

Show-cause to jail authorities  
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Terrorism Court Islamabad on Thursday issued show-cause notice to Adiala jail authorities for not ensuring PTI founder Imran Khan's attendance through video link in Azadi March case hearing. ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra heard Azadi March vandalism case. Advocates Amina Ali, Murtaza Turi and others requested exemption from hearing.



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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif exchanging views with Prime Minister of Malaysia YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

## SC accepts review on Article 63-A

— gives immunity to dissident votes

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court Thursday accepted the review petitions against the decision on Article 63-A, annulling the ruling that dissident members' votes should not be counted.

A five-member larger bench, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, heard the review appeal on Article 63-A. The bench announced the short order after hearing arguments of the parties. The court "unanimously" declared that the vote of dissenting members would be counted [in case of no-confidence motion].

It may be recalled that through its May 17, 2022 verdict, the SC had declared that the vote cast contrary to the parliamentary party lines under Article 63-A should not be counted. The penalty for violating Article 63-A was disqualification of the defecting lawmaker. Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) counsel Barrister Ali Zafar boycotted the hearing of the review plea in Articles 63-A case after an exchange of word with Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa.

As Barrister Zafar refused to further advance arguments in case of not allowing his client - PTI founder Imran Khan - to present his submissions in court, the chief justice appointed Zafar judicial assistant in the case. As the proceedings began, Barrister Ali quoted the PTI founder as saying the bench is not legal so there is no point in proceeding.

The PTI founder's assertion irritated the CJP who asked Zafar not to mention his leader. Barrister Ali retorted that the government was bringing about constitutional amendment and judicial package for you. "If you decide this case, it will be tantamount to grant permission for horse trading," he said.

At this point, the CJP warned him against "crossing the line". "We can issue you a contempt of court notice. You are committing insult before the verdict." "You are insulting [us] before the judgement. We cannot allow such rhetoric," the CJP remarked. Justice Jamal Mandokhail questioned him how he can say we are allowing horse trading.

Chief Justice Isa said that "we respect you, you should respect us. Your statement

is harsh. If we explain what is horse trading, you will be embarrassed." Justice Mandokhail asked him if the presidential reference is not a decision, but an opinion, then how is it being implemented. Did the president say that the opinion has come, now topple a government?

The chief justice reminded him what Hasil Bizenjo said about a Senate election. "Cameras were installed in an institution like the Senate during the election, Mr Ali Zafar, why are you afraid of a decision." The chief justice asked him to argue the case. It's possible we reject this revision petition.

Ali Zafar pleaded that the president had asked for an opinion regarding 63-A. A review cannot be filed against opinion. Only the President of Pakistan could have referred if further clarification was required. The CJP asked him that he has also filed an application in this case. Barrister Ali replied that he had sought a lifetime disqualification for floor crossing. CJP Isa opined that parliament can legislate on this issue.

The chief justice asked him whether the majority judges who gave the judgement of 63-A wrote the word "opinion" or used the word "decision". Ali replied that it is for this court to decide whether it was an opinion or a decision. The chief justice said that means he supported revision to the extent that the word decision should be replaced by opinion.

Justice Mandokhail said in his remarks that he and Justice Miankhal were also part of the earlier bench. No objection was raised against us. Ali Zafar replied that the objection was not on a personality, it was on the composition of the bench. Barrister Ali argued that the petition of the Supreme Court Bar was related to voting in the no-confidence motion. The Supreme Court wrongly combined presidential references and constitutional petitions. The court disposed of the constitutional petitions by saying that it had given an opinion on the reference. "Revision jurisdiction is limited," he added. Chief Justice Isa remarked that whether one like it or not, he is bound to act under constitution or implement the death penalty.

## Fazl warns against horse-trading

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the Supreme Court's review on Article 63-A shouldn't be misused.

He was addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Thursday. JUI-F chief said that there shouldn't be any match-fixing following the apex court's verdict on Article 63-A. He also warned against the buying and selling of MPs in the aftermath of SC's verdict. The Supreme Court on Thursday accepted the review petitions against the decision on Article 63-A, annulling the ruling that dissident members' votes should not be counted.

A five-member larger bench, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, heard the review appeal on Article 63-A. The bench announced the short order after hearing arguments of the parties. The court "unanimously"

declared that the vote of dissenting members would be counted [in case of no-confidence motion]. Talking about the proposed constitutional amendment, Fazl said that the government wanted to pass the amendment in haste.

"The political parties continued their deliberations on the 18th amendment for nine months. Now, the government wants to pass the amendment in just 24 hours," said the veteran politician. The JUI-F chief urged the government to defer the amendment until the consensus is reached among the political parties. He also urged the PTI to postpone the protest plan in the wake of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting being held in the country. The chief of JUI-F also condemned the atrocities of Israeli forces in Palestine and Lebanon.

In response to a question regarding potential horse-trading ahead of constitutional package, Maulana Fazl

said that not a single member of his parliamentary party has ever resorted to "floor crossing" in national and provincial assemblies. Questioning the government's urgency in tabling the constitutional package, the JUI-F chief said they waited for almost nine months for the passage of 18th Amendment.

"Today, they [the government] are insisting on amending the Constitution within 24 hours," he said, adding that in its current state with its details and rules, the bill was incapable of "being passed and supported". Furthermore, Fazl noted that no progress was made for an Islamic legislation, noting that the matter related to registration of madrassahs was still unresolved. Responding to a question, the politician said JUI-F and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have decided to separately chalk out constitutional amendment drafts and try to achieve a consensus.

## PPP to join march for solidarity with Palestine

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Jamaat-e-Islami led by its Amir Hafiz Naeem-ur Rehman called on Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Zardari House Islamabad on Thursday.

Both the leaders discussed the war imposed on the Middle East by Israel and the current situation in the region. Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman extended invitation to Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for participation of the PPP in the march for Palestine.

After the meeting talking to journalists, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the entire world remained indifferent to the martyrdom of women and children in Palestine. Political leadership was martyred in Iran. Israel does not regard human rights and violating them with impunity. The war imposed by Israel in Palestine and Lebanon is inching towards Iran. Israel is on a campaign to usurp Palestinian and Muslim lands for its agenda of creating a greater Israel. The PPP stands firm with Muslims all over the world. Chairman Bilawal accepting the invitation for the march for Palestine said that the PPP workers will fully participate in this march.

The delegation consisted of Vice presidents JI Liaquat Baloch and Mian Aslam, secretary general JI Ameer-ul-Azeem and Amir JI Islamabad chapter, Engr. Nasrullah Randhawa. Vice President PPP Senator Sherry Rehman, Secretary General PPPPP Nayyer Hussain Bukhari, Naveed Qamar MNA and Spokesperson to the chairman PPP Murtaza Wahab were also present at the occasion.

## Practice and Procedure Ord challenged

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Practice and Procedure Ordinance 2024 was challenged in the Peshawar High Court on Thursday. Chaudhry Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan Advocate filed the petition, calling the ordinance unlawful and requesting it be declared void. The petition argued that the federal government should be barred from presenting the draft constitution amendment, as the House was incomplete due to vacant seats.

It is to be recalled that the Supreme Court's Practice and Procedure Committee was reconstituted following the recent amendment ordinance. Justice Amin-ud-Din became a member for the first time. Prior to the reconstitution, Justice Munib Akhtar was part of the committee, which now comprises Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, and Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan.

# The Frontier Post

Arrest warrants for KP CM  
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Thursday maintained the non-bailable arrest warrants of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and former Punjab Assembly deputy speaker Wasiq Qayyum Abbasi in a terrorism case registered by the Islamabad Police. ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sapra heard the case against the accused.

## Pakistan, Malaysia to deepen cooperation

— agree to enhance educational, aviation linkages

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in multiple areas including trade, investment, defence, and agriculture, besides reiterating their strong positions on regional issues including Gaza and Kashmir.

In a joint press stakeout following their one-on-one meeting and delegation-level talks, both prime ministers told the media that their discussions focused on strengthening the bilateral collaboration in multiple areas of mutual interest as well as regional and international issues including Palestine and Kashmir.

As part of the efforts to boost bilateral trade, both leaders agreed that Pakistan would export Halal meat worth \$200 million per annum and 100,000 metric tonnes of Basmati Rice to Malaysia. Total trade between Malaysia and Pakistan stood at USD 1.4 billion with the trade goods included palm oil, apparel, textiles, chemical and chemical-based products, and electronics and electronic products.

Among South Asian countries, Pakistan is Malaysia's third-largest trading partner. In his remarks, Prime Minister Shehbaz told the media that besides discussing the export of Pakistan's Basmati Rice, two sides also discussed the possibilities of exporting Halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia worth \$200 million per annum, and assured that his country would make no compromise on the quality. He said the Malaysian PM had also assured to address the discrepancies in the import of Pakistan's rice into his country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that they had a 'wonderful' meeting to discuss the enhancement of trade and investment, besides exploring avenues of further cooperation in defence, tourism, agriculture, green energy, skilled labour and youth empowerment. He said both sides were unani-

mous in believing that the two countries would collectively find new heights in trade and investment cooperation for a bright future for two nations.

Assuring his cooperation to further enhance Pakistan-Malaysia defence and security cooperation, he said that thousands of Pakistani students were currently studying in Malaysia to help strengthen the people-to-people contacts. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that Malaysia's development should be emulated as a role model for all Muslim countries where foreign direct investment and exports were on the increase.

He said that both sides also discussed the "heart-wrenching" and "heart-breaking" situation of Gaza where innocent children, men and women were being killed. He said under the unparalleled genocide and carnage by Israeli forces, the cities were being demolished in Gaza and both sides stressed the immediate ceasefire.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that both sides discussed the Kashmir issue where people were being denied their right to self-determination despite rendering huge sacrifices for the last several decades. Thousands of Kashmiris have been martyred, many were in detention in 3rd class jails and made subject to severe punishment. He expressed the hope that the Kashmiris would soon get their right to self-determination in light of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said that both sides had agreed on a number of matters and follow-up discussions would be held in the upcoming joint commission meeting in Kuala Lumpur this month to ensure swift implementation of the decisions. He assured that the Malaysian trade office would be opened in Karachi soon to strengthen economic collaboration between the

two countries.

He said Malaysia was seeking more skilled labour in various sectors including IT, artificial intelligence, and semiconductors and Pakistan could also be a source for such skilled labour. The Malaysian PM said that Malaysia had agreed to import 100,000 tonnes of Basmati Rice from Pakistan. Anwar Ibrahim appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz's address at the United Nations General Assembly in which he had pleaded the case of Gaza effectively. He also appreciated Pakistan's strong stance against Israel's genocide of Palestinians and escalation of hostilities on the Middle East by Israel.

He said the ongoing aggression in Gaza and Lebanon was not a war between the two countries rather it was a disregard for international order and also questioned the inaction of the global community. Prime Minister Ibrahim reiterated that Malaysia was committed to the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir and believed in an amicable resolution of the dispute.

The two prime ministers also witnessed exchange of signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and a Letter of Cooperation. This included MoU between Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and Malaysia External Trade Development Cooperation (MATRADE) on trade cooperation, and MoU for cooperation in Halal trade between Pakistan-Malaysia Business Council (PMBC) of Pakistan and Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council (MPBC) of Malaysia. A Letter of Cooperation between Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) was also signed. Later, Prime Minister Ibrahim also presented the works of renowned poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal which were translated into Bahasa Melayu. He also presented an Urdu copy of his book titled "The Asian Renaissance."

## Nishan-e-Pakistan conferred upon Malaysian Premier

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia have reiterated their commitment to further enhance bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, banking sector, food technology and agriculture. The two sides also agreed to cooperate on issues of bilateral importance.

This was discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Chairman Pakistan People's Party, MNA Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Minister of Commerce, Mr Jam Kamal Khan, Senator Sherry Rehman, and senior government officials also attended the meeting. Welcoming the Malaysian Prime Minister, the President said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Malaysia and was committed to further enhance bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest. He added that the visit of the Malaysian Prime Minister would further boost bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries. He expressed concern over the current situation in Gaza and called on the international community to take measures to prevent Israel from committing genocide and atrocities against the Palestinian people.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia apprised the President that he held a very good discussion with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Later, during a special investiture ceremony, President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim in recognition of his support for Islamic causes and for being a great friend of Pakistan.

During the ceremony, it was highlighted that the Malaysian Prime Minister was an avid reader of Allama Iqbal and acknowledged that his work has been a source of inspiration for him. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has been a prominent advocate of humanitarian causes and Islamic values throughout his political career. His leadership is marked by a profound commitment to promoting social justice and addressing global issues affecting the Islamic world. He has also been a voice for the causes of self-determination movements and has particularly stood against oppression across the world. He continues to work tirelessly to counter Islamophobia striving to create interfaith harmony by fostering understanding and respect between different cultures and religions. The Ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Ministers, Services Chiefs, diplomats, and senior government officials. The President also hosted a state dinner in honour of the visiting Malaysian Prime Minister and his delegation.

Meanwhile, Pakistan and Malaysia have reiterated their commitment to further enhance bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, banking sector, food technology and agriculture. The two sides also agreed to cooperate on issues of bilateral importance. This was discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Chairman Pakistan People's Party, MNA Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Minister of Commerce, Mr Jam Kamal Khan, Senator Sherry Rehman, and senior government officials also attended the meeting.

## Naqvi warns PTI not to stage protest

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday warned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) not to stage any protest in Islamabad amid high-profile visits in the capital.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the interior minister said that section 144 was already imposed and stern action would be taken in case of any violation. According to Naqvi, no one would be allowed to march on Islamabad by force in the name of political protest.

He said the Malaysian Prime Minister is in the capital for a three-day official visit, while the arrival of a high-level Saudi delegation and the Prime Minister of China is also scheduled this month. He added that the conferences of international level are being held in Pakistan after a long time and PTI should call off the protest plan. It is prime responsibility of the state of Pakistan to provide fool-proof security to foreign guests and no compromise will be made in this regard. The interior minister said every Pakistani should refrain from doing anything which can bring a bad name to the country.

## No serious proposal regarding Naik's idea of Muslim Alliance: US

Jalil Afridi

WASHINGTON DC: During yesterday's press briefing, Matthew Miller, spokesperson for the US State Department, responded to a series of questions from The Frontier Post concerning Pakistan's internal affairs and an idea regarding a potential alliance of Muslim countries.

The exchange highlighted multiple sensitive issues, including political atmosphere in Pakistan and the broader geopolitical landscape. The first question centered on accusations of corruption involving the Pakistani Prime Minister and his niece, who had been previously described as a "milestone" by Matthew Miller.

The Frontier Post detailed allegations against the Prime Minister's niece, including her involvement in arresting an elderly protestor and authorizing expensive purchases for government officials in Punjab, all while the country faces financial difficulties.

Additionally, The Frontier Post

referenced a statement by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) criticizing new press laws in Punjab, where the "MileStone" lady is the chief minister of Punjab. In response, Miller expressed his inability to comment on the matter, stating, "I am not tracking any of the details that you laid out for me here, so of course I'm not able to comment on them."

His response highlighted the challenge of addressing specific allegations without verifiable information or a thorough understanding of the incidents mentioned. The conversation then shifted to a question about Dr. Zakir Naik, a popular Islamic scholar who has been in exile since the rise of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Dr. Naik is currently visiting Pakistan and has suggested the formation of a military alliance among Muslim countries, akin to NATO, particularly in light of the ongoing tensions in the Middle East.

When asked whether the US would support such an initiative, Miller responded cautiously, noting, "I haven't seen any serious proposals along those lines," leaving the question largely unanswered and signaling that the US government is not currently engaged with or endorsing such an idea.

The final question raised concerns about a proposed extension for Pakistan's Chief Justice beyond October 25, a move that has sparked protests from the legal community, including a rally by the Balochistan Bar Association. However, Miller reiterated that this is a domestic matter for Pakistan, stating, "These are ultimately questions that are for Pakistan to decide." This exchange reflected the US State Department's cautious stance on internal political matters in Pakistan, focusing on diplomacy and refraining from interfering in the country's internal governance.







# Saif expresses opposition to potential horse trading amid constituional amends

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif expresses strong opposition to potential horse trading amid constitutional amendments.

Barrister Dr. Saif has expressed grave concerns over the impending possibility of horse trading during the voting on constitutional amendments, which he believes poses an irreparable threat to democracy. Following the recent decision on Article 63-A, he warned that it has paved the way for the Zardari and Sharif families to buy members of parliament.

"This decision benefits the political mafia while undermining the very fabric of our democracy," Dr. Saif stated. He lamented that when courts succumb to

political expediency, justice suffers. He emphasized that Imran Khan had effectively curtailed such horse trading, but the current situation is alarming.

Today's ruling on Article 63-A has taken many by surprise and will remain a source of embarrassment for the judicial system. Dr. Saif called upon the legal community to support the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in thwarting these attempts which goes against the spirit of democracy.

Meanwhile, Barrister Dr. Saif, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, has accused the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) of exploiting state resources and national institutions for its political agenda.

He asserted that the party is using a confronta-

tional approach to mask its nefarious intentions. Responding to a statement by Senator Faisal Vawda, Barrister Dr. Saif described Vawda as a runaway politician who is merely a puppet.

He urged Shahbaz Sharif and Maryam Safdar to cleanse their consciences and clarify their legitimacy as public representatives.

Dr. Saif emphasized that while the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees the right to protest, the federal government is resorting to a politics of confrontation. He lamented that the PML-N has consistently employed the Punjab card for its political advantage.

He highlighted the PML-N's history of violent repression against peaceful protests by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), recalling the recent incident last week where unarmed demonstrators faced gun-

fire, roadblocks, and excessive use of tear gas—behaviors he described as the party's longstanding modus operandi. He referenced the Model Town incident and noted that PML-N supporters had previously attacked the Supreme Court.

Barrister Dr. Saif characterized the PML-N's oppressive actions as tantamount to insurrection against democracy. He further accused the party and its affiliates of stealing the public mandate and imposing themselves forcibly on the populace.

He called for urgent reforms in the country, insisting that politics should be entrusted solely to legitimate political institutions, rather than being manipulated by the current federal government, which has allegedly sacrificed all institutions at the altar of its corrupt political practices.



PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, chaired a high-level meeting to assess and expedite dengue prevention and control efforts across the province.

## Barkwal presides over meeting of Provincial Seed Council

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Major Retired Sajjad Barkwal, has said that introduce such seed in research centers, that can increase the per acre production of the farmers so that the farmers became prosperous and province move towards self-sufficiency in food. Research centers should carry out research on the crops of their respective regions. So that high quality crops seeds can be introduced for this area. Awareness campaign should be carried out among the farmers regarding the seed. He expressed these views while presiding over a special meeting of the Provincial Seed Council.

The members of the Provincial Seed Council including the Secretary Agriculture participated in this meeting.

In the meeting, there was a detailed discussion on the agenda of the meeting, including the proposals and objectives of the Provincial Seed Council, reorganization, certification of seeds and increasing production.

In the meeting, there was a discussion on the cultivation of four types of Punjab wheat seeds Akbar-2019, Urooj-2022, Fakhr Bhakkar-2017 and Bhakkar Star in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In the meeting, it was decided that further research on these seeds, production, diseases including various factors should be reviewed and presented again in next week.

The meeting was informed that so far 41 different varieties of wheat seeds have been introduced.

Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major Retired Sajjad Barkwal directed to

establish links among directorates of Agriculture regarding seeds. He further instructed to increase the representation of farmers in the Provincial Seed Council and to increase the members of the representative council of farmers from other districts including Chitral, Para Chinari should be included.

He further said that the welfare of the farmers is a priority. The production of Kaptan Seed Maize is the best in production. Any kind of negligence in departmental affairs will not be tolerated.

He directed the officers to perform their responsibilities and duties in a better manner. Agriculture has an important role in food security.

The representatives of the farmers in the provincial seed council appreciated the initiatives of the provincial minister for agriculture.

## PMLN, PPP, ANP, PMLQ lawyers rejected 5th Oct Convention

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Muslim League-N Lawyers Forum, People's Lawyers Forum, Malgari Lawyers and Muslim League-Q Lawyers Forum rejected lawyer convention scheduled on 5th October, on Thursday.

The lawyer's forums issued joint statement after the meeting which was attended by PMLN president Kifayat Ullah Khan, PLF president Gohar Rehman Khattak, Rafiq Mohmand of Malgari Wakilan, PMLQ Intehab Khan Chamkani, Behlol Khattakk, Akbar Yousaf Khil, Atif Nazeer, Salim Shah Hoti, Lajbar Khil, Wali Khan Afridi, Farhad Ali and Shakil Gillani.

The joint statement claimed that on 26th September, the Peshawar High Court Bar Association's General Body rejected the demand for the convention. However, PHCBA cabinet granted permission which is illegal.

The Cabinet exceeded its authority by violating the majority decision. The so-called convention is not representative but has political and personal objectives, lacking lawyers' support, the joint statement claimed.

This is an unjustified and self-serving meeting, and using the High Court for this purpose is concerning.

The participants said the convention aims to campaign for a specific group which is rejected by lawyers.

## CS orders strengthened response to dengue

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, chaired a high-level meeting to assess and expedite dengue prevention and control efforts across the province. The meeting focused particularly on districts experiencing a surge in dengue cases, including Peshawar, Nowshera, and Khyber. The Chief Secretary directed health authorities, divisional commissioners, and district administrations to intensify their response and implement robust vector control measures to mitigate the spread of the dengue.

During the meeting, which was attended by Secretaries of Health, Education, Information, Local Government, Public Health Engineering, Irrigation, and Finance authorities, the Director General Health, Dr. Muhammad Saleem, provided an overview of ongoing initiatives to combat dengue. It was highlighted that Peshawar, Hazara, and Mardan divisions have reported the highest caseloads, with October and November being critical months due to conducive temperatures for dengue vector breed-

ing.

Expressing grave concern over two dengue-related fatalities in Nowshera, the Chief Secretary called for an immediate investigation, directing relevant authorities to submit a detailed report as soon as possible. He also instructed district health offices to perform rigorous inspections of healthcare facilities, ensuring that adequate isolation wards and designated treatment centers are in place for dengue patients.

The Chief Secretary underscored the urgency for the Finance Department to expedite the release of funds to the health sector, ensuring continuous operations and swift implementation of dengue control activities. He warned that the rising number of dengue cases in several areas demands an immediate and coordinated public health response.

Acknowledging the vital role of community involvement in dengue prevention, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for widespread public awareness campaigns, particularly focusing on eliminating mosquito breeding sites.

He called for intensified efforts at the micro-level, especially in high-risk

areas, to disrupt the dengue transmission cycle.

Moreover, the Chief Secretary highlighted the importance of providing specialized care for dengue patients in hospitals, including adequate clinical management and supportive treatment. He ordered the Health Department and district administrations to submit daily progress reports on their dengue response activities.

Given the alarming rise in cases in high-incidence areas such as Nasir Bagh, Regi, Sufaid Dheri, Shekhan, Pishakhara, Palosi, Tehkal Bala, and Badhber areas of the provincial capital, the Chief Secretary directed health officials to implement heightened measures in Peshawar, including enhanced vector control operations like fogging and larvicidal spraying, regular site inspections, and community mobilization activities, such as awareness walks.

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remains committed to utilizing all available resources to prevent the spread of dengue and safeguard public health, he said. The meeting was also attended by Member National Assembly Sher Ali Arbab.

## Standing committee on livestock holds introductory meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): The introductory meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Standing Committee on Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives was held here Thursday wherein members were briefed by concerned officials about working and ambit of the department.

The meeting was chaired by chairman of the committee, Sher Ali Afridi and attended by members Shafi Jan, Ubaid-ur-Rehman, Tariq Saeed, Iftikharullah, secretary livestock and concerned officials.

Secretary Livestock briefed the committee about ambit, performance and future plans of the department.

Later briefing the media about meeting of standing committee, Sher Ali Afridi said government is committed to increase output of livestock department owing to its importance to strengthen provincial economy.

He said that details of all the research centers would be brought before committee and efforts would be made to resolve their issues. He said that farming of saanen goats would be promoted and trout hatcheries would be constructed. He said government desire to establish livestock sector on modern grounds and increase its output to benefit people and augment provincial economy.

# Drug free Pakistan drive kicks off at UoP

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Youth of today's age have multiple temptations and challenges and hence we must bolster all our energies and focus on eradicating drug prevalence in our societies. This statement was given by University of Peshawar Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Qazi who was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Drug free Pakistan orientation at Univesity of Peshawar

SSAQ auditorium, as a chief guest. He appreciated Anti Narcotics Force sensitization drive and called upon all Law Enforcement Agencies to mar designs of drug dealers and peddlers, who are misguiding youth for their vested and petty gains.

Colonel Malik Wajid Yousaf, from KP Regional Directorate of Anti Narcotics Force gave a detailed presentation to the students and participants about drug

prevalance and its impact on society along side ANF chief role in mitigating the menace.

According to UNODC figures, he quoted that drug industry in the region and the world together has 226 Billion \$ volume that demands attention of civilised world to fight it with impunity. He showed remorse that despite ban on opium cultivation, the neighboring country Afghanistan has stock pile of opium conversion to

drugs sustainale for a decade.

He showed figures collected by the force that educational institutions has the highest prevalence of drugs, universities and colleges are on the top of the list respectively while teenagers are its top worst victims.

Later, participants ask questions from the panelist.

Chief Procter Dr.Irfan Faiz and Provost Prof. Dr. Fazlur Rehman were also present on the ocaasion.

## KP-CECVE holds seminar on Drug Abuse & Youth Delinquency at KMU

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (KPCVE) organized a pivotal seminar addressing the growing concerns of drug abuse and youth delinquency at Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar. The event aimed to raise awareness about the alarming rise in drug abuse among the youth and its correlation with delinquent behavior, which poses significant social and security challenges for the region.

The seminar brought together a diverse group of experts, academics, students, and representatives from KPCVE, civil society, and healthcare sectors to discuss preventive strategies and interventions. In his opening remarks, Dr. Qasim Khan, Director General of KPCVE, underscored the importance of community engagement and collective action in combating drug abuse among young people.

"The increase in drug addiction and youth involvement in unlawful activities is a serious concern. It not only jeopardizes the wellbeing of our younger generation but also amplifies broader security

threats in the region," Dr. Qasim stated. "KPCVE's goal is to foster dialogue and create a platform for stakeholders to share ideas on how we can better protect, guide, and rehabilitate our youth."

Dr. Ayaz Khan, the Chief Coordination Officer, KP-CECVE while addressing the seminar, highlighted the growing challenges of drug abuse, particularly among the youth, and emphasized the need for collective efforts to combat this social issue. Dr. Ayaz stressed on the collective efforts to

combat the menace of drug abuse among youth. He said that early education on the dangers of drug abuse plays vital role in creating awareness and providing support systems for prevention and rehabilitation.

Dr. Zia Ul Haq, Vice Chancellor of Khyber Medical University, highlighted the responsibility of educational institutions in raising awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and guiding students toward healthier, more productive lives.

"Our universities are not

merely centres of academic learning; they are platforms to instill values and awareness. Combatting drug abuse demands a unified effort from educators, parents, and the broader community," he remarked.

The seminar concluded with a series of recommendations, including enhancing collaboration between government agencies, educational institutions, and civil society to develop long-term programs aimed at preventing drug abuse and rehabilitating those affected.



## ‘FCC imperative for speedy resolution of constitutional cases, clearing backlog’

PESHAWAR (APP): Legal and constitutional experts here Thursday underscored the need for an establishment of a Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) imperative to expedite the resolution of constitutional cases and address the growing backlog in higher courts.

Member PHC Bar Association and senior lawyer, Syed Noman Bukhari said that a significant increase in cases backlog has been witnessed in Supreme Court and High Courts of all four provinces in recent years due to lack of judges and high caseload especially of constitutional and civil petitions.

Noman Bukhari advocate told APP that the creation of the FCC would not only reduce the heavy burden on the Supreme Court and High Courts but also facilitate quicker resolutions in a range of civil and criminal cases, particularly those related to property, land, and services.

The senior lawyer while referring to a report said that as of December 31, 2023, there were 55,971 cases pending in the Supreme Court, reflecting an 18% increase from the previous year. Over the past decade, the number of pending cases has more than doubled, escalating from approximately 20,000 in

2013 to nearly 56,000 today. This huge backlog, Bukhari noted, wasted both time and resources, leading to frustration among thousands of litigants whose cases linger unresolved for years.

"Constitutional petitions often take precedence and consumes less amount of time than other cases" Bukhari explained. "The average duration for civil cases can extend up to 25 years before a verdict is reached, raising serious questions about accountability for the prolonged suffering of litigants."

He said that constitutional cases, which represented only about 15% of all cases, disproportionately occupy around 80% of the courts time. This imbalance, Bukhari argued, underscored the urgent need for a dedicated constitutional court that can handle these specific cases efficiently.

Malik Ashfaq Khan, another constitutional lawyer and Nowshera district bar member, emphasized that the implementation of an FCC would align Pakistan with 77 other countries that have successfully established similar institutions, including France, Germany and Turkiye.

He pointed out that a dedicated court would minimize the risk of

arbitrary constitutional interpretations and bring consistency to legal decisions.

Elaborating on the advantages of the FCC, Ashfaq advocate said, "by centralizing constitutional adjudication, we can eliminate confusion arising from conflicting interpretations and ensured that cases are handled by judges from all provinces for speedy justice.

He said this positive intative would strengthen our federation and provide a more equitable judicial process to all.

The experts also highlighted the importance of ensuring that the judges appointed to the FCC are selected strictly on merit, advocating for the inclusion of Islamic scholars to provide diverse perspectives in line with Pakistan's Islamic constitutional framework.

They argued that the complexities of constitutional law necessitated expertise in Islamic law beyond just conventional lawyers and judges.

"The constitution is a serious subject and should not be entrusted solely to constitutional experts judges," Bukhari remarked. "Incorporating Islamic scholars with constitutional law background would enrich the court's deliberations and align them with

the nation's ethical and legal values."

As calls for the establishment of the FCC gain momentum in legal and political circles, experts remain hopeful that this new court will not only streamline constitutional adjudication but also help restore public confidence in our judicial system regarding speedy justice.

PMLN KP Information Secretary Ikhtair Wali said that judicial reforms was the need of the hour keeping in view of the rising cases backlog.

He said that PMLN believed in dialogue and all the stakeholders would be taken into confidence before tabling judicial reforms package in the Parliament.

FCC and others proposed amendments were aimed to provide relief to litigants and further increase their confidence in higher judiciary, he reiterated.

Ikhtair Wali ruled out the impression that proposed judicial reforms package are person-specific, adding it was aimed to strengthen judicial system and provide relief to litigants swiftly.

He said the need for timely justice has never been more critical than today in the wake of population explosion and the FCC could represent a vital step towards achieving the key goal.





## In brief

### Probe restarted F.P. Report

SWABI: The concerned authorities have restarted probe into appointments being made on Tarbela Dam through submitting false domicile certificates of Swabi and Haripur. According to details, investigations have been restarted after one year against those who are non-residents of Swabi and Haripur but got jobs on Tarbela Dam by producing fake domicile certificates. The appointments were made on the quota that was being given to residents of Swabi and Haripur. Appointments were being made on the quota by false documents including fake document certificates.

### Man shoots mother dead

DEHARKI (INP): A young man shot his mother dead over refusal to give him money in Reharki village in the suburbs of Deharki on Thursday. According to the police, 19-year-old son Shafan Bhiyu killed his mother by firing. According to relatives, the accused asked the mother for money but she refused to give any on which the son got infuriated and killed his mother. After the incident, police reached the scene and started further investigation. Meanwhile, a woman was killed in a firing in Pir Bakhsh Vigan, a village on the outskirts of Shikarpur on Thursday. According to police, the deceased woman has been identified as Naseem Khatun and her body has been shifted to hospital. Police said that an investigation has been started and evidence is being collected from the spot. According to initial police investigations, the incident may be a sign of the dispute of illicit relations. On the other hand, the family members said that the incident happened due to the firing of the opponents over the old enmity, police said.

### PTI workers charged

MIANWALI (INP): A case has been registered against PTI workers for violating Section 144 in Mianwali on October 2. According to police officials, a case has been filed at the City Police Station against 22 identified and 25 unidentified individuals for stone-pelting, firing on police, and breaching Section 144. The FIR included charges under Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) along with other provisions. A police spokesperson stated that 10 individuals have already been arrested, and raids were being conducted to apprehend more identified suspects. It is important to note that the Punjab government had imposed Section 144 in Mianwali for seven days, with an official notification issued. The notification prohibited all forms of political gatherings, sit-ins, rallies, demonstrations, and protests, effective from October 1 to October 7.

### Four college girls abducted

SARGODHA (INP): Four students of BS Economics and second year in Girls Degree College located at Chandni Chowk in Sargodha have been abducted, police said on Thursday. According to police, the students came to the college from home Tuesday but did not return home. Police also seized CCTV footage and other records of the college for investigation purposes. Police said that separate cases of kidnapping of BS students, residents of Muhammadi Colony, were registered late at night.



**GHALANAI:** KP Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi being briefed during his visit to girls and boys colleges in Mohmand.

## Affiliation of College with FATA Varsity rejected

**F.P. Report**

LANDI KOTAL: People from different walks of life objected to the affiliation of Government Post Graduate, Landi Kotal with University of FATA and demanded of the Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to revise its decision in the best interest of the local students.

Speaking in "Meet the Press" program held in Landi Kotal press club, district on Thursday Tehsil Chairman Haji Shah Khalid, President Sayasi Ittehad, Landi Kotal Murad Hussain Afridi, Pakistan People Party District Chief Shah Rehman Shinwari, representative of Khyber Law Forum lawyer Zohaib Shinwari, scholar Dr Sadaqat Khan, students leader of Post Graduate

College, Landi Kotal Raj Wali and others said that education was inevitable for all kinds of development however anti-students and education policies proved unserious attitude of the incumbent government toward it.

According to the University Act 2012, every university has its own jurisdiction and as per rules Post Graduate College, Landi Kotal should be affiliated with University of Peshawar (UoP) but ironically, the government have decided to affiliate it with FATA University that is injustice to the students of Landi Kotal, they remarked. They maintained that how can the local students approve the affiliation with the institution that has not been recognized by the

Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC). Besides being located near to district Khyber, the UoP had a rich history in addition with provision of necessary facilities compulsory for studying and teaching as compared to the FATA University, they opined.

They came hard on Parliamentarians from the constituency and said they had turned blind eyes to the miseries of the masses. They vowed that all forums including legal ones would be utilized to safeguard the interests of the students. It is to be stated here that students of Post Graduate College, Landi Kotal have boycotted their classes for the last six days against the affiliation of the college with the FATA University.

## Hospital pharmacy to provide medicines on 11% discount

**F.P. Report**

CHAKDARA: Medical Superintendent Dr. Hamad Category B Hospital Chakdara said that the opening of a pharmacy in the hospital will provide 11% cheaper and quality medicines to the people of the region including the patients and the credit goes to Humayun Khan, Special Welfare for the successful inauguration of the Child Protection Unit Bajaur. He said that the establishment of Child Protection Unit, is a direct response to this persistent need, adding that children face various forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, here and it was a shared responsibility to build stronger systems to protect them from all forms of abuse and exploitation.

He said the unit would focus on identifying, preventing, and responding to

He said that no compromise will be made on the agreement between the hospital and the private pharmacy for the supply of cheap and quality medicines and the people of the area will be given relief of quality medicines from this pharmacy. Mushtaq, the manager of the pharmacy, said on this occasion that his organization is the guarantor of the quality medicine business and will fully abide by the agreement made with Chakdara Hospital. They will not give an opportunity to complain about the prices and quality of medicines.

## DC assures minorities' problems to be resolved

**F.P. Report**

KOHAT: Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram on Thursday held a Khuli Katchery for solving the problems of the minorities at Bacha Khan Library here. The aim of Khuli Katchery was to provide a forum to the minorities to present their problems directly before the District Administration.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (F&P), Additional Deputy Commissioner (Relief), Assistant Commissioner Kohat, Local Representatives of Minority Communities, heads of Line Departments, elders of Christian, Sikh and Hindu Communities and a large number of Minorities from across Kohat were present in the Khuli Kachehri.

They openly presented their issues and complaints before the Deputy Commissioner, including holding of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) camps in most of minority areas, allocation of special quota for minority students in KUST, revival of Auqaf Department scholarships for the minority students, allocation of a regular place for the cemetery for the Christian community and provision of special funds for the religious festivals of the minorities.

The participants also spoke on gas load shedding, transfer of minority civil servants to remote areas, skill training for the youth and starting sports projects, including initiatives for special children. The DC listened to all the problems and directed the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to solve the problems being faced by the minority community and adopt a coordinated strategy to achieve effective results.

## Child Protection Unit inaugurated in Bajaur

**F.P. Report**

KHAR: In a significant step towards ensuring the protection and welfare of children in the merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a Child Protection Unit (CPU) was inaugurated in District Bajaur on Thursday. The CPU aims to safeguard and promote the rights of children, providing prevention and response to cases of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The Chief Guest was Additional Secretary Social Welfare Department KP, Muhammad Farooq, Director Social Welfare Department (MDs), Muhammad Naem, Deputy Commissionaire Bajaur Shahid Ali, Obaid Ur Rahman Deputy Director Social Welfare MDs, representatives from members of District Child Protection Committee Bajaur, Male and female members of the community Based Child Protection Committees. The establishment of this CPU reflects the Government's strong commitment to ensuring the protection of children at risk and fostering a safer environment for the most vulnerable members of society.

In his Opening Remarks, Additional Secretary, Social Welfare, Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, expressed his appreciation to the Department of Social Welfare for the successful inauguration of the Child Protection Unit Bajaur. He said that the establishment of Child Protection Unit, is a direct response to this persistent need, adding that children face various forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, here and it was a shared responsibility to build stronger systems to protect them from all forms of abuse and exploitation.

He said the unit would focus on identifying, preventing, and responding to



child at risk, ensuring their fundamental rights to life, development, participation, and protection. Muhammad Farooq also stressed the importance of collective action in addressing the complex challenges of child abuse, violence, exploitation, and neglect.

He urged all relevant line departments to closely collaborate with the CPU Bajaur and emphasized the significance of building strong partnerships with parents and communities to create a protective environment for children. He thanked to UNICEF, especially Sohail Ahmad Child Protection Specialist for his continuous technical and financial support for the Child Protection in MDs, and he hoped that the partnership would continue in future to provide every possible support to protect child rights.

In his remarks by the Deputy Commissionaire Bajaur Shahid Ali, added that the establishment of Child Protection Unit is a direct response to protection needs of child at risk. "Our responsibility is to strengthen systems that will protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and provide them safe environment." He added that District Child Protection Committees had been notified under the KP Child Protection act 2010, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner which reflected the Government's commitment at the district level to uphold children's rights.

This committee held monthly meetings, serve as a platform for discussing child protection challenges and formulating strategies to improve referrals and case management processes, he informed. On the occasion he presented the journey of child protection system development in KP with focused of the Child Protection data in MDs, and shared statistics of District Khyber with participants.

At the end of the event ribbon cutting ceremony of the Child Protection Unit, District Bajaur was held. Additional Secretary Muhammad Farooq, Director Social Welfare MDs, Muhammad Naem, Deputy Commissionaire Bajaur Shahid Ali, Obaid Ur Rahman Deputy Director Social Welfare MDs and Staff of PMU and CPU Bajaur attended the ceremony.

The Director of Social Welfare (MDs), Muhammad Naem extended thanks to UNICEF for their ongoing support in strengthening the Child Protection Units in MDs. He acknowledged UNICEF's valuable contributions to building the capacity of staff, enhancing the effectiveness of the community-based child Protection Committees (CB-CPC), and supporting district-level trainings initiatives for the social workforce. These efforts have significantly improved the referral and case management system, he added.

## DPO for elimination of narcotics from society

**F.P. Report**

HAFIZABAD: District Police Officer Hafizabad said that elimination menace of narcotics is among top priorities of the district police and an effective strategy formulated for eradicating drugs trafficking in the district while action expedited against drugs peddlers.

He expressed these views while addressing a seminar held at Jinnah Hall under auspices of Ibrahim Edara Tark-e-Munashiat, Central President Federal Union of Journalists (Dastoor) Rao Sharjeel Amjad, President Ibrahim Edara Tark-e-Munashiat, Hafizabad Hafiz Abdul Qadeer Chaudhary, President Press Club Hafizabad Rana Muhammad Arshad Amjum, prominent personalities Chaudhary Imtiaz Ahmad Taj, Sajjad Zaheer Matmal, Mehar Habib Ullah, President Markazi Anjuman Tajran Sheikh Amjid, DSP Rana Jamil Qaisar, DSP Faisal Manzoor, DSP Muhammad Asif, SHOs, police officers and a large number of citizens attended the seminar.

DPO also said that pickets at entry and exit points, Motorway Interchange were setup to monitor and snap checking was improved to contain entry of drugs dealers in the district. He said that with the cooperation of citizens crack down on anti-social ailments particularly against drugs pushers would be continue successfully. He further said that rewards would be given to

Cops who would shoe good performance for encouraging while departmental action would also be taken against lethargic police officers and officials. He said that prominent personalities, social workers, Ulema and journalists could play their vital role to pinpoint drugs dealers and other anti-social elements to make the district abode of peace and drugs free.

**GTA held protest in favor of their demands:** On the call of Grand Teachers Alliance Punjab, the protest of teachers against privatization of schools, deduction in leave encashment, Pension benefits, graduality, anti-teachers and wrong policies of the Punjab government continued consecutive fourth day on Tuesday in the district Hafizabad.

Teachers boycotted Anti-Dengue activities, Zero SBA and academic activities and teachers remains present in their schools to tie black ribbon at their arms. Leaders of teachers unions Riaz Ahmad Tarar, Naseer-ul-Din, Muhammad Rafiq, Sajid Nazir, Ali Sher Awan, Abu Bakar Alvi, Aqeel Azad, Jaffar Bajwa, Allah Ditta Bhatti, Asghar Hanjra, Khalid Pervaiz, Rana Waqar Ahmad Khan, Shabbir Gujjar, Habib Ullah and others said that the Punjab government be revisit its anti-employees' policies till 4 October otherwise educational institutions would be locked from 5 October at the eve of Teachers Day.

They said that Teacher Day on 5 October will be observed as black day while male and female

teachers will be staged protest demonstration in front of District Education Authority Hafizabad on 5 October. They said a protest rally will also be taken out from office of the District Education Authority to Deputy Commissioner Office.

**DC inspected developmental works:** Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razzaq inspected schools, colleges, hospital and ongoing development projects surprisingly and reviewed attendance of staff in schools, colleges and academic activities as well as checked treatment facilities being provided in the hospitals.

During the visit of Basic Health Unit Sandhowan Tarar, DC reviewed ongoing development work and medicines in the BHU. Later, he visited three important chowks of Jalapur Bhattian and checked ongoing construction work of remodeling and widening of chowks. On this occasion, Deputy Director Development Tasawar Abbas informed the DC that these chowks were being remodeled to avoid road accidents and uninterrupted flow of traffic.

DC also inspected Rural Health Centre Jalapur Bhattian and directed the hospital administration to ensure weeding of grass and cleanliness in the Health Centre During the visit of Government Associate Degree College for boys Jalapur Bhattian and directed the Principal to improve academic and cleanliness situation in the college.

## Pro VC commits for uplift of academics, administration

**F.P. Report**

MARDAN: The newly appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zahir Shah chaired his first meeting with all deans and chairpersons after assuming office. The meeting focused on discussing the vision for the future of the university and key strategies to enhance student engagement and institutional growth.

During his address, the Vice Chancellor emphasized the importance of a student-centric approach, acknowledging that students are the primary stakeholders of the university. He stressed the need to provide a conducive environment for both faculty and students in order to elevate the university to a prestigious seat of learning.

The Vice Chancellor also requested updates on the

university's admissions processes. The Director Academics was invited to brief the meeting on graduate admissions, while the Director Admissions provided details about undergraduate admissions. In an open forum, Prof. Dr. Zahir Shah encouraged discussion on strategies to improve student intake and enhance the university's appeal to prospective students.

## KMU to upgrade its Dir campus, announces VC

**F.P. Report**

LOWER DIR: The district development and advisory committee Lower Dir chairman MPA Ubaidur Rehman has said the Khyber Medical University vice chancellor Dr Ziaul Haq has agreed to establish a diabetes hospital and upgrade the varsity local campus. Talking to local journalists at Munda the lawmaker said that a delegation comprised of him, MNA Bashir Khan, deputy director health Dr Adil Khan, director KMU campus Lower Dir Imad Khan and others met the KMU vice chancellor Dr Ziaul Haq at his office in Peshawar the other day.

The delegation discussed various matters with him and demanded upgradation of the KMU Lower Dir campus. He said that Dr Zia announced plans to establish a diabetes hospital in the Jandol area of the district and upgrade the status of the KMU Lower Dir campus. He said that aspirants would then get admission in BS nursing and other technologies at the campus.

The DDAC chairman while talking to local journalists at Timergara asked party workers to participate in the Islamabad protest rally for early release of PTI founder Imran Khan. He said that a convoy of workers from Jandol would leave for Islamabad early in the morning on Friday (today). He asked the PTI workers to reach the Khazana bypass from where he would lead them to Islamabad.

Meanwhile the transporters and local residents of Samarbagh demanded of the MNA Bashir Khan and DDAC chairman MPA Ubaidur Rehman to take practical steps for repairing the Munda Samarbagh Road without any further delay. Talking to local journalists they said the Munda Samarbagh Road had turned to ditches as there had been no repair work on the road for the last ten years. They said that transporters were reluctant to drive on the road due to its dilapidated condition. The residents said that local lawmakers should approve funds for the road repair prior to inaugurating any

new project.

**JI press conference:** The district chief of Jamaat-i-Islami and former MPA Izazul Mulk Afkari has said the JI is fully supporting the Iranian attack on Israel and it would set up a solidarity camp at Timergara on Oct. 7. He was speaking at a news conference at Ahya ul Uloom Balambat, the district headquarters of the party. Former MNA Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, JI district general secretary Arshad Zaman, former tehsil nazim Imran Din, Malik Sher Bahadar, Shad Nawaz Khan and others were also present on the occasion.

Afkari lauded the step taken by the Iranian government against Israel and said that innocent Palestinians were being killed in Gaza and other cities for the last one year. He said the Iranian government had shown great courage by attacking sensitive installations in Israel. The JI leader said that his party had decided to set up a solidarity camp in favour of Palestinian at Timergara on Oct 27.

## DDAC chairman distribute prizes among students

**F.P. Report**

PABBI: Government Higher Secondary School Khesgi Payan arranged prize distribution ceremony for granting shields to position-holders during matriculation exams as well as victorious teams in provincial games, on Thursday.

District Development Advisory Committee (DDAC) Nowshera chairman Haji Zar Alam Khan distributed prizes among

students and appreciated them for their extraordinary achievements. He was chief guest of the prize distribution ceremony. He also appreciated GHSS principal and teaching staff for their hard work.

DDAC chairman said that he is feeling proud being the chief guest in his ancestral village. He assured his support for redressal of problems facing by students and teachers.



## Decapitated body of tribesman recovered after disappearance

**F. P. Report**

WANA: A tragic incident occurred in the Gorgura area of South Waziristan, where the decapitated body of Shabbir son of Pir Rehman Ashraf Khel recovered. Shabbir had been missing for two days, and his body was found by local police, on Thursday.

According to police officials, investigations are ongoing, but the reasons behind this brutal murder remain unknown. The incident has caused fear and anxiety among locals, who now feel insecure. The police have urged the public not to spread rumors and to cooperate with the investigation. The community is

in shock and awaiting justice.

In a separate incident at Wana Bazaar, a shooting broke out between two brothers at the Sholam Stand. One brother died on the spot, while the other was injured and transferred to Wana Headquarters Hospital for treatment.





# Food aid to Gaza falls as Israel sets new aid rule

GAZA (Reuters): Food supplies to Gaza have fallen sharply in recent weeks because Israeli authorities have introduced a new customs rule on some humanitarian aid and are separately scaling down deliveries organized by businesses, people involved in getting goods to the war-torn territory told Reuters.

The new customs rule applies to truck convoys chartered by the United Nations to take aid from Jordan to Gaza via Israel, seven people familiar with the matter said. Under the rule, individuals from relief organizations sending aid must complete a form providing passport details, and accept liability for any false information on a shipment, the people said. They said relief agencies are disputing that requirement, which was announced mid-August, because they fear signing the form could expose staff to legal problems if aid fell into the hands of Hamas or other enemies of Israel.

As a result, shipments have not been getting through the Jordan route -- a key channel in Gaza supplies -- for two weeks. The dispute has not affected shipments via Cyprus and Egypt, the sources said. In a parallel move, Israeli authorities have restricted commercial food shipments to Gaza amid concerns that Hamas was benefiting from that trade, the people familiar with the matter and industry sources said. UN and Israeli government data show that in September, deliveries of food and aid sank to their lowest in seven months.

Israeli's military humanitarian unit, Cogat, which oversees aid and commercial shipments to Gaza, confirmed that no UN-chartered convoy has moved from Jordan to Gaza since Sept. 19, but a spokesperson said Israel was not blocking goods. The spokesperson referred questions about the form dispute to Israel's Ministry of Economy. A ministry spokesperson did not answer Reuters' questions. A spokesperson for the UN's emergency-response arm, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), declined to comment. Cogat did not address specific questions about commercial shipments. The twin restrictions, which have not been previously reported, have reignited concerns among aid workers that pervasive food insecurity will worsen for the 2.3 million Gazans trapped in the occupied Palestinian territory.

"Lack of food is some of the worst it's been during the war, these past weeks especially," Nour al-Amassi, a doctor who works in southern Gaza, told Reuters by phone. "We thought we'd been able to get a hold on it but it's got worse. My clinic treats 50



children a day for various issues, injuries and illness. On average 15 of those are malnourished." The number of trucks carrying food and other goods to Gaza fell to around 130 per day on average in September, according to Cogat statistics. That is below about 150 recorded since the beginning of the war, and far off the 600 trucks a day that the US Agency for International Development says are required to address the threat of famine in wartime.

Food insecurity has been one of most fraught issues of the war that began after Hamas's Oct. 7 attack on Israel last year. In May, International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors asked the court to issue an arrest warrant against Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, saying they suspected Israeli authorities had used "the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare." Israeli authorities have denied this, saying they facilitate food deliveries to Gaza despite challenging conditions. In September, they filed two official challenges to the ICC, contesting the legality of the prosecutor's request and contesting the court's jurisdiction. During the war, aid to Gaza has been delivered through several different routes that have come in and out of operation, according to UN and Israeli officials.

The main route before the war was to southern Gaza via Egypt, after a detour for Israeli scans. Since Israel launched a military assault on the town of Rafah in May, UN aid coming that way has slumped because insecurity made it increasingly difficult to organize, UN relief agencies have said. In May, a US-led effort launched a pier to deliver humanitarian aid by boat, but the jetty was damaged by storms and abandoned in July. Some shipments that were earmarked for the pier at the time have yet to reach Gaza even after they were re-routed through the Israeli

port of Ashdod, aid workers said. Israel opened the Jordan route in December, allowing trucks to move directly from the Hashemite Kingdom to Gaza. UN and NGO aid workers say the Jordan corridor became the most reliable until the recent suspension.

Transportation via the route was helped after Israeli authorities agreed with Jordan to simplify customs procedures for humanitarian aid transported by UN agencies. But in mid-August, Cogat informed UN relief agencies that this fast track had been revoked, the people familiar with the matter said. That generates additional costs and delays. The new customs form is an extra headache, the sources said, adding the UN side had proposed an alternative and was hopeful Israel would accept it. Compounding concerns about hunger in Gaza, the sources pointed to a recent drop in commercial supplies.

Commercial imports by Gaza-based traders made up the majority of the 500 trucks that entered the territory daily before the war. Israel halted most of these supplies when war broke out, but allowed food imports to resume from Israeli-controlled territory in May, helping to augment the supply of fresh, nutritious products not contained in aid shipments, four Gazan traders and four UN officials said. But commercial shipments have fallen from a daily average of 140 trucks in July to 80 in September, according to Cogat statistics. In the last two weeks of September, Gaza-based traders said the daily average fell even further, to a low of 45 trucks. Israeli authorities actively promoted commercial supply since May, saying in June it was a more efficient alternative to UN aid. But they changed tack after realizing that Hamas managed to levy taxes on some commercial shipments and seize some of the food, people familiar with the matter said.

## Ukraine's military will pull out of Vuhledar

KYIV (AP): Ukrainian forces are withdrawing from the front-line town of Vuhledar, perched atop a tactically significant hill in eastern Ukraine, after more than two years of grinding battle, military officials said.

Vuhledar, a town Ukrainian forces fought tooth and nail to keep, is the latest urban settlement to fall to the Russians as the war stretches deep into its third year and the Ukrainian army is gradually being pushed backward in the eastern Donetsk province. It follows a vicious summer campaign along the eastern front that saw Kyiv cede several thousand square kilometers (square miles) of territory as the Russian army hacks its way westward, obliterating towns and villages with missiles, glide bombs, artillery and drones.

Ukraine's Khortytsia ground forces formation, which commands eastern regions including Donetsk, said in a statement posted on Telegram it was withdrawing troops from Vuhledar to "protect military personnel and equipment." "In an attempt to take control of the city at any cost, (Russian) reserves were directed to carry out flanking attacks, which exhausted the defense of the units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. As a result of the enemy's actions, there arose a threat of encircling the city," the statement said. The tactical significance of the town, situated at the confluence of two major roads, is twofold. Dominant heights and proximity to railway lines offer Moscow greater protection for their own logistics routes, and a better vantage point for attacks against Ukrainian forces and supply lines feeding the south. Its capture is another notch in Moscow's belt, bringing it closer to the key logistics hub of Pokrovsk.

## Dominican Republic will deport Haitians

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP): The Dominican Republic announced that it would start massive deportations of Haitians living illegally in the country, expelling up to 10,000 of them a week.

Government spokesman Homero Figueroa told reporters that the government took the decision after noticing an "excess" of Haitian migrants in the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti. Figueroa said officials have seen an increase in Haitian migrants as a UN-backed mission in Haiti to fight gang violence flounders. He said authorities also agreed to strengthen border surveillance and control, but he did not provide details.

Last year, the Dominican Republic deported more than 174,000 people it says are Haitians, and in the first half of the year, it has expelled at least 67,000 more. Activists have long criticized the administration of President Luis Abinader for what they say are ongoing human rights violations of Haitians and those of Haitian descent born in the Dominican Republic. Abinader has denied any mistreatment. Announcement comes a week after Abinader announced at the UN General Assembly that he would take "drastic measures" if the mission in Haiti fails. It is led by nearly 400 police officers from Kenya, backed by nearly two dozen police and soldiers from Jamaica and two senior military officers from Belize.

# Ukraine ramps up arms production, says Zelenskiy

KYIV (Reuters): Ukraine can produce four million drones annually and is quickly ramping up its production of other weapons, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said in comments authorised for publication. Speaking to executives from dozens of foreign arms manufacturers in Kyiv, Zelenskiy said Ukraine had already contracted to produce 1.5 million drones this year.

Drone production was virtually non-existent in Ukraine before Russia's invasion in February 2022. "In extremely difficult conditions of the full-scale war under constant Russian strikes, Ukrainians were able to build a virtually new defence industry," said Zelenskiy. Ukraine tripled its overall domestic weapons production in 2023 and then doubled that volume again in just the first eight months of this year. Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal told the same gathering. Ukrainian officials gave no absolute figures. More than 31 months into its war with invading Russian forces, and with no

end in sight, Ukraine now spends roughly half of its state budget - or about \$40 billion - on defence. Ukraine also receives large amounts of military as well as financial support from its Western allies. Russia, which is much larger and richer than its southern neighbour, is expected to hike its own military spending by 25% next year from its 2024 level, to about \$145 billion. Ukrainian officials say they expect foreign funding to steadily diminish while its defence needs continue to balloon. Kyiv is increasingly focused on producing as much as possible domestically.

Shmyhal said the government plans to increase spending to help bolster growth in domestic weapon production in 2025. "Next year's budget envisages a 65% increase in funds for weapon purchases. This is an increase of almost \$7 billion," Shmyhal told the forum. He said Ukraine's strategic task was to increase its domestic long-range capabilities and create conditions to have a techno-

logical advantage over Russian forces. Moscow forces have been steadily advancing in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region and claimed complete control of the small mining town of Vuhledar.

The ability to strike deep inside Russia is a priority for Ukraine. Zelenskiy has been seeking permission to use Western long-range missiles for strikes inside Russia, so far without any agreement. "Among our strategic tasks is to strengthen the long-range capability of Ukrainian weapons, so that there is no safe place in the European part of Russia where the 'debris' of our drones and missiles could not reach," Shmyhal said. During event, several agreements were signed between Ukrainian and foreign companies to produce ammunition, different types of drones and also to repair Western equipment in Ukraine. Franco-German defence group KNDS, which produces heavily armoured wheeled and tracked vehicles, announced it had opened a subsidiary in Kyiv.

# CIA expands online recruitment of informants

WASHINGTON (Reuters): The US CIA launched a new drive to recruit informants in China, Iran and North Korea, adding to what it says has been a successful effort to enlist Russians.

The premier US spy agency posted instructions in Mandarin, Farsi and Korean on its accounts on X, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, LinkedIn and the Dark Web on how to contact it securely, a CIA spokesperson said in a statement.

"Our efforts on this front have been successful in Russia, and we want to make sure individuals in other authoritarian regimes know that we're open for business," the spokesperson said, adding that the CIA was adapting to increased state repression and global surveillance. A Mandarin-language video posted to YouTube featuring only written instructions advised individuals to

contact the CIA via its official website using trusted encrypted Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) or the TOR network. "Your safety and wellbeing is our foremost consideration," it said.

It asked for individuals' names, locations, and contact details not associated with their real identities, along with information that could be of interest to the CIA, cautioning that responses were not guaranteed and could take time. Liu Pengyu, a Chinese embassy spokesman, accused the US of waging "an organized and systematic" disinformation campaign against China and said that "any attempts to drive a wedge between the Chinese people and the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) or to weaken their close bond will inevitably fail." The Russian embassy and Iran's UN mission did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The CIA's thirst for intelligence

has grown as China expands cooperation with Russia and Iran and flexes its regional military muscle. Russia, China, Iran and North Korea are known within the US intelligence community as "hard targets" - countries whose governments are difficult to penetrate.

The US also is grappling with Iran's conflict with Israel, its nuclear program, its growing links with Russia and its support for militant proxies. North Korea's nuclear weapons program is another US intelligence target, along with what US officials say are Pyongyang's arms supplies to Moscow for the war against Ukraine, an allegation that Moscow and Pyongyang deny. The CIA began recruiting Russians in 2022 by posting Russian language texts on its social media accounts on how to contact the agency securely, followed by videos in 2023.

# German ships that passed through Taiwan Strait were warned off

SINGAPORE (Reuters): The German Navy ships that transited the Taiwan Strait last month received close scrutiny and repeated radio messages from Chinese vessels, the German task group's commander said, but there was no unsafe behaviour.

The frigate FGS Baden-Wuerttemberg and logistics ship FGS Frankfurt am Main were "shadowed by Chinese surface vessels," who sent radio messages that the South China Sea waters were theirs by law, said Rear Admiral Axel Schulz, adding the German ships responded that they were in international waters exercising freedom of navigation. "They actually acted in a safe and professional manner, although they have let us know that we are not really welcome," Schulz said, standing on the helicopter deck of the Baden-Wuerttemberg. "But we haven't really experienced any dangerous situation whatsoever."

Sept. 13 was the first time German military ships had passed through the strait in 20 years. The People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre command said at the time that the ships had been warned and monitored, and that the passage "increases

security risks and sends the wrong signal". Since then, naval vessels from Japan, Australia and New Zealand have transited the sensitive waterway, and US aircraft have flown above it, underlining their position that they were international waters. The two German ships were there as part of their country's second Indo-Pacific deployment, a mission to conduct exercises with allies and partners, and to ensure freedom of the seas, Schulz said. They travelled to the Philippines after their strait passage, then headed to Singapore, where they arrived. Two German vessels participated in a bilateral exercise with Singapore's navy to "enhance interoperability".

Their presence in the Indo-Pacific was important because it showed Berlin's commitment to its partners in the region, and to being a responsible member of the rules-based international order, said Bettina Fanghanel, Germany's ambassador to Singapore. "Germany is not an Indo-Pacific power," Fanghanel said. "We have vital interests in the Indo-Pacific. ... It's important for me to stress that we are here to stay, that this is a lasting

engagement." The ships will next head to India, and the Baden-Wuerttemberg will eventually be posted off the coast of Lebanon, said German Navy Frigate Captain Alexander Gottschalk. The frigate, whose main weapons are a 127-millimetre (5-inch) cannon and Harpoon anti-ship missiles, was designed to accommodate special mission personnel, meaning it has 80 spare berths beyond what is needed for the crew of 126, Gottschalk said. That gives it flexibility to help with an evacuation if needed, for example.

The activity of foreign vessels in the strait has come against the backdrop of increased Chinese exercises in the waters around Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own over the strong objections of the government in Taipei. At the end of September, China test-flew an ICBM, with the dummy warhead landing in the Pacific Ocean - the first missile test to do so since the 1980s. Confidential estimates put together by Taiwan's armed forces said that China spent about \$15 billion or about 7% of its defence budget, on military activity around the island in 2023.

# Taiwan shuts down as Typhoon Krathon approaches

BANGKOK (AFP): Taiwan shut down schools and closed its financial markets as Typhoon Krathon pounded the island with torrential rains and strong winds ahead of its expected landfall.

Krathon, with sustained wind speeds of 144 kilometres (89 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 180 kph, was 100 kilometres southwest of the major port city Kaohsiung at 9 pm (1300 GMT), the Central Weather Administration (CWA) said. The government announced that offices and schools across the island will remain closed on Thursday. The interior ministry said around 10,000 people had been evacuated from vulnerable areas as a precaution.

The typhoon, downgraded overnight to medium from strong under Taiwan's measurement system, was expected to arrive near southwestern Kaohsiung or Tainan on Thursday morning, the agency said, a day later than previously forecast. "This typhoon is moving very slowly. The time of its landfall continues to be delayed," said CWA chief Cheng Chia-ping, adding it will weaken rapidly after landing. Premier Cho Jung-tai urged the public to stay at home and remain vigilant. "Krathon is moving very slowly, which also pro-

longs the time it may cause damage to Taiwan... It is necessary to strengthen vigilance in the south and the eastern areas affected by continuous rainfall."

All domestic flights and around 250 international flights were cancelled. Domestic flights will be suspended again on Thursday. Two people had been killed, two were missing and more than 100 injured, according to the National Fire Agency. A 70-year-old man was rushed to hospital after he fell while trimming trees in eastern Hualien county and died in hospital. And a 66-year-old man, hospitalised in nearby Taitung after his truck hit a huge rock that had fallen onto the road, also died. Krathon also temporarily disrupted electricity in nearly 55,000 homes, authorities said.

Typhoons are common around the region at this time of year. However, a recent study showed that they are increasingly forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change. The streets of Kaohsiung were nearly empty and trees were bending as heavy rain and strong winds lashed the port city. Its airport was almost deserted, with staff putting up metal bars to brace the

entrance gates in preparation for the typhoon while a handful of tourists tried to reschedule their flights. "We came to the airport counter but unfortunately it's not in service... We have to stay at least two or three days longer," Malaysian tourist Chan Kawoh told AFP after his flight home was cancelled. Powerful waves pounded Kaohsiung's coast, with some seawater spilling onto the road near the scenic Sizihwan Bay. Local authorities have distributed sandbags and cleared storm drains to avoid a repeat of the widespread flooding seen during typhoon Gaemi in July.

In neighbouring Taitung, TV footage showed rivers swelling as torrential rain hit the county. Gaemi was the strongest typhoon to make landfall in Taiwan in eight years, killing at least 10 people and injuring hundreds. Taiwan is accustomed to frequent tropical storms from July to October, but experts say climate change has increased their intensity, leading to heavy rains, flash floods and strong gusts. The storm was approaching Taiwan after slamming into a remote group of Philippine islands, where it cut power and communications and damaged "many" houses, according to a local mayor.

# 5 Chinese nationals charged

DETROIT (AP): US authorities charged five Chinese nationals with lying and trying to cover their tracks, more than a year after they were confronted in the dark near a remote Michigan military site where thousands of people had gathered for summer drills. The five, who were University of Michigan students at the time, were not charged for what happened at Camp Grayling in August 2023. Rather they are accused of misleading investigators about the trip

and conspiring to clear their phones of photos, according to a criminal complaint filed in federal court. The FBI noted in the court filing that there have been instances of college students from China taking photos of vital defense sites in the United States.

There was nothing in the file revealing the whereabouts of the five men. "The defendants are not in custody. Should they come into contact with US authorities, they will be arrested and face these charges," Gina

Balaya, a spokesperson for the US Attorney's Office in Detroit, said. In summer 2023, the five were confronted after midnight near a lake by a sergeant major with the Utah National Guard. One said, "We are media," before they collected their belongings and agreed to leave the area, the FBI said. The FBI learned that the men had booked a room at a nearby motel a week before they were spotted outside Camp Grayling, 200 miles (320 kilometers) north of Detroit.



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## West once again upbeat about China's economy

FOR more than two years now, the Chinese economy was seen to be in deep trouble, especially with the meltdown of the property market bubble. Chinese authorities were trying to save the situation even as growth rates slowed down, and factory output was down significantly. There was talk of American businesses moving out of China and moving into Vietnam, the Philippines and India.

But there is a change in the air, and the market sentiment about China in the West has turned from negative to positive. This follows the easing of interest rates, and the rules for buying property. This is as a stimulus measure, and the government is promising to take more measures to boost the economy but incrementally. This has spiked the stock markets, and this in turn has made investors in the West smile. The Shanghai Composite Index moved up eight per cent, and it moved above the 3,300-points level. Similarly, the Shenzhen Component Index moved up 10.67 per cent, and the technology portfolio-based Chi Next in Shenzhen moved up 15.36 per cent. The combined trading value of Shanghai and Shenzhen bourses was \$371 billion.

It is interesting that this change in market sentiment comes at a time when China is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Communist Party coming to power in the country in 1979. China as a one-party country like many other communist countries had gone through tough times, both politically and economically. But the economic reforms introduced by Den Xiaoping pushed China to the second largest economy in the world. But after the Covid outbreak, things had turned badly for China, and even before that economic growth had slowed down. For more than 30 years, China had progressed at a terrific speed of double-digit growth. And then growth dropped to six per cent, and the phrase 'the new normal' came into play.

Along with economic slowdown came the harsh political measures under President Xi Jinping, who won a rare third term as leader of the Communist Party of China and of the country. The government's policy measures last week helped the economy, and China is once again creating the buzz among Western financial markets. There is not going to be a flood of Western investments in China, but Western investors are certainly turning to China, and they feel that China is once again a promising investment destination. "We're going to be very disciplined but in aggregate we feel there's more upside than downside," said Gabriel Sacks, emerging market portfolio manager at Abdrn. He said the group had brought Chinese stocks selectively.

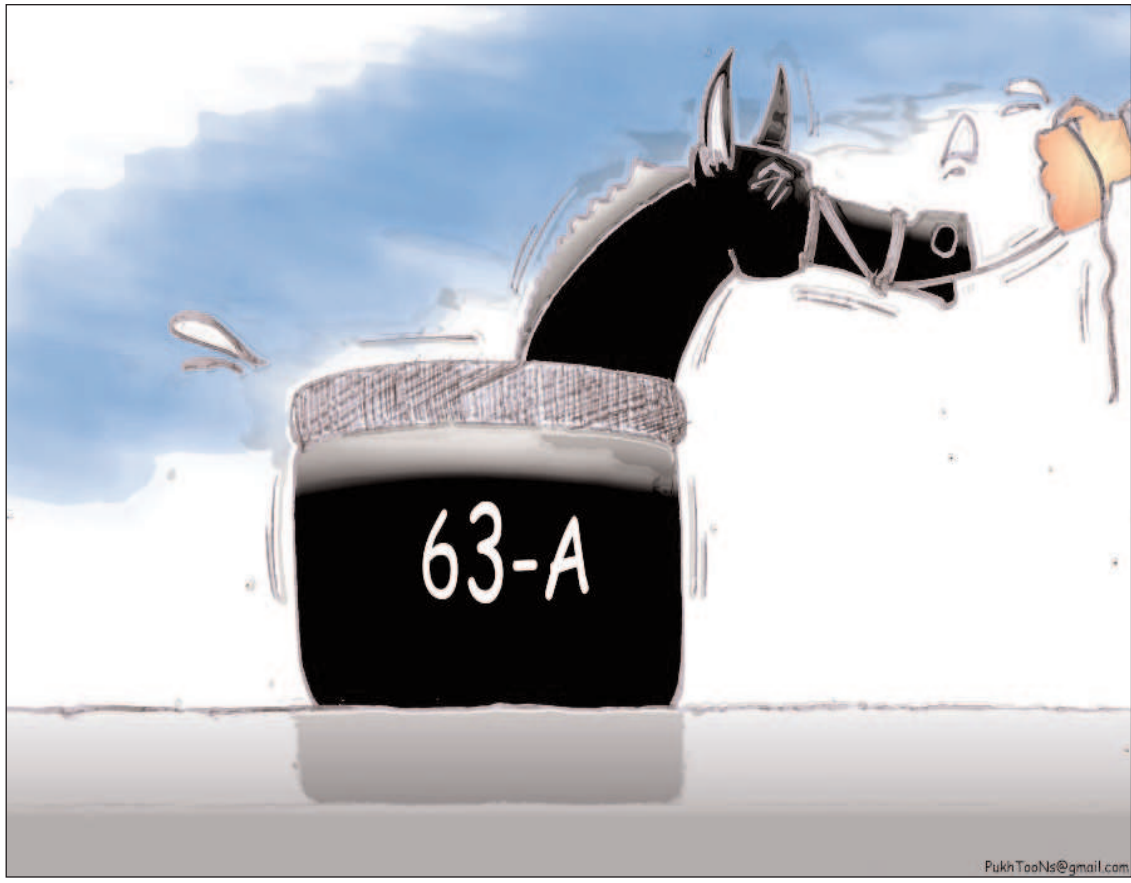
Despite Monday's market rally, China's macroeconomic problems remain. Consumer expenditure is lagging behind other advanced economies, and the property market is riding on a quick-profits boom sentiment. The experts believe that China needs a sustainable property demand for its economy to grow long and steady. It has to be seen whether speculation in the property sector would be reined in.

What is undeniable is that there is a change in mood about China, inside the country and abroad. There is the glimmer of hope that China can add to its robust growth rate. The West is looking for places to invest, and China is the most tempting market. The political tensions between the United States and China notwithstanding, the turnaround in the sentiment about the Chinese economy is good news for the global economy at large.

The global economic growth has been hovering at the low levels of 3 per cent, and the positive market vibes from China could spur global economic growth rate as well. This also brings home the harsh truth that along with the US, China too is the lynchpin of the global economy.

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## How Israel and the West lost their moral compass

Ross Anderson

MANY thousands of words have been written about the killing of Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut last week and I am not about to add to your ennui by contributing more. In any case, you will already have made up your mind about whether the Hezbollah leader was a resistance hero who fought the might of Israel's military to a standstill in 2006 or a puppet of Iran who ordered the deaths of hundreds of innocent people — or, arguably, both.

So, no. What does concern me, however, is the morality (or lack of it) of those who order what can only be described as extrajudicial executions.

I suppose the most prominent in recent memory was that of Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, shot dead by US special forces at his compound in northern Pakistan on May 2, 2011, with his body then unceremoniously dumped at sea. The media were not invited to the execution, so the abiding image is the photo taken inside the White House situation room as events unfolded — Barack Obama, Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton and assorted other bigwigs staring rapt at live video as though they were attending a private screening of the latest Hollywood blockbuster. Look carefully and you can see a nascent secretary of state, Antony Blinken, peering over a shoulder from the back of the room. As Lady Macbeth observed, "all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand" when it has blood on it.

More recently, a US

drone strike at Baghdad airport in January 2020 killed Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, head of the overseas Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. It also, incidentally (a word I use advisedly), killed nine other people, including the Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis, who had the misfortune to lose his life alongside the most powerful person in Iran after the supreme leader and has thus become merely a footnote to history.

Since then, the mantle of Lord High Executioner has largely passed to Israel, which has not been slow in putting it to use and boasting about it. Last week, the Israeli military published the photos of 11 Hezbollah commanders it claimed to have killed in a week of mayhem in Lebanon, and the glee with which they did so was almost palpable.

The moral argument, if it can be called that, advanced by Israel and the West is that they are the good guys at war with the bad guys, that they are democratically elected governments fighting in defense of the rule of law. The question they do not answer is this: when the good guys behave in exactly the same way as the bad guys (just with bigger guns), what exactly is it they are fighting for? The law, they say, but no law permits indiscriminate mayhem.

US President Joe Biden used a curious phrase to describe the death of Nasrallah: it brought, he said, "a measure of justice." Biden is no sprightly youth, but even he must surely know that America

has moved on from the days of cowboys in the Wild West dispensing justice from the barrel of a Colt 45. He may not know what justice looks like nowadays, but I do: it is when a criminal is investigated, arrested, charged, prosecuted, convicted and sentenced in a court of law. Justice must have a moral element, and it is not dispensed with a 2,000-lb bunker-buster bomb dropped on a densely populated residential suburb of Beirut.

It is often argued that traditional arrests and prosecutions are impossible when the "enemy" lurks in the shadows, protected by layers of security and numerous identities, refusing to play by the rules of traditional warfare — but that is the whole point of being the so-called good guys: we have rules, they do not.

If you think this happens only in the Middle East, you would be wrong. In 1989, Northern Ireland was in the depths of a period known euphemistically as "The Troubles" — a 30-year insurgency by republican paramilitaries in pursuit of a politically united Ireland, with the support, either overt or tacit, of about half the population. They were opposed by the other half of the population, who wished to remain part of the UK, along with loyalist paramilitaries and the British state. Between the late 1960s and 1998, more than 3,500 people died.

Pat Finucane was a human rights lawyer in Belfast. His clients came from both sides of the divide, but unionists viewed him as a republican mouthpiece. In

February 1989, two loyalist gunmen smashed through the front door of Finucane's home with a sledgehammer, shot him twice as he enjoyed a Sunday meal with his family, then fired 12 more bullets into his face at close range while his three children cowered under the table.

Numerous independent investigations have established that the murder was carried out with not only the collusion of the British security services, but also their active participation. British agents provided information on Finucane's precise whereabouts at a specific time and date and supplied one of the pistols used to kill him.

One of the gunmen, who was also a police informer, pleaded guilty to the murder and served a few years of a 22-year sentence before being released in 2006. No member of the British security establishment has ever been held to account for their involvement. Famously, Prime Minister David Cameron told the Finucane family at a meeting in Downing Street in 2011: "There are people in buildings all around here who won't let it happen."

Well, not any longer. New government in Westminster, new policy: after 35 years, there is now to be a full, judge-led public inquiry into Finucane's extrajudicial execution, at which the full involvement of the British state and its agents will be laid bare.

As Martin Luther King observed: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." When the history of these years in the Middle East comes to be written, we should hope that moral justice is served.

## Celebrating Confucius in Quzhou: A Journey into tradition

Alexander Long

RECENTLY, I had the privilege of attending the anniversary celebration of Confucius' birth in Quzhou, located in China's southern province of Zhejiang. The city is known to be a crossroads; the Qu even means this, being a hub for four provinces. This event, which holds deep cultural and philosophical significance, was an eye-opening experience into the heart of Chinese tradition and the enduring legacy of Confucianism.

The city is closely linked to the Confucian lineage, as it is home to the descendants of Confucius, with the 76th of his decedents taking part in the ancient procession. The city plays a unique role in keeping the philosopher's teachings alive, making it the perfect setting for such a commemoration. As I entered the beautifully preserved ancestral temples and heritage sites dedicated to Confucius, I was struck by the reverence with which this ancient figure is still celebrated today.

The atmosphere was filled with a palpable sense of respect and ceremony. Participants, many of them local scholars and descen-

dants of Confucius, were dressed in traditional Chinese robes, contributing to the sense of continuity between past and present. A series of ritual performances and prayers were offered, connecting modern society

This experience provided me with invaluable insights into Confucianism; exploring the museums and talking to locals, it provided me a great insight into this philosophy that emphasizes moral integrity, social harmony and respect for one's elders and ancestors. The principles of Confucianism continue to influence Chinese society, shaping interpersonal relationships, governance, and even education. I was fascinated to learn that while modern China has undergone rapid economic and technological transformation, it has not abandoned the cultural values that have been central to its identity for centuries.

with the ideals Confucius championed over two millennia ago.

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continue to influence Chinese society, shaping interpersonal relationships, governance, and even education. I was fascinated to learn that while modern China has undergone rapid economic and technological

transformation, it has not abandoned the cultural values that have been central to its identity for centuries. Beyond the ritual, there were numerous discussions and presentations by Confucian scholars on how these ancient teachings are interpreted in the context of today's society. From ideas about filial piety to the importance of ethical governance, I realized that

Confucianism isn't just a relic of the past but remains a living philosophy, offering guidance on how to navigate the complexities of modern life.

What struck me most was how seamlessly the old traditions coexist with modernity in China. While the country is rapidly advancing in terms of technology and global influence, it still places immense value on its historical roots. The Confucius anniversary celebrations were not just about honoring the past but also about preserving a philosophy that continues to enrich the present.

My time in Quzhou reminded me that while change is inevitable, traditions like Confucianism offer a sense of continuity and grounding. This experience was a profound reminder of the cultural depth of China, and how its people are committed to upholding their rich heritage while navigating a fast-paced, modern world.

As I left Quzhou, I carried with me a deeper understanding of Confucius' enduring relevance, not just for China, but for anyone seeking wisdom and moral clarity in a changing world. — China Daily

## New NATO chief Rutte must hit the ground running

Luke Coffey

FOR the first time in more than a decade, NATO has a new secretary-general. Jens Stoltenberg from Norway this week stepped down and was replaced by Mark Rutte, the former prime minister of the Netherlands.

Rutte is an experienced statesman and has been a staunch defender of Ukraine. His home country, the Netherlands, also understands the consequences of Russian aggression. In July 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, departing from Amsterdam, was shot down over eastern Ukraine by a Russian air defense system. Of the 298 people killed, 193 were Dutch citizens. This tragedy has had a profound impact on the Netherlands.

However, despite Rutte's credentials, his selection as secretary-general sparked some debate within NATO. Many in the alliance had

the 2 percent of GDP target, a notable achievement compared to just a decade ago. Much of the increased spending comes from countries in Central and Eastern Europe that border Russia or feel most threatened by Moscow. However, more work remains to be done.

Large European economies such as Spain and Italy continue to maintain low levels of defense expenditure, well below the 2 percent benchmark. The same is true of Canada. If former President Donald Trump returns to the White House in 2025, there will likely be renewed and intensified pressure on European countries to further boost their defense budgets. During Trump's first term, Stoltenberg was lauded for his ability to engage with the US president while simultaneously encouraging European allies to increase their military spending. It remains to be seen if Rutte

Rutte certainly has big shoes to fill.

During his decade-long tenure, Stoltenberg skillfully guided NATO through some of the most turbulent times in its history. When he assumed office in 2014, Russia had just invaded Ukraine for the first time, NATO had recently ended its combat operations in Afghanistan and only three of its member states were meeting the 2 percent of GDP defense spending requirement. Under Stoltenberg's leadership, NATO expanded by adding four new members and significantly increased its presence in Central and Eastern Europe, a move many thought impossible just a few years earlier. Defense spending within the alliance also grew consistently.

hoped that the next secretary-general would be selected from one of NATO's newer member states, particularly from Central or Eastern Europe. These regions are seen as more directly affected by recent geopolitical challenges and their inclusion in the leadership might have symbolized NATO's new focus.

Moreover, at a time when burden-sharing and defense spending are pressing topics within the alliance, some critics found it unusual that the new secretary-general comes from a country that, until this year, failed to meet NATO's minimum defense spending requirement of 2 percent of gross domestic product. This point of contention reflects the growing impatience within NATO regarding equitable contributions to collective defense.

Rutte certainly has big shoes to fill. During his decade-long tenure, Stoltenberg skillfully guided NATO through some of the most turbulent times in its history. When he assumed office in 2014, Russia had just invaded Ukraine for the first time, NATO had recently ended its combat operations in Afghanistan and only three of its member states were meeting the 2 percent of GDP defense spending requirement.

Under Stoltenberg's leadership, NATO expanded by adding four new members and significantly increased its presence in Central and Eastern Europe, a move many thought impossible just a few years earlier. Defense spending within the alliance also grew consistently. Perhaps Stoltenberg's most defining legacy is NATO's response to Russia's second invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which saw the alliance rally in support of Kyiv, mobilizing military and humanitarian aid on an unprecedented scale.

Looking ahead, Rutte's in-tray is already filled with pressing issues, with Ukraine at the very top. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has fundamentally altered the security landscape in Europe, marking the most significant shift in the continent's security dynamics in more than 80 years. It has been a stark wake-up call for many across Europe, highlighting the need to take defense and security much more seriously.

For NATO members in Central and Eastern Europe, Russia's aggression represents an existential threat. Rutte himself has acknowledged that providing sustained support to Ukraine will likely be the most critical challenge of his tenure as secretary-general.

Another significant issue on Rutte's plate is the question of burden-sharing in defense spending within NATO. This summer, 23 of NATO's 32 members met

will possess the same diplomatic skills and success in navigating this complex issue.

In addition to addressing defense spending, Rutte will need to expand NATO's network of global relationships. The alliance has struggled to adapt to the newly emerging multipolar world that has replaced the bipolarity of the Cold War era. The deepening ties of Iran and North Korea with Russia, particularly in the context of the Ukraine war, exemplify how countries far from Europe can still significantly impact the security of the transatlantic community.

China's growing influence poses another challenge. Last year, NATO leaders declared China a "strategic enabler" of Russia's war in Ukraine. As concerns over Beijing's activities in Europe and the Indo-Pacific rise, NATO has stepped up its engagement with countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea. It is likely that, under Rutte's leadership, NATO will seek to further deepen its involvement in the Indo-Pacific.

Additionally, Rutte must focus on strengthening NATO's relationships with the Middle East and North Africa. Iran's increasingly aggressive behavior, combined with its provision of weapons to Moscow for use in Ukraine, highlights the importance of closer engagement between NATO and the MENA region.

Enhanced cooperation with key regional actors should be a priority for Rutte. All of this must be achieved against a complex political backdrop in the transatlantic community.

Far-right parties, often sympathetic to or supportive of Russia's worldview, have been gaining ground in countries such as Hungary and Slovakia. In Germany, far-right parties have seen success in recent local elections and there are growing concerns about the potential rise of far-right nationalist politicians in France. This trend presents a challenge for NATO.

Firstly, many of these far-right parties do not share the same commitment to NATO or to strong transatlantic relations as mainstream political groups. Secondly, NATO's decision-making process requires unanimity, meaning any member state can block or stall important decisions. This has already created obstacles, particularly regarding NATO's relationship with Ukraine.

As NATO celebrates its 75th anniversary, the alliance, which started with 12 members in 1949, has grown to 32 countries. Europe is facing its largest conflict since the Second World War and, with growing geopolitical uncertainty in both the Middle East and East Asia, the new secretary-general has no choice but to hit the ground running.



# US military action in the Middle East is not making Israel safer

**ON October 1, Iran launched a massive aerial attack on Israel in retaliation for the assassinations of senior Hezbollah and Hamas leaders and some Iranian officers in Beirut and Tehran.**

In anticipation of the attack and to help defend its ally Israel, the United States had expanded its already significant military presence in the Middle East. Its destroyers helped intercept the 180 projectiles Iran fired at military bases in Israel. Such military action has become routine for the US, which has repeatedly intervened in the region in the past decades to directly or indirectly protect Israel.

However, US military interventions have had the opposite of the intended effect: They have made Israel more vulnerable and more dependent on ever greater deployment of American military power. This legacy has also made Israel the most dangerous place in the world for Jews.

This is because the US-Israeli fixation on military force has prevented any efforts to address the core causes of tensions in the region – primarily the Palestinian-Zionist conflict. This has also generated powerful new military actors and popular resistance groups across the Middle East.

Hezbollah, Hamas, Ansar Allah (the Houthis) and others now routinely attack both US and Israeli targets.

The power of the axis currently confronting Israel derives not only from its weapons, but also

from its close alignment with Arab public opinion. It is willing and able to militarily resist Israel's occupation and subjugation of Arabs, which no Arab state has done since 1973. All this reflects the decades of American-Israeli aggressions and wars, and Arab governments' inability to protect their lands, people, and sovereignty.

Washington's quick and massive military support for Israel perpetuates the cycle of violence and also contradicts its exhortations to de-escalate and seek a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon. Few people in the Middle East seriously believe Washington's words, because its actions more consistently reveal that – with very few exceptions – warfare, sanctions, threats, and military build-ups have been its preferred tools of engagement with real or imagined foes in the region since World War II.

A regional war is steadily developing and the US is not allowing itself to be dragged into it by Israel, but rather it has willingly joined it. This is because the US loves war and loves to go to war for Israel. There are several reasons for this.

Washington has a penchant for warfare because American politicians understand that it boosts the economy. The US defence budget, now nearly \$850bn, increases by 2-3 percent annually, for a reason. War drives defence spending, investments, jobs, and profits for hundreds of big and small companies across the country, most of which donate generously to elect-

**Rami G Khouri**

ed officials' campaigns every two years.

So far, Washington has spent between \$1.8bn and \$4bn bombing Ansar Allah in Yemen, without stopping their attacks on ships passing through the Red Sea, launched in response to Israel's genocide in Gaza. The combined Israeli, US, British and French operation to intercept drones and missiles Iran launched against Israel in April cost an estimated \$1.1bn. The October 1 military response was likely equally expensive. Some Arab countries also helped intercept Iranian missiles, because Israel alone can no longer protect itself.

Washington spends these large amounts of money willingly, to bolster its global standing and also to keep feeding its expansive military-industrial complex via lucrative contracts for domestic use and foreign export.

The nearly \$4bn in US annual aid to Israel also mostly covers war-making systems purchased from American firms, so it constitutes a significant annual cash injection into the US military-industrial complex.

Apart from feeding and flaunting its war machines, the US also loves going to war for Israel for other reasons.

Israel's close political and military links with the US are partly a lingering remnant of the Cold War, when Israel was seen as a key ally defending US interests in a region dominated by hostile countries allied with the Soviet

Union. After the Cold War, Washington continued to view Tel Aviv as a strategic ally that helps maintain US dominance in the Middle East.

US politics are shaped by multiple forces, including Israeli propaganda, lobby groups, messianic Christians, the pro-Israel mainstream media, and others – who also facilitate military action in defence of Israel.

President Joe Biden stands out among recent American presidents as one of the most sincerely fanatical supporters of Israel, for two reasons: because he benefits politically from this stance, and because his formative years in US politics coincided with the height of Israeli propaganda and national achievements in the 1960s and 70s. Israel was still seen then as a divinely aided miracle that emerged from the horrors of the Holocaust in Europe – a view that the US president, who proudly calls himself a Zionist, still holds.

The US Congress also reflects these dynamics. It has ensured the steady flow of generous aid and special economic and technological privileges for Israel, and the legal commitment (PDF) to keep Israel more powerful than all its foes.

US mainstream media has played a central role in keeping the American public ignorant of Palestinian realities, and supportive of Israel and American largesse towards it. It has justified US military adventures abroad and systematically skewed its reporting to accommodate

Israeli positions on the conflicts with Palestinians, Lebanon, Iran, and on the Middle East in general.

This latest confrontation will likely not be the last one. As regional conflict flares, the American armadas will continue to visit us regularly and destabilise the region and the world. This legacy of US militarism in the past quarter-century has spawned some 60 military bases and other facilities across the Middle East.

This trend will continue until wiser leaders all around try to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli and US-Iranian conflicts through negotiations anchored in the principle that Israel, Palestine, Iran and all other interested parties must enjoy equal rights of statehood, sovereignty and security. The US and Israel speak vague words along these lines, but act in ways that prevent serious peace-making and promote eternal military conflicts.

The vast majority of Arab public opinion feels strongly that Palestinians must have their sovereign state as part of the process to achieve a regional Arab-Israeli peace. This sentiment is also slowly spreading among the American public, possibly paving the way for a change of policy in Washington.

Indeed, investing in true peace efforts would be easier, more equitable, less expensive, and much less destructive than perpetuating the current colonial situation that is regularly buttressed by visiting American troops. This is the best and probably the only way to guarantee Israel's security.

# ‘Dahiyeh Doctrine’ returns to Dahiyeh

**Somdeep Sen**

ly subjected civilians, including women and children, to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment... in order to terrorize, intimidate and humiliate them". It also detailed that the Israeli forces systematically destroyed Gaza's civilian infrastructure, including flour mills, farms, wastewater treatment plants, water installations and residential buildings.

In fact, the report said Israeli soldiers engaged in a "wave of systematic destruction of civilian buildings" during the last three days of the operation, despite being "aware of their imminent withdrawal".

In 2012, Israel's "Pillar of Defense" operation similarly targeted civilian infrastructure in Gaza. Israeli

assaults on Dahiyeh and wider Lebanon but has initiated a ground invasion. More than 1,000 have died and entire neighbourhoods have been devastated, with no end in sight to what the Israeli military calls a "limited, localised, targeted" operation. Israel is once again implementing the Dahiyeh Doctrine, waging war on an entire civilian population, with no regard for international law or human rights.

That Israel has been allowed to pursue the wholesale destruction of civilian life as a military objective, first in Lebanon, then repeatedly in Gaza, then again in Lebanon, with complete impunity is a grim reminder of the extent to which the peoples of the region have been devalued and dehumanised. Their lives seem to count for so

**Experts have asserted that this tactic is a gross violation of international law and that targeting civilian infrastructure, no matter the justification offered, is a war crime. Yet, Israeli authorities insist that it's a legitimate tactic of war and helps deter future attacks on Israel by its enemies. Two years after the devastating 2006 campaign on Lebanon, the head of Israel's northern command, Gadi Eisenkot, asserted that Israel will continue to use the strategy in future conflicts. "What happened in [Dahiyeh]... will happen in every village from which Israel is fired on," he said. "We will apply disproportionate force on it and cause great damage and destruction there. From our standpoint, these are not civilian villages, they are military bases." "This is not a recommendation," Eisenkot added, "This is a plan. And it has been approved." And the plan was indeed followed.**

**In the following years, the doctrine was implemented, over and over again, just not in Lebanon, but in Gaza. The doctrine, for example, was clearly in play during Israel's "Operation Cast Lead" in 2008 that killed 1,400 Palestinians, including 300 children, in Gaza. The Goldstone report from the UN's post-war fact-finding mission found that Israeli soldiers "deliberately subjected civilians, including women and children, to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment... in order to terrorize, intimidate and humiliate them".**

forces destroyed or severely damaged 382 civilian residences. This included an airstrike on a three-storey home in the al-Nasser neighbourhood that killed 12 people, including 5 children. Israeli forces also destroyed or damaged bridges, sports facilities, banks, hospitals, media offices, farms and mosques.

"Operation Protective Edge" killed more than 2,000 Palestinians – including 1,400 civilians – in Gaza, in 2014. It also followed the Dahiyeh Doctrine. In violation of international law, Israeli rockets and mortars targeted "civilian buildings and infrastructure, including schools and houses, causing direct damage to civilian property amounting to almost \$25 million". In total, 18,000 housing units were damaged or destroyed. Israeli forces also struck Gaza's water, sanitation, electricity and healthcare infrastructure as part of this operation.

Of course, the most severe display of the Dahiyeh Doctrine has been during Israel's ongoing genocidal campaign in Gaza. Since October 7, Israel's apparent strategy of targeting Gaza's civilian population and infrastructure with the full force of the military to try and deter Hamas has brought a catastrophe comparable only to the Nakba of 1948.

In just a year, Israel's military completely devastated all infrastructural and institutional bases of Palestinian civilian life in Gaza. Now, in a tragic turn of events, the Dahiyeh Doctrine has returned to the very neighbourhood it was originally conceived in – Beirut's Dahiyeh. Israel is not only continuing its air

little that rather than being condemned as a blatant assault on international law and morality, the "Dahiyeh Doctrine" appears to have been accepted by those leading the global community – Israel's Western allies and backers – as a legitimate pathway to achieving regional stability.

The global majority is of course deeply critical of Israel's assaults on civilian infrastructure in Gaza and Lebanon. Yet, Israel's partners in the West continue to support these efforts both materially and ideologically. Even when Israeli authorities outrageously claim that they are "escalating" their war efforts – meaning killing and maiming civilians and making their environments inhabitable – to "de-escalate", they nod in approval.

Israel's use of the Dahiyeh Doctrine, against different peoples, repeatedly and openly over two decades, without facing any official sanction, is yet another confirmation that the same countries and leaders who posture as the guarantors of the liberal order are also woefully guilty of violating its fundamental ethos.

Tragically, the hypocrisy of the leaders of the global community means that there is no incentive for Israel – today or in the foreseeable future – to confine this brutal, illegal and inhuman strategy to the dustbin of history. Until the masses across the world rise up to apply pressure on their leaders to put an end to Israel's many excesses, civilians in Lebanon, Palestine and across the region will continue to suffer and die under the Dahiyeh Doctrine.

— *Aljazeera*

# Israel destroyed my university, but not my desire for an education

I started my bachelor's degree in architectural engineering at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) in 2021. I was very proud of myself for making it into the field of study that I had always wanted to pursue.

My life seemed all set for the next five years. I was going to study hard, try to pass my exams with good grades, intern at a well-known engineering office, and then apply for a master's degree.

Everything was going according to plan until October 7 last year. That day I was supposed to submit a university project I had lost a lot of sleep on. The bombing started in the morning but I didn't pay attention and I kept working on the project. I was used to Israeli attacks on Gaza. I had lived through half a dozen of them.

Then I received news that university classes had been suspended. Again, I thought things would be back to normal soon, so I finished the project and submitted it.

The next day, on October 8, I was supposed to discuss a group assignment with three other classmates. It was slated to be our last discussion to wrap up the project before submitting it on October 10. Instead of talking to my classmates, I received the news that one of them, my dear friend Alaa, had been killed by an Israeli air strike. Instead of finishing the university assignment, I mourned my friend.

On October 14, I bid farewell to my home in Gaza City as my parents, siblings and I fled to Khan Younis, thinking we would be safe there. I left behind my laptop, projects, books,

and everything related to my studies.

In Khan Younis, I dreamed of going back to university. Eventually, I did, but not to study. In early December, a mosque right opposite the apartment building where we were staying was bombed by the Israeli army. We got scared and sought shelter in the nearby Al-Aqsa University, taking almost nothing with us. That night, the building where we had stayed was attacked and destroyed. We had to search through the rubble and extract whatever of our possessions we could find.

We stayed another month and a half in Khan Younis. I was afraid of connecting to the internet, let alone checking on classmates and friends. Just checking my WhatsApp was a terrifying nightmare. I was scared of learning about the deaths of people I knew. In December, I received news that another classmate, Fatima, was killed by the Israeli army along with her father and siblings.

In January, the Israeli army intensified bombardment, massacring hundreds in Khan Younis, and then raided Al-Khair Hospital near us. We fled to Rafah and settled in a small tent pitched in the street. Life was truly miserable.

But hope sometimes comes as a surprise visitor, when you least expect it. In March, word spread of a plan to allow Gaza students to enrol in West Bank universities and attend classes remotely. It was such a relief. I felt I was no longer wasting my life. I signed up for the programme and waited to hear from one of

**Aya Hellis**

the universities.

When Birzeit University (BZU) contacted me, I felt like fortune finally smiled on me. I registered for the maximum number of courses I was allowed and happily waited to start studying again. But my joy was short-lived. Just five days after the semester started on May 7, my family and I again had to flee the advancing Israeli army. Rafah was under attack, so we had to evacuate back to Khan Younis.

The Israeli army's assault on Khan Younis had left it looking like a ghost town. There was nothing left there. Buildings and infrastructure were completely destroyed. It was not suitable for life, but we had no choice. More than a million people evacuated with us from Rafah and displacement camps and other areas like Deir el-Balah were full to the brink.

This displacement meant that I could not complete my studies at BZU. While life in a tent in the streets of Rafah was hard, the internet there worked for the most part. In Khan Younis, there was no internet whatsoever. The nearest point from which I could connect was in al-Mawasi, seven kilometres (four miles) away.

I had to walk that distance with a heavy heart to send an email to BZU letting them know that I was ending my enrolment.

In June, I received news that my original university, IUG, had come up with a plan to allow students to complete their studies remotely through a combination of self-study and instruction.

It divided the semester we started last October in two, giving us a month to study material that would normally take months before taking exams for the first part; then we had to do the same for the second part.

Finding instructors for each course was a challenge. Many professors had been killed and many others were also displaced and in precarious situations, struggling to provide food and water for their families. As a result, we had one instructor assigned to the entire course of almost 800 students.

I registered for two courses, and every day started walking the seven kilometres to al-Mawasi under the scorching sun, passing heaps of rubble, garbage and puddles of sewage water, to download lectures and stay in touch with my university.

I was satisfied with that. Anything was better than sitting in a hot tent and wasting away in despair.

But maintaining this remote study was extremely difficult. Shortly after I started studying, the Israeli army carried out a massive attack on al-Mawasi, dropping eight enormous bombs on the camp, killing at least 90 people and injuring 300 others.

There was chaos and fear everywhere. I myself was scared to go anywhere near what was supposed to be a "safe zone".

I did not go back online for a week. The Israeli army had damaged the communications infrastructure. When I finally managed to get connected, the signal was very weak. It took me two days to download one book.

I managed to get back into studying only to be disrupted again. New evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military forced thousands of people into the empty area where we had settled. It became so overcrowded and noisy that I had trouble concentrating for hours.

Charging my phone to study was also another source of suffering. Every two days, I had to send it in the morning to a charging service and wait till the afternoon to get it back, wasting a whole day.

Exams week finally came in August. I had to scramble to find a good internet connection, and when I did, I had to pay a huge sum of money to use it for an hour. I did what I could on the exams.

Three weeks later, I received the results: A+ on both exams. I couldn't stop smiling that day.

Then I started studying for the second part of the semester and the other three exams, which I took in September.

I finished this improvised semester almost a year after the start of the war – a year of displacement, loss, tent life, nightmares and incessant explosions. As I struggled to study, I realised just how much I missed the small "luxuries" of my previous life: my desk, my bed, my room, my tea and chocolate bars.

These two months of studying for the exams were a small distraction from the overwhelming feelings of loss and despair amid this ongoing genocide. It felt like an injection of an anaesthetic to help me forget for just a little bit the pain of my miserable life.

**WHEN Israel struck an underground Hezbollah command centre in Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh last Friday, killing its long-time Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, the damage to civilian life was huge.**

Reportedly, Israeli jets dropped more than 80, 2000-pound "bunker-busting" bombs that have a destruction radius of 35 metres (115 feet) on their target. The strike that killed Nasrallah also flattened six residential buildings. Similar Israeli attacks in the past two weeks have wreaked havoc on civilian infrastructure in Beirut and across Lebanon. The death toll in Lebanon has now crossed the 1000 mark and a million people have fled their homes.

Israeli leaders have called on the people of Lebanon to get out of harm's way and to not become "human shields" for Hezbollah. Such messages suggest that the killing of civilians and the destruction of civilian infrastructure are unintended consequences of Israel's war-making.

In reality, targeting civilian life is a well-established tactic of the Israeli armed forces under the infamous "Dahiyeh Doctrine".

The doctrine, which takes its name from the Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut and entails the large-scale destruction of civilian infrastructure to pressure a hostile government or armed group, was devised in the context of Israel's 2006 war on Lebanon.

At the time, Israeli forces levied a destructive assault on the densely populated Dahiyeh and the remainder of Lebanon. According to the Red Cross, the 34-day campaign killed more than 1000 people and displaced 900,000. The Israeli forces destroyed or seriously damaged the country's entire civilian infrastructure, including its airports, water reserves, sewage treatment and power plants, fuel stations, schools, health centres and hospitals. In addition, 30,000 homes were destroyed or seriously damaged.

Experts have asserted that this tactic is a gross violation of international law and that targeting civilian infrastructure, no matter the justification offered, is a war crime. Yet, Israeli authorities insist that it's a legitimate tactic of war and helps deter future attacks on Israel by its enemies.

Two years after the devastating 2006 campaign on Lebanon, the head of Israel's northern command, Gadi Eisenkot, asserted that Israel will continue to use the strategy in future conflicts.

"What happened in [Dahiyeh]... will happen in every village from which Israel is fired on," he said. "We will apply disproportionate force on it and cause great damage and destruction there. From our standpoint, these are not civilian villages, they are military bases."

"This is not a recommendation," Eisenkot added, "This is a plan. And it has been approved."

And the plan was indeed followed. In the following years, the doctrine was implemented, over and over again, just not in Lebanon, but in Gaza.

The doctrine, for example, was clearly in play during Israel's "Operation Cast Lead" in 2008 that killed 1,400 Palestinians, including 300 children, in Gaza. The Goldstone report from the UN's post-war fact-finding mission found that Israeli soldiers "deliberate-

# Lebanese must unite and take their country back

**Khaled Abou Zahr**

Even in mediation, it picks and chooses what to apply and what to disregard. The conditions of any agreement only bind the other political groups, never Hezbollah. It is quite clear, Hezbollah does not recognize the international order and does not recognize the Lebanese state.

This situation has contributed to all the ills we see in the country. More importantly, it has never solved anything. It just stops the bleeding for a few moments. Before this war, there was another war and another one before that. There was another financial and economic crisis and another one before that. There was an occupation and another one before that.

The absence of a state has been set up or carved out to suit the needs of Hezbollah, not the Lebanese. Yet, through crises and wars, it has been institutionalized through international mediation. This is the time for change. This is why any international political mediation should be rejected until Lebanon decides its fate. Why was Hezbollah allowed to get away with not applying all the conditions of UN Security Council Resolution 1701? Why has it not given up its military arsenal?

We cannot allow this to continue. This time, pressure needs to be applied to Hezbollah during the negotiations. The nonexistent Lebanese state cannot act as

a counterforce that will preserve Hezbollah's status and military infrastructure. All infrastructure, from communications and airwaves to tunnels, should be controlled by the state, not a militia. Every decision on war or peace should be the decision of a state, not a militia. Hezbollah needs to deliver the weapons it holds. It should not be integrated into the army.

For all these reasons and for the future of Lebanon, no international mediation should interfere in the domestic political formulation. If Hezbollah does not yield to the will of the people, then its only choice will be to take over the country. And then we will all know, along with the international community, that Lebanon is Hezbollah. It can raise its

yellow flag across the nation and bear the consequences.

To avoid this outcome, the people need to put maximum pressure on the existing institutions to end the status of Hezbollah. It is time for the Lebanese Armed Forces, which has been the recipient of international support, to show where it stands. If the Lebanese can save their country, the militia delivers its weapons to the army and we start working on a new political system, then and only then should international support be welcomed. Until that time, international mediation will be of no use as it will not change anything.

Despite what French diplomats have put forward in past initiatives, stating that Hezbollah is a dominant

political force is wrong. It is not a dominant Lebanese political force, it is a militia and nothing else. Today, pushing ahead with mediation that allows for this misconception to be continued will be the cause of the next war or catastrophic crisis. It is best for French diplomacy to stay away rather than empower Hezbollah against what little is left of Lebanon's sovereign institutions.

It is not an easy task, but this is the time for the Lebanese to unite for their country and force the army to end Hezbollah's status. The people need to apply enough pressure so that they can impose domestically what is needed for a ceasefire and the start of the true rebuilding of the country. It begins with a single army.

**WHY is there a war in Lebanon today? Why is the country being destroyed yet again? Until when will it be dragged into destruction at every single turn of history? There is, for this round of destruction, just like the earlier ones, a single responsible party. It is Hezbollah. This terrorist organization and its unilateral decision to engage Israel.**

Before this intense increase in Israeli attacks, I had been quite vocal about the need to insulate Lebanon from what was happening in Gaza. I received a lot of criticism and disagreement from Lebanese so-called thought leaders when I stated that this was not Lebanon's war. Today, the

people are suffering and dying and these thought leaders are asking the world to help.

Humanitarian help is a great act and all Lebanese should be grateful to the countries dispensing it. But it is time to stop international political and financial help until the Lebanese figure out their future. No longer should the Lebanese state act as a go-between with an armed militia. No longer should an international solution impose a broken future for the country. This should be the end of the suffering. And for this to happen, things need to be clear about what Lebanon is as a country.

Lebanon needs to regain control of every aspect of its decision-making and it needs to regain its sover-





Pakistan's maritime sector:

# Pakistan, Denmark sign MOU for investment

## F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh signed this MOU on the behalf of Government of Pakistan and Denmark's Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs Morten Bodskov from the Danish Government. Denmark's Ambassador to Pakistan Jacob Linulf presented the signed document of Danish Minister in this ceremony. After this MOU, Maersk (Danish Shipping Company) is ready to invest almost 2 billion dollars in Pakistan's maritime sector. Finance Minister Moha-

mmad Aurangzeb, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal, Minister for Industries Rana Tanveer, Director General SIFC Maj Gen Asad-ur-Rehman, Additional Secretary Maritime Affairs Umar Zafar Sheikh and Secretary SIFC Jameel Qureshi were also present in this MOU signing ceremony.

On this occasion, Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said that we are extremely thankful to the Government of Denmark on this remarkable breakthrough in maritime sector.

He further added that as results of this memorandum ministry can integrated

logistics hubs in all ports, establish deep water container terminal in Karachi, create International Maritime Organization (IMO) and European Union (EU)-compliant ship recycling facilities in Gaddani, assist Pakistan Marine Academy to upgrade curriculum and equipment, and provide continuous technical and training assistance to Pakistani ports.

The Maritime Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh also highlighted the importance of Maersk Company in Pakistan's shipping industry. He said that Maersk has the highest market share of 20% for containerized

imports and exports in Pakistan.

Apart from that, the global market capital of this company is around 175 billion Danish Krone.

He further said that Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Denmark's Government was continuously working from last six months to reach at fruitful conclusion.

The Danish Ambassador to Pakistan Jakob Linulf also thanked to Government of Pakistan and Minister for Maritime Affairs on this progress. Both sides are willing to strengthen ties for the growth of maritime sector.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh and Denmark's Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs Morten Bodskov signing MoU.

## Pak-Malaysia agree for fostering deeper economic and trade cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to take significant steps towards fostering deeper economic cooperation and exploring new business opportunities that benefit both nations.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan held a meeting with Datuk Seri Utama Tengku Zafrul Bin Tengku Abdul Aziz, the Malaysian Minister for Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI). This meeting underscored the brotherly relations both countries cherish in all fields, according to a release issued.

The Minister for Commerce welcomed Minister Tengku Zafrul Aziz to Pakistan and highlighted the longstanding friendship between the two nations.

Jam emphasized that there is huge potential to grow bilateral trade between the two sides.

The Minister urged for

enhanced business engagements to transform this potential into reality.

Moreover, Mr Jam Kamal Khan stressed that there is a potential for growth in almost all the sectors of Pakistan.

He mentioned that Pakistan is exporting high-quality rice and mangoes all over the world.

He apprised the visiting Minister that recently Government of Pakistan had removed the Minimum Export Price (MEP) for rice which will allow Pakistani exporters to negotiate competitive prices.

He encouraged Malaysia may engage more with Pakistan to import rice.

A significant focus of the dialogue was on the potential for exporting halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia.

The Minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to maintaining high halal standards, which are essential for expanding access to the

Malaysian market.

He called for facilitation in the accreditation process for Pakistani meat and gelatin exporting companies, emphasizing that cooperation in this sector could greatly enhance trade flows.

Malaysian side acknowledged the difficulties faced by Pakistan businessmen in the procedural processes of JAKIM for exporting meat to Malaysia and reassured their commitment to ease these procedures for Pakistani businesses.

Moreover, Malaysian Minister for Trade invited Pakistan to participate in the activities of the ASEAN as Malaysia is taking the chair of ASEAN.

In closing, the Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to creating a conducive environment for foreign investment, expressing optimism for the future of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Malaysia.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Maersk Cabo Verde, Al-Areesh and Centurion Signifer carrying Container, LNG and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Port Gas Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile another bulk cargo carrier 'World Virtue' is also arrived at outer anchorage port on same day.

Nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Maersk Cabo Verde and Ice Fighter left the port on today morning while two more ships, Acadia Park and Clipper Trent are expected to sail on Thursday.

Cargo volume of 147,934 tonnes, comprising 100,291 tonnes imports cargo and 47,643 tonnes export cargo carried in 2,216 Containers (868 TEUs Imports& 1,348 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Eight ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them four ships, Tubul, Peppino, Khairpur and World Virtue are carrying Container, Steel Coil, Gasoline and Coal are expected to take berths at QICT, MW-2, FOTCO and PIBT respectively on Thursday.

## Services' trade up by 0.13%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of various services witnessed 0.13 percent increase during the first two months (July-August) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding months of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

According to the latest PBS data, Pakistan earned \$1.252 billion from the export of services during July-August 2024 as compared to services' export of \$1.250 billion in July-August 2023.

On the other hand, the services' imports witnessed a decline of 0.45 percent during the months under review and were recorded at \$1.724 billion as compared to the import of \$1.732 billion in July-August 2023.

Based on the figures, the services' trade deficit shrank by 1.95% during the months under review as compared to the corresponding months of previous year. The services trade deficit was recorded at \$471.71 million during current months against the deficit of \$481.09 million during same months of last year.

Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports of services in August 2024 decreased by 6.51 percent to \$619.73 million from \$662.91 million in August 2023. On the other hand, the imports however increased by 2.03 percent by going up from \$883.05 million to \$900.98 million, according to PBS data.

On month-on-month basis, the export of services decreased by 2.08 percent in August 2024 when compared to the imports of \$632.88 million in July 2024.

The imports of services witnessed an increase of 9.43 percent in August 2024 compared to imports of \$823.33 million in July 2024, PBS reported.

## Traders whole-heartedly felicitated newly-elected SCCI' office bearers

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Traders belonging to various sectors in Peshawar whole-heartedly felicitated the newly elected office bearers of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Business community expressed hope the newly elected office bearers of the chamber would work vigorously and dedicatedly for resolution of business community issues.

On Thursday, various delegations of traders attached with different sectors visited the chamber house and congratulated the newly elected president Fazal Moqem Khan, Senior Vice president Abdul Jalil Jan and vice

president Shehryar Khan.

Notable among them belonging from spiritual family of Peshawar Syed Zahir Ali Shah, former presidents Fuad Ishaq, Haji Muhammad Afzal, Zahirullah Shinwari, Husnain Khurshid Ahmad, Faiz Muhammad Faizi and Sohail Javed, newly elected members of the chamber's executive committee Nadeem Rauf, Aftab Iqbal, Saifullah Khan and Ashfaq Ahmad, Hamoodul Rehman, Haji Dilawar, Ikram Rauf, Naveed Foundation CEO Naveed Khan, Jeweller Asim Shahzad, Haji Qasim, Aamir Iftikhar, commercial exporter Khalid Sultan Khawaja, Mazharul Haq, Khawaja

Atif, and other exporter, former executive member Affaf Ali Khan, Aurangzeb Khan, secretary women' chamber and others.

Fazal Moqem warmly welcomed the all delegations of traders and said they have full knowledge about difficulties of the business community.

He promised that consultation would be made with traders' community to formulate viable proposals for resolution of all issues.

The SCCI chief said the business community is being faced with numerous challenges under the prevailing circumstances.

He stressed that government and relevant departments needed to take prag-

matic steps for resolution of the traders' issues.

Fazal Moqem urged the government and FBR to introduce further reforms to bring new people under the tax-net instead of burdening existing taxpayers.

The SCCI president mentioned the difficulties of the CNG, petroleum sector.

He emphasized the need of making consultation with the chamber and business community before formulating policies and rules so that there will be no hurdle to implement them. Besides, he said cooperation and congenial atmosphere will also remain intact between government departments and the business community.

## Korangi Association calls for transparent audit of CPPA

KARACHI (PPI): Korangi Association of Trade & Industry (KATI) has officially requested the Ministry of Energy to conduct a forensic technical and financial audit of the Central Power Purchasing Agency (Guarantee) Limited (CPPA-G). This urgent call comes in light of concerns regarding the transparency and prudence of CPPA-G's financial transactions with Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

KATI's review of recent Fuel Charges Adjustments

(FCA) and Quarterly Tariff Adjustments (QTA) has revealed potential gaps in the verification processes used by CPPA-G, raising questions about the accuracy of payments made to IPPs.

Specifically, NEPRA's reliance on data provided by CPPA-G without independent verification has caused concern about the reliability of fuel consumption figures, heat rates, and other operational metrics submitted by IPPs.

The escalating cost of electricity in Pakistan is

leaving industries unviable, placing a significant burden on businesses and threatening economic stability. Furthermore, due to a shortage of cash, CPPA-G has been rationing payments to IPPs.

The criteria used to determine this payment distribution are unclear, raising concerns about fairness and increasing the risk of financial corruption.

Without a clear and transparent payment process, the risk of discrepancies in how funds are

allocated among IPPs becomes a significant issue.

KATI is urging the Ministry to commission an independent audit to ensure that the principles behind payment rationing are fully transparent and that all payments to IPPs are handled with fairness and accountability.

This audit is essential to protect the financial integrity of the power sector, restore public trust, and reduce electricity costs to enable industries to remain competitive.

## Malaysian PM visit to Pakistan embarks significant uplift: PBF

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Business Forum welcomed the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim on his three-day visit to Pakistan which may embark on a significant development for Pakistan towards ASEAN.

Talking to APP on Thursday President PBF Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman said the two sides may discuss a wide-ranging agenda to further strengthen Pakistan-Malaysia ties in diverse fields, including trade, connectivity, energy, agriculture, industry, tourism, cultural exchanges and people-to-people con-

tacts. They will also discuss regional and global developments.

As bilateral trade between Pakistan and Malaysia was recorded at \$1.5 billion in 2023-24. The major exports of Pakistan to Malaysia include rice, condensate oil, onions, potatoes, home textiles, corn, seafood, and meat, palm oil and its products, petroleum, LNG, computers and laptops, nonwoven wadding, and fiberboard.

Similarly, tourism between both countries has gained momentum over the past few years and Malaysia currently ranks among the

top tourist source countries to Pakistan, the foreign office said.

Around 160,000 Pakistani nationals are residing in Malaysia and over 3,800 students from Pakistan are also enrolled in Malaysian higher education institutes, making the country the third largest source of international students in Malaysia.

PBF president also said Pakistan is one of the major workforce source countries for Malaysia in various key sectors including plantation, construction, manufacturing, agriculture and services.

PBF also viewed Prime

Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Pakistan, also a crucial opportunity to address an important humanitarian and diplomatic issue, the signing of a long-awaited prisoner transfer agreement. A PTA would allow our nationals imprisoned in Malaysia to serve the remainder of their sentences in Pakistan, close to their families and communities.

### Court Notice

In the court of sidra jalal civil judge-II /Judicial Magistrate II, matta swat. Case # 181/1 institution Year 05/10/2023. Next Hearing date 26/10/2024. Mukhtiyar Ahmad VS Gul zar Hussain etc. Notice to:- 8) Mst. Jehan Begum 9) Mst.Jehana daughters Mst.Gul Naseem shah 10) Mst. Badri Haram 23) Mst. Saiera Heirs defendant #6. 5/1) Gulyar 6/2) shah Bahar 6/3) Bakhtiyar sons.6/5) Chandy urf Ihsan ullah sons. 6/6) Bakhti Raja 6/7) zubaida 6/8) Roheena 6/9) Raj Begum daughters r/o Durush khela 7/1) shahib Begum w/o Ameen khan 7/3) khukle w/o Haroon r/o Chaparral tehsil Matta Swat. In above mentioned case the respondent can't be served in the ordinary way, it is therefore proclaimed that if said respondents will not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8:30 am dated 26/10/2024. ex-parte proceeding will be held against the mentioned respondents under my hand and seal of this court.

## Over 2 million cotton bales arrival recorded

MULTAN (APP): Seed Cotton (Phutti) equivalent to over two million bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till September 30, registering a decrease of 59.4 per cent as compared to corresponding period of the last year.

According to a fortnightly report of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) issued to media on Thursday, over 1.8 million bales have undergone the ginning process ie converted into bales. Cotton arrivals in Punjab were recorded 726,767 bales registering a decrease of 64.88 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 20,69,433 bales.

Sindh generated 1,3,13,196 bales registering decrease of 55.57 per cent as compared to corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 2,9,55,849 bales. Arrivals in Baluchistan were recorded at 58,133 bales.

Exporters/traders bought 400 cotton bales while textile sector bought total 18,48,905 bales. Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has not yet started procuring cotton in 2024,25, says the report. As many as 190,658 unsold bales stock was present.

Total 392 ginning factories were operational in the country.

Media Focal Person (PCCC) / Head of

Technology Transfer, CCRI, Multan, Sajid Mahmood, said that several factors contributed to this year's decline in cotton production. Additionally, extreme heatwaves in May and June, with temperatures reaching 48°C, led to the shedding of buds and fruit from the cotton plants. Prolonged heat reduced overall fruit development, and heavy monsoon rains caused further damage. Pests like whiteflies and pink bollworms also took a toll on the crop.

Moreover, Pakistan required climate-resilient, high-yield cotton varieties to counter the effects of climate change, said a press release issued here.





# Salah will always score goals, says Liverpool boss Slot

LIVERPOOL (Reuters): Liverpool manager Arne Slot was not the least bit surprised by the superb performance of Mohamed Salah in their 2-0 Champions League victory over Bologna on Wednesday.

Salah set up Alexis Mac Allister's goal with a pinpoint cross and then bagged his own with a rocket to the top corner for an astounding 49th goal in the Champions League.

It was Salah's third goal in his last three games, which came on the back of a three-game mini drought.

"Before (last week's League Cup win over West Ham United), Mo played three games without scoring a goal. So it is in football, it can happen that sometimes in three games, you score one or you don't

score," Slot said.

"But these players, like Mo, they will always score their goals if you just keep playing them."

The manager would not speculate on Salah's future at the Merseyside club. Salah's contract expires at the end of this season and he has said this will be his last season at Anfield.

"Mo has done really well today, and I'm happy with the way he does at the moment, and I'm not looking forward to next season," Slot said.

The 46-year-old Dutchman, who replaced Juergen Klopp in the close season, has become the team's first manager to win eight of their first nine games across all competitions.

His team have won their opening two in the Champions League to sit

fifth in the 36-team table. They also top the Premier League. Slot, however, shrugged off the accolade.

"I don't draw many conclusions from that, but it's nice. So many incredible managers have worked here, doing so many special things," he said. "The only thing is I hope it is not the only thing people remember me for in two or three years or however long I am here. If all they say is, 'that's the manager who won eight out of nine!'"

"I'm hoping to do more special things than just win eight out of my first nine games."

He also praised Klopp for the squad he inherited.

"It also says how I have been left this club -- the work rate the players put in, how the staff are helping me get these results,"

Slot said.

**Villa manager says winning lob over Bayern's Neuer was pre-planned**

Aston Villa striker Jhon Duran's late lob over Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer to earn a 1-0 win in the Champions League was a pre-planned tactic, the English Premier League side's manager Unai Emery said.

"In the analysis we did, we were speaking a lot about the usual position of Neuer, which is high," Emery said of Villa's pre-match conversations.

"He (Duran) had in his mind this possibility about Neuer."

The 20-year-old Colombian electrified Villa Park with his 79th minute goal, receiving a long ball then hooking it over Neuer who had come

off his line as he did often in the game.

"He is young, he has huge potential," added his delighted boss. "As a player, I have to let him play, put him on the field, because his talent is there, his capacity to help us."

It was Duran's fifth goal as a substitute this season.

"We are working with him. Most important is his attitude. He's available to play 90, 60, 30 minutes. He's been focusing each minute he's playing," he said.

"It's fantastic for him and the team."

Emery also had warm words for goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, who kept Bayern at bay with a string of great saves, none better than a last-gasp dive to defy a Harry Kane header.

"Martinez did an amaz-

ing job, amazing saves," Emery said.

The win left Villa with two wins out of two in the new Champions League format consisting of a 36-team league in the first phase.

"I can feel proud of our work, how we are getting better," Emery said, praising the Villa fans for creating a thunderous atmosphere against a team they famously beat in 1982 to lift the European Cup.

**Atletico can take positives from humiliating 4-0 loss at Benfica, Simeone says**

Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone was determined to look on the positive side despite their 4-0 Champions League thrashing against Benfica on Wednesday and said they had not lacked desire but were simply out-

played.

"I always like to think positively and I think it's a good opportunity to keep improving," Simeone told Movistar Plus.

"We had been doing a very good job, today we didn't play the game we expected, but we have to keep going."

"We played badly. We have to accept that. We didn't play well, the substitutions didn't give us the spark that they gave us at other times. We played badly, they were better and we have to accept that."

Atletico, who spent big in the summer transfer market on blockbuster signings like Julian Alvarez and Conor Gallagher, finished the match with no shots on target.

Benfica could easily have won by a bigger mar-

gin if it were not for a string of saves from Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak throughout the game.

Simeone offered no excuses for their performance and praised their opponents for outplaying them.

"There was no lack of tension, attitude or desire to run, we just played badly and when you play badly you are exposed to losses like this," Simeone said.

"We had been doing a very good job and today the game that you don't want to see appeared."

"Some nights are not good and we have to accept them and try to learn from what we had to go through today and recover energy for Sunday's LaLiga game (at Real Sociedad)."

## Faheem to lead Pakistan in Hong Kong Cricket Sixes

LAHORE (APP): Faheem Ashraf will lead the seven-member Pakistan squad that will feature in the Hong Kong Cricket Sixes 2024 at the Kowloon Cricket Club in Hong Kong. The eight-team tournament will be played from 1st to 3rd

November.

Pakistan, since the inception of the tournament in 1993, have won the tournament four times, while it has remained runner-up of the event for five times, which include qualifying for the final of the last edition held in 2017.

Former Test wicket-keeper-batter Saleem Yousuf will travel with the side as manager.

**Pakistan squad:** Faheem Ashraf (captain), Aamer Yamin, Asif Ali, Danish Aziz, Hussain Talat, Muhammad Akhlaq (wk) and Shahab Khan.

## Solanke's England call rewards persistence

LONDON (bbc): Dominic Solanke's England call-up is a classic case of being in the right place at the right time -- and the same applied to interim manager Lee Carsley when he conducted a scouting mission on Tottenham's striker at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Solanke's late development, which kicked into full gear at Bournemouth last season and led to a £65m summer move to Spurs, has seen him called into England's squad for the first time since winning his only full cap as a 15-minute substitute in a goalless draw against Brazil at Wembley in November 2017.

It is also deserved reward for the sheer persistence of a player tipped for great things from when he was part of the England Under-17 team that won the European Championship in 2014, scoring in the final against the Netherlands in a game eventually won 4-1 on penalties.

# Messi scores twice as Inter Miami win MLS Shield

LOS ANGELES (BBC): Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi scored twice in a 3-2 win against Columbus Crew to help the club to win the MLS Supporters' Shield for the first time.

The Argentina playmaker opened the scoring with a close-range finish and doubled the away side's lead in first-half stoppage time with a sublime free-kick.

Crew winger Diego Rossi halved the deficit in Ohio before former Liverpool striker Luis Suarez restored Inter Miami's two-goal lead and they held on after Cucho Hernandez's penalty.

Miami's victory means the club will finish top of the table and have won the Supporters' Shield - which is given to the MLS club with the best regular season record - for the first time since they debuted in



2020.

The trophy is Messi's 46th piece of silverware in his glittering career for club and country.

By finishing top of the standings, Miami have secured home advantage during the post-season play-offs.

"The first objective has

been achieved and now we have to think about what's next," said Messi.

"The first round is three games but then it's one game and anything can happen. But we have the great advantage of playing all the games at home, which is what we were looking for.

We are very strong at home."

Miami need two wins from their final two league matches to beat the MLS record for most points in a regular season, which currently stands as the 73 amassed by the New England Revolution in 2021.

## Federal Football League Al Qaim FC moves in quarterfinals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Al Qaim FC has qualified for the quarterfinals of the Federal Football League here at G7-4 Football ground.

The 2nd pre-quarter match of the league was played between Al Qaim Club and Kiran Club. Al Qaim Club beat Kiran Club by 4-3 penalty kicks. Both teams fought well 1-1 goal draw at the end of scheduled time.

In the 14th minute of the first half, Naeqeb scored one goal for Kiran Club and Amaiz equalized the match 1-1 goal in the 28th minute of the second half.

Therefore the decision went to penalty kicks. Al Qaim Club scored four goals and Kiran Club scored three goals.

Hamza, Shan, Noman and Umaiz scored one goal each on penalty for Al Qaim while Naeqeb,

Muneeb and Ajmal scored one goal each for Kiran Club.

Referee Touqeer Aslam showed yellow cards to Wakeel of Al Qaim Club in the 9th minute for foul playing and Kiran Club's players Adnan and Umer in the 13th and 40th minutes respectively.

Fixtures for Friday, Legacy Club meets Gladiator Club at 3:30 p.m.

## Mbappe out of France squad despite injury return



PARIS (BBC): Kylian Mbappe has been left out of the France squad for upcoming Uefa Nations League matches despite returning from injury this week.

The Real Madrid forward missed the 1-1 draw with Atletico Madrid on Sunday with a thigh injury, but came off the bench during a surprise 1-0 defeat to Lille in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Despite recovering from the issue, France head coach Didier Deschamps has not selected the 25-year-old for matches against Israel and Belgium.

"I had an exchange with Kylian. He has a problem which is not serious. I am not going to take risks, which is why he is not in the squad," Deschamps told reporters

in Paris.

Mbappe has scored seven goals in 10 appearances since joining Real Madrid in the summer.

Another notable absentee is Antoine Griezmann, who announced his retirement from international football on Monday.

"He had such an impact that we can't play in the same way," Deschamps said of losing Griezmann, who retired aged 33 after winning 137 caps.

"I am not necessarily going to change the system, but I am not going to look for an equivalent player."

Chelsea attacker Christopher Nkunku, who won the last of his 10 caps in June last year, returns to the squad, while midfielder N'Golo Kante misses out. France will play their

away fixture against Israel on Thursday, 10 October in Budapest due to security concerns in the Middle East. Les Bleus will then face Belgium in Brussels on Monday, 14 October.

France are currently second in Group 2 of League A with three points after two games, while Italy are top with six points.

**France squad**

**Goalkeepers:** Alphonse Areola (West Ham United), Mike Maignan (AC Milan), Brice Samba (Lens)

**Defenders:** Jonathan Clauss (Nice), Lucas Digne (Aston Villa), Wesley Fofana (Chelsea), Theo Hernandez (AC Milan), Ibrahim Konate (Liverpool), Jules Kounde (Barcelona), William Saliba (Arsenal), Dayot Upamecano (Bayern Munich)

**Midfielders:** Eduardo Camavinga (Real Madrid), Youssouf Fofana (AC Milan), Matteo Guendouzi (Lazio), Manu Kone (Roma), Aurelien Tchouameni (Real Madrid), Warren Zaire-Emery (Paris St-Germain)

**Forwards:** Bradley Barcola, Ousmane Dembele, Randal Kolo Muani (all Paris Saint-Germain), Christopher Nkunku (Chelsea), Michael Olise (Bayern Munich), Marcus Thuram (Inter Milan)

Solanke only played one game for Chelsea and a move to Liverpool in July 2017 did not work out as he scored only once 27 games, his opportunities limited by being behind the world-class trio of Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino in then manager Jurgen Klopp's pecking order.

He moved to Bournemouth for £19m in January 2019 and it was there that Solanke finally started to fulfil his potential, scoring 77 goals in 216 games, including 21 in 42 appearances last season. Former Liverpool manager Klopp remained an admirer, however, saying before his side travelled to Bournemouth in January: "I'm so happy for Dom because when we signed him we were all so excited about the talent he had."

"He had so much potential, but it is Liverpool and we had other good strikers as well. "Dom was probably not the most clinical yet, but the talent was obvious."

The switch to Spurs has given the 27-year-old a bigger stage to showcase his qualities, but it was his display under the watchful gaze of Carsley in the 3-0 win at Manchester United that sealed his England inclusion.

Solanke did not just score Spurs' third goal. He also gave a complete all-round display of the main striker's art at a time when Carsley needs someone in that position.

## FIFA to allow close-season signings to play in Club World Cup

PARIS (Reuters): Teams taking part in the new Club World Cup in June-July next year will be allowed to replace players during the tournament if the transfer window in their country is open at the time, world soccer's governing body FIFA said on Thursday.

FIFA member associations of participating clubs will also have the option of opening an "exceptional registration window" in June before the event begins to sign players.

The Club World Cup in the United States is scheduled to run from June 15-July 13 but that period either coincides with ongoing leagues where the transfer window is closed or countries where the window is open and player contracts end.

FIFA said the optional window for member associations will be open from June 1-10 "for all their affiliated clubs" before the tournament gets under way in a bid to make it fair for all clubs in the league to sign players during the

same period.

"The decision as to whether or not to open an additional window remains at the full discretion of each FIFA Member Association concerned," FIFA said in a statement.

With most player contracts expiring on June 30, FIFA also said participating clubs may replace players during a "restricted-in-competition period" from June 27-July 3.

But a standard registration window - like the summer one in Europe -- must be open for the club

at the time.

Players who start the Club World Cup with one team cannot play for another side in the tournament if they switch.

The 32-team Club World Cup includes 12 European sides with players whose deals may finish at the end of their season.

"The objective is to encourage clubs and players whose contracts are expiring to find an appropriate solution to facilitate the players' participation," FIFA added.

## Marquez says MotoGP title race is between Martin and Bagnaia

LONDON (Reuters): Marc Marquez still has a mathematical chance of winning the MotoGP title but the six-times premier class champion conceded on Thursday it was a now a two-horse race between points leader Jorge Martin and reigning champion Francesco Bagnaia.

Pramac Racing's Martin leads the championship with 366 points while Ducati's Bagnaia has 345. Marquez is fourth, 78 points behind Martin, after retiring from the Indonesian Grand Prix with engine trouble in a points-scoring position.

Marquez also said Enea Bastianini -- who is three points ahead of him in third -- is also probably out of the title race after crashing out seconds after setting the fastest lap in Mandalika.

"We already had a big deficit and after the zero points score in the Indonesian Grand Prix, the difference is now too much," Marquez told reporters ahead of this weekend's Japanese Grand Prix.

"The title has been our target for the last five races, but it looks like the championship is now game

over for us. The gap is already too big and the title is a two-man race."

"This gives me the peace of mind to keep working on the weak points in the last races and confirm the strong ones." Marquez is the only one among the top four riding last year's Ducati Desmosedici GP23, with the other three riding the newer GP24.

But the Spaniard, who is moving to the factory Ducati team next year, had sadly come to grips with the machine after making the switch from Honda prior to the 2024 season.

After a number of podi-

ums, Marquez finally won his first race in 1,043 days when he took the chequered flag at the Aragon Grand Prix and followed it up with another win in San Marino.

But with five races left in the season, Marquez said he will now focus on improving his qualifying lap times after crashing out in Q2 in recent grands prix.

"I will try to, as I said before Mandalika and Misano, finish the season in a good way, by trying to find that consistency ...," he said.

"Let's see if we can fight for the podium."

# Khalil Rountree's team channeling Merab Dvalishvili underdog spirit against Alex Pereira

NEW YORK (Yahoo Sports): John Wood wants to make a habit of scrapping the plans of UFC star-makers when he sends another hopeful on the hunt against a promotional golden goose Saturday at UFC 307.

The Syndicate MMA head coach is three weeks removed from cornering Merab Dvalishvili at UFC 306 against now-former technicolored titleholder, Sean O'Malley. The Georgian's suffocating display left O'Malley too breathless to avail himself of the bells and whistles that

punctuated his superstar ascent, allowing Dvalishvili to leave Sphere as UFC bantamweight champion.

Now Wood-trained Khalil Rountree Jr. gets his opportunity at UFC 307 in Salt Lake City to outdraw the fastest gun on UFC's books, Alex Pereira.

Pereira's stoic facade coupled with his potent striking ability have helped him become a cult icon. Just two years after signing on the dotted line with the organization, "Poatan" had already secured titles in two different weight classes.

Not only beloved by fans, UFC owes a lot to its light heavyweight champion too.

After saving UFC 300 with a short-notice dispatch of Jamahal Hill, Pereira filled the spot vacated by Conor McGregor's broken pinky toe at UFC 303 and handed Jiri Prochazka a second short-notice loss, all before revealing his own busted digit.

Undoubtedly, Pereira is on top of the world, but Dvalishvili's adventure with O'Malley has filled Wood with confidence, despite being briefly blinded by

UFC 306's superstar spotlight.

"The Sean O'Malley promotion was insane," Wood recalled on The Craic with Petesy Carroll.

"Two weeks before the fight, I was like, 'Jesus Christ, are we fighting this immovable monster? He's going to knock out Merab out in 30 seconds!'"

Thankfully for Wood, his fleeting, promotion-fueled premonition never came to fruition. Now, having reached the other side of UFC 306 with another champion in tow, the value

in overcoming one of the sport's most valuable assets is evident.

"It really is a confidence booster. It really does reconfirm that we're doing it the right way. It can be done, and these monsters that are built up behind the marketing machine of the UFC -- they are beatable, and we can do what we want to do if we execute the game plan a certain way," Wood said.

Underdog status is something Rountree has in common with Dvalishvili. However, unlike

Dvalishvili, many believe Rountree is not the deserving No. 1 contender for his division's highest honor, with Dagestan's Magomed Ankalaev perceived to be holding pole position in terms of meritocracy.

As far as Wood is concerned, being the sleeper in a high-stakes bout comes with its own rewards.

"I do believe that the climb is much more intense to get [the belt]. I always liked the underdog situation," he explained.

"The pressure is always on the champion to win --

they're supposed to win and we're supposed to lose. We're basically the sacrificial lamb. Put us out to pasture, put one in and we're done. That's just not going to happen."

"With Khalil, I think the underdog situation suits us well. I think it fits his story. I think he's going to make an awesome champion when he gets there. Pereira is an awesome champion, I've got nothing but respect for him and his team, but I do believe it's Khalil's time."

Knockout artists Pereira and Rountree have left a trail

of limp bodies in their wake on the road to their light heavyweight title showdown. Given Rountree's penchant for spectacular striking stoppages, Wood has been baffled by questions over whether his fighter will suddenly become a wrestler when stood toe-to-toe with the former kickboxing world champion.

"It makes me laugh," he said. "Out of something like 30 combined fights [between Rountree and Pereira], there has been one takedown shot. Why are we talking about this?"





## In brief

### 171,000 cusecs water releases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 171,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 121,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1536.62 feet and was 138.62 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 72,600 cusecs and 85,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1212.85 feet, which was 164.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,100 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 86,700, 79,200, 66,300 and 10,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 19,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

### Mehfil-e-Milad organized

RAWALPINDI (APP): A Mehfil-e-Milad was organized at Public Relations Department Rawalpindi in connection with Eid-e-Milad-ul-Nabi (PBUH), here on Thursday. Director of Public Relations Department Rawalpindi Iftikhar Ali Shah along with officers and personnel participated in the event. The life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was highlighted in the Mehfil e Milad. Director of Public Relations, Iftikhar Ali Shah while addressing the Mehfil-e-Milad said that obedience to the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) is success in this world and the hereafter. "We can be leaders in both the worlds only by following and following the good deeds of the Prophet (peace be upon him)", he said. Officers and staff recited Naat-e-Rasool in honour of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Special prayers were offered for the development, prosperity, security and stability of the country in the Mehfil-e-Milad.

### Dengue Week underway

RAWALPINDI (APP): Under the direction of Hasan Waqar Cheema, DC and Chairman Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC), a grand cleaning operation and awareness campaign of RWMC is underway throughout the city as part of the ongoing Dengue Week for the prevention of dengue. In order to create awareness regarding cleanliness, anti-dengue measures are also being promoted. According to the details, during the operation maximum streets, roads, and public places of the tehils are being cleaned to remove dirt and stagnant water to prevent dengue mosquito breeding. Leaflets containing information of dengue preventive measures are being distributed among the citizens.

### IESCO issues shutdown plan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Thursday issued a power suspension programme for Friday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. The power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Islamabad Circle, Industrial-I, New PTN, Modern Steel Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Rahmatabad-II Feeder, Rawalpindi City Circle, Farooq Azam Road, P&T Wini, Ahsanabad feeders and surrounding areas.

# Making cities environmental-sustainable vital for achieving green economy goals: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Thursday said that climate change-caused extreme weather events, particularly heat waves and urban flooding incidents are posing grave risk to the lives and livelihoods of the people and public infrastructure.

Building climate-resilience of the cities against adverse impacts of climate change is crucial for making the urban environmentally-sustainable and resilient- livable places, Alam highlighted.

During the meeting with a delegation led by Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, she outlined several initiatives aimed at transforming the capital into a model of environmental sustainability.

Presiding over the meeting, the PM's climate aide stressed promoting concepts and implementing policies for climate-resilient urbanisation not only can help us address immediate environmental and climate change-related challenges but also promote long-term sustainability,

equity, and quality of life in urban areas.

She further said that making cities climate-resilient is not possible without involving a multi-faceted approach that includes planning, infrastructure development, community engagement and relevant policy implementation.

The PM's climate aide highlighted that the country's several cities are facing significant climate risks, including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar. With increasing temperatures, erratic rainfall, and rising sea levels,

the need for climate adaptation strategies has never been more urgent.

"The climate change and environmental ministry is taking all-out measures and implementing policies and frameworks to create sustainable urban environments for making cities environmentally-sustainable and climate-resilient so that they can withstand the impacts of climate change while improving the quality of life for residents," Romina Khurshid Alam told the meeting participants.

During the meeting, Ms Alam emphasized that

Islamabad will enhance its green cover and flowering plants, positioning itself as a benchmark for other cities to emulate in achieving sustainability goals.

She also highlighted the importance of addressing climate-related health issues, advocating for the relocation of paper mulberry trees to mitigate pollen allergies affecting residents.

Romina Khurshid suggested that revamping parks across Islamabad to enhance the city's green spaces and improve recreational areas for residents. It should be aligned with

broader environmental goals, including increased tree planting and promoting biodiversity within urban settings.

The CDA chairman briefed Khurshid Alam on various projects focused on urban planning, renewable energy, environmental health, transport, zero waste, and water management, all aimed at developing Islamabad as a smart city.

Notably, the meeting concluded with an agreement for the Climate Ministry and CDA to collaborate on afforestation projects covering 700 acres

near Baharakahu.

Additionally, the CDA is developing an extensive bicycle route network to promote sustainable commuting options throughout the city, the chairman informed the meeting.

During her concluding remarks, Romina Khurshid said that while the urban areas contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions as compared to rural areas, developing climate-resilient cities is inevitable for national, regional and global sustainability efforts and reducing overall climate impacts on the people and infrastructure.

## Dengue alert:

# ICT admin launches major awareness drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): The district administration has launched an awareness campaign to sensitized people about the prevention and control of dengue fever in the Federal Capital.

The administration bringing together various institutions and experts and held a series of training and awareness sessions to combat the rising spread of dengue in the city, said the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration here.

Representatives from several ministries participated on behalf of the Health Department and

they discussed ways to handle dengue prevention.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, emphasized that the campaign's scope should expand further to ensure maximum coverage.

He stated that the awareness efforts would be carried out in collaboration with all relevant institutions to ensure effectiveness.

During these sessions, training on standard operating procedures (SOPs) to prevent dengue was provided. This included key information on recognizing

symptoms and preventive actions the public can take to reduce the risk of dengue.

Meanwhile, the dengue awareness campaigns are also being conducted in public places to inform people about the dangers of dengue and what they can do to protect themselves and their families.

The administration's goal was to ensure that people from all walks of life have access to accurate information about the disease and preventive measures, helping to reduce the number of cases in the region.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam chairing a meeting on green Islamabad programme.

## Federal Capital schools to be centralized

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the "Smart Islamabad" project, all schools in the federal capital, including those in both rural and urban areas, will be centralized and provided with internet connectivity and other resources to enhance the quality of education.

"The Ministry of Education is actively collaborating with the Ministry of Information Technology on this initiative," said an official from the Ministry of Information Technology.

He further explained that the centralized education system would improve educational standards in the capital without requiring additional resources.

Under the "Smart Islamabad" initiative, the Ministry of Information Technology will soon introduce the "One Patient, One Identity" system in the federal capital. This system will store a patient's complete medical record, making it accessible across all hospitals in the area, including basic health units.

"This will eliminate the need for patients to revisit the hospital where they initially received treatment. Instead, they can visit any hospital in the federal capital, where doctors can access their medical records using the identity issued under the 'One Patient, One Identity' system," he added.

The official also said that separate police facilitation centers would be established across the city to serve the public, with the Inspector General of Police, Islamabad, actively working on the project. These centers will refer complaints to relevant police stations for resolution. Currently, one center is operational, with work on four more in progress.

The CDA is contributing to the project, which will soon provide Islamabad residents access to 150 services, including document attestation, certificate issuance, and token tax payments. Islamabad will serve as the pilot project for this initiative, which aligns with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision of digitalization.

## Repair work of govt flats in G-8: PWD requires additional Rs135m

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD) requires an additional Rs 135 million to complete the repair and renovation of government flats and blocks in Sector G-8, Islamabad.

An official from the Ministry told APP that while PWD has partially completed repair and renovation works in G-8, the project will only be finalized once the required funds are made available. The remaining works are expected to be completed

within six months after the funds are received.

He said the scope of the repairs includes internal and external painting of all flats, replacement of worn-out shutters, bathroom repairs with all necessary accessories, replacement of glass panes, and roof treatment.

To a question, the official said that the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) is actively conducting operations against unauthorized commercial use of residential buildings

in Sectors G-13 and G-14 of Islamabad.

The official said the authority has already issued notices to property owners engaging in illegal commercial activities within residential areas.

According to the Islamabad Capital Territory Building Control Regulation 2020, the FGEHA has committed to taking legal action against property owners involved in the unlawful commercial use of residential buildings in these sectors, he added.

## Lawyers back constitutional amendment, creation of court

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prominent lawyers on Thursday expressed strong support for the constitutional amendment aimed at establishing a Federal Constitutional Court, emphasizing that such a reform is essential for judicial efficiency and modernization of the legal system.

Advocate Asif Irfan, former Secretary of the Islamabad Bar Association, highlighted the urgent need for judicial reforms to address the deficiencies of the outdated judicial system.

Talking to APP, he called for collective efforts to modernize the judiciary,

stating that the proposed changes would enhance the speed and quality of justice in the country.

Welcoming the establishment of a Federal Constitutional Court, Advocate Mazhar Javed, another former Secretary of the Islamabad Bar Association, noted that the new court would be dedicated to cases of a constitutional and political nature.

This, he said, would allow the Supreme Court of Pakistan to focus on general cases, ultimately speeding up the dispensation of justice for the people.

Advocate Supreme Court, Javed Iqbal Bandy,

echoed this sentiment, pointing out that the creation of the Constitutional Court would significantly reduce the workload on the Supreme Court.

According to him, the bifurcation of responsibilities between the courts would not only ensure faster rulings but also help address the backlog of cases.

The legal fraternity's endorsement of the proposed Federal Constitutional Court reflects a growing demand for judicial reforms aimed at improving the overall efficiency of the judicial system in Pakistan.

## CDA concludes commercial plots' auction

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) successfully concluded its three-day auction of commercial plots, on Thursday generating an impressive Rs 16.641 billion. A total of 13 commercial plots of various categories were auctioned during the event, attracting robust participation from investors. On the final day, seven plots alone fetched Rs 4.206 billion.

Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa, who addressed investors at the Gandhara Citizen Club, expressed his gratitude for their active participation.

"The large number of investors in the auction reflects their confidence in CDA. The revenue generated will be invested in enhancing facilities for all citizens, including investors," he said.

Randhawa emphasized the mutual partnership

between investors and CDA in shaping Islamabad's development, encouraging further collaboration and suggestions to modernize the capital.

Highlighting CDA's shift towards e-governance, Randhawa assured investors that their concerns would be addressed as a priority. "Our goal is to create a transparent and investor-friendly environment," he stated.

The auction was over-

seen by a committee led by Member Finance Tahir Naeem, with Tabinda Tariq, Director of Estate Management II, serving as secretary.

The committee ensured a competitive and transparent bidding process, offering commercial plots in prime areas like Blue Area and other key centers. The bids are now set to be scrutinized by the CDA Board, the final authority for bid approval.

## Sherry felicitates newly elected EJF executive body

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday felicitated the newly elected members of the Environment Journalists Forum (EJF).

In a statement here, she

said, "Congratulations to the successful candidates for election to the Executive Body of the Environment Journalists Forum. My felicitations to Ali Jabir for being elected as President and Asghar Hayat as General Secretary of EJF.

Sherry Rehman also

congratulated Rozina Ali, Ayesha Naz, Saadullah Saeed, Fauzia Ali, Sohail Butt, and Muhammad Mukhtar for being elected to the Forum's executive body and also to Saqib Rathore, Amna Janjua and Aftab Jahan for being elected as members of the governing body.

"It is hoped that Environment Journalists Forum will play an important role in the development of environmental journalism and the forum will pave the way for improving the quality of reporting on complex and critical issues like climate change," Sherry Rehman said.

## Chairman wants early launch solid system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Thursday stressed the importance of completing all necessary documentation swiftly to ensure a timely launch of the integrated solid waste management system.

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa focused on devising an integrated

solid waste management system for Islamabad that meets the needs and requirements of population and city.

He also emphasized that the process should be completed as soon as possible in consultation with NESPAK.

The Chairman further urged NESPAK's team to examine successful waste management models across Pakistan, including mega cities like Lahore, Rawalpindi, and others where outsourcing of waste management services has already been implemented.

He emphasized that efforts must be made to maintain high standards of solid waste management services.

During the meeting, it was highlighted that the solid waste management services would cover all areas of Islamabad, includ-

ing urban, rural, and industrial zones.

It was also decided that the team of NESPAK would visit various parts of the city, as well as local Union Councils (UCs) in Islamabad, to better understand the waste management needs and requirement of the local population.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by calling for strong teamwork among all stakeholders, including the consultants from NESPAK.

He reiterated that collective efforts are necessary to address the population's needs regarding solid waste management and to make Islamabad a cleaner city.

The meeting was attended by consultants from NESPAK, Members Environment, and relevant officers from the Sanitation Directorate of CDA.



### Afghan carpets hurting Iranian carpet market

KABUL (Ariana News): An Iranian official has said Afghan carpets are seriously affecting the Iranian carpet market. Morteza Haji Aghamiri, chairman of the Carpet, Art and Handicrafts Commission of Iran Chamber of Commerce, said at a meeting that the commission seeks to find a solution to prevent the smuggling of Afghan carpets to Iran, Mehr news agency reported.

## The Frontier Post

# AFGHANISTAN

Rabi ul Awal 29 1446 — Friday, October 04, 2024

### Belgium revokes asylum of Afghan YouTuber

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Belgian government has revoked the asylum of Afghan YouTuber Jamil Qadari due to his support for the Taliban. Qadari's asylum status had been canceled. The Belgian government began reviewing Jamil Qadari's asylum status last year after he publicly declared his support for the Taliban. This review process started after 7,500 women's rights activists and supporters signed a petition.

## Meeting to focus on Afghanistan's national reconciliation

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Russian Foreign Ministry announced that the main focus of the sixth Moscow Format meeting is to support national reconciliation in Afghanistan and strengthen cooperation between regional countries and Kabul in political, economic, counter-terrorism, and anti-drug efforts.

The meeting is set to take place in Moscow today (Friday), with representatives from Russia, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghan-

istan expected to attend.

During a news conference, Maria Zakharova, spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, stated that the core part of the meeting will be held behind closed doors. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will deliver a key address.

Zakharova also mentioned that Lavrov will have a side meeting with Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, to discuss critical issues related to their bilateral cooperation.

Muttaqi departed for Russia on Wednesday.

The Moscow Format meeting reflects ongoing efforts to foster regional stability and support Afghanistan in various sectors, emphasizing cooperation among neighboring countries in key areas like counter-terrorism and anti-drug measures.

With significant participation from key regional players, the meeting could pave the way for enhanced diplomatic relations and stronger collaborative frameworks between Afghanistan and its neighbors, potentially shaping the region's political landscape.

### 'Covid-19 claims 58 lives in nine months'

KABUL (Pajhwok): More than 10,500 people infected with Covid-19 in the past nine months out of which 58 patients died while more than 7,550 have recovered, an official said.

Figures from January till September 2024 provided by the Ministry of Public Health to Pajhwok Afghan News showed that a total of 10,722 people infected Covid-19.

Most people — 2,326 — infected with Covid-19 in April and 2,259 in May while July recorded the lowest number — 725 — of Covid-19 patients.

Dr. Sharafat Zaman, spokesperson for the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), told Pajhwok Afghan News the number of Covid-19 patients provided to Pajhwok Afghan News was at the country level.

Referring to the surge of Covid-19 patients in April and May, he said: "It is not something to be worried about; it is normal that the number of patients sometimes increases and sometimes decreases."

But Faridullah Umari, an infectious disease specialist at Antani hospital in Kabul, said: "Regarding the figures that have increased in March, May and April, there are several factors that play a role, the weather changes, if we look at the months of March, April and May, the weather changes here in spring or early spring. For this reason viral infections grows and multiplies well in changing weather."

He referred to the return of refugees and flash floods in early spring as another reason for the spread of Covid-19.

It is pertinent to mention that in the past nine months 58 people died of Covid-19 with the high number of death toll recorded in August — 10 people, in January and February nine persons died each while in June the lowest number of deaths— two — persons recorded.

Dr. Sharafat said that Covid-19 services provided and this section was still supported by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Dr. Faridullah Umari said that Covid-19 patients still existed in the country and they referred to the hospitals daily.

The source said Patients come to this hospital with symptoms of corona virus such as high fever, cold, cold and cough, after performing examinations and prescribing medicine, they are discharged from the hospital, the corona virus has weakened and lost its intensity.

He called frequent washing of hands with soap and water, wearing a mask and drinking warm liquids very necessary during illness.

It is pertinent to mention that the corona virus first spread in the city of Wuhan, China in 2019, after which it spread almost all over the world and hundreds of millions of people in the world were infected with this virus and more than four million people died.

## Facilitate Afghan traders, Kabir asks neighbours



KABUL (Ariana News): The Islamic Emirate will talk to neighbour country officials over the issue of visas for dried fruit traders, Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs Maulawi

Abdul Kabir said.

In his meeting with the traders, the official also called on neighboring countries to stop creating hurdles for Afghan traders, and rather provide neces-

sary facilities for the growth of bilateral trade.

He said that land would be allocated for dried fruit traders in accordance with the policy of the Islamic Emirate. Earlier in the meet-

ing, the traders called for help with the neighbour country visa process. They also said that they are suffering from high taxes that neighbour country has imposed on Afghan dried fruits.

## Afghanistan's exports to Pakistan decline in current solar year

KABUL (TOLONews): The Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce reports that from the beginning of Hamal (solar calendar) to the 10th of Mizan (solar calendar) of the current solar year, Afghanistan's exports to Pakistan reached \$319 million. In comparison, during the same period last year, this figure was \$344 million.

Khan Jan Alokzay, the head of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce, emphasized that efforts are underway to increase Afghanistan's exports to India, Russia, and Arab countries.

Alokzay told TOLONews: "Last year, we had exports to Pakistan valued at around \$344 million, but this year, it is only \$319

million. The primary reasons for this decline are the closure of trade routes and increased tariffs."

Torkham, Spin Boldak, Ghulam Khan, Angoor Adda, and Dand-e-Patan are official border crossings between Afghanistan and Pakistan, where most trade with South Asian countries takes place. However, occasional closures of these routes often create problems for trade.

On the other hand, Tawakal Ahmadyar, head of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, met with the US Embassy chargé d'affaires for Afghanistan to discuss resolving trade challenges with neighboring countries. This meeting focused on strengthening

trade infrastructure, improving export and import conditions, and creating necessary facilities for Afghan private companies.

During the meeting, Ahmadyar stated that it is essential to address the existing problems and obstacles to Afghanistan's exports to neighboring countries, especially Pakistan.

Mirwais Haji Zada, a trader, told TOLONews: "If Pakistan doesn't reopen the routes for 10 or 15 days, we will suggest to our government to take action when Pakistan's export season arrives, to cause them losses as well."

At the same time, Pakistan's Dawn newspaper reported that trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan via the

Torkham crossing has gradually resumed in recent days, with traders using the difficult Shalman-Malagori route to reach Peshawar.

Zalmai Azimi, another Afghan trader, said: "Our exports, including fresh fruits, are being sent to Pakistan via Shalman, but only 10 percent of the usual 100 percent of exports are being carried out. This route has many challenges; trucks overturn, and drivers lose their lives."

It is worth noting that annually, over \$2 billion worth of trade takes place between Afghanistan and Pakistan, of which nearly \$1 billion comes from exports. However, last year, exports to Pakistan dropped by up to 60 percent.

## 15 Afghan citizens released from Pakistani prisons

JALALABAD (Khaama Press): The Torkham Border Directorate in Nangarhar province reports that 15 Afghan citizens imprisoned in Pakistan have been released and have returned to Afghanistan.

According to the Torkham Border Directorate, these individuals were detained in Peshawar's prison for 15 days to 2 months due to a lack of legal documents and returned to the country.

The report mentions that these individuals have been referred to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for assistance.

It is also noted that three individuals under the age of 18 have been referred to the HARO organization.

Meanwhile, nearly 300 Afghan refugee families were deported from Iran and Pakistan in a single day and have returned to the country.

Bakhtar News Agency, under the control of the Taliban, reported that 299 Afghan refugee families were forcibly and voluntarily deported from Iran and Pakistan.

According to reports, these refugees entered the country through border crossings in Nangarhar, Kandahar, Nimroz, and Herat.



Kandahar, Nimroz, and Herat.

The release of Afghan citizens from Pakistani prisons and the deportation of nearly 300 refugee families from Iran and Pakistan highlight the ongoing challenges faced by Afghans abroad, particularly regarding legal documentation and forced displacement.

With the growing number of deportations and challenges at the border, there is an urgent need for support from international organizations to provide assistance and resources to help returnees reintegrate into Afghan society, ensuring they have access to basic necessities and legal protection.

## ACCI team discusses trade problems with US envoy



KABUL (Ariana News): Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) says its delegation has discussed trade and investment prob-

lems with Karen Decker, the Chargé d'Affaires at the US Mission to Afghanistan.

At the meeting, the head of ACCI, Tawakal

Ahmadyar, said that international cooperation and support of the private sector can play an important role in the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Ahmadyar pointed out the problems and obstacles in the way of Afghanistan's export with neighboring countries, especially Pakistan, and stressed the need to remove these obstacles.

Meanwhile, Decker announced her commitment to support the private sector of Afghanistan ACCI delegation discusses trade problems with US envoy.

## Surge in tariff: Pomegranate exports to Pakistan down

KANDAHAR CITY (Pajhwok): The export of pomegranates to Pakistan from southern Kandahar province has decreased after the neighboring country increased the tariff on fresh fruits from Afghanistan, officials said.

A few weeks ago, more than 3,000 tons of pomegranates were exported to India and Pakistan. But Pakistan has increased tariff on fresh fruits from Afghanistan and the move led to decreased export of pomegranates.

Deputy Director of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Eng. Abdul Baqi Bina told Pajhwok Afghan News that in the past years, about 50 trucks carrying pomegranates entered Pakistan every day, with the export reaching hundreds of tons in a day, but now the series has decreased.

"Pakistan has almost doubled tax on Afghanistan's pomegranates and this problem remains, therefore, most pomegranate orchards are not leased by traders and exports are carried out in a very small amount. Because it is not sold abroad at such a price that the merchant will have enough profit in addition to the expenses": Bina added.

He said they had talked with Pakistani side about the reduction of the tariff, which had accepted only 10,000 rupees per ton.

Pomegranate traders explained in the past, 108,000 rupees were charged as tax on each ton of pomegranate, but now it has increased to 190,000 kaldars.

"This tax is very high for traders who sell the fruit in Pakistan or India, but with

high tax the price of pomegranates also surged and they will not be sold at that high price": Nani Agha, a pomegranate trader and head of the fresh fruit association added.

Meanwhile, a pomegranate gardener said this year's pomegranate harvest is good, but they did not have a proper market due to lack of exports.

Hamdullah, a gardener in Aghandab district explained 4.5 kg of pomegranate fetched 30 afghanis, showing several times less than before.

"We have rented the garden against 1,000,000 afis, so now a box of pomegranate contains more than nine kilograms that does not sell for more than 60 or 70 afghanis, if the roads are opened, the export will increase and it will be sold for 200 afghanis per kg."

## Ishleki: A traditional Turkmen dish gaining popularity across Afghanistan

KABUL (TOLONews): Ishleki is one of the popular savory dishes with deep roots in the culture of the Turkmen people in the country, and it has recently gained many fans.

This dish is prepared by Turkmen families with great skill and special care, using meat and dough. It has now become a favorite food for many citizens.

Mohammad Hashim Walizadeh, who established a special Ishleki restaurant 12 years ago, says his goal was to popularize and introduce this special dish of the Turkmen people in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif. Around 10 other people also work at this restaurant alongside him.

Mohammad Hashim Walizadeh, the owner of Turkmen Ishleki Restaurant, said: "Ishleki is a Turkmen dish that used to be baked between layers of dough in the ashes of a fire. One layer was discarded, and the other was eaten.

Now, with better facilities, it is prepared in an oven. I built this restaurant 12 years ago, and both my children and I, along with eight other young people, work here to earn a living for our families."

Mohammad Babr Walizadeh, Mohammad Hashim's son, said: "Ishleki is a traditional savory Turkmen dish that, in the past, only Turkmen were familiar with. But since we opened this restaurant, our customers have been increasing every day." This unique Turkmen dish has recently attracted a lot of attention from many citizens, and many families come to this restaurant to enjoy it.

Ahmad Naveed, a resident of Mazar-i-Sharif, said: "Ishleki has an amazing taste, and whenever we come to the city, we never go home without eating Ishleki."

Abdullah, another resident of Mazar-i-Sharif, said: "This dish has no equal. It may be the best and



most delicious dish in Mazar-i-Sharif and the northern regions, and whenever I want to eat out, I come here and eat Ishleki."

Hasaina, a resident of Mazar-i-Sharif, said: "It's a very good and delicious dish. We always come

here with our family, and today we came with my father and uncle."

It is also said that other traditional foods such as Bolani, Ashak, Mantu, and Samosa are becoming increasingly popular among the country's citizens.





ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons along with Chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem Ur Rehman after a meeting at Zardari House.

## Experts explore rising threat of weaponised consumer technologies

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, hosted a NextGen Tech Roundtable, 'Lebanon Explosions: Weaponising Consumer Technologies,' where experts analysed implications of the recent incidents in Lebanon for global technological security. Air Commodore Raza Haider (Retd) provided an overview of the subject and highlighted the unprecedented nature of the pager and walkie-talkie explosions in Lebanon, stressing that they exemplify the potential dangers of weaponising consumer technologies. He urged for an exhaustive analysis of these incidents due to their implications for Fifth Generation Warfare (5GW).

Dr Haider Abbas (TI), Director General of Pakistan's National Cyber Emergency Response Team (NCERT), discussed how the Lebanon incidents validate concerns about the weaponisation of operational technology. He urged the need for Pakistan to enhance cybersecurity preparedness by screening consumer technologies and aligning with international frameworks. Dr Abbas warned that the strengthening Indo-Israel defence cooperation could have security implications for Pakistan, acknowledging Pakistan's vulnerability due to its high dependence on imported technologies. However, he also apprised that there are forensics and screening labs in Pakistan which



reflect the government's commitment to auditing procured technologies and products. These labs are the basis for Pakistan's indigenous cyber security capabilities, he said.

Dr Fateh ul Din B. Mehmood, CEO of Lunesys, underscored the need for supply chain security, physical device security, and addressing insider threats. He advocated for strengthening Pakistan's regulatory compliance and cybersecurity frameworks to protect consumer gadgets and critical infrastructure.

In closing, Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd), President of CASS, reiterated the significant national security implications of the Lebanon explosions. The President of CASS stated that the growing collaboration

between Israel and India indicated that disruptive technologies could soon make their way to India, urging Pakistan to develop countering mechanisms.

He appreciated the work being undertaken at NCERT but stressed the urgency of maintaining a focus on these issues amidst the changing technological landscape, warning that Pakistan must navigate carefully through the emerging technological blocs and the evolving nature of Fifth Generation Warfare. The roundtable also included an interactive question and answer session with experts from NICAT, NASTP, retired military officers, and researchers, further enriching the discourse on this critical subject.

### Third Int'l Multidisciplinary conference held

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: The 3rd International Multidisciplinary Conference 2024 was successfully held at Fazaia Bilquis College of Education for Women PAF Nur Khan Rawalpindi on 3rd October 2024, with the theme "Integrating Innovation and Sustainability across Disciplines". The event brought together prominent scholars and researchers from around the world to discuss the fusion of innovation and sustainability across various fields.

The day began with the Inaugural Session, where the Principal of FBC-OE(W), welcomed the attendees. The keynote speakers addressed critical issues ranging from sustainable development to artificial intelligence, delivering thought-provoking presentations. The event hosted a total of 85 presentations, contributing to the overarching theme of sustainable research, highlighting innovative methods, cultural discourse, and practical implications across diverse fields.

The Plenary Sessions followed in the afternoon. The first session, focused on "Innovation and Advancement in Artificial Intelligence", while the second session, highlighted "Sowing the Seeds of Sustainability in Early Years."

The conference concluded with a certificate award ceremony, group photo, and closing remarks, highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration for sustainable progress.

### 7 dead in Quetta bus accident

F.P. Report

QUETTA: Seven people were killed and 19 people were injured when a bus fell into a ravine near Quetta's Brewery Roads Bypass area on Thursday, according to officials. A statement from health department spokesperson Dr Waseem Baig said that seven people were killed and 19 were injured in the accident. It added that three children and a woman were among the dead.

Saddar Superintendent of Police (SP) Shaukat Mohmand told media that the vehicle, carrying people from a wedding, was travelling from Khilji Colony Bypass towards Balehi when the incident occurred. "One of the tyres burst, causing the bus to fall into a ravine near Brewery Roads Bypass," he said. The SP added that the bodies and injured were moved to Bolan Medical Complex after administering first aid at the scene. Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti expressed grief over the bus accident and said that the "loss of precious human lives in the tragic accident is a cause of grief and sadness".

In a statement from his office, CM Bugti ordered an investigation into the accident and said officials would be held accountable if there was evidence of negligence. Balochistan government spokesman Shahid Rind said in a statement that medical aid was being provided to the injured. The statement added that provincial health minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar imposed a state of emergency in hospitals. Rind said that the best medical treatment was being provided to the injured, while those with serious injuries were taken to Combined Military Hospital Quetta.

## Israel calls for evacuations from south Lebanon

BEIRUT/JERUSALEM (Reuters): Israel's military told residents of more than 20 towns in south Lebanon to evacuate their homes immediately on Thursday as it pressed on with cross-border incursions and struck Hezbollah targets in a suburb of Beirut.

The latest warnings took the number of southern towns subject to evacuation calls to 70 and included the provincial capital Nabatieh, suggesting another Israeli military operation was imminent against the Iran-backed armed group. Hezbollah also carried out new strikes, targeting what it called Israel's "Saknin base" for military industries in Haifa Bay on the Mediterranean coast of northern Israel with a salvo of rockets.

Israel, which has been fighting Hamas in the Palestinian territory of Gaza for almost a year, sent troops into southern Lebanon on Tuesday after two weeks of intense airstrikes in a worsening conflict that has drawn in Iran and risks drawing in the United States. Israel says the aim of its operations in Lebanon is to allow tens of thousands of its citizens displaced from northern Israel by Hezbollah bombardments during the Gaza war to return home safely. More than 1.2 million Lebanese have been displaced by Israeli attacks, and nearly 2,000 people have been killed since the start of the Israeli attacks on Lebanon over the last year, most of them in the past two weeks, Lebanese authorities said.

There are also growing concerns about getting medical supplies for the wounded, and the World Health Organization said 28 health care workers had been killed in Lebanon in the previous 24 hours. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said flight restrictions meant the agency would not be able to deliver a large planned shipment of trauma and medical supplies to Lebanon on Friday.

The Lebanese army said two soldiers were killed by Israeli strikes in separate incidents in south Lebanon on Thursday, one in an attack on a military post and another in a strike on a rescue mission with the Lebanese Red Cross. The army said that it returned fire when the military post was struck, a rare development for a force that has historically stayed on the sidelines of major conflict with Israel.

In Beirut's southern suburb known as Dahiyeh, a dense neighborhood where Hezbollah holds sway, several explosions were heard on Thursday and several large plumes of smoke were rising after heavy Israeli strikes. Hezbollah said it detonated a bomb against Israeli forces infiltrating a southern Lebanese village and attacked Israeli forces near the border. Overnight, Israel bombed central Beirut in an attack the Lebanese health ministry said killed

nine people.

Reuters journalists reported hearing a heavy blast after a building in the district of Bachoura was targeted a few hundred meters from parliament, the closest an Israeli strike has come to the central downtown district. A Hezbollah-linked civil defense group said seven of its staff, including two medics, were killed in the Beirut attack. Israel also said it struck a municipality building in the southern Lebanese town of Bint Jbeil, killing 15 Hezbollah members and destroying many weapons.

Eight Israeli soldiers were killed in ground combat on Wednesday in south Lebanon as its forces thrust into its northern neighbor. As it pushes into Lebanon, Israel is also weighing its options for retaliation against its arch-foe Iran. Tehran launched its largest ever assault on Israel on Tuesday in what it said was retaliation for Israel's assassination of senior Hamas and Hezbollah leaders and its operations in Gaza and Lebanon.

Tehran said its attack was over, barring further provocation, but Israel has said it will hit back. The United States has said Iran will face "severe consequences" and that it would work with Israel, while warning Iran not to act against US forces in the region. A growing number of countries were evacuating citizens from Beirut as governments worldwide urged their citizens to get out.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, speaking in Doha, said Tehran would be ready to respond and warned against "silence" in the face of Israel's "warmongering." "Any type of military attack, terrorist act or crossing our red lines will be met with a decisive response by our armed forces," he said. Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani called for serious ceasefire efforts to stop what he called Israel's aggression.

The Lebanese border front opened after Hezbollah fired missiles at Israel on Oct. 8 in support of Hamas in its war with Israel in Gaza. Iran's other regional allies — Yemen's Houthis and armed groups in Iraq — have also launched attacks in the region in support of Hamas. More than 300 of the more than 1 million Lebanese displaced have taken shelter in a Beirut nightclub, once known for hosting glitzy parties and where staff are now using their guest-list clipboards to register residents. "We're trying to keep strong," said Gaelle Irani, who was formerly in charge of guest relations. "It's just overwhelming. So overwhelming and sad. But just as this was a place for people to come enjoy themselves, it's now a place to shelter people and we are doing everything we can to help and be there for them."

## Bahria University College of Medicine inaugurated

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf inaugurated Bahria University College of Medicine (BUCM) at Islamabad. Addressing the ceremony, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf appreciated Bahria University's services and achievement in providing quality education in various fields.

He underscored that while there are many opportunities and challenges ahead, BUCM will evolve into a premier institution for providing top-quality medical education. Chief of the Naval Staff emphasized that the professionalism, commitment, and dedication of faculty members are crucial to establish the campus as one



of the leading medical institutes in the country. Naval Chief also visited various facilities at the campus and appreciated state of the art infrastructure.

Earlier, during his welcome address, Rector Bahria University Vice Admiral (R) Asif Khaliq expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest and acknowledged the support provided by Pakistan Navy in developing the campus.

The Project Director of Bahria University Health Sciences Islamabad presented details of the project and highlighted the facilities available for students.

The ceremony was attended by senior officials from Health Ministry, PM&DC, HEC, former Rectors of Bahria University, notable civil and military officials, faculty members and students.

## Iran warns of response in case of new Israeli attack

TEHRAN: Iran has told the United States via an intermediary that any Israeli attack against Iran would meet an "unconventional response" that includes targeting Israeli infrastructure.

In exclusive remarks to Al Jazeera, an Iranian official said on Thursday that his country has sent a message to the US, via Qatar, addressing rising regional tensions

after Iran's missile attack on Israel. In the message, Tehran told Washington that "the phase of unilateral self-restraint has ended", adding that "individual self-restraint does not secure our national security requirements". The indirect message also emphasised that Iran does not want a regional war, the official said.

On Wednesday, Israel

pledged to respond after Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) fired a two-wave ballistic missile attack at military and security targets in Israel. Iran says Tuesday's missile attack was in response to Israeli attacks on the besieged Gaza Strip and Lebanon, and the killing of key officials in Hezbollah and the Palestinian group Hamas.

## Pakhtun Qaumi Adalat: Residents approached PHC in two contrast writs

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Almost two writ petitions in contrast to each other regarding establishment of Pakhtun Qaumi Adalat (Pakhtun National Court) scheduled on 11th October at Khyber district by Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) at Peshawar High Court (PHC) seeking the court's intervention in their own favor in the constitutional jurisdiction.

Resident challenged Pakhtunkhwa Qaumi Adalat: A resident of Khyber district named Khatir Ullah has filed a writ petition at PHC against establishment of Pakhtun Qaumi Adalat (Pakhtun National Court) in Khyber by PTM. The writ filed through Danyal Asad Chamkani advocate in which the federal and provincial governments, Inspector General Police and Manzoor Ahmed Pashteen made as respondents.

The writ argues that the Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR) system was in place in the former tribal areas but after the 25th Constitutional Amendment, these areas were

merged into the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the judicial system was established, abolishing the FCR.

However, PTM's establishment of a Pakhtun National Court on 11th October in Khyber district is illegal and unconstitutional, as it parallels the existing judicial system in Pakistan, the petition stated. The parallel judicial system means forum, functioning to the ordinary courts such judicial system prevalent in many countries including England, USA and Pakistan.

That on attaining independence in 1947, Pakistan inherited from British India a unified legal system and complete hierarchy of courts with defined and distinct jurisdiction at each level, however, some princely states and also acceded to Pakistan e.g. (Bahawalpur, Dir, Chitral, Swat etc.). These states had independent judicial systems administering their own laws, added to this were the tribal or Frontier Districts they had never been made part of the main stream of the British Empire and were locked upon the Colonial powers as a source of

perpetual, potential threats to the impartial Government, hence arose a need for the special laws aimed at the separation of crimes in the frontier districts, for this purpose, the infamous FCR 1901 was promulgated, the writ argued. The present Constitution as originally enacted in 1973, did not provide for the establishment of any forum or system could be termed as a parallel judicial system nor did the first seven amendments to the Constitution bring about such change although some did curtail civil liberties the incorporation of such system into the Constitution began during the Martial Law of 1977.

The history of FATA reforms can be traced back to 2009- 2011, when the Government of Pakistan introduced reforms in Tribal regions i.e. extension of Political Parties Order (PPO 2000) and amendments in the Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR). The Federal Government merged FATA into KP Province, aiming to introduce Political, economic, legal and administrative reforms and to bring the Tribal Areas at par with the

rest of the Country, the writ stated.

The regular courts started functioning in the seven districts after the merger of Erstwhile FATA, into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and Peshawar High Court has on Feb 25 2019, posted 28 Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary including seven District and Sessions Judges, 14 Additional District and Sessions Judges and seven senior Civil Judges in these Districts. Even the inhabitants of those Districts could move the High court to get their Fundamental Rights.

The Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) which was founded in May 2014, and on 01.02.2018 the name of the movement was changed from Mehsood Tahafuz (Mehsood Protection Movement) to PTM. The movement mentioned above is trying to create, discord in the country along with ethnic lines and now they are going to established a parallel system of Justice in the name of Pakhtun National Courts in district Khyber for which a proper invitation given to the peoples of Pakhtunkhwa and the proper monogram has been introduced to set-

tle the disputes amongst the Pashtuns.

The petition requests the court to declare the PTM's Pakhtun National Court in Khyber and South Waziristan's Razmak as illegal and suspend its proceedings until a final decision is made. The petitioner having no other alternate remedy to stop the function of the Pakhtun National Court, hence, approach PHC in this regard, the writ pleaded.

**PTM approached PHC against police violence:** another petition has been filed at PHC against the police's shelling and violence on the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement's (PTM) public court gathering in Khyber district. The petition filed by Zahid Ullah through Ali Azim Afridi advocate while the federal and provincial governments, chief secretary, inspector general police Pakhtunkhwa and deputy commissioner Khyber made as respondents in the writ petition.

The writ argues that the police's shelling on a peaceful gathering in Khyber resulted in injuries to several citizens including the petitioner and is illegal. It asserts that peaceful

assembly and protest are constitutional and legal rights of citizens.

The petitioners have requested the court to restrict police action, stop the police and other institutions from taking harsh actions against the petitioner and other citizens.

Moreover, the writ asked to direct respondents for provision of necessary information insofar cases registered against the petitioner/ the public citizen vis-à-vis detention order(s)/ inquiries, if any. Restrain/prohibited the respondent(s); from carrying unrestricted adventure, in terms of tear-gassing, firing-upon the peaceful sit-ins/commoners; at the cost of disturbing peace and tranquility in the surroundings and suburbs of District Khyber, the writ stated. The argued to direct the respondents to ensure peaceful-living and safety of the petitioner/ public citizenry; being residents of district Khyber. Direct Principal Secretary to Chief Minister to intervene; given the disturbing law and order situation at the hands of public officials, working in the territorial jurisdiction of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.