry of Economy said that to boost economic growth and reduce unemployment in the long term, aid organizations should focus on projects that can create more job opportunities.

## 40M afs fiber-optic project launches in Sar-e-Pol



SAR-E-POL (TOLONews): The fiber-optic project, with a budget of 40 million afghani, has commenced in Sar-e-Pol province and is expected to be completed within the next five months.

The head of Afghan Telecom in the northern zone said that this project spans 54 kilometers, making Sar-e-Pol the 27th province to gain access to fiber-optic services.

Mohammad Naseem Nazari, head of Afghan Telecom in the northern zone, said, "This project extends 54 kilometers from Jawzjan to Sar-e-Pol, funded by Afghan Telecom

Emirati Company. This is a key infrastructure for the company, connecting 26 provinces so far."

Wali Mohammad Sarwari, Afghan Telecom's representative in Jawzjan, said: "We offer 50 GB of internet at a cost of 600 afghani. Our sites in districts are active, and work on sites in Jawzjan is ongoing."

Noor Ahmad, a representative of the contracting company, said, "In this area, we have employed all personnel and machinery locally. Around 2,000 people, directly and indirectly, will be engaged in this

project." Some residents of Sar-e-Pol emphasized the importance of expanding internet services in remote areas of the country and called on the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology to improve quality and reduce internet costs.

Wali Mohammad, a resident of Sar-e-Pol, said, "Previously, prices were high. It would be good if it became cheaper and stronger. We want it to improve further; it's a great convenience."

Zabihullah, another resident of Sar-e-Pol, said, "Internet speed is increasing, costs are decreasing, and its efficiency is improving. Now, everyone can access it. With lower rates, we can easily access social media and use it for the needs we have."

Previously, residents of certain districts and remote areas of the country had expressed concerns about lack of access to telecommunications and internet services and urged officials to resolve this issue.



# Opp decries worsening law, order situation in KP

## Lawmakers demand to convene All Parties Conference

PESHAWAR (APP): Opposition parties in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly demanded to convene All Parties Conference (APC) to ponder over the deteriorating law and order situation in merged areas and to address feelings of insecurity among people.

The proceedings of the day were presided over by Muhammad Idrees of Panel of Chairman. Opposition benches demanded convening of APC to deliberate over law and order situation while treasury benches stressed to form a full house committee to assess the situation. Parliamentary leader of Awami National Party, Arbab Usman said that incidents of insurgency have been increased in merged districts during last two months and writ of government was being challenged time and time again. He suggested meeting of APC and a visit of parliamentarians to meet members of affected families and express solidarity with them.

He also questioned delay in investigation of attack on Bara Check Post and said that compensation amount should be paid to heirs of martyred. Ahmad Kundi of PPP said that insurgency was not confined to District Khyber but whole province is affected by these incidents. He said that people living in areas from Chitral to Waziristan are faced with insecurity and declining law and order situation adding that courts are being shifted from Tank to D I Khan due to worsening situation of law and order.

Ali Hadi said that civilians were

being targeted in Kurram while the perpetrators are still at large. He said that those who killed teachers and labors in Tri Mengal and doctors in Sadda Bazar are not been arrested added that it is the responsibility of provincial government to secure roads and maintain law and order in Kurram.

He said that roads in Kurram district are closed for the last eighteen days and innocent children are dying due to closure of main roads. Provincial Minister, Sohail Afridi said that law and order is unsatisfactory in merged districts for the last two decades due to wrong decisions of concerned authorities. He highlighted the efforts of provincial government to maintain peace and underscored the need of adopting a joint strategy to deal with the situation. He said that all the political entities of the province should raise voice to stop fighting suggesting a full house committee to deliberate over the situation.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly with panel Chairman Muhammad Idress Khan also passed the KP Districts Advisory Committee Amendment Bill 2024. The bill pertaining to giving DDAC Chairmanship to Members National Assembly was approved by majority members of the Assembly.

The bill was presented by Provincial Minister Arshad Ayub. The KP Assembly also passed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Govt Rest Houses Tourism Properties (Development, Management and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2024.

The bill was aimed for better utilization of the Govt rest houses for facilitation of tourists.

The Assembly with panel chairman Muhammad Idress in Chair demanded formation of a Select Committee to investigate the firing incident at Industrial Estate Hayatabad Peshawar.

On a point of order in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Ahmad Kundi said that the fire was yet to be fully extinguished and a select committee of the house should be formed to probe the incident so that culprits could be awarded exemplary punishment. Provincial Minister Abdul Karim said that KP Chief Minister has already ordered an inquiry and another committee would be waste of time. Ahmed Kundi claimed that the losses of incident could have been averted if the fire brigades and Rescue 1122 official were not used for politicking purposes during PTI protest at Islamabad.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly also passed a resolution demanding implementation of the Murree Accord for resolution of dispute between two warring tribes of Kurrum district. The resolution moved by member Provincial Assembly Muhammad Riaz was unanimously passed by the Assembly. The house through the resolution has urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government to take concrete measures for implementation of the Murree Agreement for maintaining peace between the warring tribes.



RAWALPINDI: Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin, Deputy Minister of Defence of Russian Federation, called on General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff at the General Headquarters.

## Red notice for Moonis sent to Interpol

### E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has sent a red notice request to Interpol to secure the arrest of Moonis Elahi from abroad in a money laundering case.

Special Central Court Lahore Judge Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh heard the money laundering case against Moonis Elahi, Ch Pervaiz Elahi, Zara Elahi and the other nine accused. FIA informed the court about the red notice submission to Interpol. The court issued written orders summoning Pervaiz Elahi to appear on November 5 in the case, warning of serious consequences in case of non-compliance.

Additionally, non-bailable arrest warrants were issued for Moonis Elahi's co-accused, Sagheer Abbas while the court granted Zara Elahi's request for permanent exemption from appearance and issued written orders from the last hearing. In Tuesday's proceedings, FIA requested an extension in the confiscation period of assets belonging to Moonis Elahi and nine other proclaimed offenders. The court directed FIA to submit a detailed report on the matter and summoned the FIA Assistant Director in person at the next hearing.

FIA has already filed a challan (formal charge sheet) against former Punjab Assembly speaker Pervaiz Elahi, his son Moonis Elahi, and other accused in this money laundering case. On January 30, 2024, FIA sent a letter to Interpol seeking red warrants against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Moonis Elahi, who is accused of money laundering and corruption.

Previously, the court had issued a perpetual arrest warrant against Moonis Elahi after declaring him a proclaimed offender due to his repeated failure to respond to notices from the court and FIA.

## Relief items dispatched for Palestine

### E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: On the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) continues to provide humanitarian aid to the affected people of Palestine (Gaza) and Lebanon.

On Tuesday, the 17th consignment of aid was dispatched from Karachi to Lebanon. This aid shipment, sent by NDMA in collaboration with Al-Khidmat Foundation, comprised approximately 17 tons of supplies, including tents, food tins, dry milk, rice, clothes, hygiene kits and medicines.

According to an official statement issued here, the aid was dispatched via chartered flight from Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, to Beirut, Lebanon. The send-off ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport was attended by Dr Farooq Sattar, Member National Assembly, representatives from NDMA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Al-Khidmat Foundation.

Dr Farooq Sattar emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected populations of Palestine (Gaza) and Lebanon, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities. He reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting the brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration by welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts.

# PHC grants protective bail to Bushra Bibi

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Shakeel Ahmad and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah granted protective bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman wife Bushra Bibi for 14 days as well as ordered submission of record of cases registered against her, on Tuesday.

The counsel informed PHC that Bushra Bibi is nominated in several cases in different premises and fear her arrest during travelling. She had obtained bail in several cases while recently Islamabad High Court ordered her release on security bonds of Rs1 million in Toshakhana case.

Meanwhile, PTI leader and Member National Assembly Sheikh Waqas Akram has approached Peshawar High Court seeking protective bail and details of cases registered against him. Sheikh Waqas has filed two separate petitions through Advocate Alam Khan Adeenzai making the federal government, Punjab government and

Islamabad administration as respondents in the case.

In the protective bail petition, Sheikh Waqas Akram prayed that four cases have been registered against him in Faisalabad and other parts of Punjab. He wants to appear in courts but fears arrest, hence seeking protective bail to ensure his safety.

In the second petition seeking case details, Sheikh Waqas Akram, being MNA and senior party leader, maintains that cases have been registered against him in various districts of Punjab. While he is aware of four cases, he lacks information about other cases. Therefore, he requests the court to direct relevant parties to provide details of all registered cases and grant protective bail, enabling him to surrender before the concerned courts.

**Enforced disappear persons to be recover after withdrawal of writ: PHC told:** The Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) has disposed of a habeas corpus petition regarding the recovery of four missing members of the Alkuzai family from Hayatabad, Peshawar after

the petitioners withdrew their case, on Tuesday.

The counsel Muhammad Nader Shah advocate informed the court that they wished to withdraw the petition. He stated that the petitioner has been informed that the enforced disappear persons would be safely recovered after withdrawal of writ petition.

Therefore, they requested the court to allow the withdrawal. PHC accepted the request and disposed of the petition. It is worthy to mention that eight months ago, four members of the Alkuzai family were allegedly taken from their residence in Hayatabad. The family filed a habeas corpus petition in the Peshawar High Court, claiming that police personnel had detained their family members.

The petitioners presented CCTV footage showing local SHO present at the scene. However, police denied involvement, and security agencies claimed ignorance. PHC formed an investigation team and directed police to investigate. Despite this, the family refused to record their statements.

# ADB approves \$500m loan for Pakistan

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$500 million policy-based loan to support climate change and disaster risk reduction and resilience in Pakistan.

The Climate and Disaster Resilience Enhancement Programme (CDREP) will strengthen Pakistan's institutional capacity for planning, preparedness, and response; increase inclusive investment in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience; and support the scale-up of disaster risk financing using a risk-layered approach, according to the ADB press release received on Tuesday.

Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and disasters triggered by natural hazards in Asia and the Pacific. Average losses from disaster events exceed \$2 billion per year. Women and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by climate change and disaster events.

"This programme builds

on the ADB's longstanding work in Pakistan to understand and reduce climate and disaster risks and support effective disaster response," ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov said. "We are proud to support an integrated and comprehensive approach to climate and disaster risk management, including a portfolio of disaster risk financing instruments for timely and adequate funding for disaster response," Zhukov added. The CDREP supports enhanced capacity for disaster risk mapping and modelling for investment and development decisions.

It enhances coordination for disaster monitoring and response. It also supports enhanced planning and prioritisation of gender-sensitive and resilient public investments, including integrated flood risk management and nature-based solutions. The programme supports mobilisation of climate finance from public and private sources.

This includes the

issuance of a domestic green sukuk (Islamic bond). A key innovation of the CDREP is the use of the ADB's Contingent Disaster Financing option for the first time in the Central and West Asia region. This will provide quick disbursing budget support in the event of a disaster.

It will support establishing a solidarity fund to facilitate the uptake of risk transfer solutions such as agriculture insurance besides supporting shock-responsive social protection to deliver cash assistance in the event of a disaster. The ADB has also approved a technical assistance grant of \$1 million to support the implementation of the programme. Pakistan was a founding member of the ADB. Since 1966, the ADB has committed over \$52 billion in public and private sector loans, grants, and other forms of financing to promote inclusive economic growth in Pakistan and improve the country's infrastructure, energy and food security, transport networks, and social services.

# Imaan Mazari, husband sent on physical remand

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday approved a three-day physical remand of prominent lawyer and human rights activist Imaan Mazari and her husband, handing over the couple to the police in a case pertaining to alleged interference in government operations.

The couple was presented before ATC Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain on Tuesday following their arrest by Islamabad police a day earlier in a case registered at Aabpara Police Station. The FIR includes Sections 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of the offence committed in prosecution of common object) and 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) along with Section 7 (punishment for acts of terrorism) of the Anti-

Terrorism Act (ATA).

Furthermore, the FIR filed on the complaint of Sub-Inspector Tanveer Athar, also includes PPC's Sections 506(ii) (punishment for criminal intimidation) and 120B (punishment for criminal conspiracy). It states that a route was fixed for international teams' — which enjoy the status of a state guest so as to protect them against any terror attacks — commute at Faisal Avenue when Imaan removed the barriers and provoked the people there.

The suspect, it adds, called for the barrier to be removed and started shouting when another lawyer — her husband Abdul Hadi, — also arrived at the scene and started hurling threats towards the police. Imaan's husband abused and slapped a policeman, reads the FIR.

During the hearing today prosecutor Raja Naveed requested the court to grant 30-day remand of the suspects. Underscoring the significance of international

teams' visits, the official said that the police tried to stop the suspects who repeated their illegal actions and breached the security.

Imaan and Hadi threatened the security of international teams, remarked the prosecutor while noting that two individuals accompanying the couple were also to be arrested. He also pointed out that it was necessary to have the video be forensically analysed. The court then approved a three-day physical remand of the suspects who were handed over to the police.

The couple's arrest, termed state fascism by Imaan's mother and former minister Shireen Mazari, has been condemned by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP). Lamenting their arrest on "vague charges of creating a security risk", the HRCP said that both were "well-respected human rights defenders whose arbitrary arrest is symptomatic of the rapidly shrinking space for activists in Pakistan".

# Body examines legal allotments and housing development initiatives

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Housing and Works, chaired by Senator Nasir Mehmood, convened today at Parliament House. During the meeting, the issue of revocation of allotment of house of a Senate employee's widow, who has been without support since September 2023, was raised.

The allotment granted to her late husband was revoked without legal justification. The Director General of the Estate Office noted that, under the law, the widow is entitled to retain the residence until the employee's retirement, although she would need to join the general waiting list according to legal requirements.

He emphasized that the actions taken were based on legal stipulations rather than personal preferences. Supporting the complainant (widow), the Committee Chairman proposed forming a two-member subcommittee to resolve the matter, asserting that the widow should maintain possession of the allotment.

Furthermore, it was reported that Pak PWD is in the process of transferring 138 projects to provincial governments, with 27 already handed

## Iran moves to triple mily budget

TEHRAN (AFP): Iran's government has proposed to triple its military budget, its spokeswoman said Tuesday, as tensions with arch-rival Israel rise following recent tit-for-tat missile strikes.

Government spokeswoman Fatemeh MoHajjerani outlined the move that would see "a significant increase of more than 200 percent in the country's military budget" at a news conference in Tehran. She did not elaborate and Tehran has not disclosed any figures, but according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute think tank, Iran's military spending in 2023 was about \$10.3 billion.

The proposed budget will be debated, with lawmakers expected to finalize it in March. Iran and Israel on Monday accused each other of endangering Middle East peace in a heated exchange at a UN meeting. It came days after Israel carried out strikes on Iran in response to an October 1 missile barrage that the Islamic republic launched against Israel.

The Iranian army reported four soldiers killed and damage to "radar systems." Iran's October 1 strike, involving 200 missiles, was in retaliation for attacks that killed the leaders of the Iran-backed groups Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as one of its own commanders.

"All efforts have been made to meet the country's defense needs and special attention has been paid to this issue," the government spokeswoman MoHajjerani said. The regional tensions flared after Israel launched a military offensive in the Gaza Strip to eliminate the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas in response to the unprecedented October 7, 2023 attacks on Israel. Since last month, Israel has also been battling Lebanon's Hezbollah movement.

## Israeli strikes kill more than 150 in Gaza, Lebanon

GAZA, BEIRUT: More than 150 people are reported to have been killed in Israel's latest attacks in northern Gaza and Lebanon. At least 93 Palestinians were killed when an Israeli attack flattened a five-storey residential building housing displaced people in northern Gaza's Beit Lahiya on Tuesday, the head of Gaza's Government Media Office said. Overnight, at least 60 people were killed in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Israel carried out the attacks as the humanitarian situation in both Gaza and Lebanon deteriorates. Conditions in northern Gaza, which has been under an Israeli siege since early October, are particularly harsh. Despite the high death toll and worsening plight of those still living in northern Gaza, ceasefire talks that have resumed in Qatar are not expected to achieve a breakthrough while Israel has moved to halt the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which is the main lifeline for most of Gaza's 2.3 million people.

## Hezbollah elects Naim Qassem to succeed slain head Nasrallah

BEIRUT (Reuters): Lebanon's armed group Hezbollah said on Tuesday it had elected deputy head Naim Qassem to succeed Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in an Israeli air attack on Beirut's southern suburb over a month ago.

The group said in a written statement that its Shoura Council had elected Qassem, 71, in accordance with its established mechanism for

choosing a secretary general. He was appointed as Hezbollah's deputy chief in 1991 by the armed group's then-secretary general Abbas Al-Musawi, who was killed by an Israeli helicopter attack the following year.

Qassem remained in his role when Nasrallah became leader, and has long been one of Hezbollah's leading spokesmen, conducting interviews with foreign media, including as cross-border

hostilities with Israel raged over the last year. Nasrallah was killed on Sept. 27, and senior Hezbollah figure Hashem Safieddine — considered the most likely successor — was killed in Israeli strikes a week later. Since Nasrallah's killing, Qassem has given three televised addresses, including one on Oct. 8 in which he said the armed group supported efforts to reach a ceasefire for Lebanon.