

Naqvi warns PTI
F.P. Report
ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has urged the PTI to reconsider their plans for protests citing the sensitive situation in Islamabad. Speaking to the media, Naqvi expressed regret for the inconvenience caused to citizens due to heightened security measures but stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability, especially with foreign dignitaries visiting the country.

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Malaysian PM concludes three-day visit

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim on Friday departed here after completing his three-day state visit to Pakistan, which he said, held a "great personal significance."

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who had received Anwar Ibrahim on his arrival on Wednesday, also saw him off at the airport, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, federal cabinet members and senior officials. During the visit, Anwar Ibrahim, accompanied by a high-level delegation of ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials, held a one-on-one meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, led the delegation-level talks and held "productive discussion" with President Asif Ali Zardari.

Following the visit, the Malaysian prime minister wrote on his X timeline that the "engagements with my counterpart Shehbaz Sharif and President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, alongside discussions with industry representatives, resulted in productive outcomes encompassing a wide array of mutual interests." He said that these interactions underscored the commitment of the highest leadership to enhance relations.

Both sides signed three MoUs to enhance bilateral cooperation in varying sectors. It was also agreed that Pakistan would export Halal meat worth \$200 million and 100,000 tonnes of Basmati rice to Malaysia. "Certainly, there will be increased cooperation in all areas of trade and agricultural technology including

meat, rice and palm oil imports by Pakistan, and the two countries will also expand cooperation in the skilled worker sector through critical areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), digital and semiconductors," Ibrahim added.

Prime Minister Ibrahim was also conferred the Nishan-i-Pakistan award by President Zardari in a special investiture ceremony. He was also conferred an honorary PhD Degree by the National University of Science and Technology, where he also delivered a public lecture. Later, Prime Minister Shehbaz, in a statement said that during the visit, Pakistan and Malaysia agreed to further strengthen the bilateral relations and that the visit would usher in a new era of bilateral cooperation, according to a PM Office press release.

Mentioning the positive outcome of the Pakistan-Malaysia Business Forum, he said that the enhanced bilateral trade would help boost exports and create job opportunities. He said both countries signed MoUs to promote trade and investment. Pakistan would increase its processed meat and rice export to Malaysia and ensure ease in the processes.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that both sides agreed to enhance IT cooperation, manufacturing of electric vehicles and enhancement of bilateral trade. He said PM Anwar Ibrahim was also a great admirer of great poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal which was a matter of pride for Pakistan. He also thanked premier Ibrahim for his good wishes for the government and the people of Pakistan.

PM to host APC on Palestine issue on 7th

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said an All Parties Conference (APC) would be held on October 7 to take a unified stance on Palestine issue. The nationwide Day of Solidarity would also be observed on the day in order to show solidarity with the innocent Palestinian men, women and children facing the worst Israeli brutalities. The prime minister took the decision to the effect during his meeting with Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the Jamaat-e-Islami delegation led by its Ameer Hafiz Naem ur Rehman at the Prime Minister House.

It was also decided in the meeting that on October 7, public gatherings and seminars would be held across the

country to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and to protest against the ongoing Israeli aggression. A committee comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Sherry Rehman, Khawaja Saad Rafique, and Nayyar Bukhari was formed for organizing the All Parties Conference, and supervise events marking the Day of Solidarity.

President Asif Ali Zardari will also attend the All Parties Conference. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari extended his full support for observing the Day of Solidarity, condemning the ongoing oppression of innocent Muslims in Palestine and Gaza. The participants of the meeting resolved to raise their voice against the Israeli aggression and worst brutalities against the innocent people in Gaza and Palestine,

and show solidarity with them.

They praised the Jamaat-e-Islami for taking an initiative to express solidarity with the innocent Palestinians and highlight Israeli aggression in Gaza and Palestine.

The JJ Ameer also lauded the prime minister's speech at the United Nations General Assembly for raising the issue of ongoing Israeli atrocities against Palestinians, and commended the walkout by the Pakistani delegation, led by the prime minister, at the start of the Israeli prime minister's speech.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed the government's resolve to create a high-performing educational system that empowers both the students and teachers to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Indian FM to visit Pakistan for SCO meeting

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar will visit Pakistan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting scheduled in Islamabad on Oct 15-16. According to the spokesperson for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, India will participate in the SCO meeting in Pakistan.

The spokesperson stated that Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar will go to Pakistan to attend the SCO summit on October 15-16, marking his first visit to Pakistan. The Indian ministry further mentioned that details regarding bilateral meetings in Pakistan will be shared in a few days.

Pakistan had sent an invitation to India to participate in the SCO Heads of State Summit. However, India had decided not to send its delegation to Pakistan and said it would participate online. The spokesperson for the Foreign Office had also mentioned that an invitation had been sent to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Army called in Islamabad

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has approved the deployment of army in Islamabad to ensure security during the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Heads of States summit scheduled to be held on Oct 15-16.

The Ministry of Interior has issued a notification stating that the army troops will remain deployed in the federal capital from October 5 to 17. It said the deployment would be made under Article 245 of the Constitution. The security of Islamabad will be the responsibility of the army, with police and other agencies providing assistance to it.

Meanwhile, Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar has accepted the invitation to visit Pakistan to attend the SCO meeting. According to the spokesperson for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, India will participate in the SCO meeting in Pakistan. The spokesperson stated that Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar would go to Pakistan to attend the SCO summit on Oct 15-16, marking his first visit to Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Jamaat-e-Islami delegation led by Hafiz Naem ur Rehman called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

PTI's protest call: Imran's sisters arrested in D-Chowk

KP CM vows peaceful protest, warns against 'violence'

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Police on Friday arrested PTI founder Imran Khan's sisters Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan in D-Chowk. According to details, Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan were arrested in D-Chowk during the PTI protest call as Section 144 was already imposed in the federal capital.

Both the sisters of former prime minister were shifted to the police station. Earlier, several incidents of clashes were reported between the PTI workers and police. The police also fired the tear gas shells to disperse the PTI workers who were adamant to reach the D-Chowk.

At least 30 protesters have been arrested as police fire tear gas to disperse PTI protesters attempting to reach Islamabad's D-Chowk for a planned party rally. The police have blocked all entry and points to the cities and tear gas shelling has also begun in an attempt to disperse protesters.

Talking to the media at D-Chowk, Islamabad Inspector General of Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said: "Proceedings are under way wherever there are attempts to hurt police or damage property. Till now, there have been over 30 arrests. We are updating the exact numbers. It is very clear that we have a clear message that we will not allow the law to be taken into own hands." Footage shared by the PTI showed arrests of its supporters. "Release Imran! Release Imran!" dozens of protesters chanted, holding pictures of Imran and PTI flags, less than a kilometre from the red zone. Visuals also showed Imran's sister Aleema Khanum being taken away by the police while the party claimed that she was arrested.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, announced on Friday that all preparations for today's protest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) at D-Chowk in Islamabad are complete. He assured that the demonstration would be peaceful. However, he warned that anyone who resorts to violence will bear

N-League's desperate attempt to save illegitimate rule: Saif

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Information and Public Relations Barrister Dr. Saif has expressed deep concern over the current political situation in the country, stating that PML-N is making every possible effort to save its illegitimate rule. "Firing bullets at peaceful protesters is an act of rebellion against democracy," Barrister Saif said. He further stated that PML-N operatives have left no stone unturned in turning a peaceful protest violent, but the oppression will be held accountable.

He emphasized that the illegitimate rule of Maryam Nawaz and Shehbaz Sharif is in its final days, and the public will no longer tolerate this tyranny. He noted that the call of the PTI founder has been answered by people from across the country and is a clear indication that PML-N government is nearing its end. Barrister Saif also condemned the federal and Punjab governments for using state machinery to indiscriminately fire at unarmed protesters and bombard them with tear gas, proving that this government is not a representative of the people but is merely extending its rule to continue looting the national economy. He strongly condemned the placement of spikes on the motorway near Swabi and accused PML-N of being afraid of peaceful protesters. "The public has risen to hold accountable those rulers who have stolen their mandate, and PML-N is using violence and state oppression to suppress peaceful protests," Barrister Saif added. He also alleged that PML-N planned to cause casualties during the protests, and there is clear evidence of armed PML-N workers infiltrating the demonstrations.

full responsibility for the resulting situation.

Gandapur emphasised that the orders of PTI founder Imran Khan are a red line for him, adding that he has no authority to call off the protest. "There is no need to contact me about postponing the protest," he said. "Until the Quaid (Imran Khan) commands otherwise, I will keep moving forward, even if I am left to march alone," he said.

CM Gandapur instructed party workers to gather at 10:00 am in Peshawar and at 10:30 am at the Swabi Interchange. He also advised protesters to avoid travelling on the Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway.

In a separate statement, the KP government's Spokesperson, Barrister Dr. Saif, alleged that the Nawaz League government is planning to use violence against their peaceful protest through its

'Gullu Butts' [thugs].

"Yesterday, notorious Punjab police fired shots and used tear gas shells against our people," he said. Dr Saif accused the PML-N of destroying democracy, stating that the ruling party has become a symbol of fascism and oppression. He warned the Punjab police to remain within their constitutional limits, otherwise, they would face severe legal consequences. "Do not mistake peaceful protesters for being weak, because we know how to respond with force if necessary," he cautioned.

He also said, "The nation is well aware of who is pulling the strings behind the ruling Nawaz League, and attempts to misrepresent our peaceful protest will fail." On the other hand, the Peshawar High Court (PHC) accepted bail of the KP CM in two cases till Oct 25.

Speculation over Israel's response Analysts debate impact of removing Khamenei

Jalil Afridi

WASHINGTON DC: In today's State Department press briefing, spokesperson Matthew Miller fielded a series of pressing questions regarding Israel's potential actions against Iranian nuclear sites. Journalists were particularly focused on whether Israel has the right to attack these nuclear sites amidst escalating tensions.

Miller refrained from any assessments but reaffirmed that while Israel holds the right to defend itself, President Biden has advised Israel against targeting Iranian nuclear infrastructure. The US stance is to avoid any actions that could lead to greater destabilization in the region, while leaving decisions about Israel's responses to Iranian aggression up to Israel itself.

Another key topic was the potential impact of Israeli strikes on Iran's oil fields. Given the significance of Iran's oil exports to global markets, such an action could have widespread repercussions, potentially driving up prices and contributing to economic uncertainty. Although Miller did not delve into the specifics of how this might impact global oil prices, the question reflects the concern over how any military escalation could influence the broader economic landscape.

scape.

Matthew from the Associated Press started the briefing question by asking about US citizens currently in Lebanon, inquiring about available flight options for their safe evacuation. Miller provided detailed information, explaining that in addition to arrangements with Middle East Airlines, the State Department has organized flights with US airlines to transport American citizens from Lebanon to Istanbul.

These flights are offered at a relatively low cost of \$280, and for those unable to afford the fare, the State Department has established a loan program to ensure everyone can leave the country if needed. Notably, a journalist from Saudi Arabia also asked about US citizens traveling out of Lebanon, demonstrating the broader regional interest in ensuring the safety of foreign nationals during ongoing regional tensions.

Another line of questioning touched on reports from The Times of Israel, which suggested that the Lebanese military had asked Israel to halt its ground invasion. Miller did not confirm the report, only reaffirming Israel's sovereign right to self-defense. One fascinating detail from the briefing was the absence of any questions regarding the potential for Israel to target Iranian

(Continued on Back Page)



KPSED
معیاری تعلیم سب کیلئے
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Elementary & Secondary Education Department

سکول داخلہ

مہم 2024

01 ستمبر سے 15 اکتوبر



تعلیم سب کیلئے

کل داخلوں کا ہدف

1,500,000

دوسرے مرحلے میں

3 لاکھ داخلوں کا ہدف

پہلے مرحلے میں

12 لاکھ داخلے

آئیں مل کر خیر پختونخوا کی سکول داخلہ مہم کو کامیاب بنائیں

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INF(P) 2615/24

Governor, British HC for strengthening bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): A meeting took place here on Friday between Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, focusing on strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in various sectors.

The meeting was also attended by Ahmad Karim Kundi, Member of Provincial Assembly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Discussions centered on the security situation in the province, developmental projects, and collaboration in education, health, culture, and sports.

The British High Commissioner assured support from the UK for developmental initiatives as well as cultural and sporting activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized the

importance of investment and trade relations, along with the exchange of cultural delegations and the promotion of sports.

He said that these initiatives would help engage youth in positive activities.

He also proposed organizing joint programs with British teams and artists, as well as setting up sports competitions.

Both leaders agreed that cultural activities and

sports are excellent means for youth training and skill development.

They expressed a commitment to enhance cooperation in these areas, which would not only strengthen public relations but also promote cultural harmony between the two countries.

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to work on projects of common interest across various sectors.



PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Afzal Chaudhry presiding over a meeting of representatives of business community and government authorities.

CS directs authorities for complete facilitation of gemstone businesses

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Afzal Chaudhry directed the authorities for provision of comprehensive facilitation to investors, entrepreneurs and businessmen of the gemstone sector.

He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the representatives of the business community and authorities including Secretary Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Secretary Sports and Director General (DG) Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) here on Friday.

The Chief Secretary highlighted the immense

untapped potential of the gemstone sector in the province. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa holds a wealth of precious gemstones that, if fully capitalized, can significantly contribute to the province's economic growth and create new opportunities for local and international investors," he stated.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that the government is committed to creating a conducive environment that encourages private sector investment, ensuring ease of business processes, and providing the necessary infrastructure for the gemstone trade to flourish.

He further directed the authorities to expedite measures that simplify and streamline procedures,

attracting more stakeholders into the industry and contributing to the prosperity of the region.

In addition to discussions on the gemstone business, the meeting also deliberated on strategies to promote sports activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Chief Secretary underscored the province's reputation for producing athletes of international caliber and stressed the importance of creating a professional environment where sponsorship and private investments drive sports development.

"Thanks to significant improvements in sports facilities and playgrounds, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is now ready to host national

and international sporting events, which will not only elevate the profile of our athletes but also boost the province's image," the Chief Secretary remarked.

He directed the sports authorities to accelerate efforts in organizing such events and to foster partnerships between the private sector and sports associations.

Recognizing the pivotal role that corporate sponsorship plays in the development of a robust sports infrastructure, he called upon investors and business leaders to contribute to the promotion of various sports in the province, ensuring that athletes, coaches, and sports professionals receive the support they need to excel.

KMC-IRC 2024 launches provincial curriculum



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: At the closing ceremony of the Khyber Medical College International Research Conference (KMC-IRC) 2024, a historic milestone was achieved with the inauguration and launch of the first-ever curriculum for House Officers of Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) at the provincial level in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This groundbreaking initiative, organized and developed by Dr. Iqbal Haider, Associate Dean Research KMC and

Chairperson Postgraduate Curriculum Evaluation and Implementation Committee Khyber Teaching Hospital Peshawar, marks a new era in medical training and patient care at KP.

The curriculum underwent rigorous development and evaluation, receiving approval from every clinical department at Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) Peshawar. Dr. Farooq Ahmad, Director of Medical Education KMC, and Associate Professor Dr. Mohsin Shafi of the Pathology Department at

KMC, played key roles as contributors in this important project. Associate Dean Postgraduate KTH Peshawar Professor Dr. Wazir Mohammad also imparted a pivotal role in the development of this curriculum.

In his address, Professor Dr. Mahmud Aurangzeb, Dean of KMC, praised the tireless efforts and leadership of Dr. Iqbal Haider in developing and implementing this pivotal document.

He congratulated KMC and KTH for becoming the first institutions in KP to pioneer this essential curriculum, which will significantly improve the quality of patient care and enhance the training of House Officers across the province.

The launch of this curriculum is expected to elevate medical education standards and ensure that future healthcare professionals in KP are better equipped to meet the challenges of modern medical practice.


Reopening of Islamia College Gate No. 1 demanded

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A meeting of Joint Action Council (JAC) demanded reopening of Gate No. 1 for two ways traffic, held at the Teaching Staff Association Islamia College office, under the chairmanship of Dr. Fazal Wahid. The meeting was attended by presidents and general secretaries of all associations, on Friday.

The meeting began with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Participants expressed concern over the closure of Islamia College Gate No. 1, which has caused difficulties for students and staff.

JAC argued the Islamia College administration should immediately reopen Gate No. 1 for two-way traffic for ICP students and staff, maintaining past traditions and to ensure deployment of security guards at the gate.



No 3 Petroleum Dispatch Unit

PAF Base, Multan

PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE

1. Applications are invited for pre-qualification for HMT Contract (2025-28) from reputable, well-experienced (minimum 5 years general experience in heavy transport fleet management), financially-sound and Income Tax - registered mechanical transport contractors for transportation of Aviation fuel JP-8 from **PARCO Refinery, Qasba Gujrat** to all Bases / Units of Pakistan Air Force.

2. Interested parties having requisite management experience to provide safe, timely and high-quality service and owning fleet of large-size tankers, with capacity of at least **48,000 Liters** (prepared on **OGRA STANDARDS {S.R.O. 900(I)2009 dated 19 October, 2009}**), equipped with latest products handling / safety equipment, preferably satellite-based tracking system, meeting quality safety standards, may apply for pre-qualification by providing the following information:-

(a) Owners' / partners' name, address, telephone, mobile numbers and fax number of the company.

(b) Status of the firm, whether proprietorship / partnership / public or private limited company.

(c) Profile of the company, management and key personnel. Attested copies of CNIC of owner / partners / key operating personnel of the company are to be attached with the application.

(d) Details of registration with major organizations, along with detail of previous and running agreements / contracts.

(e) Details of vehicles owned, along with registration number, model, make, year of purchase, loading capacity, number of compartments, etc.

(f) Details of product handling, quality certification / safety equipment, fire extinguishers, coupling and earthing system installed on these vehicles.

(g) Detail of HR Management System.

(h) Details of satellite-based tracker system (if installed on the vehicles).

(i) Financial status duly verified / name of bankers and certificate of financial stability.

(k) Sales Tax, Professional Tax and Income Tax registration certificate, details of Income Tax Returns and copy of assessment / payment of Income Tax.

(l) Detail of ISO certifications (if any).

(m) Detail of Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) system, if any.

(n) Detail of driver training courses and its system with record.

(p) Detail of workshop facility and haulage base station at Multan or any other locations.

(q) Litigation detail, if any.

(r) Any additional information related to the subject.

3. Applications duly marked **"Pre-Qualification of Hired Mechanical Transport Contractors"** are to be submitted at following address **within 15 days** from the date of advertisement during working hours (0800 to 1400 hrs). No application will be entertained after mentioned date and time:-

Notes:-

- Preference will be given to those companies who own at least a fleet of 50 HMTs, are also ISO certified, have satellite-based tracker system and meet HSE standards.
- Any information, if found to be incomplete / false at any stage, will result in immediate rejection of the firm.

OFFICER COMMANDING

No 3 PDU, PAF Base, Multan

Contact No: 0323-9426731



Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The Khyber Institute of Child Health & Bashir Bilour Memorial Children Hospital Hayatabad Peshawar

CORRIGENDUM /

ADDENDUM

Reference Advertisement No. INF(P)974/24 dated **16.05.2024,1402/24,1735/24, 1951/24 and 2199** appearing in different newspapers. The submission date of the same tender is hereby extended to **31-10-2024 for all Bids at 11:00 am and bid will open at 11:30 A.M on the same date In the of lender opening committee & bidders.**

Note: The Bid Solicitation Documents are re-visited in light of decision KP-PPRA- made on **04-09-2024.**

Project Director

KICH & Children Hospital, Hayatabad Peshawar Phase V near Passport Office, Hayatabad, Peshawar.

بنیادی تربیتی کورس برائے فیمیلی ویلفیئر ورکرز

خواتین امیدواروں سے درخواستیں مطلوب ہیں

فیمیلی ویلفیئر ورکرز (24) ماہ کے بنیادی تربیتی کورس کے لیے خیریتونخوا واقع رجسٹرڈ ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ پشاور، رجسٹرڈ ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ ایبٹ آباد اور رجسٹرڈ ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ ملائند (بٹ خیل) میں باقی ماندہ سیشن پر داخلہ کیلئے درج ذیل اصطلاح کا ڈومینیکل ریکرڈ والی ایف ایس سی (پری میڈیکل) (F.sc (Pre-Medical) میٹرک (SSC) پاس (سائنس گروپ) خواتین امیدواروں سے درخواستیں مطلوب ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام رجسٹرڈ ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ	اصطلاح
1	رجسٹرڈ ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ محمد بہبودی آبادی پشاور B-1/40 فیئر 5 حیات آباد اور کڑی پشاور (فون نمبر 091-9217105)	
2	رجسٹرڈ ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ محمد بہبودی آبادی شریف کالونی مقابل شیع ٹیکری، صوابی، کرم، شمائی وزیر جنوبی و مریرستان کیلئے ایک اعلیٰ آسانی مختص ہے۔	
3	رجسٹرڈ ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ محمد بہبودی آبادی بنگلہ حاجی حنیف خان بدوان روڈ کوہستان لوڈا روڈ کالونی پاس۔	
	نزد بدوان پل، بٹ خیل ملائند موہا پل نمبر (03405859730)	

درخواست دینے کی اہلیت اور شرائط:


- ایف ایس سی (F.sc) پری میڈیکل کم از کم 45% نمبر یا میٹرک سائنس 45% نمبر (فکس، ٹیکسٹری اور بالائی لازمی مضامین)
- درخواستیں شہناری اشاعت کے 10 دن کے اندر جمع کروائی جاسکتی ہیں۔ جو کہ متعلقہ رجسٹرڈ ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ میں پہنچ جانی چاہیے اس کے بعد کوئی درخواست قابل قبول نہ ہوگی مکمل پیدہ جمع فون نمبر واضح طور پر لکھیں تاکہ آپ کو انٹرویو اور وائٹس کے بارے میں مطلع کیا جاسکے۔
- عمری حد 14 سے 35 سال ہے۔ تیور عمر کی حدود درخواستیں جمع کرنے کی آخری تاریخ شمار ہوگی۔
- داخلہ کا حتمی فیصلہ ٹیسٹ اور انٹرویو کے بعد مکمل ہوگا۔
- دوران ٹریننگ طالبات کو مبلغ 6000/- چھ ہزار روپے ماہانہ وظیفہ دیا جائے گا۔ آر ٹی آئی (RTI) کے بائیل میں رہنے والی لڑکیاں اصولوں کی پابندی ہوگی۔
- ٹیسٹ اور انٹرویو کیلئے آتے وقت اپنے ساتھ اصلی اسناد ضرور لائیں ٹیسٹ اور انٹرویو کیلئے امیدواروں کو TA/DA نہیں دیا جائے گا۔
- درخواست گزار اپنی درخواستیں مع اسناد کے تصدیق شدہ فتول (1) ایف ایس سی / میٹرک سند / مارک شیت DMC (2) ڈومینیکل (3) شاتی کا ڈاؤر اور فارم بیل نقل کے ہمراہ درج ذیل پتہ پر ارسال کریں۔

INF(P) 2614/24

1- رجسٹرڈ ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ محمد بہبودی آبادی پشاور B-1/40 فیئر 5 حیات آباد پشاور (فون نمبر 091-9217105)

2- رجسٹرڈ ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ محمد بہبودی آبادی شریف کالونی مقابل شیع ٹیکری، صوابی، کرم، شمائی وزیر جنوبی و مریرستان کیلئے ایک اعلیٰ آسانی مختص ہے۔ (فون نمبر 0992-9310223)

3- رجسٹرڈ ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ محمد بہبودی آبادی بنگلہ حاجی حنیف خان بدوان روڈ کوہستان لوڈا روڈ کالونی پاس۔ (فون نمبر 03405859730)



F.P. Report

Productivity in Afghanistan evidence from 1970 to 2020". His external examiners were Dr. Sher Ali Head of Dept. Economics Islamia college University Peshawar and Professor Dr. Muhammad Farooq Professor Economics Islamic centre. The examiners evaluated the thesis and lauded its contribution towards expanding the knowledge frontier on Economic growth and Total Factor Productivity in the case of Afghanistan. Dr. Naila Nazir chairperson Dept of Economics and faculty and students wholeheartedly participated in the public defence.

Zabihullah successfully defended PhD thesis



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Zabihullah successfully defended his PhD thesis under the supervision of Dr. Kashif Saeed, Associate Professor Department of Economics on Friday.

The title of his study was "The role of determinants in the Total Factor

Productivity in Afghanistan evidence from 1970 to 2020".

His external examiners were Dr. Sher Ali Head of Dept. Economics Islamia college University Peshawar and Professor Dr. Muhammad Farooq Professor Economics Islamic centre.

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the thesis and lauded its contribution towards expanding the knowledge frontier on Economic growth and Total Factor Productivity in the case of Afghanistan.

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Sindh CM voices concern over seven new polio cases

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, presiding over a provincial meeting to review polio eradication efforts, expressed concern over the detection of seven cases and reaffirmed his commitment to eradicating polio from the province.

The meeting was held at the CM House on Friday. It was attended by provincial ministers, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Saeed Ghani, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Additional IG Police Imran Yakoob, provincial secretaries, and others. The divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners attended the meeting through video link.

Irshad Ali Sodhar, Provincial Coordinator of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) gave a detailed briefing to the CM on the current polio situation and the performance of the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) program.

It was pointed out that Sindh had reported seven polio cases this year, including three from Karachi, two from Hyderabad, and one each from Sujawal, and Shikarpur. On this, the CM emphasised the urgent need for coordinated actions to reach every child and eliminate the threat of polio.

Murad Shah directed the Minister of Health Dr Azra and the Minister of Local Government Saeed Ghani

to improve immunisation by involving elected representatives to avoid refusal.

Secretary of Health Rehan Baloch, Secretary Local Government Khalid Hyder Shah, and commissioners from various divisions shared their insights on the challenges encountered in their respective divisions and the measures being taken to ensure complete immunization coverage.

Minister Health Dr Azra highlighted the progress made during recent campaigns, including the fractional Inactivated Polio Vaccine (f-IPV) campaign in August and the Sub-National Immunization Days (SNID) campaign in September, which successfully vaccinated over 9.4 million children across the province.

The CM expressed concern over the continued detection of the poliovirus in environmental samples, underscoring the need for intensified efforts to safeguard all children from the disease.

Adl IG Police Imran Yakoob (on behalf of IG Police) assured the meeting of the police's unwavering commitment to the safety of frontline workers, recognizing their critical role in reaching every child, even in challenging environments.

Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah reaffirmed the provincial government's full support for polio eradication efforts, stressing that

the commitment to wiping out the disease is unshakable.

Chief Minister Murad Shah praised the dedication of frontline workers, district administrations, and all stakeholders involved, acknowledging the success of the f-IPV and SNID campaigns as a positive step toward a polio-free future. He directed all departments to collaborate more effectively, overcome operational gaps, address vaccine refusals, and ensure that no child was missed during the upcoming National Immunization Days (NID) campaign later this month.

The Chief Minister reiterated that polio eradication remained the top priority for the provincial government and called upon all officials and stakeholders to redouble their efforts, particularly in high-risk and under-immunized areas.

‘PPP to participate in Gaza Million March’

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh President Nisar Ahmed Khuhro on Friday said that the party workers would actively take part in the Gaza Million March under the auspices of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) in Karachi on October 6 and in Islamabad on October 7.

He made the announcement in light of the directives of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Khuhro said said that the PPP stood in solidarity with the people of Gaza, Palestine and Lebanon against Israeli aggression.

Khuhro said that he strongly condemned the Israeli aggression against Gaza, Lebanon and Palestine, and urged the United Nations play its role in stopping the Israeli aggression.

Pakistan Peoples Party Sindh President Nisar Ahmed Khuhro appealed to all political parties to take a strong united stand against the Israeli aggression by keeping their political differences aside.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah addressing inauguration ceremony of First Pakistan Int'l Date Palm Festival in collaboration with Khalifa International Award at Expo Centre.

Federal govt to hand over Green Line Bus Service to Sindh govt, says Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): The Federal government will hand over the Green Line Bus Service to the Sindh government in December 2024.

The Sindh government has finalized preparations to assume control of the Green Line's operations, said a communique on Friday.

A high-level meeting was held in Karachi under the chairmanship of Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon. The meeting was attended by Transport Secretary Asad Zamin, Managing Director of Sindh Mass Transit Authority Kamal Hakeem Dayo, Trans Karachi CEO Shumaila Mohsin, and other officials.

In the meeting, the oper-

ations of the Green Line Bus Service were thoroughly reviewed, and Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon received a comprehensive briefing on the Green Line project.

A detailed discussion was also held on the plan to connect the Green Line with the Orange Line project.

During the meeting, Sharjeel Inam Memon directed the swift completion of the project connecting the Green Line with the Orange Line. The meeting also covered discussions on the Sindh Government's ongoing operations in the public transport sector, utility services, and subsidies for the Green Line Bus Service.

Speaking at the meeting,

Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Mass Transit, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, emphasized that the Green Line project is a vital component of Karachi's public transport system. He confirmed that the Green Line project will be transferred to the Sindh Government by the Federal Government in December 2024.

He stated that the Sindh Government aims to complete the project connecting the Green Line to the Orange Line before December 2024.

He noted that the Federal Government is currently providing an annual subsidy of 2 billion rupees for

the operations of the Green Line, which the Sindh Government will review. After the transfer of the Green Line project from the Federal Government to the Sindh Government, additional buses will be introduced to enhance the efficiency and quality of transport services for the citizens.

He further stated that the public has experienced significant relief due to the ongoing public transport projects initiated by the Sindh Government.

Public transport has been a long-standing issue in Karachi, and we aim to improve the system as much as possible to provide maximum convenience and relief to the citizens.

1st Pakistan International Date Palm Festival kick starts

KARACHI (APP): The 1st Pakistan International Date Palm Festival and Exhibition aimed at bolstering country's production and export of dates and its value-added products kick starts here at Expo Center Karachi on Friday.

The festival and exhibition are being organized by Ministry of National Food Security and Research and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan in collaboration with Embassy of United Arab Emirates in Pakistan and Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and agriculture innovation.

Besides local growers and processors of date palm, 150 delegates from 8 different countries were taking part in the festival and exhibition.

The Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, UAE Envoy to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi, Federal secretary NFSR Ali Tahir, Chief Executive TDAP Zubair Motiwala and Secretary General Khalifa International Award Dr. Abdel Wahhab Zaid cut the ribbon to inaugurate the two-day festival and exhibition.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the festival, termed the festival as a reflection of friendly ties of Pakistan and UAE and said that it would not only open new avenues of sharing and cooperation for both the brotherly coun-

tries but also help in the promotion of Pakistani dates.

He said that there was a vast potential for Pakistani dates in the global market and full access of Pakistani dates to the global market could earn precious foreign exchange for the country.

Tessori while stressing on the unity and collaboration among the Muslim countries said that these countries possessed enormous capital, resources and power and they could gain their due share in international trade through unity, coordination and collaborative efforts.

The governor stressed on need of commercial plantation, reducing post-harvest losses, value addition and provision of technical assistance to farmers for enhancing production as well as export of dates. He urged the local growers, manufacturers and exporters to leverage form the technical expertise of UAE friends.

The Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah, in his address, said that Pakistan is ranked at number five in date cultivation and production where Date Palm was cultivated on 252,000 acres while date production in the year 2022 had remained over 730,000 ton.

Sindh is the leading producer of dates which contributes more than 57% to the total national production while Khairpur is a major center for dates, producing more than 300 unique varieties, Murad

Shah stated and added that a research center has been set up in Kot Deeji town, training programs have already been organized for growers in Khairpur and 8 solar gas hybrid dryers and 35 tunnel dryers have been installed to produce quality dates.

A project has been initiated to introduce palm cultivation in the Thar desert, for which Date Palm cultivation models have been obtained from the Gulf countries, he said and hoped that tissue culture technology will play a key role in accelerating the proliferation of these superior varieties.

Ministry of National Food Security and Research and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council were working on the project and after evaluations of 38 different Date varieties 8 were recommended to be planted on a large scale while PARC was also working to enhance post-harvest processing and value addition, Murad Shah added.

The UAE envoy to Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi, said that the unique festival reflects the commitment of both the countries to develop agriculture, enhance agriculture production and ensure food security.

UAE and Pakistan were working jointly to enhance agri-production and export through promotion of modern technology and bolstering the bilateral relations in agriculture sector, he said

and hoped that the festival would boost the export of Pakistani dates and significantly contribute to the national economy.

Federal Secretary MNFS&R, Ali Tahir, while reading out the message of Federal Minister for NFS&R, Rana Tanveer Hussain, said that Date Palm was an important part of our agriculture and the festival will play an important role in development of the sector.

He unlined the need of adoption of progress made in science and technology, information sharing, sensitizing farmers about modern cultivation techniques and dealing with implications of the climate change.

CE TDAP, Zubair Motiwala, highlighted the potential of Pak-UAE collaboration in tissue culture research and value addition of Date Palm and invited investors from UAE to invest and form joint ventures in values addition.

Secretary General Khalifa International Award, Abdel Wahhab Zaid, Consul General of UAE in Karachi Bakht Ateeq Alroumethi also spoke at the occasion and said that UAE was committed to extend cooperation to Pakistan in every sector.

Later, the Sindh Governor and CM flanked by UAE diplomats awarded certificates and awards to the best growers and processors of Date Palm. They also different stalls set up in the exhibition.

No 3 Petroleum Dispatch Unit PAF Base, Multan

PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE

1. Applications are invited for pre-qualification for HMT Contract (2025-28) from reputable, well-experienced (minimum 5 years general experience in heavy transport fleet management), financially-sound and Income Tax - registered mechanical transport contractors for transportation of Aviation fuel JP-8 from **PARCO Refinery, Qasba Gujrat** to all Bases / Units of Pakistan Air Force.

2. Interested parties having requisite management experience to provide safe, timely and high-quality service and owning fleet of large-size tankers, with capacity of at least **48,000 Liters** (prepared on **OGRA STANDARDS {S.R.O. 900(I)2009 dated 19 October, 2009}**), equipped with latest products handling / safety equipment, preferably satellite-based tracking system, meeting quality safety standards, may apply for pre-qualification by providing the following information:-

(a) Owners' / partners' name, address, telephone, mobile numbers and fax number of the company.

(b) Status of the firm, whether proprietorship / partnership / public or private limited company.

(c) Profile of the company, management and key personnel. Attested copies of CNIC of owner / partners / key operating personnel of the company are to be attached with the application.

(d) Details of registration with major organizations, along with detail of previous and running agreements / contracts.

(e) Details of vehicles owned, along with registration number, model, make, year of purchase, loading capacity, number of compartments, etc.

(f) Details of product handling, quality certification / safety equipment, fire extinguishers, coupling and earthing system installed on these vehicles.

(g) Detail of HR Management System.

(h) Details of satellite-based tracker system (if installed on the vehicles).

(i) Financial status duly verified / name of bankers and certificate of financial stability.

(k) Sales Tax, Professional Tax and Income Tax registration certificate, details of Income Tax Returns and copy of assessment / payment of Income Tax.

(l) Detail of ISO certifications (if any).

(m) Detail of Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) system, if any.

(n) Detail of driver training courses and its system with record.

(p) Detail of workshop facility and haulage base station at Multan or any other locations.

(q) Litigation detail, if any.

(r) Any additional information related to the subject.

3. Applications duly marked **“Pre-Qualification of Hired Mechanical Transport Contractors”** are to be submitted at following address **within 15 days** from the date of advertisement during working hours (0800 to 1400 hrs). No application will be entertained after mentioned date and time:-

Notes:-

- Preference will be given to those companies who own at least a fleet of 50 HMTs, are also ISO certified, have satellite-based tracker system and meet HSE standards.
- Any information, if found to be incomplete / false at any stage, will result in immediate rejection of the firm.

**OFFICER COMMANDING
No 3 PDU, PAF Base, Multan
Contact No: 0323-9426731**

Enabling environment being provided to youth for skill based training: Nasir Shah

KARACHI (APP): Provincial Minister of Energy, Development and Planning Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Friday said the government was creating an enabling environment to provide skill-based training to the youth so that they could increase their livelihood through small and medium enterprises development.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the 8th annual Microsoft Conference here at a local hotel, minister said the provincial government had already initiated projects aimed at supporting interest based financing of the large scale businesses such as Day Fresh Milk facility at Bhambhore, multiple Control shed poultry farms, cold storages and other agro-based value addition private projects in Sindh. He said SEDF project had already been launched by Sindh Government in 2012 and it was working successfully since last one decade.

He said PPP government through Peoples Poverty Reduction Project (PPRP) and SRSO have reached out to more than 300,000 lower middle class families to disburse interest free loans for small business initiatives in more than 16 districts of the province.

Recently government has enhanced the loan limit from Rs.200000 to 3 million to support medium size enterprising project, Shah added. He said recovery of these interest free loans was satisfactory and 90% people were paying back their loans since last 8 to 10 years.

Shah further said that Sindh Government through other donor funded project such as PAIDAR (EU Funding of USD 40 M), IFAD (Funding of USD 163 M) and LivAqua (WB Funded Project of USD 135 M) for Fisherfolk agro based microfinance project. “All these projects are primarily focusing on localized skill training leading towards interest free loans for small community-based business development”, he added. Sindh Social Protection Authority established under Govt of Sindh was working day and night to provide sustainable financing to all the marginalized communities who are living under poverty score in the province of Sindh.

Government of Sindh is also using banking sector to rebuild over 1.5 million houses which were completely washed out in 2022 floods, with an investment of more than 1.5 bn US dollars. This entire disbursement is being done through self-help construction mechanism where milestone-based funds are released to beneficiaries through banks. He assured that Sindh Govt would provide full support to all the initiatives which will be brought forward by the private sector.

Chairman SECP Akif Saeed, Deputy Governor State Bank Dr. Inayat Ali, Chairman PMU Aamir Khan, Chairman PMU Policy Committee Dr. Rashid Bajwa, CEO Pakistan Microfinance Network Mohsin Ahmed, international financial dignitaries, academicians and experts from the banking sector were present on the occasion.

SSUET honored with Brand of year Award

KARACHI (APP): Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology (SSUET) has been once again bestowed with the Brand of the Year Award by the Brand Foundation for academic excellence and research development. According to press release issued by Director Information SSUET, It is the 3rd time that the university has acquired the Brand of the Year Award. The university played an effective and significant role in transcending traditional disciplinary limitations in pursuit of intellectual fusion and developing a culture of academic enterprise and knowledge entrepreneurship.

Commenting on such an amazing achievement, Acting Vice Chancellor SSUET, Dr. Munawar Hussain, said that it is a matter of great pride that the university secured the Brand of the Year Award 3rd time, which shows its tremendous progress in multiple directions like academics, research, knowledge areas, and co-curricular activities.

well as in Nazimabad, Tariq Road, and Umar Sharif Underpass. Repairs are also taking place at Yaseenabad, Natha Khan, Drug Road, NEPA, Sahrab Goth, Golimar, Pakistan Quarters, Baloch Colony, and Karsaz bridges.

Moreover, restoration and repair work on street-lights is being done on Shah Waliullah Road, Ittehad Town Road, Baldia Stadium Road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal Block 13-D Road, Malir 15, Railway Gate, Ibrahim Haidri Road, Bahadur Yar Jung Road, Korangi, Old Queens Road, Club Road, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Sindh Secretariat Road, Gulistan-e-Johar,

Bakery, Chowrangi, MediCare Hospital Sharfabad, New Town Police Station, PIB Colony Road, and others. The repairs on Habib River Road and Bab-e-Khyber Road will also improve the sewage system.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab emphasized that enhancing the city's infrastructure was a priority, and the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will fulfill its responsibilities in this regard. By improving roads, bridges, underpasses, and intersections, obstacles to traffic flow will be removed, leading to a significant reduction in travel

time within the city and lessening traffic jams, ultimately saving citizens' valuable fuel, he added.

He mentioned that effective strategies have been devised for road construction and other infrastructure projects, taking past experiences into account. The engineering department has been explicitly instructed to ensure quality in development works to prevent the wastage of funds allocated for the city's development.

He highlighted the need for the newly constructed infrastructure to be durable so that citizens can benefit from it for a long time.

The Mayor Karachi stated that the consequences of

Companies awarded rain-hit road construction contracts asked to commence work, says Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Friday said that after completing the tendering and scrutiny process for the reconstruction of rain-affected roads in Karachi, companies awarded contracts have been instructed to commence construction work.

In a statement on Friday, he said that 33 roads in the city were being reconstructed in the first phase, and the street lighting system on various roads was also being modernized. All companies have been clearly instructed that there should be no negligence or use of substandard materials in the construction of

the roads; otherwise, the responsible company will be immediately blacklisted.

The 33 roads undergoing construction and repair include Habib River Road, Shahrah-e-Orangi, Madinatul Hikmat Road, Lal Shabbaz Qalandar Road, Mahmood Road, Kashmir Road, Nizami Road, Khushhal Khan Road, Razi Road, PECHS, the road from Expo Center to National Stadium, the road from Bab-e-Khyber to Mominabad Police Station, Metroville Road, and others.

Additionally, repairs are being carried out at Chandni Chowk and Kamran Chowrangi, as

poor infrastructure have affected Karachi's residents in the past. This is why, immediately after taking charge of KMC, priorities for the city's development and infrastructure restoration were set, and all KMC departments were made accountable to adhere to these priorities.

The citizens of Karachi can see that local representatives are striving to solve the city's problems, and efforts are being made to involve all relevant agencies in order to make the developmental process effective and comprehensive. It is hoped that the future will bring better prospects for Karachi.

Body voices concern over lack of funds for Railway Police

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate's Committee on Railways Friday expressed concerns about scarcity of funds for the Railway Police and over incomplete briefing on theft incidents.

The committee, which met with Senator Jam Saifullah Khan in chair, was briefed on the issues raised by Senator Shahadat Awan regarding theft incidents, embezzlement of funds, scrap cases, and financial losses faced by the Pakistan Railways over the last five years.

The committee members expressed their displeasure over the briefing provided by the Railways Ministry on the theft incidents and misappropriation, and directed that a detailed one should be provided on the issues in the next meeting.

Inspector General of Railway Police Rao Sardar Ali Khan highlighted that the Railway Police lacked

human resources and necessary funds for maintaining law and order and curbing theft.

Even it did not have funds to pay compensation to its Shuhada (martyrs), he added.

Committee Chairman Jam Saifullah Khan stated that the Railway Police played a pivotal role in ensuring the safety of commuters and preventing theft. He directed the Railway Police to inform the committee about the problems being faced by the department and suggestions for betterment of its performance.

The committee also urged the government to take steps for the capacity building of Railway Police.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha remarked that people around the world preferred to travel by rail keeping in mind their safety though the railway fares were gen-

erally higher compared to those of aeroplanes.

As regard the 105-kilometer long Tharparkar railway track, Secretary Railways Syed Mazhar Ali Shah informed the committee that the contract for the project had been awarded, which was likely to be completed by December 2025. The project costs would be shared by both the Sindh and federal governments.

Given its importance, special purpose vehicles would be arranged for the project, he added.

The committee chairman sought an update on ML-1 and the gauges used in other countries.

Syed Mazhar Ali Shah replied that the track's rehabilitation work would start soon. In South Asia, broad gauge was used, while the Russian gauge - a standard one used in Central Asia, Russia, and other countries.

ICT admin bans pillion riding for two days

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad district administration has announced a temporary ban on pillion riding, effective from today and lasting until October 5 to maintain public order and ensure safety in the Federal Capital.

According to the spokesman of ICT administration, the decision aims to prevent potential disruptions to public peace and safety.

Meanwhile, in an official notification, the ban applies to all motorcyclists in Islamabad. No more than one person will be allowed to ride a motorcycle at any time during the ban. The authorities have warned that strict legal action will be taken against anyone found violating this order.

The ban has been issued under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

The Additional District Magistrate of Islamabad, Usman Ashraf, has stated that the measure is necessary to prevent threats to public peace and safety. The authorities believe that some individuals riding in pairs on motorcycles may engage in activities that could harm public life and property.

The notification explains that the ban is meant to provide immediate protection to the public and avoid any violent incidents.

Furthermore, law enforcement agencies will monitor the situation closely, and violators will face legal consequences.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar addressing a press conference.

Minister: FDI rises by 55% and remittances up by 44%

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik said on Friday that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has increased by 55%, while remittances have seen a 44% rise.

Addressing a press conference, he highlighted the government's efforts to create an investor-friendly environment, which has contributed to this significant uptick in FDI.

He said that the increase in remittances showcases the trust and support of overseas Pakistanis in bolstering the national economy. "These figures reflect a positive trajectory for Pakistan's economic stability and growth," Dr. Musadik Malik said, adding that the government remains committed to sustaining this momentum and expanding investment opportunities.

He said the country is expecting around 3% GDP growth due to the policies of the government, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The minister expressed optimism that with the increase in GDP, more job opportunities would emerge, improving the living standards of the common people.

Dr. Musadik Malik said that food inflation has decreased by 1.7%, from 48.1%, while overall inflation has dropped to 6.7% from 38%. Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have also improved. Growth has been observed in the agriculture and large-scale manufacturing sectors, he added.

He highlighted the government's focus on the information technology sector, mentioning that a large IT delegation from Saudi Arabia is expected to visit Pakistan.

The minister also pointed out that the trade deficit has decreased and Pakistan's stock exchange is achieving new milestones, with the renowned financial journal Bloomberg recognizing it as the most emerging market in Asia.

He said that due to the government's efforts, the confidence of the international community has improved.

He further shared that the Malaysian Prime Minister has completed his visit to Pakistan, while delegations from Saudi Arabia and other countries are expected to arrive for agreements.

He reiterated that the government's priority is to provide maximum facilities to the people. All economic indicators are positive, with exports increasing, the trade deficit decreasing, and inflation dropping to 6.9%, surpassing even expert projections.

Speaking on the China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC), he said phase two, primarily focused on establishing businesses in Pakistan, has already begun.

The minister also mentioned Russia's interest investing in Pakistan due to the country's economic stability. Pakistan is moving toward progress, prosperity, and development due to the prudent policies of the government. Billions of dollars in investment are expected to flow into the country.

He said it has long been the dream of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership to improve the lives of ordinary citizens by providing quality infrastructure, schools, colleges, universities, and hospitals.

In contrast, he said, the opposition's leadership seeks destruction, chaos, and politics of hate and abuse. He lamented that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) staged a sit-in when the Chinese President was due to visit in 2014, which delayed the launch of CPEC. Similarly, when Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim was in Islamabad, the PTI chairman called for a march towards D-Chowk.

He said that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit was a great honor for Pakistan, and any agitation during this time would send a negative message about the country. "We must present the world with Pakistan's soft and positive image," he said, urging the opposition to raise their issues in Parliament.

The minister called for the opposition to acknowledge Pakistan's economic development at a time when the world is appreciating it.

Dr. Musadik Malik recalled that the PTI leadership once asked the IMF to halt an agreement with Pakistan. He also mentioned that despite concerns over the outcome of the 2018 elections, the PML-N leadership offered the PTI government charter of the economy. Additionally, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari extended cooperation to PTI on the floor of the house.

He added that during the PTI government's tenure, top PML-N leaders, including Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Hamza Shehbaz, Saad Rafique, Rana Sanaulлах, and Khawaja Asif, were arrested. Leadership from the PPP, including Asif Ali Zardari and his sister, were also detained.

Dr. Musadik criticized the PTI for its maligning campaign against state institutions. He said that military installations and memorials of the country's heroes were targeted and attacked by PTI workers on May 9.

Section 144 enforced

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) authorities have enforced Section 144 and the Peaceful Assembly Act across the capital, prohibiting gatherings and processions in restricted areas as part of tightened security measures.

According to a police statement, the high-security zone, red zone, and surrounding areas have been designated as restricted,

with strict enforcement of the law.

He said that the ICT Police is always busy protecting people's lives and property.

He said anyone involved in illegal activities will be held accountable.

He said that citizens are requested not to engage in any unlawful gatherings.

He further stated that legal action will be taken against those who attempt

to disturb peace and order.

He said Observe traffic advisories for road closures while traveling.

Guidance can be taken from Islamabad Police FM 92.4 and Pukar 15 to know the latest traffic situation, he added.

Citizens are advised to report any emergencies by dialing 15.

Muqam criticizes PTI for disturbing peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister Amir Muqam on Friday criticized chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur for disturbing peace and business activity in country through public meetings.

He said Ali Amin Gandapur was using official resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhawa for holding public rally in the federal capital.

Talking to a private television channel, he said the CM KP should resolve the problems of the people of province and refrain from arranging public gathering in the capital.

"Important high level delegations are coming to this country to enhance bilateral and business relations with Pakistan," he said adding that PTI was trying to disrupt peaceful environment of the capital at this critical moment.

He said that PTI had a track record of derailing economic activity in the country. The PTI had tried to halt the development projects some years back after staging sit-in in the federal capital, he added.

The people are suffering due to the stubborn attitude of PTI leaders, he said. In reply to a question, he said, no one is allowed to create law and order situation when the SCO session was going to be held in the Islamabad.

ITP organizes road safety workshop

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Traffic Police ITP education wing organized one-day workshop on road safety at WAPDA Staff College on Friday.

The workshop was attended by education wing member, drivers and other staff of the government organization, the spokesman said. Moreover, the workshop participants were briefed on road safety, cautious driving, and other traffic laws, he said.

He said ITP education wing educated drivers and staff on road safety, hazards of using mobile phones while driving, seatbelt usage, risks of riding motorcycles without helmets, consideration for rights of other road users, and awareness regarding the use of headlights, zebra crossings, dangers of speeding, and other traffic laws.

Organization members praised the Islamabad Police efforts for organizing the initiative which emphasizes the importance of such workshops in educating participants about various aspects of road safety, he added.

He said during the event, officers from the education wing advised participants to adhere to traffic laws and drive cautiously to ensure their and others' safety.

On the occasion, senior police officers said that it was the duty of the Islamabad Police to inform the drivers about road safety and traffic rules and the Islamabad Police was fulfilling its duty in a professional manner, he said.

The speakers further said that the protection of citizen life and property was among the top priorities of Islamabad Police, he said.

IESCO catches 288 power pilferers in September

ISLAMABAD (APP): Detection teams of Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) caught a total of 288 individuals using direct electricity supply while 28 meters were found tampered in various circles of the company during September.

Sharing details, Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) CEO Muhammad Naeem Jan said that IESCO's detection teams checked over 93,000 meters across the region.

The detection teams also imposed fines of over Rs 25.83 million on them while police arrested 33 electricity thieves, he added.

The CEO said that on the directives of the government and the Ministry of Power Division, the company had launched a comprehensive drive against power pilferers and a recovery drive in September 2023.

Since the start of the anti-electricity theft campaign in September 2023, Rs 715.2 million fine have been imposed on 14,804 electricity thieves in IESCO region while 2,020 thieves have been arrested by police, he said.

Naeem Jan said that actions against electricity thieves and their facilitators across Islamabad, Rawalpindi City, Rawalpindi Cantt, Jhelum, Attock, and Chakwal circles were being carried out without any discrimination.

The CEO also requested the consumers to support IESCO in the anti-electricity theft campaign and report any electricity theft to SDO offices or Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) helpline number 118 so timely action could be taken.

Giving teachers rightful place in society must for promoting educ

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Friday called for appreciating the profound impact that teachers have on individuals and the nation as a whole.

"The teachers not only impart knowledge but also teach and nurture students to become responsible citizens and productive members of the workforce," the Speaker said in his message on the World Teachers' Day, being celebrated annually on October 5 across the globe.

"The teachers impart

wisdom and instill ethics in their students often amidst challenging circumstances," he added.

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the religious and cultural teachings that underscored the respect and reverence owed to the teachers.

"Teaching is not merely a profession but a noble cause."

He said that a great ambition and devotion was required to guide the youth in discerning right from wrong and in turn enabling them to make decisions that affect not only their lives

but also the fabric of nation and the world.

Ayaz Sadiq, while urging the nation to honour the educators in Pakistan, stated, "Giving teachers the rightful place in society is essential for promoting education in the country."

The Speaker also highlighted the unwavering commitment of Parliament of Pakistan for uplifting and upholding the due respect deserved by teachers.

"The Parliament is fully committed to ensure that

the teachers across Pakistan are being duly compensated and given their rightful place in the society."

NA Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, in his message, paid rich tribute to the teachers, saying as Islam had declared teachers as spiritual parents, therefore, "it is incumbent upon us to honour them".

He said that the teachers played a vital role in shaping a civilized society. "We owe our success to our teachers, who had strived for our betterment."

Rain to lash upper parts of country: PMD

ISLAMABAD (APP): After the days-long hot and dry weather across the country, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain-wind/thunderstorm for the upper parts of the country.

As per the synoptic situation, a westerly wave was likely to approach upper parts of the country on October 05.

Under the influence of this weather system, rain-wind/thunderstorm with isolated hailstorm are expected in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Galliyat, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Lahore, Kasur, Okara, Sheikhupura, Sialkot, Narowal, Hafizabad, Wazirabad, Khushab, Sargodha, Mianwali, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Chiniot, Faisalabad during from Oct 05, October 07 and October 08 with occasional gaps.

While rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected in Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Dera

Ghazi Khan, Layyah and Bhakkar from October 06-08 with occasional gaps.

In KP rain-wind/thunderstorm with isolated heavy fall/hailstorm are expected in Chitral, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Shangla, Battagram, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Buner, Malakand, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Peshawar, Swabi, Charsadda and Nowshera from October 05-08.

While, rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected in Mardan, Kurram, Orakzai, Kohat, Hangu, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Waziristan and Dera Ismail Khan from October 05-07 with occasional gaps.

In Kashmir, rain-wind/thunderstorm with isolated moderate to heavy rain-fall/hailstorm are expected in Neelum valley, Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber and Mirpur from October 05-08.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, rain-wind/thunderstorm with few heavy fall is expected in Diamir, Astore, Skardu, Gilgit, Hunza, Ghanche and Shigar from October 05-08.

In Balochistan, rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected in Quetta, Zhob, Barkhan, Lasbella, Panjgur and Awaran on October 06 and 07.

In Sindh, hot and dry weather is expected in most parts of the province.

About the possible impacts, the PMD said that moderate to heavy rains may increase flow in local nullahs or streams in Murree, Galliyat, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Kohistan, Chitral, Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, Dir, Swat, Mala Kand, Shangla, Bajaur, Mohmand and Khyber during the forecast period.

Landslides may disrupt roads in the vulnerable points of upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murree, Galliyat, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan during the forecast period.

IRSA releases 156,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 156,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 126,200 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1536.72 feet and was 138.72 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet.

Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 73,400 cusecs and 70,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1211.905 feet, which was 163.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 11,600 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 81,500, 76,800, 62,700 and 11,200 cusecs respectively.



No 3 Petroleum Dispatch Unit

PAF Base, Multan

PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE

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2. Interested parties having requisite management experience to provide safe, timely and high-quality service and owning fleet of large-size tankers, with capacity of at least **48,000** Liters (prepared on **OGRA STANDARDS {S.R.O. 900(I)2009 dated 19 October, 2009}**), equipped with latest products handling / safety equipment, preferably satellite-based tracking system, meeting quality safety standards, may apply for pre-qualification by providing the following information:-

(a) Owners' / partners' name, address, telephone, mobile numbers and fax number of the company.

(b) Status of the firm, whether proprietorship / partnership / public or private limited company.

(c) Profile of the company, management and key personnel. Attested copies of CNIC of owner / partners / key operating personnel of the company are to be attached with the application.

(d) Details of registration with major organizations, along with detail of previous and running agreements / contracts.

(e) Details of vehicles owned, along with registration number, model, make, year of purchase, loading capacity, number of compartments, etc.

(f) Details of product handling, quality certification / safety equipment, fire extinguishers, coupling and earthing system installed on these vehicles.

(g) Detail of HR Management System.

(h) Details of satellite-based tracker system (if installed on the vehicles).

(j) Financial status duly verified / name of bankers and certificate of financial stability.

(k) Sales Tax, Professional Tax and Income Tax registration certificate, details of Income Tax Returns and copy of assessment / payment of Income Tax.

(l) Detail of ISO certifications (if any).

(m) Detail of Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) system, if any.

(n) Detail of driver training courses and its system with record.

(p) Detail of workshop facility and haulage base station at Multan or any other locations.

(q) Litigation detail, if any.

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Notes:-

• Preference will be given to those companies who own at least a fleet of 50 HMTs, are also ISO certified, have satellite-based tracker system and meet HSE standards.

• Any information, if found to be incomplete / false at any stage, will result in immediate rejection of the firm.

OFFICER COMMANDING

No 3 PDU, PAF Base, Multan

Contact No: 0323-9426731



CM orders to stop illegal sale, purchase of land in RUDA

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Friday approved the establishment of a special police force to prevent encroachment along the Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) land.

A special meeting related to RUDA was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, in which a detailed review of the completion of

RUDA projects and ongoing projects was conducted. CM Maryam Nawaz ordered to stop illegal sale and purchase of land in RUDA areas. In a meeting, it was also decided to cooperate with China and other international organisations for the completion of RUDA projects. Maryam Nawaz was briefed about the progress on increasing the forest area in RUDA from

20 per cent to 35pc. Chief Executive Officer RUDA Imran Amin gave a detailed briefing about the project.

Senator Pervez Rasheed, Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari, Chief Secretary, Secretary Housing, CEO RUDA Imran Amin, Principal Secretary and other officials were also present.

ATC extends interim bail of Mansha’s sons in extortion case

LAHORE (APP): An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Friday extended the interim bail of two sons of land grabber Mansha Ali Khokhar, alias Mansha Bomb, till October 12 in an extortion case.

ATC Judge Arshad Javed conducted proceedings on the bail petitions, wherein accused Faisal Mansha appeared. However, accused Amir Mansha did not appear, but his counsel submitted an application requesting the court to exempt his client from personal appearance for one day, which the court allowed.

During the proceedings, the police requested the court to grant additional time to complete the investigation. At this, the court extended the interim bail of the accused till October 12 and adjourned further proceedings.

The accused had filed the bail petitions to avoid arrest in an extortion case registered by the Sattu Katla police. It was alleged that the accused demanded Rs 5 million in extortion from a trader, Shabir, and made murder threats against him.



LAHORE: A teacher performing duty at a school as world celebrates World teacher's Day, also known as International Teachers Day.

LHC summons LDA chief engineer

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday summoned the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) chief engineer in connection with petitions related to smog control.

The court also directed the Agriculture department to formulate a permanent policy regarding the issue of crop residue burning, noting that crop residues are being burned along the Multan Motorway.

A single bench, comprising Justice Shahid Karim, passed these orders while hearing petitions filed by Haroon Farooq and others.

During the proceedings, a counsel for the LDA submitted a performance report regarding Tollinton Market. In response, the court instructed the LDA's counsel to ensure the implementation of the plan for the market.

In reply to a court query, a member of the Judicial Water and Environment Commission informed the court that a letter had been sent to the Secretary of Schools regarding the provision of buses for pick-and-drop services for children.

The court observed that schools will either need to purchase buses or outsource this service. "In the first stage, at least 40% of students must be provided with pick-and-drop services, with the fare to be borne by the parents. Schools will not incur any expenses," the court added.

At this point, in response to another court query, the commission's focal person informed the court that the Kasur Water Treatment Plant had been handed over to the Tanneries Association in hopes of its

revival and improvement.

The court then ordered to decide a petition regarding the non-implementation of the agreement for the treatment plant's operation within 15 days, after hearing the stance of the association. The court warned that if the association fails to submit a plan, action will be taken against it, as entire villages are being affected by this issue.

Murder accused deported from Saudia, held at airport

LAHORE (APP): The Special Operations Cell of Punjab Police arrested a fugitive Qamar Abbas, wanted in a murder case, at the Lahore airport after he was deported from Saudi Arabia.

He had shot at and killed a woman in the Pahrianwali area in 2019. The incident stemmed from prior disputes between the parties and a land occupation conflict. The accused had been evading the Mandi Bahauddin police for five years. The cell had issued a red notice for the accused through Interpol, leading to his arrest by the Saudi Arabia police, which subsequently handed him over to the Punjab Police at Lahore airport.

A police spokesperson said that the total number of fugitives arrested from abroad this year had reached 82. These criminals were wanted in serious cases, including robbery, murder, kidnapping, and fraud etc.

IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar appreciated the RPO Gujranwala and DPO Mandi Bahauddin for the successful arrest of the dangerous fugitive. He instructed that legal proceedings be completed promptly to ensure the accused receives appropriate punishment.

Fake police official held in Lahore

The Dolphin Force arrested a fraudster impersonating as police official here on Friday.

The Dolphin force during snap checking in Harbanspur area of Lahore inquired a man identified as Qayyum dressed in police uniform.

The accused introduced him as police official but during investigation was found to be a fraudster. Fake service card was also recovered from possession of the accused. The Dolphin Force personnel arrested the fraudster and later handed him over to Harbanspura police station for further investigations.

Lahore police conduct 3,243 search operations

LAHORE (APP): In connection with the Jummah prayers security, the Lahore police carried out 3,243 search-and-combing operations in various areas of the city.

A police spokesman said in a statement on Friday that over 94,000 houses, more than 57,000 tenants, and over 216,000 individuals were checked during operations. More than 338,000 individuals were cleared after verification. Legal action was taken against 1,586 people for violations and 494 actions were initiated under the Tenancy Act.

The search operations resulted in the arrest of 321 proclaimed offenders, registration of 132 drug-related cases and the detention of 129 individuals under Sections 55 and 109 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Additionally, 206 cases for illegal possession of firearms and 94 cases for alcohol consumption were filed. The operations also involved checks at 63 hotels, 26 guest houses, 89 hostels, 18 bus terminals, 44 godowns and factories, 6,457 shops, 68 mosques and madrasas.

Minister Arora visits Secretary office

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora visited the office of Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights and Minority Affairs (HR&MA) Sonia Asher in Gulberg here on Friday. He held a meeting with the parliamentary secretary and discussed the issues, being faced by religious minorities and their solutions.

Arora emphasized the need to ensure protection of rights of religious minorities and the necessity of adopting a joint action plan to address their issues on a priority basis. Sonia Asher also reiterated the commitment to remain united in safeguarding the rights of religious minorities. Coordinator Anil Sahotra, Focal Person Punjab Dawood Sharif Sahotra, former MPA Tariq Masih Gul, Kamran Bhatti and Akab Alam were also present on that occasion.

‘Livestock sector contributing greatly’

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister of Livestock and Agriculture Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani said on Friday that the livestock sector was contributing greatly for stabilising national economy.

He was addressing a ceremony, held at a local hotel in connection with the World Animal Protection Day observance, with the help of a NGO Brooks and Livestock Department of Punjab. The minister said that an organisation like Brooks was indeed providing valuable services in the field of equine health in Pakistan. He said the sector was playing an important role in providing employment to a large part of population. Those farmers who could not afford to buy land, could purchase animals, he added. The minister said the Livestock Department was continuing its efforts to strengthen all animal welfare organisations. According to the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, the Punjab government, in the recent budget, had allocated a huge amount of Rs. 20 billion for development of the sector. This is in addition to other expenses for livestock.

Minister inaugurates Pakistan’s largest students’ financial aid scheme

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Higher Education Rana Sikandar Hayat Khan inaugurated Pakistan's largest scholarship programme for the financial assistance of talented students in Punjab.

In this regard, a launching ceremony was organised at Punjab University in which PU Vice Chancellor Dr Muhammad Ali, Secretary Higher Education Dr Farrukh Naveed, Punjab Higher Education Commission Chief Operating Officer Dr Mansoor Ahmed Baloch, faculty members and a number of students were present.

Addressing the ceremony, Minister Hayat said Honhaar Undergraduate Scholarship Programme was the largest scholarship programme in the history of Pakistan under which the fee of 30,000 intelligent students of public and private universities would benefit. The minister said that the fee of the four-year BS degree programme of the intelligent students would be paid every year on behalf of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and every year new students would also be included in the scholarship scheme.

He said that the eligibili-

ty criteria regarding family income range had been set with the monthly income of Rs300,000 to support upper middle class families in the scholarship programme. He said that students of government medical colleges would also be included in the scheme.

The minister said that students would be given scholarships in 67 disciplines which were in high demand worldwide. Sikandar said that the Honhaar Undergraduate Scholarship Programme would help in producing the best human resource. He said that CM Punjab had launched a number of

initiatives for the welfare of the youth. He said that the students of PU had got a very competent VC.

PU VC Dr Muhammad Ali said that Honhaar Scholarship Programme was a revolution in the field of higher education. He said that the meritorious scholarship program would produce skilled and quality graduates in various fields. The VC said that the scholarship programme would strengthen higher education sector in the province.

The Minister also spoke to the students and answered the questions related to the scholarship scheme.

US DCM explores Lahore’s rich, diverse culture on inaugural visit

LAHORE (APP): United States (US) Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), Natalie Baker on Friday explored how US-Pakistan partnerships have been strengthening bilateral trade and investment, cultural preservation efforts, and educational opportunities for youth in Punjab on her inaugural visit to Lahore.

DCM Baker, accompanied with Consul General Kristin Hawkins, met with representatives of US businesses to discuss how American companies are generating high-quality jobs for Pakistani youth and giving back to Pakistani communities through a wide range of corporate initiatives.

In a strong show of support for gender equity, DCM Baker and Consul General Hawkins played cricket with female athletes at the National High-Performance Center (NHPC), where she highlighted US-funded initiatives empowering young Pakistani women through sports, exchange programs, and more. Over the past year, the US has supported efforts at 14 schools and universities across Punjab to expand opportunities for women and girls to participate in sports and develop leadership skills.

"The US is deeply committed to advancing gender equity, and ensuring that everyone – regardless of gender or gender identity –

has the opportunity to succeed," DCM Baker said adding, "Through programs like the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, the TechGirls exchange initiative, and the Women in Energy Scholars program, we are equipping women and girls with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to thrive."

She also met with members of the Pakistan-US Alumni Network, recognizing the crucial role that Pakistani alumni of US-funded exchange programs play in building bridges between the US and Pakistan and in using the knowledge they gained through their exchange programs to benefit their local communities.

On a visit to the Walled City of Lahore, including the iconic Lahore Fort and Badshahi Mosque, DCM Baker spotlighted the US investment in 35 cultural preservation projects across Pakistan, including an ongoing, approximately \$1 million investment to preserve seven sites at the Lahore Fort. "These projects are a testament to the shared commitment between the United States and Pakistan to preserve cultural heritage. They not only strengthen community bonds but also support economic development and inspire future generations to celebrate Pakistan's rich history and diversity," said she added.

164th PESSI governing body meeting held

LAHORE (APP): The 164th meeting of the governing body of the Punjab Employees Social Security Institution (PESSI) was held at the Social Security Head Office on Friday, in which various decisions related to administrative matters were taken.

The meeting was chaired by Provincial Minister for Labour and Chairman of Governing Body Faisal Ayub Khokhar, while Secretary Labour Naem Ghous, Commissioner Social Security Muhammad Ali and representatives from the Labor and Employers, Finance, Specialised Healthcare, Medical Education and Industries Departments

attended the meeting.

The governing body approved the position of nutrition at the Rehmatul-lil-Aalameen Institute of Cardiology Hospital and agreed to appoint a deputa-tion officer for the position of director general (Finance Wing) to enhance financial affairs and transparency in the institution. To improve administrative matters, the purchase of 15 new vehicles and five motorcycles for hospitals, dispensaries, and offices was also approved.

Considering transparency, PEPPRA regulations, and drug rules, the governing body also approved the procurement of medicines for the year 2024-25 and the

construction of a high-rise building at the Social Security Head Office, along with the appointment of a financial consultant. The establishment of a Dental Department in various Social Security hospitals and the approval of two dental surgeon positions were also granted. Service regulations for endocrinologists, gastroenterologists, anesthetists and nuclear medicine specialists were approved. The approval for four positions of Deputy Director (Admin) for the Directorates in Okara, Shahkot, Jehlum and Mandi Bahauddin was also granted. To facilitate and ease services for workers, the upgrade of the Social

Security Dispensary (CTM) in Multan was approved, with plans to convert it into a medical center.

Chairman of the Governing Body PESSI said that all possible measures were being taken for welfare of workers.

PDWP approves 4 schemes

LAHORE (APP): Chairman P&D Board Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan chaired the 36th meeting of PDWP for FY 2024-25, in which four development schemes amounting to Rs8507.142 million were approved.

Construction of road from Bostal Mor at Expressway to RMK at Brewery including Link to Lawrance College length 44.20 km Tehsil Murree, RWP at the cost of Rs 1077.174 million.

Rehabilitation of Road from Raiwind to Pattoki, Length 44.20 km District Kasur at the cost of Rs 2183.788 million.

Rehabilitation of Chunian to Khuddian road Length 28.00 Km in District Kasur at the cost of Rs 1322.190 million.

Construction of Flyover at Nadirabad Phatak to Industrial Estate Multan at cost of Rs3923.990 million.

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OFFICER COMMANDING
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Quetta admin takes concrete step to prevent Congo virus

QUETTA (APP): On the directions of Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, the Quetta administration has taken concrete step to prevent Congo virus in view of increasing cases of virus in various areas including provincial capital.

The Department of Livestock has sprayed animals at the entry and exit routes in the cattle markets to prevent outbreak of Congo virus.

District Livestock Officer Quetta Director Dawood Khan Kakar said teams have been deployed at 13 various locations in the city and mobile vans are taking part in the spray campaign launched against Congo virus in Quetta city.

He said as many as 45782 animals have been sprayed in the houses, dairy farms and cattle markets so far in Quetta to prevent Congo virus daises.

During the ongoing campaign, around 22317 sheep, 18453 goats and 5000 other small animals have been sprayed.

District Officer Quetta Dr. Dawood Khan Kakar instructed the butchers and those who slaughter animals in their houses to wear masks, use glasses for precautionary measures.

He said people who keep animals in their homes should inject ticks and spray their animals after 20 days through precautionary measures.

Man gunned down in Kalat district

QUETTA (APP): Unknown armed men shot dead a man near Narmuk area of Kalat district on Friday.

According to Levies sources, the victim was on way to some where when armed assailants opened fire at him and fled from the scene.

As a result, a man namely Jan Muhammad died on the spot after receiving bullet wounds.

The body of deceased was handed over to the heirs after completion of medico legal formalities. The motive behind the killing could not be ascertained so far. Levies force registered a case and started investigation.

Counters being set up in hospitals on health card panel for patients: CEO

QUETTA (APP): CEO of Health Card Balochistan Dr. Samiullah Kakar on Friday said that counters were being set up in the hospitals on the health card panel for the convenience of the patients and the public. He expressed these views while talking on the occasion of his visit to Balochistan Institute of Nephro-Urology.

He said that the transparency of all administrative and financial affairs of Health Card should be prioritized in any case and

any illegal action would not be acceptable. Dr. Samiullah Kakar also inspected the list of admitted patients at the counter of Balochistan Health Card established in Balochistan Institute of Nephro-Urology.

Dr. Samiullah Kakar, CEO of Balochistan Institute of Nephrology Hospital, Prof. Dr. Syed Liaquat Agha and Dr. Faisal discussed in detail the important issues related to health card system and kidney transplant in Kidney Hospital.

Domki urges transporters to reduce public transport fares

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Regional Transport Noor Ahmed Domki on Friday urged the transporters to voluntarily reduce the fares of public transport following recent cut in fuel prices in order to pass on relief to the masses.

He warned that stern action would be taken against those found were found involved in charging high fares from passengers.

The newly-appointed Secretary Regional Transport also directed the bus owners to remove illegal tolls on public transport and also avoid overloading of the transport, otherwise, action will be taken against them under the Vehicle Ordinance.

Domki said a meeting with all transporters would be also called to resolve public issues.

Farmers to submit data

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Revenue (DCR) Quetta on Friday issued notice to the Zamindars (Farmers) of the four sub-divisions of Quetta, Kachlak, Sadar and Sariab to submit all data regarding their tube wells to the Zamindar Action Committee (ZAC) within a week.

So that the work of transferring agricultural tube wells to solar energy is expedited, the Deputy Commissioner Revenue said in a press release issued here.

He said that after the prescribed period, the application of any landlord would not be entertained.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah addressing inauguration ceremony of First Pakistan Int'l Date Palm Festival in collaboration with Khalifa International Award at Expo Centre.

UoG to host 1st International conference

QUETTA (APP): The CPEC Study Center at the University of Gwadar (UoG) is set to organize a prestigious two-day 1st international conference on the theme "Significance of Gwadar as a Regional and Commercial Hub: History, Challenges, Opportunities, and the Way Forward."

The conference, expected to attract scholars, policymakers, business leaders, and experts from around the world, will take place on November 5th-6th, 2024, at the University of Gwadar.

The primary objective of the conference is to delve into the strategic importance of Gwadar, a key city in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), in shaping the economic landscape of the region and beyond, the event will feature a range of sessions that explore

Gwadar's historical context, the challenges it faces, the opportunities available, and strategies for ensuring its sustainable growth as a commercial hub.

The conference will host renowned national and international experts, including academicians, policy analysts, diplomats, business representatives, and industry leaders. Their diverse perspectives will contribute to insightful discussions on how Gwadar can maximize its potential and overcome the challenges it faces.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Gwadar, Prof Dr Abdul Razzaq Sabir, along with the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Manzoor, emphasized the importance of this conference in fostering meaningful dialogue about Gwadar's future as a strategic and economic hub.

They said that the university is committed to facilitating academic and policy discussions that contribute to regional and national development goals.

This conference marks a significant milestone for the University of Gwadar as it continues to position

itself at the forefront of research and discourse on CPEC and its related projects, they mentioned.

They said that the outcomes of this event are expected to provide valuable insights for stakeholders and policymakers on the way forward for Gwadar's development.

SSUET honored with Brand of year Award

KARACHI (APP): Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology (SSUET) has been once again bestowed with the Brand of the Year Award by the Brand Foundation for academic excellence and research development. According to press release issued by Director Information SSUET, It is the 3rd time that the university has acquired the Brand of the Year Award.

The university played an effective and significant role in transcending traditional disciplinary limitations in pursuit of intellectual fusion and developing a culture of academic enterprise and knowledge entrepreneurship.

1st Pakistan International Date Palm Festival kick starts

KARACHI (APP): The 1st Pakistan International Date Palm Festival and Exhibition aimed at bolstering country's production and export of dates and its value-added products kick starts here at Expo Center Karachi on Friday.

The festival and exhibition are being organized by Ministry of National Food Security and Research and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan in collaboration with Embassy of United Arab Emirates in Pakistan and Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and agriculture innovation.

Besides local growers and processors of date palm, 150 delegates from 8 different countries were taking part in the festival and exhibition.

The Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, UAE Envoy to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi, Federal secretary NFSR Ali Tahir, Chief Executive TDAP Zubair Motiwala and Secretary General Khalifa International Award Dr. Abdel Wahhab Zaid cut the ribbon to inaugurate the two-day festival and exhibition.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the festival, termed the festival as a reflection of friendly ties of Pakistan and UAE and said that it would not only open new avenues of sharing and cooperation for both the brotherly coun-

tries but also help in the promotion of Pakistani dates.

He said that there was a vast potential for Pakistani dates in the global market and full access of Pakistani dates to the global market could earn precious foreign exchange for the country.

Tessori while stressing on the unity and collaboration among the Muslim countries said that these countries possessed enormous capital, resources and power and they could gain their due share in international trade through unity, coordination and collaborative efforts.

The governor stressed on need of commercial plantation, reducing post-harvest losses, value addition and provision of technical assistance to farmers for enhancing production as well as export of dates. He urged the local growers, manufacturers and exporters to leverage form the technical expertise of UAE friends.

The Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah, in his address, said that Pakistan is ranked at number five in date cultivation and production where Date Palm was cultivated on 252,000 acres while date production in the year 2022 had remained over 730,000 ton.

Sindh is the leading producer of dates which contributes more than 57% to the total national production while Khairpur is a major center for dates, producing more than 300 unique varieties, Murad

Shah stated and added that a research center has been set up in Kot Deeki town, training programs have already been organized for growers in Khairpur and 8 solar gas hybrid dryers and 35 tunnel dryers have been installed to produce quality dates.

A project has been initiated to introduce palm cultivation in the Thar desert, for which Date Palm cultivation models have been obtained from the Gulf countries, he said and hoped that tissue culture technology will play a key role in accelerating the proliferation of these superior varieties.

Ministry of National Food Security and Research and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council were working on the project and after evaluations of 38 different Date varieties 8 were recommended to be planted on a large scale while PARC was also working to enhance post-harvest processing and value addition, Murad Shah added.

The UAE envoy to Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi, said that the unique festival reflects the commitment of both the countries to develop agriculture, enhance agriculture production and ensure food security.

UAE and Pakistan were working jointly to enhance agri-production and export through promotion of modern technology and bolstering the bilateral relations in agriculture sector, he said

and hoped that the festival would boost the export of Pakistani dates and significantly contribute to the national economy.

Federal Secretary MNFS&R, Ali Tahir, while reading out the message of Federal Minister for NFS&R, Rana Tanveer Hussain, said that Date Palm was an important part of our agriculture and the festival will play an important role in development of the sector.

He unlined the need of adoption of progress made in science and technology, information sharing, sensitizing farmers about modern cultivation techniques and dealing with implications of the climate change.

CE TDAP, Zubair Motiwala, highlighted the potential of Pak-UAE collaboration in tissue culture research and value addition of Date Palm and invited investors from UAE to invest and form joint ventures in values addition.

Secretary General Khalifa International Award, Abdel Wahhab Zaid, Consul General of UAE in Karachi Bakht Ateeq Alroumethi also spoke at the occasion and said that UAE was committed to extend cooperation to Pakistan in every sector.

Later, the Sindh Governor and CM flanked by UAE diplomats awarded certificates and awards to the best growers and processors of Date Palm. They also different stalls set up in the exhibition.

Enabling environment being provided to youth for skill based training: Nasir Shah

KARACHI (APP): Provincial Minister of Energy, Development and Planning Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Friday said the government was creating an enabling environment to provide skill-based training to the youth so that they could increase their livelihood through small and medium enterprises development.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the 8th annual Microsoft Conference here at a local hotel, minister said the provincial government had already initiated projects aimed at supporting interest based financing of the large scale businesses such as Day Fresh Milk facility at Bhambhore, multiple Control shed poultry farms, cold storages and other agro-based value addition private projects in Sindh. He said SEDF project had already been launched by Sindh Government in 2012 and it was working successfully since last one decade.

He said PPP government through Peoples Poverty Reduction Project (PPRP) and SRSO have reached out to more than 300,000 lower middle class families to disburse interest free loans for small business initiatives in more than 16 districts of the province.

Recently government has enhanced the loan limit from Rs.200000 to 3 million to support medium size enterprising project, Shah added.

He said recovery of these interest free loans was satisfactory and 90% people were paying back their loans since last 8 to 10 years.

Shah further said that Sindh Government through other donor funded project such as PAIDAR (EU Funding of USD 40 M), IFAD (Funding of USD 163 M) and LivAqua (WB Funded Project of USD 135 M) for Fisherfolk agro based microfinance project. "All these projects are primarily focusing on localized skill training leading towards interest free loans for small community-based business development", he added.

Sindh Social Protection Authority established under Govt of Sindh was working day and night to provide sustainable financing to all the marginalized communities who are living under poverty score in the province of Sindh.

Government of Sindh is also using banking sector to rebuild over 1.5 million houses which were completely washed out in 2022 floods, with an investment of more than 1.5 bn US dollars.

This entire disbursement is being done through self-help construction mechanism where milestone-based funds are released to beneficiaries through banks. He assured that Sindh Govt would provide full support to all the initiatives which will be brought forward by the private sector.

Chairman SECP Akif Saeed, Deputy Governor State Bank Dr. Inayat Ali, Chairman PMU Aamir Khan, Chairman PMU Policy Committee Dr. Rashid Bajwa, CEO Pakistan Microfinance Network Mohsin Ahmed, international financial dignitaries, academicians and experts from the banking sector were present on the occasion.

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Friday said that after completing the tendering and scrutiny process for the reconstruction of rain-affected roads in Karachi, companies awarded contracts have been instructed to commence construction work.

In a statement on Friday, he said that 33 roads in the city were being reconstructed in the first phase, and the street lighting system on various roads was also being modernized. All companies have been clearly instructed that there should be no negligence or use of substandard materials in the construction of

the roads; otherwise, the responsible company will be immediately blacklisted.

The 33 roads undergoing construction and repair include Habib River Road, Shahrah-e-Orangi, Madinatul Hikmat Road, Lal Shabbaz Qalandar Road, Mahmood Road, Kashmir Road, Nizami Road, Khushhal Khan Road, Razi Road, PECHS, the road from Expo Center to National Stadium, the road from Bab-e-Khyber to Mominabad Police Station, Metroville Road, and others.

Additionally, repairs are being carried out at Chandni Chowk and Kamran Chowrangi, as

well as in Nazimabad, Tariq Road, and Umar Sharif Underpass. Repairs are also taking place at Yaseenabad, Natha Khan, Drug Road, NEPA, Sahrab Goth, Golimar, Pakistan Quarters, Baloch Colony, and Karsaz bridges.

Moreover, restoration and repair work on street-lights is being done on Shah Waliullah Road, Ittehad Town Road, Baldia Stadium Road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal Block 13-D Road, Malir 15, Railway Gate, Ibrahim Haidri Road, Bahadur Yar Jung Road, Korangi, Old Queens Road, Club Road, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Sindh Secretariat Road, Gulistan-e-Johar,

Continental Bakery, Kamran Chowrangi, MediCare Hospital Sharfabad, New Town Police Station, PIB Colony Road, and others. The repairs on Habib River Road and Bab-e-Khyber Road will also improve the sewage system.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab emphasized that enhancing the city's infrastructure was a priority, and the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will fulfill its responsibilities in this regard. By improving roads, bridges, underpasses, and intersections, obstacles to traffic flow will be removed, leading to a significant reduction in travel

time within the city and lessening traffic jams, ultimately saving citizens' valuable fuel, he added.

He mentioned that effective strategies have been devised for road construction and other infrastructure projects, taking past experiences into account. The engineering department has been explicitly instructed to ensure quality in development works to prevent the wastage of funds allocated for the city's development.

He highlighted the need for the newly constructed infrastructure to be durable so that citizens can benefit from it for a long time.

The Mayor Karachi stated that the consequences of

poor infrastructure have affected Karachi's residents in the past. This is why, immediately after taking charge of KMC, priorities for the city's development and infrastructure restoration were set, and all KMC departments were made accountable to adhere to these priorities.

The citizens of Karachi can see that local representatives are striving to solve the city's problems, and efforts are being made to involve all relevant agencies in order to make the developmental process effective and comprehensive. It is hoped that the future will bring better prospects for Karachi.



No 3 Petroleum Dispatch Unit PAF Base, Multan PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE

1. Applications are invited for pre-qualification for HMT Contract (2025-28) from reputable, well-experienced (minimum 5 years general experience in heavy transport fleet management), financially-sound and Income Tax - registered mechanical transport contractors for transportation of Aviation fuel JP-8 from **PARCO Refinery, Qasba Gujrat** to all Bases / Units of Pakistan Air Force.

2. Interested parties having requisite management experience to provide safe, timely and high-quality service and owning fleet of large-size tankers, with capacity of at least **48,000** Liters (prepared on **OGRA STANDARDS {S.R.O. 900(I)2009 dated 19 October, 2009}**), equipped with latest products handling / safety equipment, preferably satellite-based tracking system, meeting quality safety standards, may apply for pre-qualification by providing the following information:-

- Owners' / partners' name, address, telephone, mobile numbers and fax number of the company.
- Status of the firm, whether proprietorship / partnership / public or private limited company.
- Profile of the company, management and key personnel. Attested copies of CNIC of owner / partners / key operating personnel of the company are to be attached with the application.
- Details of registration with major organizations, along with detail of previous and running agreements / contracts.
- Details of vehicles owned, along with registration number, model, make, year of purchase, loading capacity, number of compartments, etc.
- Details of product handling, quality certification / safety equipment, fire extinguishers, coupling and earthing system installed on these vehicles.
- Detail of HR Management System.
- Details of satellite-based tracker system (if installed on the vehicles).
- Financial status duly verified / name of bankers and certificate of financial stability.
- Sales Tax, Professional Tax and Income Tax registration certificate, details of Income Tax Returns and copy of assessment / payment of Income Tax.
- Detail of ISO certifications (if any).
- Detail of Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) system, if any.
- Detail of driver training courses and its system with record.
- Detail of workshop facility and haulage base station at Multan or any other locations.
- Litigation detail, if any.
- Any additional information related to the subject.

3. Applications duly marked **"Pre-Qualification of Hired Mechanical Transport Contractors"** are to be submitted at following address **within 15 days** from the date of advertisement during working hours (0800 to 1400 hrs). No application will be entertained after mentioned date and time:-

Notes:-

- Preference will be given to those companies who own at least a fleet of 50 HMTs, are also ISO certified, have satellite-based tracker system and meet HSE standards.
- Any information, if found to be incomplete / false at any stage, will result in immediate rejection of the firm.

OFFICER COMMANDING
No 3 PDU, PAF Base, Multan
Contact No: 0323-9426731



Governor, British HC for strengthening bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): A meeting took place here on Friday between Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, focusing on strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in various sectors.

Discussions centered on the security situation in the province, developmental projects, and collaboration in education, health, culture, and sports. The British High Commissioner assured support from the UK for developmental initiatives as well as cultural and sporting activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized the

importance of investment and trade relations, along with the exchange of cultural delegations and the promotion of sports. He said that these initiatives would help engage youth in positive activities. He also proposed organizing joint programs with British teams and artists, as well as setting up sports competitions. Both leaders agreed that cultural activities and

sports are excellent means for youth training and skill development. They expressed a commitment to enhance cooperation in these areas, which would not only strengthen public relations but also promote cultural harmony between the two countries. The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to work on projects of common interest across various sectors.

KMC-IRC 2024 launches provincial curriculum



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: At the closing ceremony of the Khyber Medical College International Research Conference (KMC-IRC) 2024, a historic milestone was achieved with the inauguration and launch of the first-ever curriculum for House Officers of Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) at the provincial level in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This groundbreaking initiative, organized and developed by Dr. Iqbal Haider, Associate Dean Research KMC and Chairperson Postgraduate Curriculum Evaluation and Implementation Committee Khyber Teaching Hospital Peshawar, marks a new era

in medical training and patient care at KP. The curriculum underwent rigorous development and evaluation, receiving approval from every clinical department at Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) Peshawar. Dr. Farooq Ahmad, Director of Medical Education KMC, and Associate Professor Dr. Mohsin Shafi of the Pathology Department at KMC, played key roles as contributors in this important project. Associate Dean Postgraduate KTH Peshawar Professor Dr. Wazir Mohammad also imparted a pivotal role in the development of this curriculum. In his address, Professor

Dr. Mahmud Aurangzeb, Dean of KMC, praised the tireless efforts and leadership of Dr. Iqbal Haider in developing and implementing this pivotal document. He congratulated KMC and KTH for becoming the first institutions in KP to pioneer this essential curriculum, which will significantly improve the quality of patient care and enhance the training of House Officers across the province. The launch of this curriculum is expected to elevate medical education standards and ensure that future healthcare professionals in KP are better equipped to meet the challenges of modern medical practice.

Dengue cases surge in KP as 141 new cases reported

PESHAWAR (APP): A notable surge has been witnessed in dengue cases across the province including in provincial metropolis as according to the Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on FRIDAY, 141 new cases were reported during the last 24 hours. With 141 new cases, the tally of dengue cases in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has reached 511, the Health Department report said, adding that the number of total so far reported cases was 1222

in the province. Till date, it said 709 dengue patients have recovered while only 34 were under treatment at various hospitals. About the district-wise numbers of dengue cases, the report said that from Peshawar, 373 cases were reported while from Abbottabad, 139, from Hangu 115, from Manshera 104, from Charsadda 59 cases and from Kohat 49 cases such cases were reported. Likewise, from Haripur

district 36 cases were reported while from Bannu 25, from Mardan 36, from Bajaur 25 and from Swabi district 36 dengue fever cases were reported. The dengue fever has caused two deaths in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa till date, the report said. However, the residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially in Peshawar have witnessed a surge in cases of dengue fever as 141 more such cases were reported.



PESHAWAR: Chairman Mazdoor Ithiadh Union Qaiser Bacha alongwith labours chanting slogans in their rights during a protest.

Power suspension on various feeders notified

PESHAWAR (APP): PESCO on Friday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from AMC Grid Station on 7th and 10th October from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. resultantly, consumers of Mir Pur, Islamkot, Kalapul, Band Pir Khan, Mangal, Q/Khan feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply, will also remain suspended from Daggar Grid Station on 8th and 15th October from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Consequently, consumers of Elam,

Ashazai, Karakr and Salazarai feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will remain suspended from D.I.Khan Grid Station on 5th, 7th and 8th October from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. resultantly consumers of University, Tousif Abad, DDA, Qayoum Nagar feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will remain suspended from Sarai Naurang Grid Station on 5th, 7th and 8th October from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. resultantly, consumers of Nar Jaffer, City, Nasir Khel,

Scarp 1,2, Malak Flour Mill, Kot Posha, Goriwala, Kaki, Landiwala, Dadiwala, FDM, Ghambela feeders will face inconvenience. Likewise, the power supply will remain suspended from Bannu Grid Station on 5th October from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. due to which consumers of Township, SIE, Central Jail, Sarki Khel, Janan Gull Kale, KGN, Zakir Khel, Biono Hospital, Jhando Khel, Said Khel, Domel City, Qamar Kale, Azeem Kale, University, Bannu College feeders will face inconvenience.

Govt planning to attack PTI workers, alleges Saif

PESHAWAR (INP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Saif on Friday blamed the government for planning to deal violently with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters ahead of their protest call in the capital. Saif stated that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had prepared "Gullu Butts" to attack us while accusing the government of using tear gas shells at the PTI workers yesterday. He slammed the PML-N government for becoming a symbol of oppression and fascism. He warned against using violent means to stop the PTI workers. He added that he knew that from where the strings of the PML-N and Punjab police were being pulled.

Reopening of Islamia College Gate No. 1 demanded

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A meeting of Joint Action Council (JAC) demanded reopening of Gate No. 1 for two ways traffic, held at the Teaching Staff Association Islamia College office, under the chairmanship of Dr. Fazal Wahid. The meeting was attended by presidents and general secretaries of all associations, on Friday. The meeting began with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Participants expressed concern over the closure of Islamia College Gate No. 1, which has caused difficulties for students and staff. JAC argued the Islamia College administration should immediately reopen Gate No. 1 for two-way traffic for ICP students and staff, maintaining past traditions and to ensure deployment of security guards at the gate. The varsity administration should establish timings and SOPs for entry/exit at the gate. JAC gives the college administration one week's time to reopen Gate No. 1 for two-way traffic. If not complied with, JAC will determine the next course of action.

Probe starts into issuance of CNICs to Afghans

PESHAWAR (APP): An inquiry has been started into issuance of illegal Computerized National Identity Cards (CNIC) to Afghan nationals residing in Peshawar as union councils have been asked to submit a complete record in this regard with the FIA authorities. According to official sources, notices have been sent to 15 union councils of the provincial metropolis where allegedly Pakistani CNICs were issued to the Afghan nationals. From the union councils where Afghans were in higher numbers, complaints were received about issuance of illegal CNICs to them. After inquiry into the validity of these CNICs the process of further scrutiny will be carried out for legal action. The FIA authorities have also directed the secretaries of the union councils concerned to personally appear for joining the investigation within the next few days. The sources said that NADRA and other relevant institutions have started inquiries into issuance of illegal CNICs on a vast scale.



PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Afzal Chaudhry presiding over a meeting of representatives of business community and government authorities.

CS directs authorities for complete facilitation of gemstone businesses

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Afzal Chaudhry directed the authorities for provision of comprehensive facilitation to investors, entrepreneurs and businessmen of the gemstone sector. He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the representatives of the business community and authorities including Secretary Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Secretary Sports and Director General (DG) Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) here on Friday. The Chief Secretary highlighted the immense

untapped potential of the gemstone sector in the province. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa holds a wealth of precious gemstones that, if fully capitalized, can significantly contribute to the province's economic growth and create new opportunities for local and international investors," he stated. The Chief Secretary emphasized that the government is committed to creating a conducive environment that encourages private sector investment, ensuring ease of business processes, and providing the necessary infrastructure for the gemstone trade to flourish. He further directed the authorities to expedite measures that simplify and streamline procedures,

attracting more stakeholders into the industry and contributing to the prosperity of the region. In addition to discussions on the gemstone business, the meeting also deliberated on strategies to promote sports activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Chief Secretary underscored the province's reputation for producing athletes of international caliber and stressed the importance of creating a professional environment where sponsorship and private investments drive sports development. "Thanks to significant improvements in sports facilities and playgrounds, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is now ready to host national

and international sporting events, which will not only elevate the profile of our athletes but also boost the province's image," the Chief Secretary remarked. He directed the sports authorities to accelerate efforts in organizing such events and to foster partnerships between the private sector and sports associations. Recognizing the pivotal role that corporate sponsorship plays in the development of a robust sports infrastructure, he called upon investors and business leaders to contribute to the promotion of various sports in the province, ensuring that athletes, coaches, and sports professionals receive the support they need to excel.

PHC approves 2 bail pleas of CM

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) approved two separate petitions filed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur by granting protective bail and ordering him to appear before relevant courts, on Friday. Chief Justice PHC Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim heard the petition regarding Gandapur's protective bail. Advocate Alam Khan Adeenzai represented the

petitioner. The counsel informed the court that the chief minister filed the petition seeking protective bail due to cases registered against him in Islamabad. He wishes to appear before the relevant courts but fears the arrest. PHC Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim granted protective bail till 25th October to the chief minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Gandapur and directed to appear before the relevant courts.

Similarly, a two-member bench of PHC comprising Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Waqar Ahmed heard the petition regarding Gandapur's transit bail. The petitioner's lawyer stated that Gandapur wants to travel to Islamabad but fears his arrest. Justice Arshad Ali remarked that the court had already granted protective bail. The lawyer clarified that the protective bail expires today, prompting them to file the petition. PHC

approved Gandapur's petition for transit bail. The chief minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur said that our destination is D-Chowk. We won't return till Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founding chairman orders us to. We will move forward. We're heading to D-Chowk today (on Friday). I urge everyone to reach D-Chowk. We will continue striving for constitutional protection and true freedom.

Zabihullah successfully defended PhD thesis

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Zabihullah successfully defended his PhD thesis under the supervision of Dr. Kashif Saeed, Associate Professor Department of Economics on Friday. The title of his study was "The role of determinants in the Total Factor Productivity in Afghanistan evidence from 1970 to 2020". His external examiners were Dr. Sher Ali Head of Dept. Economics Islamia college University Peshawar and Professor Dr. Muhammad Farooq



Professor Economics Islamic centre. The examiners evaluated the thesis and lauded its contribution towards

expanding the knowledge frontier on Economic growth and Total Factor Productivity in the case of Afghanistan. Dr. Naila

Nazir chairperson Dept of Economics and faculty and students wholeheartedly participated in the public defence.

Commandant SSU asks police personnel not to use social media

PESHAWAR (APP): Commandant Special Security Unit (SSU) Muhammad Suleiman on Friday visited the lines of SSU here and addressed the Darbar of the police personnel. The commandant reiterated the instructions issued by the CPO regarding social media policy and asked the police personnel not to engage in social media activities, form groups or unions. He also elaborated on the formation and objectives of the SSU. On this occasion, the participants of the Darbar informed the commandant about their personal and collective problems.

The commandant issued on-the-spot instructions to resolve the issues and also sought reports from the concerned police authorities on other issues. He reiterated that the welfare of the police force was his top priority and all the available resources would be utilised to the fullest extent

for this purpose. The Commandant further said that the SSU was a newly established force whose discipline would not be compromised. He emphasised the importance of discipline in all ranks and instructed everyone to adopt a courteous attitude while performing their duties.

Students to use IT in academic and research activities: Dr. Ilyas

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Dr. Syed Muhammad Ilyas, CEO Paralegic Center Peshawar (PCP), has urged students of professional colleges and universities to gain fool-proof proficiency in information technology, especially in software applications, to enhance their creativity. He was addressing the concluding session of one-day workshop on the use of social sciences applications (SSAs) organized by the College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (CPMR) at the PCP's anatomy lab. The workshop was well attended by the students, while the college's Research Coordinator, Dr.

Iftikhar Ali, delivered comprehensive lecture on 2 medical education and research apps, SPSS and EndNote. Practical sessions also conducted by the students. Dr. Ilyas Syed emphasized that taking advantage of IT in all medical science fields, including physiotherapy, is need of the time. Students, educators, and researchers can revolutionize medical research by mastering these applications as well as can introduce more user-friendly applications, opening new paths of competition and innovation in these fields. He added that by using modern technology for the analysis and diagnosis of diseases, along with refer-



ence and research fields, our students can play pivotal role in improving national health all and sundry. Furthermore, he maintained, they can make Pakistan proud by introducing new trends in the world of medical applications. Dr. Muhammad Ilyas

also highlighted the need to promote indigenous technology in all fields to turn the backwardness of the Muslim countries into prosperity, as the excessive use of Western technology, despite its benefits, is leading us toward collective downfall, he concluded.



In brief

Five meters disconnected F.P. Report

MULTAN: In the light of instructions of General Manager Sui Northern Gas UFG Control Task Force, five meters were disconnected and the extensions of six customers were removed during the ongoing operation. According to details, one consumer had reversed his meter. The meter was suspected to be a tamper, so his meter was disconnected, a consumer had shifted his meter away from the service due to which the department was suffering losses due to gas leakage, so his meter was also disconnected. The metres were recovered from tree consumers who removed their metres and kept into their houses to prevent illegal use. Besides this, six consumers had supplied gas to more than one house in violation of OGRA policy. Their extensions were removed. Out of these, three extensions were removed from Multan and three extensions were removed by officers Task Force during Kabirwala checking. The officer task force also checked a hospital in Kabirwala which had a gas meter installed but the use was for a family on the upper floor and the meter was not disconnected as nothing illegal was found.

Married woman commits suicide F.P. Report

TAKHT BHAI: A married woman ended her life in Thakhtbhai tehsil of Mardan district for unknown reasons on Friday, Police said, the incident occurred in Sari Behlol area of Thakhtbhai where a 26-year-old woman committed suicide by hanging herself. Police said the woman was the mother of two children and her husband Yaseen was working abroad as a laborer. On the complaint of the woman's uncle, Akhtar Hussain, resident of Jamra Swato Killay, police have registered a case, Police said motive behind the woman's suicide would soon be ascertained once the post-mortem report was received.

Police conduct mock exercise F.P. Report

D I KHAN: The Dera Ismail Khan Police on Friday conducted a mock exercise at Ejaz Shaheed Police Lines to deal with any untoward incident. According to a police spokesman, the purpose of the drill was to demonstrate skills and show preparedness of the police for effectively handling illegal gatherings in any emergency situation. He said that during the exercise under the supervision of District Police Officer Nasir Mehmood and Superintendent of Police Headquarters Nawab Khan, the police handled a mock crowd in a very professional manner. Speaking on the occasion, SP Nawab Khan said that such drills enhanced the professionalism of the personnel and helped improve their ability to manage emergency situations effectively.

Huge quantity of drugs captured

CHAGAI (PPI): Chagai police claimed to have seized a huge quantity of drugs in an operation launched against drug peddlers in Dalbandin area of district Chagai in Balochistan province on Friday. Two drug peddlers were also arrested during the operation. Following the directions of SSP Chagai, Mir Hussain Ahmed Lehri, staff of police station Chagai under the supervision of Additional SHO, Police Station Dalbandin, Abdul Hakeem Mengal recovered large quantity of drugs from the possession of two drug peddlers namely Zubair Ahmed son of Lal Khan and Wali Shah son of Fageer Shah during an operation conducted against drug peddlers in Dalbandin area of district Chagai.

Koki Khel IDPs threaten march to Tirah Valley

F.P. Report

JAMRUD: Thousands of Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Rajgal threatened that they will march to Tirah Valley if the government fails to repatriate them to their respective villages.

In a protest gathering held at Bab-e-Khyber on Friday speakers including Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, Head of Bara Sayasi Ittehad Shareen Afridi, Khan Wali (Jammat-e-Islami) President of Zwan Koki Khel organization Sanaullah Afridi, Munir Aurakzai, Barkat Afridi, Said Kabeer and others said that one and half decade back thousands residents of Rajgal and the surrounding areas were forced to re-

locate from their hometowns in wake of militancy and forces operation.

Since then, they had been serving their lives as IDPs in Jamrud and down towns. Ironically, the majority of Koki Khel displaced people had not been declared IDPs, which was injustice to them as they had suffered hardships for restoration of peace, they remarked. They criticized the government for ignoring their sacrifices, rendered for the sake of the country.

They questioned the rationale behind not allowing remaining families of Koki Khel IDPs to go to their homes despite claims of eliminating militancy and securing the border. Condemning police offence

on organizing camp of Pakhtun Jirga (Pakhtun Court) at Regi Lalma, Peshawar, the speakers said that it was not a sin to raise voice for the rights of Pakhtun community.

They maintained that billions of rupees had been devoured in the name of restoration of peace but the citizens were still unsafe in their houses. The participants threatened that if the government fails to repatriate them in near days then they will march to Rajgal on Oct 14, 2024 to settle the Koki Khel IDPs. It is to be mentioned here that the Koki Khel IDPs have been agitating (blocking Pak-Afghan highway for export and import) for the last one and half months in favor of their demands.



JAMRUD: Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan addressing public gathering at Bab-e-Khyber.

AD&SJ convicts two murderers in Mardan F.P. Report

MARDAN: Additional District and Sessions Judge (AD&SJ) Takhtbhai Shahzad Akhunzada convicted two murderers for lifetime imprisonment in famous Sher Garh market killing, on Saturday.

The convicted culprits named Khan and Mirza residents of Bahrein and Khwazakhela Swat district found guilty and sentenced to? Life imprisonment (25 years) while imposed Rs. 1 million of fine. In the case of non-payment of the fine, the accused will face an additional 6 months imprisonment.

According to details, on December 19, 2018, the two accused, motivated by an old enmity, opened fire in the crowded Sher Garh market, killing Akhtar Munir son of Abdul Qayyum, a resident of Bahrein/Swat. The accused fled the scene, and the victim's brother, Riyaz son of Abdul Qayyum, filed a FIR at Sher Garh police station.

Later, police arrested the accused, recovering arms, and sent them to Mardan Jail. During the trial, the accused failed to prove their innocence. Senior lawyers Muhammad Naem Khan Advocate, Altaf Wahid Advocate, and Jahanzeb Khan Advocate represented the prosecution.

Motorcyclist crushed to death

BUREWALA (INP): One youngster riding a motorbike was crushed to death and another two were in critical condition by a fast-moving motorcyclist coming from the opposite side at Vehari Road in the Burewala district of Punjab on early Friday morning.

According to Rescue 1122, a recklessly driven motorbike rider ran over another motorcyclist carrying three people in Burewala. As a result, one youngster lost his life on the spot while the other two were critically wounded, a private news channel reported. Police and rescue teams reached the scene, and shifted the body and injured to hospital. The police impounded the other motorbike rider and after registering a case against the driver.

Disputes in Kurram

Commissioner hold jirga with tribesmen

F.P. Report

KOHAT: In order to maintain law and order and ensure lasting peace in the Tribal District Kurram, a Grand Tribal Jirga was held with Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah, in the chair on the special directions of the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur at the Jirga Hall of District Headquarters Orakzai the other day.

The Grand Tribal Jirga beside the Regional Police Officer Kohat Sher Akbar Khan, Deputy Commissioner Kurram Javedullah Mehsud and Deputy Commissioner Orakzai Muhammad Irfanuddin, was also participated by the authorities concerned of respective Departments and Institutions, Law Enforcement Agencies, leaders of all tribes of district Kurram, members of Kurram Aman Jirga and Divisional Grand Jirga and Tribal Elders/Leaders.

On this occasion, all the tribes reiterated their full cooperation in maintaining peace in the district and full implementation on govern-

ment writ in future. They also assured to fully abide by the law and avoid any kind of provocation.

The tribal elders also assured the Divisional and District Administrations of their full cooperation in restoring lasting and durable peace and vowed to maintain a complete ceasefire till the final decision of the Grand/Divisional Aman Jirga.

Child protection committee meeting held: The 2nd meeting of District Child Protection Committee Kohat was held with Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram in the chair on Friday. Child Protection Officer Azim Abbas, Psychologist Child Protection Unit Kohat Mustafa, District Social Welfare Officer Amjad Afridi, Chairman Social Work Department Kohat University Dr. Mamoon Khattak, Labor Officer Qudratullah, District Khatib Shafiullah, social workers Isar Ali, Saleem Altaf and other committee members also attended the meeting.

The Child Protection Officer while presenting

the overview of the child protection system in Kohat, highlighted the performance of the Child Protection Unit and said that so far out of 297 registered cases 245 have been resolved. The meeting openly discussed various issues related to children and various useful suggestions were also presented for solving these issues. Similarly, 6 community-based child protection committees have also been formed, it was told.

Deputy Commissioner Kohat stressed for organizing awareness sessions at the Union Council level by involving the community health workers, schools and religious leaders. He added, these sessions should be organized in schools, hujras and mosques to create awareness about child protection.

Moreover, he also proposed a separate committee for the protection of Afghan Refugee Children which will work for their welfare. Abdul Akram emphasized to continue efforts to protect the rights and welfare of children and close cooperation with all relevant institutions.

Model court convicts murderer for lifetime

F.P. Report

LARKANA: Criminal Model Court Larkana sentenced husband for lifetime imprisonment after being found guilty in killing of his wife, on Friday.

The murder case of Uzma Magsi, a woman who was killed by her husband in the limits of Hydari Police Station, was heard where the court sentenced the accused to life imprisonment after being found guilty. The accused Fateh Ali Magsi had killed his wife Uzma Magsi, the murder case was registered at Haidari police station according to the complaint of the brother of the deceased woman namely Muhammad Rafiq Magsi.

DC directs submission of reply in courts timely: A high-level meeting was held in the Darbar Hall of the DC office under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Larkana Sher Jail Noor Chana in which

the officials of various departments of the district participated. Bharu asked them to follow the cases in the courts so that justice can be provided to the people.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Sharjeel Noor Chana issued instructions and said that the comments of the cases in the courts should be submitted as soon as possible. Focal persons should be appointed so that these cases can be disposed of quickly, during the meeting, the district attorney said that a total of 118 cases of all departments are being processed in different courts of district Larkana.

There are no comments on some of these cases, presiding the meeting, the deputy commissioner warned all the assistant commissioners and Mukhtarkars of the district to give priority to court cases so that the people can be provided with speedy justice while being careless

in this regard action will be taken against the officers who show laziness.

Woman gives birth to child in ambulance

CHICHAWATNI (INP): A woman gave birth to a child in an ambulance on way to hospital in Chichawatni on Friday.

Sources in Rescue 1122 told that the woman namely Sumeera Bibi wife of Mohammad Arif was being shifted to Civil Hospital for delivery in an ambulance.

But she gave birth to the child in the ambulance before reaching the hospital. Later she was shifted to labour ward of Civil Hospital for further treatment. Now both woman and the newly-born child's condition was stable.

NAEAC grants accreditation to AWKUM Agri programs

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan (AWKUM) is proud to announce a significant milestone in its academic journey, as its Agriculture programs have officially received accreditation from the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) Pakistan of the Higher Education Commission Pakistan (HEC).

This recognition highlights AWKUM's unwavering commitment to academic excellence, research innovation, and the development of future leaders in Agricultural Sciences. The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) AWKUM organized certificates distribution ceremony in recognition of the accreditation status availed by Department of Agronomy (X2 Category), Entomology (X2 Category), Food Science & Technology (X3 Category) and Horticulture (X3 Category).

The accreditation reflects the university's adherence to high academic standards, state-of-the-art facilities, and a curriculum designed to address contemporary challenges in Agriculture. The HoDs of these departments also shared the recommendations of the NAEAC for further

Prof Dr. Zahir Shah appointed as Pro VC

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Professor Dr. Zahir Shah has been appointed as Pro-Vice Chancellor of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, the relevant officials of Abdul Wali Khan told to the media personnel.

Known for his academic contributions, Dr. Shah earned his Master's degrees in Political Science and Pakistan Studies from Quaid-e-Azam University and later completed his PhD in "Civil-Military Relations" in 2016. Beginning his career as a lecturer at Mardan's Postgraduate College, Dr. Zahir Shah joined Abdul Wali Khan University as a lecturer when it was established. He currently serves as the Dean of Social Sciences at the university. The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa announced his appointment as Pro-Vice Chancellor, a move that is expected to usher in a new era for the university. Dr. Shah's expertise and leadership in higher education are seen as valuable assets that will further enhance the university's reputation and academic standing in the region.

strengthening of these programs which will lead to achieve the W category in the field of Agricultural Sciences. One of the strong recommendations of the accreditation team was to develop minimum infrastructure for training of students.

The NAEAC recommended the establishment of 5 greenhouses, stores for seeds, inputs, machinery and drying area. The commission also recommended allocating a minimum of 1 kanal land per student research and suggesting allocation of at least 25 acres (200 kanals) to the

constituents departments for development of farm and allied infrastructure.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zahir Shah praised the faculty and students of Department of Agronomy, Entomology, Food Science & Technology and Horticulture for their dedication, emphasizing the university's ongoing efforts to improve educational quality across all disciplines. In the end the Vice Chancellor distributed certificates among HoDs of Department of Agronomy, Entomology, Food Science & Technology and Horticulture.

Commissioner pays surprise visit to Talash Hospital

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Agenda, Commissioner Malakand Division Amjad Ali Khan conducted a surprise inspection of Category D Hospital Talash Shamshi Khan in Dir Lower district on Friday. Commissioner Malakand Division Amjad Ali Khan along with Deputy Commissioner Dir Lower Muhammad Arif Khan, Assistant Commissioner Taimargarh Zaid Safi inspected various units of

Category D Hospital Talash Shamshi Khan.

The Commissioner inquired about the treatment facilities being provided to the patients in the hospital. MS Dr. Arshad gave a detailed briefing regarding the medical facilities and other matters of the hospital.

The Commissioner Malakand while issuing instructed that Category D Hospital Talash should be connected with Express Line so that there is no load shedding on it. He also directed for preparing a comprehensive report for

the solarization of the hospital so that it can be sent to the provincial government for further action.

He also directed for providing timely medical facilities to the patients and action against the officials who neglect their duty. All resources should be utilized to ensure the provision of quality and timely medical services to the people under the Chief Minister Public Agenda program. He directed the TMO Timergarh to dispose of all the garbage of the hospital to safe dumping sites on a daily basis.

Small Industry – Unlocking South Punjab's economic potential

MULTAN (APP): Having a long history of calligraphy, pottery, handicrafts and agricultural, South Punjab can be turned into treasure trove of opportunities for businesses especially small industries with its diverse sectors ready to boost the region's economic growth.

From agriculture to handicrafts and diminishing cottage industry, the region is teeming with potential for development and offers an array of business avenues for value addition that could uplift local communities and contribute to country's economic progress. At the heart of the opportunity is the region's agricultural strength. Agro-based businesses such as fruit and vegetable processing, dehydration units and spice grinding mills are particularly viable. These industries could capitalize on South Punjab's rich produce and help reduce post-harvest losses that currently affect farmers due to lack of processing facilities.

"Huge quantities of vegetables and fruits perish due to their short shelf life. Their proper

preservation and value addition can help earn substantial revenue," remarked President Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Mian Rashid Iqbal. "Dehydration units could convert excessive vegetables into powder as these powder form vegetables were highly popular in international markets," he stated. "With the right facilities, local farmers could benefit from enhanced incomes through value-added products like jams, pulps and powders etc."

Rashid Iqbal also mentioned to livestock sector as another pillar of South Punjab's economy. "Milk and meat processing, as well as production of organic dairy products offer numerous business opportunities for small-scale entrepreneur." However, he voiced concerns about the exploitation of farmers by multinational companies that buy milk at very low prices but sell it at a premium. "By establishing local processing plants, farmers could retain more profit like our neighboring country where cattle farmers work in clusters to

process and sell milk."

The President MCCI stressed the need for government's intervention to support local farmers and reduce reliance on multinational companies. Fish farming, particularly fish cage culture, is also untapped resource in South Punjab. With three rivers and dozens of canals, the region offers ideal conditions for fish farming, which could remarkably improve living standards of farmers besides bolstering national economy. The introduction of fish farming on a larger scale would provide a sustainable livelihood for many, allowing rural communities to thrive.

In addition to agriculture and livestock, South Punjab also is home to rich traditional handicrafts. Local artisans create beautiful pottery, woodwork, brassware and textiles that are cherished locally and abroad. The famous blue pottery, camel-skin lamps, and hand-woven carpets are just a few examples of the region's craftsmanship. According to Rashid Iqbal, the digital age offers new opportunities for these artisans. By mar-

keting their work through online platforms, they could reach global markets and earn handsome foreign exchange. "We need an e-catalog, providing detailed descriptions of the handicrafts, their history and unique cultural significance."

President Iqbal also stressed the importance of creating opportunities for region's skilled IT workers, many of whom currently work in Lahore and Karachi. "By providing incentives to these professionals to work at their hometowns, the government could help stimulate local economy while offering training to unemployed youth," he stated. "This sort of shift could lead to growth of South Punjab's digital economy, complementing traditional businesses."

Businessmen in private sector also see vast potential in small industry provided that a holistic approach is adopted ensuring financial support, value addition facilities and proper marketing of locally produced goods. "Dairy farming, leather goods production, poultry farming,

textile-related businesses like handloom weaving and embroidery were already thriving and needed investments to grow and expanded marketing," remarked a businessman Altaf Shahid.

"Specialized businesses like camel skin work, Khussa (traditional shoes) making and basket weaving remain deeply embedded in the region's cultural heritage," he added. "Truck art, a unique art form of the country, also presents opportunities for expansion and marketing." In view of vast potential of small industries in South Punjab, Director Punjab Small Industries Corporation Ammara Manzoor said, the department was playing a critical role in promoting small businesses. "With loans offered at just five percent markup, the corporation is helping artisans overcome financial barriers and modernize their products."

She stated that many artisans faced language barriers in showcasing their work effectively. Therefore, a Handicraft Development Centre has been established at Shah Rukn-e-Alam Colony where artisans will

find opportunity to display their creations, share ideas and learn from one another. "The Center will act as a hub for local talent by bringing together craftsmen from across the region."

Moreover, she revealed establishment of two industrial estates at Khanewal and Mian Channu on 65 and 70 acres respectively, offering small plots up to two Kanals where new businesses were established by local people. "It is part of the government's policy to facilitate local entrepreneur to flourish their businesses."

She pointed out that mechanization was impacting traditional crafts but with innovative designs and culturally relevant products, these industries can still find a market. In view of immense potential in South Punjab, there is an urgent need to bring the region into main stream and technological fold, providing local people modern technology and markets access to flourish their businesses and generate more employment opportunities.



Prepare for attack, with best regards: Houthis issue email alert

ATHENS/LONDON (Reuters): On a warm spring night in Athens, shortly before midnight, a senior executive at a Greek shipping company noticed an unusual email had landed in his personal inbox.

The message, which was also sent to the manager's business email address, warned that one of the company's vessels travelling through the Red Sea was at risk of being attacked by Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi militia. The Greek-managed ship had violated a Houthi-imposed transit ban by docking at an Israeli port and would be "directly targeted by the Yemeni Armed Forces in any area they deem appropriate," read the message, written in English and reviewed by Reuters.

"You bear the responsibility and consequences of including the vessel in the ban list," said the email, signed by the Yemen-based Humanitarian Operations Coordination Center (HOCC), a body set up in February to liaise between Houthi forces and commercial shipping operators. The Houthis have carried out nearly 100 attacks on ships crossing the Red Sea since November, acting in solidarity with Palestinians in Israel's year-long war in Gaza. They have sunk two vessels, seized another and killed at least four seafarers. The email, received at the end of May, warned of "sanctions" for the entire company's fleet if the vessel continued "to violate the ban criteria and enter the ports of the usurping Israeli entity". The executive and the company declined to be named for safety reasons.

The warning message was the first of more than a dozen increasingly menacing

emails sent to at least six Greek shipping companies since May amid rising geopolitical tension in the Middle East, according to six industry sources with direct knowledge of the emails and two with indirect knowledge. Since last year, the Houthis have been firing missiles, sending armed drones and launching boats laden with explosives at commercial ships with ties to Israeli, US and UK entities. The email campaign, which has not been previously reported, indicates that Houthi rebels are casting their net wider and targeting Greek merchant ships with little or no connection to Israel.

The threats were also, for the first time in recent months, directed at entire fleets, increasing the risks for those vessels still trying to cross the Red Sea. "Your ships breached the decision of Yemen Armed Forces," read a separate email sent in June from a Yemeni government web domain to the first company weeks later and to another Greek shipping company, which also declined to be named. "Therefore, punishments will be imposed on all vessels of your company ... Best Regards, Yemen Navy." Yemen, which lies at the entrance to the Red Sea, has been embroiled in years of civil war. In 2014, the Houthis took control of the capital, Sanaa, and ousted the internationally recognized government. In January, the United States put the Houthis back on its list of terrorist groups.

Contacted by Reuters, Houthi officials declined to confirm they had sent the emails or provide any additional comment, saying that was classified military information. Reuters could not

determine whether the emails had been also sent to other foreign shipping companies. Greek-owned ships, which represent one of the largest fleets in the world, comprise nearly 30% of the attacks carried out by Houthi forces to early September, according to Lloyd's List Intelligence data that did not specify whether those ships had any ties with Israel.

In August, the Houthi militia - which is part of Iran's Axis of Resistance alliance of anti-Israel irregular armed groups - attacked the Sounion tanker leaving it on fire for weeks before it could be towed to a safer area. The strikes have prompted many cargoes to take a much longer route around Africa. Traffic through the Suez Canal has fallen from around 2,000 transits per month before November 2023 to around 800 in August, Lloyd's List Intelligence data showed. Tensions in the Middle East reached a new peak as Iran hit Israel with more than 180 missiles in retaliation for the killing of militant leaders in Lebanon, including Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on Friday.

The European Union's naval force Aspidex, which has helped more than 200 ships to sail safely through the Red Sea, confirmed the evolution of Houthis' tactics in a closed door meeting with shipping companies in early September, according to a document reviewed by Reuters. In the document, shared with shipping companies, Aspidex said the Houthis' decision to extend warnings to entire fleets marked the beginning of the "fourth phase" of their military campaign in the Red Sea.

Ukraine's top commander orders defences bolstered

KYIV (Reuters): Ukraine's armed forces commander General Oleksandr Syrskyi said he had ordered defences to be strengthened in the eastern Donetsk region, a day after Kyiv forces announced they had withdrawn from the town of Vuhledar.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy acknowledged the loss of Vuhledar, saying moving troops out and preserving lives was the critical issue. The Russia-appointed governor of Donetsk region said both sides had recognised the strategic value of the town, adding that reconstruction efforts there would take time.

Russian troops are steadily inching forward in different sectors in eastern Ukraine despite Kyiv's surprise incursion into Russia's western Kursk region in August that Ukraine hoped would slow the advances. Syrskyi said on social media he was working on "one of the hottest front sectors" with

the 25th Sicheslav Airborne Brigade. He gave no details on the location but the brigade operates in the Pokrovsk front, an area of intensified Russian assaults.

"While working in the brigade, I made a number of decisions aimed at strengthening stability and effectiveness of our defence," Syrskyi said. More than two-and-a-half years into the full-scale war, Ukrainian troops are on the defensive. The Ukrainian military announced it was pulling troops out of the coal-mining town Vuhledar, a hilltop bastion that had resisted intense attacks following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Ukraine's eastern military command said it had ordered a pull-back from Vuhledar to avoid being encircled by Russian troops and to "preserve personnel and military equipment". Russia has widely used the tactic to secure control of other Ukrainian settlements.

"Lives (of soldiers) need to be saved because they are our people, they are citizens of Ukraine," said Zelenskyy, addressing reporters alongside new NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte. "Therefore it is very right that they can retreat and save themselves." Moscow's forces now control just under a fifth of Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Moscow's primary tactical goal is to take all of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Russian forces have been pushing westwards at key points along some 150 km (95 miles) of the front in Donetsk, with the logistics hub of Pokrovsk a key target. In a late evening report on the battlefield situation, Ukraine's General Staff said the Pokrovsk sector remained the theatre of the fiercest fighting. It said Russian forces had launched 28 attacks on Ukrainian forces in that sector and a further 23 in the nearby Kurakove sector.

Lebanese factions revive bid to fill presidency

BEIRUT (Reuters): Israel's offensive against Hezbollah in Lebanon has prompted a renewed bid by some leading Lebanese politicians to fill a two-year-long presidential vacuum, an effort to revive the paralysed state as it grapples with an escalating conflict.

Lebanon has not had a president or a fully empowered cabinet since October 2022 due to a power struggle in which Hezbollah has played a big part. Along with its allies, the heavily armed Shi'ite Muslim group has insisted the post, reserved for a Maronite Christian, go to their Christian ally Suleiman Frangieh.

With Hezbollah reeling from the killing of its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the presidency came into renewed focus this week when Shi'ite Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a key Hezbollah ally, indicated flexibility on the matter, telling Prime

Minister Najib Mikati he supported the election of a president who doesn't represent "a challenge" to anyone. A Hezbollah official told Reuters the group had delegated Berri to negotiate on its behalf over the presidency.

The presidency is decided by a vote in Lebanon's 128-seat parliament. No single political alliance has enough seats to impose its choice, meaning an understanding among rival blocs is needed to secure the election of a candidate. Following a meeting with Berri and Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, Mikati - a Sunni Muslim - read a joint statement calling for the election of a "consensus president who will reassure everyone and dispel their concerns". The statement did not name any candidates.

Israel is waging a major offensive against Hezbollah which has killed more than 1,000 people in Lebanon since Sept. 16 and

uprooted one million. Wael Abu Faour, a senior lawmaker from Jumblatt's faction, told Reuters the election of a consensus president would send "a message to the outside world that there is a strong government in the country ready to negotiate" over a ceasefire. He said the meeting of the three leaders did not represent the formation of a new alliance and that factions including Christian parties were being engaged in discussions on the presidency. The Lebanese Forces party, a major Christian faction and fierce Hezbollah opponent, called for the election of a president, saying this was the only way for "the state to assume its responsibilities on its own" - implicit criticism of Hezbollah over its possession of a massive arsenal of weapons. Lebanon's last president, Michel Aoun, was a former army commander and a political ally of Hezbollah.

Trump's campaign says he raised \$160m in Sep

PHOENIX (AP): Former President Donald Trump raised \$160 million for his campaign in September and entered October with \$283 million in the bank for the campaign's final sprint, his aides announced.

The September fundraising figure, which Trump's campaign released, is up from the \$130 million he reported raising in August. It covers money raised by Trump's campaign and affiliated committees. Vice President Kamala Harris, Trump's Democratic rival, has not yet released her fundraising numbers for the full month, but numbers previously released suggest she'll exceeded Trump's haul.

Harris aides have said she raised \$55 million during a fundraising swing through California last weekend alone, which included stops in Los Angeles and San Francisco. The prior weekend, she raised \$27 million at a packed New York City fundraiser, which was at the time her largest fundraising haul since she took over at the top of the ticket from President Joe Biden, according to a Harris campaign aide. Trump has proven to be a prolific fundraiser, but the newness of Harris' bid has prompted a boost in cash from Democratic donors. Though Harris has far more money than Trump, the former president is getting a boost from pricey advertising by deep-pocketed outside groups that support him. "These supporters have allowed us to bank the funds we need as we move into the campaign's final weeks," Brian Hughes, a Trump campaign senior adviser, said in a statement. "Our momentum continues to grow from supporters and donors across the country as we enter the homestretch toward victory."

Helene's death toll tops 200

PENSACOLA, N.C. (AP): Rescue crews and volunteers facing obstacles at every turn in North Carolina's remote mountains paddled canoes across swollen rivers and steered horses past mudslides in the rush to reach those stranded or missing by Hurricane Helene's rampage that killed more than 200 throughout the Southeast.

Now a week since the storm first roared onto Florida's Gulf Coast, the search continued for people who have yet to be heard from in places where phone service and electricity were knocked out. Pleas for help came from people running low on medicine or in need of fuel for their generators. How many people are missing or unaccounted for isn't clear. The death toll soared to 215 people as more victims were found, making Helene the deadliest hurricane to hit the mainland US since Katrina in 2005. Roughly half the victims were in North Carolina, while dozens more were killed in South Carolina and Georgia.

Each road presents a new challenge for rescuers. Along the Cane River in western North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains, rescuers from the Pensacola Volunteer Fire Department were cutting their way through trees at the top of a valley nearly a week after a wall of chocolate-milk colored water swept through for hours. Pensacola, which sits a few miles from Mount Mitchell, the highest point east of the Mississippi River, lost an untold number of people, said Mark Harrison, chief medical officer for the department. "We're starting to do recovery," he said. "We've got the most critical people out." Harrison was helping dispatch volunteers driving all-terrain vehicles on supply runs to people still on ridgetops. Many don't want to leave their houses, while others lost their vehicles and need help getting to town.

Bradley Billheimer, who hiked down to the fire station to access the internet, said he just talked to his mom for the first time since the storm. He feared his house will be without power for months. "I think we're going to walk out in a couple of days," he said. In another county that sits alongside the Tennessee state line, crews were just finishing clearing main routes and reaching side roads that wind through switchbacks and cross small bridges that can be tricky to navigate even in the best weather. Each road presented a new challenge.



BANGKOK: A wooden archway collapsed due to strong winds from Typhoon Krathon in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Kim threatens to destroy SK with nuclear strikes if provoked

SEOUL (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened to use nuclear weapons and destroy South Korea permanently if provoked, state media reported Friday, after the South's leader warned that Kim's regime would collapse if he attempted to use nuclear arms.

The exchange of such rhetoric between the rival Koreas is nothing new, but the latest comments come during heightened animosities over the North's recent disclosure of a nuclear facility and its continuation of missile tests. Next week, observers say North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament is expected to constitutionally declare a hostile "two-state" system on the Korean Peninsula to formally reject reconciliation with South Korea and codify new national borders.

During a visit to a special operation forces unit, Kim said his military "would use without hesitation all the offensive forces it possesses, including nuclear weapons," if South Korea attempts to use armed forces encroaching upon the sovereignty of North Korea, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency. "If such a situation comes, the permanent existence of Seoul and the Republic of Korea would be impossible," Kim said, using South Korea's official name.

Kim's statement was a response to South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's speech at his country's Armed Forces Day. Unveiling South Korea's

most powerful Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile and other conventional weapons that could target North Korea, Yoon said the day that North Korea tries to use nuclear weapons would be the end of the Kim government because Kim would face "the resolute and overwhelming response" of the South Korean-US alliance. Kim responded that Yoon's address fully betrayed his "bellicose temerity" and showed "the security uneasiness and irritating psychology of the puppet forces." In a derisive comment, Kim called Yoon "an abnormal man," saying that "the puppet Yoon bragged about an overwhelming counteraction of military muscle at the doorstep of a state that possesses nuclear weapons." Kim's sister and senior official, Kim Yo Jong, also ridiculed South Korea's showcasing of the Hyunmoo-5 missile, saying there there's no way for South Korea to counter the North Korea's nuclear forces with conventional weapons.

Since adopting an escalatory nuclear doctrine in 2022, Kim has repeatedly threatened to use nuclear weapons preemptively. But many foreign experts say it's still unlikely that he would use his nuclear arms first because his military is out-matched by the US and its allied forces. In July, South Korea and the US signed a defense guideline on integrating South Korea's conventional capabilities with the US nuclear forces to better deal with North Korea's advancing nuclear

program. South Korea has no nuclear weapons. Animosity between the Koreas are at the worst point in years with Kim's provocative run of missile tests and the South Korean-US military exercises intensifying in a cycle of tit-for-tat. All communication channels and exchange programs between the rivals remain stalled since 2019, when a broader US-North Korea diplomacy on ending the North's nuclear program collapsed. In January, Kim called for rewriting North Korea's constitution to eliminate the idea of a peaceful unification between the war-divided countries and to cement the South as an "invariable principal enemy."

He also reiterated that his country does not recognize the Northern Limit Line, a western sea boundary that was drawn by the US-led UN Command at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. He called for the new constitution to include a clear definition of the North's territories. North Korea has traditionally insisted upon a boundary that encroaches deeply into waters currently controlled by South Korea. On Friday, South Korea's military said North Korea was again flying balloons likely carrying trash across the border into South Korea. Since late May, North Korea has launched thousands of rubbish-carrying balloons toward South Korea, prompting South Korea to resume anti-Pyongyang propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts at border areas.

Taiwan shuts down for second day as Typhoon Krathon makes landfall

BANGKOK (AFP): Typhoon Krathon blasted into Taiwan, bringing mudslides, flooding and destructive winds to the shattered island where at least two people have died in the storm and thousands have been evacuated. In Pingtung, the typhoon was hampering rescue efforts after a fire tore through a hospital, killing nine people.

Before Krathon made landfall in Kaohsiung packing gusts of 162 kilometres (100 miles) per hour, the port city's 2.7 million inhabitants were instructed by the Central Weather Administration to "take shelter ASAP". Later in the afternoon, they were advised to remain indoors as the eye of the storm passed through the area, lashing it with rain and lightning. "It feels like the end of the world. I haven't

seen such a severe typhoon in decades. It's so big and scary," Liu Chih-hsiang, 60, the owner of a moving company in Kaohsiung told AFP.

"Our neighbour's metal roof has been blown off," he added. Island-wide, schools, offices and businesses were all shut for a second consecutive day as the wind toppled trees, knocked over driving motorcyclists and blew cargo containers from a pier. Across Taiwan, around 10,000 people were evacuated, according to the interior ministry. Torrential rain and fierce winds attributed to Krathon left at least two people dead, one missing and 219 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 the next

day. 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 has ground air traffic to a halt, suspending all domestic flights and cancelling around 240 international flights. "We have to stay at least two or three days longer, plan accordingly," Chan Ka-woh, a layaid tourist from Malaysia said from Kaohsiung airport.

Powerful waves pounded the coast of Pingtung county, with seawater spilling onto a road and causing it to collapse in two places, TV footage showed. When a blaze broke out at a Pingtung hospital, Taiwanese authorities said the bad weather was making rescue operations more difficult. In New Taipei city in the island's north, where rain and wind were intensi-

fying, a mudslide sent a large rock tumbling onto a temple, partially smashing its roof, local news outlet SET TV reported. Taiwan is accustomed to frequent tropical storms from July to October, but scientists have warned climate change is increasing their intensity, leading to heavy rains, flash floods and strong gusts. In July, Gaemi became the strongest typhoon to make landfall in Taiwan in eight years, killing at least 10 people, injuring hundreds, and triggering widespread flooding in Kaohsiung. Krathon reached Taiwan after first slamming into a remote group of Philippine islands, leaving one dead, one missing and eight injured, as well as damaging over 300 houses, according to the country's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Russia prevailing in Ukraine would threaten 25 years of peace

WARSAW (AP): Kosovo's prime minister said that the Balkan region has enjoyed the greatest degree of peace, freedom and democracy over the past 25 years but that this could be reversed if Russia prevails in Ukraine and encourages Serbian expansion.

Albin Kurti, who has served as Kosovo's leader since 2021, said it was important for the West to stand united in support of Ukraine as it defends itself against Russian aggression. In an interview with The Associated Press, Kurti argued that a stronger Russia would embolden Serbia - and that not only Kosovo but also Bosnia, Montenegro and "perhaps North Macedonia" would be endangered by what he described as Serbian expansionist ambitions.

The relationship between Kosovo and Serbia remains tense and the 13-year-long normalization talks facilitated by the European Union

have failed to make progress, especially following a shootout in September last year between masked Serb gunmen and Kosovo police that left four people dead. NATO-led peacekeepers have also increased their numbers along the Kosovo-Serbia border. "These 25 years in this century, this has been a quarter of a century with the highest degree of peace, freedom and democracy in the Balkans," Kurti said.

He spoke at Kosovo's diplomatic mission in Warsaw, the Polish capital. The mission was opened after Poland and Kosovo established consular relations in 2022. Asked what it would mean for Kosovo and the Balkans more broadly if Russia were to prevail in Ukraine, Kurti, said "with Serbia being a regional hegemon and Russian proxy, these 25 years of peace, freedom and democracy in the Balkans, unprecedented in our history, are at risk

again." Serbian attempts to maintain dominance as the former Yugoslavia split up in the 1990s unleashed the most devastating wars in Europe since World War II - at least until Russia's Feb. 24, 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Kosovo was a Serbian province until NATO's 78-day bombing campaign in 1999 ended a war between Serbian government forces and ethnic Albanian separatists in Kosovo, which left about 13,000 dead, mainly ethnic Albanians, and pushed Serbian forces out. Serbia does not recognize Kosovo's independence and thousands of international peacekeepers are still in Kosovo to maintain peace with Serbia, which Kosovo seceded from in 2008. "Despotic President Putin would be encouraged to proceed further with his destabilization attempts, even more so if he feels successful in Ukraine," Kurti said. "I really don't want to

believe that he can theoretically win. But him thinking that (he) can win is problematic enough." Kurti visited Poland as the central European nation prepares to take over the rotating presidency of the 27-member European Union next January. One of his goals is for Kosovo to join the EU, but five of the EU's members still do not even recognize Kosovo - Spain, Greece, Cyprus Romania and Slovakia.

Kurti noted that Spain began earlier this year to recognize Kosovo passports for those visiting. "So there are these small steps," he said. "But you know, these small steps do not make one big necessary step, which is recognition." Kosovo, where 90% of the 1.6 million population is Albanian, is holding parliamentary elections next February, a vote that is expected to be a test for Kurti, whose governing party won in a landslide in the 2021.

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Western indifference has hung Zelensky out to dry

WITH only weeks to go before the US presidential election, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky could be forgiven for thinking that, irrespective of the outcome, Ukraine's fight for freedom is fast becoming a lost cause. For all the pain and sacrifice the Ukrainian people have endured in the two-and-a-half years since Russia invaded Ukraine, all the indications suggest that Russian president Vladimir Putin's initial calculation that the West would eventually lose interest in the conflict appears increasingly valid. Present in New York for the annual United Nations General Assembly, Zelensky used the gathering of world leaders to press his case for the Western powers to strengthen their support for the Ukrainian cause. He presented his "victory plan" to US politicians: the ambitious blueprint for ending the war with Russia on Ukraine's terms. The plan reportedly demands that Russia withdraw from all the territory it currently holds in eastern Ukraine and Crimea, is held accountable for all the alleged war crimes committed by the Russians, and Kyiv's victory be cemented by an invitation to join the Nato alliance.

Moscow, not surprisingly, has rejected Zelensky's demands, and Putin is clearly waiting on the outcome of November's presidential poll before weighing up his options. In the meantime, Zelensky is demanding that the West intensifies its support so that Ukraine can improve its bargaining position by making further gains on the battlefield. In particular, he wants the Biden administration to lift its restrictions on the use of long-range missiles, such as the Storm Shadow missile systems, to attack targets located deep within Russia.

US president Joe Biden has been reluctant to provide the necessary authorisation for fear of provoking the Kremlin into escalating the conflict. And even though Zelensky received a warm reception at the White House when he met with Biden and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris, who announced a new \$87-billion aid package for Ukraine, the American president refused to budge on the vital missile issue.

Nor did Zelensky do much better when he met former US president Donald Trump at his penthouse in New York. Having initially indicated he was too busy campaigning to meet the Ukrainian leader, Trump eventually relented, only to dash Zelensky's hopes by stressing that he regards Putin as a close personal friend. Zelensky's earlier comments to the New Yorker magazine that Trump "doesn't really know how to stop the war" in Ukraine, and that his vice-presidential running mate J?D Vance - a prominent critic of Washington's military support for Ukraine - was "too radical", will only have succeeded in further alienating the Trump camp.

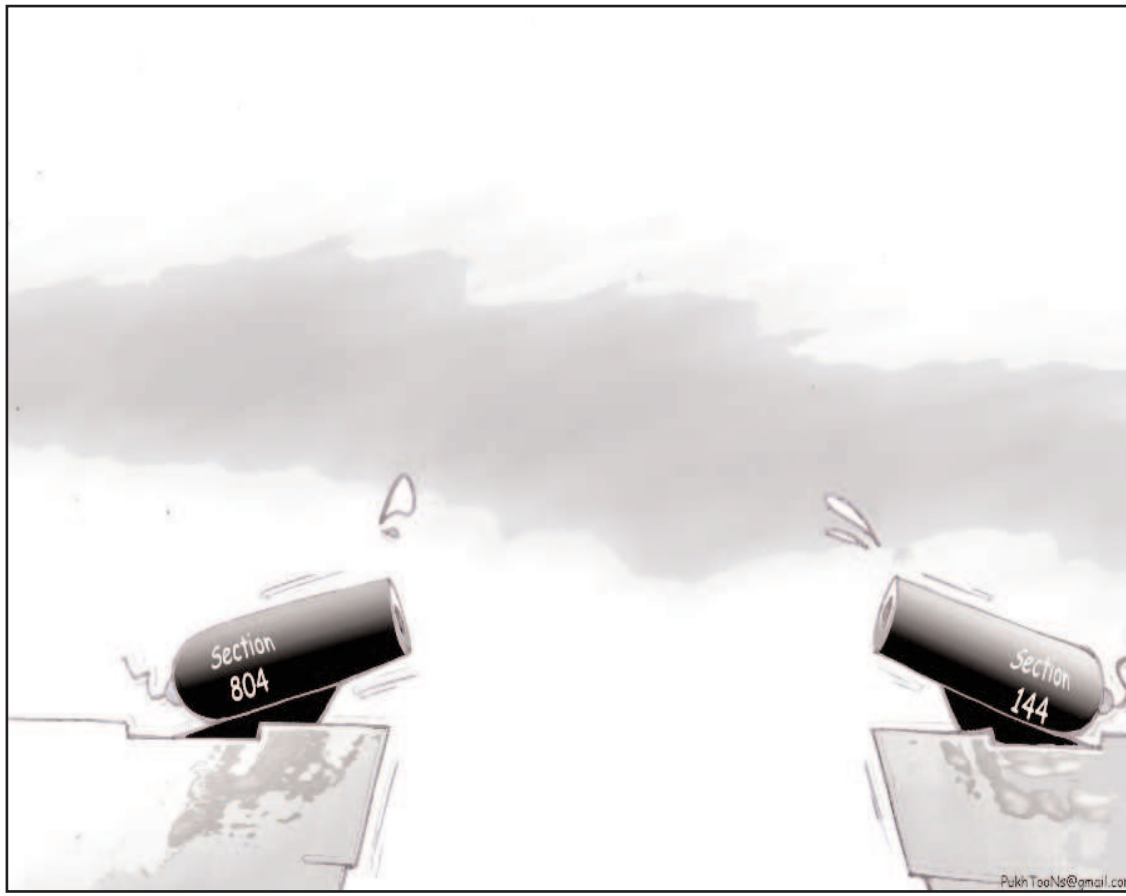
Is it not just in Washington that Zelensky will have identified signs that support for Ukraine is waning. Even though Sir Keir Starmer pledged to maintain British support for the Ukrainian cause during his meeting with Zelensky at the UN, it is arguably due to Starmer's own incompetent handling of the Storm Shadow issue that the Ukrainians find themselves unable to use the missiles in the way they would like. The air-launched missiles, which were originally gifted to the Ukrainians by the previous Conservative administration, have been used to great effect by Ukrainian forces to target key Russian military installations in places such as Crimea. Even though the missile systems rely on US tracking and guidance systems, Conservative ministers only informed the US that the missiles were being used, rather than seeking Washington's permission to carry out the strikes.

Thanks to Starmer's evident shortcomings as a global statesman, after becoming prime minister he set a new precedent of first asking the Americans for permission to use the weapons system, thereby allowing Washington to veto their use when it did not comply with the Biden administration's policy objectives. The result is the Ukrainians now have stocks of Storm Shadow weapons, but cannot use them. This unhappy state of affairs will only encourage Zelensky in the belief that, far from sustaining their support for Ukraine, Western leaders have more pressing priorities, especially in the wake of the deepening confrontation between Israel and Iran.

It will also provide a boost to Putin who, having suffered numerous setbacks since launching his so-called "special military operation" against Ukraine in February 2022, will now be buoyed by the prospect that he might, after all, achieve some form of victory in Ukraine, even if it does not achieve his original goal of total conquest. If Harris succeeds Biden in the White House, then Putin can assume that her administration will adopt the same risk-averse approach to the Ukraine conflict, one that, in effect, means the Ukrainians are limited in what they can achieve on the battlefield. A Trump victory would, by contrast, most likely lead to Washington abandoning the Ukrainian cause. Either outcome would not only be disastrous for Ukraine, but for the future prospects of the Western alliance.

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We're on the brink of World War Three

Allister Heath

If you crave peace, a war against Iran will be necessary first. If you want to avert a nuclear apocalypse, Iran's atomic programme must be obliterated. If you long for a better, saner world, Iran's repugnant theocrats need to be extirpated. Israel must be allowed to attack Iran's evil regime, and the West must support it. The regime is the original Islamist extremist state; it is the fount of almost all trouble in the Middle East, the foremost exporter of terrorism, an ally of Russia, a friend of China, a cancer eating away at humanity's common destiny.

The regime has oppressed its wonderful, peace-loving people for 45 years, often in the most savage ways, pitilessly persecuting women and minorities. The West, wracked by self-doubt, ignorance, selfishness and cowardice, has been willfully blind to their pleas for deliverance. We have instead attempted to appease the Mullahs, to relativise or normalise their genocidal machinations, to sign deals with them, to protect the oil market, to endlessly buy time.

It hasn't worked, and Judgement Day beckons. It is time for Israel to save the West from itself, to conduct the dirty, dangerous work that far larger, richer and more powerful countries are too debilitated to pursue themselves. This wouldn't be the first time: Israel did the world a historic favour when it bombed Iraq's Osirak reactor in 1981 and destroyed the Al-Kibar planned nuclear plant in Syria in 2007; a similar move targeting Iran's many such facilities is no longer beyond the realm of the possible.

If Israel doesn't have the equipment to do so itself, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris must send in their own bunker-busting bombs. I'm not calling for any kind of land invasion, or even for the UK to get directly involved. But we need to be honest: regime change in Iran should be a top foreign policy priority for every democracy in the world. Why has Britain still not proscribed the IRGC?

Tuesday's strike was a disastrous gamble by Iran. It failed to kill any Israelis

or to meaningfully damage civilian or military infrastructure. Iran has already used up a tenth of its 3,000 ballistic missile stockpile (as estimated by a US general last year) for nothing: it has exposed its fundamental military and technological inadequacy, it didn't establish deterrence, it forced a drastic hardening of America's position, it stopped Europe's useful

It misjudged Israel's appetite for risk and pain. No government in Jerusalem can tolerate repeated, escalatory missile attacks from a millenarian state explicitly dedicated to its destruction; and even the most delusional of State Department apparatchiks can now see that a nuclear Iran would lead us into World War III. All the Western sucking up to Iran, starting with the nuclear deal of 2015, backed by David Cameron, has backfired appallingly. Joe Biden gifted the Mullahs some \$6?billion last year to release five American hostages, allowing them to access previously frozen funds. He signed another 120-day sanctions waiver in July that allows Iran to sell electricity to Iraq.

idiots from calling for a ceasefire in Lebanon and, for the first time, created a critical opening for Israel to deliver an overwhelming military blow.

Had Iran done nothing, it would have been publicly humiliated as a result of the assassination of so many of its allies, but avoided placing itself directly in the line of fire. By acting so impetuously, so egregiously and yet so uselessly, it has fatally weakened its own position. It has exposed itself as a nasty, fanatical bully, albeit one fragile enough to be taken down. It, for once, misread America. It misjudged Israel's appetite for risk and pain. No government in Jerusalem can tolerate repeated, escalatory missile attacks from a millenarian state explicitly dedicated to its destruction; and even the

what Biden referred to as a win. Israel's counter-offensive was largely symbolic, hitting a radar system at an Iranian nuclear plant.

The Americans were wrong: the regime, which only understands brute strength, drew the wrong lesson. It was emboldened, assuming that the old red lines no longer existed, that the US would always restrain the Israelis, and that the regime could now engage in blatant acts of war with quasi-impunity, paving the way for this week's larger, more sophisticated attack.

But the Mullahs grievously miscalculated this time, partly because the empire they spent so long constructing is disintegrating and they are no longer thinking rationally. Yes, they have scored a massive propaganda victory against Israel since the atrocities of October 7, falsely portraying terrorists as victims, lying relentlessly, reshaping Soviet era blood libels, spreading conspiracy theories on social media and helping to foment anti-Jewish hate in Britain, Europe and America. But when it comes to the reality on the ground, as opposed to that in the mind of the Western chattering classes, Iran's axis of evil has suffered a series of calamitous reversals.

Hamas is a shadow of its former self, almost unable to launch rockets into Israel, and reeling from the death of 17-18,000 of its terrorist fighters. Hezbollah has lost Hassan Nasrallah, its psychopathic leader, its entire management structure and myriad second and third tier commanders; a large chunk of its 150,000-strong missile stash has been destroyed.

It is still able to inflict losses on the heroic Israeli troops now in Lebanon, but it can no longer serve as Iran's all-powerful shield. The danger is that Tehran's increasingly panicked regime will compound its errors by seeking to rush to full nuclear status. This cannot be allowed to happen.

Israel, whose very purpose is to ensure its own survival, and that of the Jewish people, has not just the right but a duty to strike back in devastating fashion against the Iranian regime. It deserves the West's full, unstinting support.

We can't be cowed by Russia's new nuclear doctrine

Andreas Umland

In a statement on Sept. 25, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a seemingly significant modification of Russia's military doctrine. He revealed that Moscow would consider any "aggression" from a non-nuclear state supported by a nuclear power as a "joint attack" on Russia. Putin's message to the West is simple: if you help Ukraine militarily, you may become Moscow's target.

Putin further specified that the new doctrine would "clearly set the conditions for Russia's transition to usage of nuclear weapons." He warned darkly that such a possibility would be considered once Moscow received "reliable information" about weapons being launched across Russia's borders. The president clarified that the forthcoming changes mean that Moscow "reserves the right" to use nuclear weapons not only in the event of aggression against Russia, but Belarus as well.

In comparison to his earlier threats, the novelty of this latest warning is less its outspokenness than the fact it concerns a forthcoming formal document. Despite this new fact, Putin's recent announcements do not change the principles of Russia's position. The changes to Russia's military doctrine are as much a psychological operation by the Kremlin as its numerous previous attempts to intimidate Kyiv's allies with nuclear weapons.

As before, Moscow wants to scare away foreign supporters of Ukraine from continuing and extending their help. The new proposed change in the military doctrine is yet another attempt to circumscribe Western assistance to Ukraine. One should put Putin's statement in perspective, however. Russian official documents - whether laws, doctrines, treaties, or other governmental texts - have little meaning in a country with no rule of law and where the state behaves arbitrarily. In foreign and domestic affairs, the Kremlin makes decisions based on political preferences rather than on legal acts which can always be adapted or amended ad hoc.

Putin's new announcements, as other threats by him and his entourage, are related to topical strategic debates within the West. One critical discussion is on the question of whether to provide Ukraine with more and better aerial weapons including the highly effective but, by now, infamous German Taurus cruise missile. Another debate concerns the issue of whether to permit Ukraine to use Western long-range weapons inside Russia. This appears to be of particular bother to the Kremlin. Yet, these issues need to be seen in their historical context. Ukraine has attacked Russian military targets in the occupied Ukrainian territories of Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson for over two years. These five regions are, after the Russian illegal but official annexations of 2014 and 2022, regular Russian state territory according to the country's amended constitution.

More recently, Ukraine has also attacked numerous military and industrial targets on Russia's internationally recognized territory. A drone even flew into the Kremlin itself. Impressively, Ukraine has managed to achieve impressive results and destroy large ammunition depots and oil processing

plants deep inside Russia. The existing Russian military doctrine already allows Moscow to use nuclear weapons in response to foreign attacks conducted with conventional weapons only. Ukraine's massive hits on and intrusions into both legitimate and legitimate Russian state territory since 2022 could have been interpreted, by the Kremlin, as permitting Moscow to retaliate with weapons of mass destruction.

Since 2010, Russia's military doctrine has allowed it to do so in cases "of aggression against Russia with the use of conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is threatened." This peculiarity of Russia's nuclear doctrine allowing the use of atomic weapons in response to attacks with conventional armory was reaffirmed in the 2020 "Foundations of State Policy of the Russian Federation in the Area of Nuclear Deterrence."

Accordingly, since 2014, Putin & Co. have repeatedly indicated their readiness to use nuclear weapons in response to Western-supported Ukrainian armed resistance to Russia's expansion into Ukraine with conventional weaponry. The phrase "very existence of the Russian state" could have been interpreted to mean the inviolability of its borders and airspace, including those of the annexed Ukrainian territories which Moscow claims as part of Russia. No wonder that Russian politicians and propagandists have been voicing nuclear threats against numerous countries every month since 2022.

Yet, no nuclear weapons have been used. That is because oral or written announcements on their use are not previews of genuine actions. They are part of a ruthless psychological warfare operation to subvert Ukraine's self-defense. The recent changes to Russian military doctrine are part of this international PR game. Moscow's decision to use nuclear weapons would be guided less by official doctrine than by power-political considerations. If the Kremlin thinks using weapons of mass destruction would increase its power, it will do so. Such an action could have happened earlier and could happen in the future no matter the precise wording of Russia's official doctrine. Political utility rather than official legality, and strategic consideration rather than doctrinal obligation will make the Kremlin move in one direction or another.

This means that Russia is unlikely to attack a NATO member state for as long as Moscow believes in the seriousness of the alliance's mutual defense pledge. It also means that Western and other states interested in avoiding Russia's use of weapons of mass destruction in Ukraine should make sure that the Kremlin does not think that it can get away with it. Thus, all governments around the world interested in preventing nuclear escalation in Eastern Europe should take a public stance. They need to make clear to the Kremlin that further escalation of Moscow's already genocidal attack on Ukraine will have serious consequences for Russia and its leadership. Putin threatens once more humankind that, if a country resists Russia's conventional war of expansion and annihilation, Moscow will go nuclear. Everyone who disagrees and wants such a scenario never to be realized must give the Kremlin a clear and loud "No!"

China has come up to power its new submarine fleet

David Axe

THE Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (the PLAN) has developed an entirely new type of submarine, according to reports. In this, a small, "auxiliary" nuclear powerplant is coupled with batteries and a conventional powerplant - probably diesel engines. We know this because one of the new subs - apparently the first of its class - sank at its pier in Wuhan, a city on the Yangtze River in eastern China.

Naval expert Thomas Shugart was the first civilian observer to notice the appearance of a new sub type in satellite imagery depicting a pier in Wuhan this summer. That imagery, dated late April, depicts a mysterious new submarine pier side near a known sub type Chinese industry was building for Pakistan. Comparing the two boats, Shugart concluded the new vessel was substantially longer than the Type 039 submarine - the PLAN's standard diesel-electric

attack submarine, 34 of which form the backbone of the 60-boat Chinese sub flotilla. A new Type 039A is 254 feet long. The mysterious new sub in Wuhan appeared to be as long as 279 feet.

That's not nearly as long as the US Navy's standard Virginia-class nuclear attack submarine, which stretches out to 377 feet in its shortest version. But there's a good reason for a Virginia to be much bigger than a Type 039.

Unlike the diesel-electric Chinese boat, the American boat is nuclear-powered. The nuclear reactor costs more and takes up more space than a conventional powerplant, but it also confers practically unlimited range at high speed and submerged endurance. Nuclear powered submarines are true submarines, able to operate primarily underwater.

By contrast the standard conventionally powered boat has diesel engines, which can either propel the subma-

rine or recharge its bank of batteries. The diesels need air to run, which means that they can only be used if either the sub is on the surface, or it is at periscope depth with a "snort" air-intake mast extended above the waves.

The only way for the sub to move when it's fully submerged is to run on electric motors using battery power.

The snort mast is fairly easy to detect on radar, and limits the boat's speed to a few knots. Running on batteries the sub must restrict its speed to a crawl if it is to cover any distance before needing to recharge again: going at speed on batteries drains the charge in a very short space of time.

In other words a conventionally-powered submarine can only travel any distance at any speed when fully surfaced. When snorting it is slow and still vulnerable to detection. Submerged with diesels off it is hard to find, but more or less pinned to the

map. Conventional subs have great difficulty operating anywhere that enemy radar may be sweeping the surface above them.

There are various "air independent" options, involving the use of exotic fuels and/or oxidisers, which can improve a conventional boat's underwater performance. They aren't very satisfactory, however - as is shown by the fact that submarines so equipped always have diesels too.

The US Navy's 63-boat submarine flotilla is entirely nuclear-powered, whereas the 60-boat PLAN sub flotilla includes just 12 nuclear-powered vessels. That's the main reason why most analysts assess the USN sub force as much more powerful than the PLAN sub force, despite the two possessing roughly equal numbers of boats.

But there were hints the Chinese were working hard to expand their production of

nuclear-powered subs. A few years ago, a retired Chinese admiral named Zhao Dengping delivered a university lecture in which he revealed some key naval modernization efforts, including a small nuclear auxiliary engine that could lend much greater range and underwater endurance to smaller attack boats with primarily diesel-electric propulsion.

Reportedly, the new hybrid diesel-electric nuclear submarine is designated the Type 041. It should represent a middle ground between the numerous short-endurance Type 039s in PLAN service and the much rarer all-nuclear Type 093s. Equally importantly, the ill-fated Type is apparently the first nuclear-powered submarine to be built in Wuhan. All earlier Chinese nuclear boats were built in Huludao on the Yellow Sea in northern China.

A diesel-and-battery boat with a small nuclear reactor is a clever idea. The small

reactor would let it charge up its batteries while completely submerged, or cruise slowly across effectively unlimited distances. It could penetrate deep into enemy waters without giving its presence away. It would be able to keep its batteries fully charged, ready for a burst of underwater speed if necessary. It could still run fast on the surface using diesels, too. And it would not involve the heavy expense of building a full-fat nuclear sub. Not only is China building a new type of nuclear attack boat, then, it's also building them at a new shipyard. It's no secret Beijing wanted to build better submarines, faster. But now we know how it aims to launch this undersea expansion: by building smaller nuclear attack boats at a second yard. The apparent loss of that first hybrid attack sub is a setback for the Chinese navy, but hardly a fatal one. Expect the Chinese to replace the waterlogged Type 041 with a new copy of the same design - and fast.

UK PM will need an incredible US ambassador

Martin Kettle

THE widening of the Middle East war has a multiplicity of woeof causes and grim consequences. Many have the potential to become even more intractable in the weeks to come. Fresh human suffering in Israel, Lebanon and beyond is only the start of it. Donald Trump is wrong to claim we are on the brink of a third world war. But these events have global implications. Remember what happened after 9/11.

The latest bombings and missile attacks mark a historic failure for politics and diplomacy. This is not the first such failure in the Middle East. But wishing that diplomacy could prevail will not make it happen, and even fragile ceasefires are a long way off right now. As angry populations rally behind the respective combatants the prospects for desperately needed political solutions are almost negligible. You can't stop a war if those on all sides are determined to fight.

On the global scale, the implications for Britain and for Keir Starmer's government come a long way down the list of the escalation's most important consequences. In domestic terms, however, they still matter very much indeed. The Gaza war has already made a powerful impact on British politics. Israel's latest conflict with Iran and its proxies is likely to do the same. The shadow of the Iraq war is a lasting one, more than 20 years on.

Yet Britain is not some touchline observer of events in the Middle East. British listening stations in Cyprus monitor the Middle East 24/7. British jets, based in Cyprus, fly over Syria and Iraq almost daily. Those same British jets flew missions to help protect Israel in April, and did so again this week in

response to Iran's missile attacks. Like it or not, Britain also has a history in the region.

All of which underscores the high seriousness of the strategic choices that Starmer faces in foreign policy. Like all European nations, Britain now exists in an unstable world shaped by Chinese power, the threat from Russia, US political uncertainty and climate change. It has expelled itself from the European Union. Starmer was in Brussels today to try to make the best of these volatile realities. No one should kid themselves that this is not a difficult hand to play. The difficulty lies behind the escapist and trivialising foreign policy solutions in which Boris Johnson and Liz Truss took refuge, in office and afterwards. Starmer's seriousness offers a quite different response to theirs but it brings another sort of danger. It puts him at risk of not challenging some inherited orthodoxies of British foreign policy at a newly unstable time for which they are no longer adequate. Dean Acheson's 1962 comment that Britain had lost an empire but not yet found a role still echoes.

Starmer himself has little background in foreign policy. He gets day-to-day advice from his national security adviser, Tim Barrow, and his foreign policy adviser, Ailsa Terry. It is hard to say from the outside if they are the ideal team for the biggest foreign policy call he faces as prime minister. That call is not, though, over the Middle East war, or the defence of Ukraine. It is not even over the relationship with the EU. It is over the relationship with the US.

British foreign policy always seeks to hug America close. But a month from now, the US reaches a fork in the road. Trump and Kamala

Harris offer radically different approaches to the country's global role. These differences will shape Washington's approach to every important global issue - including Ukraine, the Middle East, China, climate, and digital regulation - for the coming four years. They will be reflected, too, in the way the US operates towards international bodies including the United Nations, Nato, the International Monetary Fund and the international criminal court. The outcome will shape British foreign policy too. A Harris victory would permit something like business as usual. But a Trump win would not. Trying to hug Trump close risks being unsuccessful, dangerous and damaging. Even trying to influence him would require a very special skill set, notably the ability to catch Trump's attention on Fox News. And Harris would be operating in a more volatile world, too, in which constrained US power might not give priority to British and European interests.

That is why, for Starmer, there is an umbilical link between the pressures of a massive event such as the Middle East war and an otherwise relatively niche decision, like who should be the next UK ambassador to the US. Seen through the global lens, the imminent appointment of Karen Pierce's successor in Washington is relatively minor. Seen through the UK lens, however, it is one of the hinges on which the success or failure of Starmer's government will depend.

Unsurprisingly, No 10 has said the Washington job - the special relationship's most special post - will only be allocated after the US election. But it will be a defining moment all the same. Politicians

including David Miliband, Catherine Ashton and Peter Mandelson have been mentioned. So have current ambassadors, including Menna Rawlings (now in Paris) and Barbara Woodward (now at the UN). Whitehall veterans such as Tom Scholar (former head of the Treasury) and Vijay Ranganarajan (now head of the Electoral Commission) may be in the frame too.

It's a job that Labour, nowadays full of West Wing wannabes, has always taken especially seriously. Peter Jay, who died last month, was appointed to the ambassador's luxurious Massachusetts Avenue residence by his Labour prime ministerial father-in-law, James Callaghan, in 1977. "We want you to get up the arse of the White House and stay there," were the instructions from New Labour in 1997, when the late Christopher Meyer was despatched to be Tony Blair's man in Washington.

The appointment rests very personally with Starmer. He has surely now learned that the global agenda will also determine Labour's future, whether Trump or Harris wins. The appointee therefore needs to be someone with the ear of the president but with the ear of the prime minister as well. That's why, in the end, my prediction is that the job will go to a man who, untypically, did not reply to my inquiries on the subject this week.

A generation ago, as Blair's chief of staff, it was he who gave Meyer those robust instructions. It was also he who played a key role in the hard-won peace process in Northern Ireland. At a time when another peace process is again so urgent, it is hard to think of a stronger candidate than Jonathan Powell.

The Guardian

Why revived horrors of January 6 may not impact the election

Stephen Collinson

DONALD Trump's Attempt to unravel American democracy to stay in power four years ago is suddenly back at the epicenter of another election - weeks before the ex-president could pull off a stunning White House comeback.

Special counsel Jack Smith and former Rep. Liz Cheney have thrust the issue of the GOP nominee's false 2020 fraud claims into the endgame of Trump's neck-and-neck showdown with Democratic nominee Kamala Harris, while reviving memories of a day that will stain American history.

Appearing with Harris in Wisconsin on Thursday, Cheney presented herself as part of a bipartisan movement to block Trump from the White House. But four years on, the mob assault by Trump supporters on the US Capitol, the ex-president's attempt to subvert a free and fair vote, and his incessant efforts to fracture trust in the US democratic system may not impede his return to power. This is a reality that reflects both the divided state of the nation and the GOP's willingness to prioritize power. But most of all, it's a testimony to the often-malevolent magnetism that has made Trump a historic and enduring political figure.

Cheney, a hardline conservative, appeared with the vice president in the critical battleground to urge independents and Trump-war Republicans to vote for the Democrat despite their sharp differences on policy. "The most conservative of conservative values is fidelity to our Constitution," Cheney said in Ripon, Wisconsin. "As we meet here today, our republic faces a threat unlike any we have faced before." She added: "In this election, putting patriotism ahead of partisanship is not an aspiration - it is our duty."

"What January 6 shows us is that there is not an ounce, not an ounce of compassion in Donald Trump. He is petty, he is vindictive, and he is cruel, and Donald Trump is not fit to lead this good and great nation." It was a remarkable scene, which was only made possible by the political earthquake unleashed by Trump's conduct four years ago. A sign of how much things have changed in American politics: Cheney's father, former vice president Dick Cheney - who was reviled by Democrats, especially over the Iraq War - has also endorsed Harris. His daughter declared: "I have never voted for a Democrat, but this year I am proudly casting my vote for Vice President Kamala Harris."

The former Wyoming congresswoman lost her leadership position in the House GOP and eventually her seat in a landslide to a primary challenger, after standing up to Trump's attempt to defy the will of voters in 2020. And while she was still in the House, she helped lead a bipartisan special committee that recommended criminal charges for the twice-impeached ex-president over the January 6, 2021, riot. In Wisconsin, a state that could be decided by narrow margins next month, Cheney could have a big impact if she's able to move even a few hundred votes. Next week, Cheney and former Trump White House aides Alyssa Farah Griffin, Cassidy Hutchinson and Sarah Matthews will make the case against Trump in a fireside chat in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, CNN has exclusively learned.

Harris on Thursday praised Cheney's courage - and vowed, "Anyone who has called for, I quote, the termination of the Constitution of the United States, as Donald Trump has, must never again stand, never again stand behind the seal of the president of the United States." Cheney's appearance came after Smith was back in the spotlight Wednesday, with an unsealed court filing offering the most detailed view yet of his federal election interference case against Trump, who has thwarted attempts to bring him to trial before the election. The special counsel alleged that Trump told a family member, "It doesn't matter if you won or lost the election. You still have

to fight like hell."

The filing represents an attempt by Smith to save a case that was seriously damaged by the conservative majority on the Supreme Court, which granted Trump and other ex-presidents wide immunity for acts in office. New focus on Trump's refusal to accept the result of the last election and the January 6 attack on the Capitol might seem like a political disaster for the ex-president. But it's a mark of Trump's success in rewriting history that this is not necessarily an election-defining issue.

When Trump left Washington in January 2021, without attending Joe Biden's inauguration and with the city divided by iron security fences, it would have been absurd to think that he could have a strong chance of returning to power in a non-consecu-

actress.

As well as the federal election case, the ex-president is facing a similar one in Georgia based on racketeering statutes. A Trump-appointed judge threw out another Smith prosecution - over Trump's handling of classified documents at his Florida club - although the special counsel is appealing her decision. In his latest filing to district court in Washington, Smith accused the ex-president of trying to overturn legitimate election results in seven states that he lost. The former president, who has pleaded not guilty in this and all criminal cases against him, is entitled to the presumption of innocence.

In such a toxic political environment, the special counsel was bound to encounter claims he was motivated by partisanship since, despite his nominal independence, he operates under the auspices of

There is no evidence to support Trump's claims, even if some of the prosecutors in several of his criminal and civil cases, notably in Georgia and New York, were political figures who previously criticized the former president. Still, all of Trump's criminal charges emerged from grand juries or genuine legal processes. And he was judged by a jury of his peers, like any other citizen, when convicted in a Manhattan trial arising from a hush money payment to an adult film actress.

tive second term. His prospects next month show that while he horrifies many Americans, his conduct after the last election is not seen as disqualifying by millions of others. Trump has countered claims by opponents that he represents a grave peril to the Constitution by arguing that Biden and Harris are the real threat and has blamed their rhetoric for two assassination attempts against him. "I probably took a bullet to the head because of the things that they say about me," Trump said at his debate with Harris last month. "They talk about democracy. I'm a threat to democracy. They're the threat to democracy."

Trump's hold on the Republican base has also allowed him to browbeat most party leaders into supporting him and joining his effort to whitewash his conduct after the last election. He's also again raising doubts about the integrity of the election system as early voting begins this year to hedge against another possible defeat. Trump's success in convincing Republicans that he was the victim of political persecution helped him sail through the Republican primary. And the prospect of another Democratic president is even papering over some of the deepest Republican scars remaining from 2020. On Friday, for instance, the ex-president is set to appear with Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp in the swing state for a briefing on Hurricane Helene. Trump has spent years vilifying Kemp for failing to join his attempt to overturn Biden's win there.

The possibility of a Trump return to power is especially ominous for many Americans because he has vowed to wage a second term of "retribution" and is threatening to jail his political opponents. Yet Trump's strongman instincts are exactly what makes him attractive to many Republican voters whom he has convinced the Biden administration has weaponized justice against him. There is no evidence to support Trump's claims, even if some of the prosecutors in several of his criminal and civil cases, notably in Georgia and New York, were political figures who previously criticized the former president. Still, all of Trump's criminal charges emerged from grand juries or genuine legal processes. And he was judged by a jury of his peers, like any other citizen, when convicted in a Manhattan trial arising from a hush money payment to an adult film

Biden's Attorney General Merrick Garland. But a failure to prosecute the ex-president, who escaped political accountability when Republican senators declined to convict him in his second impeachment trial, would have created a precedent that might convince a future president to try to ignore an election loss. While Smith must still convince a jury that Trump broke the law, the historic facts are not in dispute.

The former president refused to accept the result of the 2020 election that he lost. His cases alleging fraud - often lacking evidence - were thrown out by multiple judges and even by the Supreme Court. He called a crowd to Washington and incited his supporters, who smashed their way into the Capitol and beat up police officers. The former president has hailed those who tried to block the electoral certification as heroes and has pledged to pardon them if he returns to power. His actions did not just represent a threat to the sacred American principle of peaceful transfers of power between presidents. They shattered trust among millions of Americans in the legal and electoral system. Biden made Trump's threat to democracy the centerpiece of his now-shelved run for president, warning that his predecessor represents an unprecedented threat to America's soul. But Harris, while warning of the dangers of Trump, has sought to focus primarily on the generational change she offers.

Her tactics are an acknowledgment that there are many other issues - including high grocery prices, the cost of housing, and the price of childcare - that occupy the minds of voters as much as somewhat intangible warnings of democracy on the brink. In a CNN/SSRS poll in September, about 4 in 10 likely voters said the economy was the most important issue as they choose a candidate. Protecting democracy was second at 21%, immigration was at 12% and abortion was at 11%. Harris' voters were more likely than others to choose protecting democracy as most important (37%) over the economy (21%). Therefore, while the scenes on January 6, 2021, were horrifying, four years on they are not the dominant issue. But if Trump wins, future historians may wonder why a former president who tried to burn down democracy to stay in power was able to use the same system to regain the White House.

CNN

Keir Starmer's EU reset is built on a lie

David Frost

IT'S almost like the old days after the Brexit referendum. The Prime Minister and his emissaries go back and forth to Brussels for talks with the EU Commission. There are warm words in public about the close UK/EU relationship, but behind the scenes there is the familiar disdainful sneering at the UK's negotiating strategy, the curt dismissal of British expectations, the setting of preconditions on issues of interest to the EU before the UK can hope to talk about anything else. All we need to complete the retro feel is the return of Olly Robbins - and apparently even that is on the cards before too long.

One can only fear the worst therefore from Keir Starmer's plan to "reset" the UK/EU relationship, which seems to have begun in earnest with his visit to Brussels this week. Labour's naivety about how international relations are really conducted, coupled with the instinct of much of our establishment and bureaucracy to doff the cap to Commission negotiators, means this process is unlikely to end well. The Commission has every interest in reeling us into a series of one-sided concessions and are clever enough negotiators to achieve that. Hardly surprising, therefore, that Sir Keir should have said this week that he didn't want a "running commentary" on the talks and that he hoped for a "respectful" tone. The last thing he wants is any light shed on what is going on. It's crucial at the early stage of any negotiation to have a clear idea of what is really in your interest and

what you might be prepared to give to get it.

Yet it is not obvious that Sir Keir is thinking rigorously about this at all. Labour's declared aims are to "reset", to reduce "friction", to get a foreign policy and security agreement, and to agree a food and veterinary agreement. Yet the first two of these are just matters of tone; the easiest way to achieve them is to concede on everything meaningful in the interests of "improving the atmosphere", and indeed that is what British negotiators largely did under Theresa May and again under the Sunak government on the Windsor Framework.

As for a foreign policy agreement, that is much more in the EU's interests than ours. We are already allied to virtually every EU member state through Nato. The purpose of such an agreement will be to lock Britain once again into handling more foreign policy business through the EU's bureaucracy, to enable the EU to set the terms for military procurement, and to drag Britain into supporting the EU's own military aspirations separate from Nato (plans denounced last month by the outgoing Nato secretary general). It is not obvious why any of these things are in our interest.

Similarly, it's far from clear why we need a food and veterinary agreement. Unprocessed agricultural goods amount to the grand total of 0.5 per cent of our total exports, and most such exporters have adjusted to the post-Brexit trade rules anyway. It's not about

complying with EU rules: British food products exported to the EU must do that already. If you want to reduce the border paperwork, then the only way to do so is to move to a single market-like arrangement in which all British food production and all food imported to Britain must comply with EU standards, according to EU law, and policed by the European Court. That is what the EU will want.

It's easy to see why it would want to make Britain a captive market for its expensive food - it exports three times as much food here as we do there - but not obvious why it's in ours. I personally wouldn't concede either of these things. We didn't in 2020. But if Labour were to do so, it certainly should get something valuable in return.

Yet, because it has defined them as things the UK wants, the EU says we can't discuss them until we have agreed to its demands first - that is, a youth mobility agreement and guaranteed access to British fishing waters. Even to Labour, one would hope, the idea of conceding further permanent access to our fishing grounds should be a non-starter, but who knows?

And the youth mobility agreement on offer is laughably one-sided: any young people from anywhere in the EU could come here to work, but young Brits would get access not to the whole Union but just one EU country. Best not take a job in Luxembourg. All this goes to explain why this negotiation already has such an odd feel about

it. We concede things in the EU's interest in return for ... conceding things in the EU's interest. It's a pretty strange negotiation in which we make all the substantive concessions in return for nothing more than a better atmosphere and an annual summit - things that can easily be withdrawn if the EU decides down the line it wants to turn the screw on us once again. But of course the Government doesn't see it like that. For Labour, the EU is a beautiful progressive project in which national interests are set aside for the common good. Being outside it is already a kind of failure.

So what I see as watering down a British interest it sees as a necessary accommodation to the process of putting the UK right with the EU and the world once again, slowly removing the stigma of Brexit. The end justifies the means. Labour simply can't see the EU as it really is: a community of power politics, in which law is set aside if it doesn't suit the project, one that is ineffective in standing up to real powers, but which is quite happy to bully the weak. That's why it is hopelessly in the wrong frame of mind to conduct these negotiations.

The best way of handling a bully is to be clear what is acceptable and what isn't: don't plead, don't make unreciprocated concessions, stand up for yourself, and walk away if you have to. We can see Labour won't do any of this. So another shabby deal is coming. Once it's done it will be too late. We must expose what it is up to, and fight it, now.

The Telegraph

C919 is China's answer to A320

Steven Jiang

I have flown more than a million miles with dozens of airlines around the world - and have lost count of how many times I've hopped on an Air China plane for the short trip from Beijing to Shanghai. During the week, airlines schedule more than 60 flights everyday between the country's capital and financial hub - each way - often using their biggest jets, from the iconic Boeing 747 to the newest Airbus A350.

With plenty of widebody options in its fleet of almost 1,000 planes, Air China deployed a narrowbody for my flight on a recent Thursday morning. But it wasn't just any narrowbody - it was the flag carrier's first, and so far the only, C919 jetliner. The C919 is China's first homegrown mainline passenger plane, manufactured by the Shanghai-based state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC). After spending years in development and lengthy delays, the twin-engine jet made its maiden commercial voyage with hometown carrier China Eastern Airlines in May 2023.

Long touted as a potential game-changer in global commercial aviation, the C919 is COMAC's answer to the Boeing 737 and the Airbus A320 - two of the world's best-selling aircraft types. Despite recording more than 1,000 orders, the C919 seems dogged by skeptics who question its "Chineseness" (with key parts such as engines and flight control systems imported from the US and Europe) and its commercial viability given the Airbus-Boeing duopoly in the market. For an aviation geek like me, however, none of the controversies could dampen my enthusiasm to unlock a brand-new aircraft type and review this still rare passenger experience since there are only a handful of C919s in the air within mainland China, the only region it's been certi-

fied to fly to date.

I showed up at the gate at Beijing's sprawling Capital International Airport (PEK) an hour before departure time to see the C919 in the flesh for the first time. From a distance, it could easily be mistaken for an A320 with its more rounded nose and curved fuselage (compared to the B737). More discerning eyes would probably notice the C919's distinctive cockpit windows and wingtips. My first impression upon stepping into the month-old C919 was that it felt just like an A320 - with a bit of lingering new plane smell. To its credit, among the "Big Three" state-owned carriers that operate the aircraft type, Air China opted for the most spacious configuration with 158 seats (out of the possible maximum of 192) - eight in first class and 150 in economy.

In this age of "cattle class" for economy fliers, any extra legroom counts. I had pre-paid for an emergency exit row seat and was more than pleased with the legroom for both exit rows (19 and 20), which offer more space than even domestic first class. As someone who is 180cm (or 5'11") tall, I could easily stretch my legs all the way out with my feet barely touching the seat in front of me. Other aspects of the interior look more run-of-the-mill: There are individual air nozzles for customized climate control, and economy passengers not in exit rows each have a foldable device holder (for smartphones and tablets) just above the tray table. The economy seats themselves - in a typical 3x3 layout - are of the thin variety increasingly popular with airlines as they cram more rows into the main cabin. But any potential discomfort on this flight was mitigated by the free pillows - I put one behind me for extra padding. Beneath the seats, every three passengers share

two sockets featuring both USB-A and USB-C plugs. For a jetliner with a range up to 5,555 kilometers (just under 3,500 miles), Air China's C919 seems to count on passengers to provide their own inflight entertainment. While each seatback contains literature space (with actual inflight magazines) as well as pouches for personal items, there are no individual screens or WiFi onboard (programming shown on the drop-down screens seemed universally unappealing) - that must be where the device holder comes in. I was happy to hear the flight attendant highlight the aircraft type in his pre-takeoff briefing. "Today you're flying with Air China C919 aircraft, which is the first large airliner independently developed by China," he said, as the jet taxied to the runway.

Air China serves hot meals in economy during meal hours even for short-haul flights (today's flying time: 1 hour 40 minutes). Bottled water was placed in each seatback pouch before boarding and my omelet - along with yogurt and a chocolate bar - tasted totally fine. I checked out one of the two economy lavatories in the back of the cabin. It's bright (and was clean and well-stocked on this flight), has a coat hook and feels less cramped than many of the latest versions on the A320 or B737. With the tops of Shanghai's tallest skyscrapers emerging in the clouds, our plane began to descend toward Hongqiao International Airport (SHA).

Sitting in the window seat next to the engine, I remembered one of the two main complaints about the C919 that I'd read online: engine noise. Everyone has different tolerance levels, but I didn't find the sound to be much louder than that on a typical flight using a Boeing or Airbus narrowbody plane. The other complaint

apparently was the lack of space in overhead bins. Even though the C919 isn't going to win the overhead space competition, everyone on this full flight seemed to be able to fit in their wheeled carry-on luggage with no problem. Following a smooth touchdown in Shanghai some 40 minutes ahead of schedule, there was no applause or cheers (which is never a Chinese tradition on airplanes anyway). After deplaning, I noticed a few more passengers - perhaps made aware by the inflight announcement about the Chinese-made aircraft - taking photos of the C919. Saving a few bumps along the way, it was a decidedly uneventful journey. Most people - including frequent fliers like me - likely didn't feel much difference flying this C919 compared to previous flights on the ubiquitous A320 or B737.

As far as my passenger expectation goes, this C919 flight has earned a solid B in terms of safety and comfort. At the end of the day, travelers don't usually choose flights based on aircraft type - unless they feel there's compelling reasons to do so (as shown recently following several incidents involving Boeing jets). COMAC undoubtedly has a lot riding on the success of the C919, as the Chinese government tries to upgrade key industries and reduce reliance on Western technology. Geopolitics and national pride aside, though, for a passenger aircraft program to soar, analysts have pointed out that COMAC needs to prove the C919's reliability to potential operators in Southeast Asia, Africa and other emerging markets - in the absence of quick certification by US and European regulators. If more passengers continue to have "remarkably unremarkable" experiences on the C919, COMAC may just be able to turn its jetliner from a show horse to the workhorse of airlines in China and beyond.



PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 810 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Friday, gaining 810.19 more points, a positive change of 0.98 percent, closing at 83,531.96 points against 82,721.77 points on the last working day.

A total of 381,529,555 shares were traded during the day as compared to 319,879,266 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 20.523 billion against Rs. 16.414 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 444 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 201 of them recorded gains and 167 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 76 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Pace (Pak) Limited with 59,298,044

shares at Rs 6.29 per share, Pak Petroleum with 21,636,537 shares at Rs 118.60 per share and Kohinoor Spinning with 19,496,228 shares at Rs 8.12 per share.

Hallmark Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 91.85 per share price, closing at Rs 1,175.34, whereas the runner-up was Sapphire Fibres Limited with Rs 79.00 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,349.00.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 87.87 per share closing at Rs 17,412.13 followed by ZIL Limited with Rs 16.80 decline to close at Rs 218.34.

Rupee gains 23 paise against dollar

Pakistani rupee on Friday appreciated by 23 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and

closed at Rs277.51 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.74.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278.50 and Rs280 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by 82 paise to close at Rs305.94 against the last day's closing of Rs306.76, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.89, whereas an increase of 96 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs365.39 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs364.43.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal decreased by

06 paise 12 paise to close at Rs75.55 and Rs73.87.

Gold prices up by Rs1,800 to Rs276,200 per tola

The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,800 and was sold at Rs.276,200 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs. 274,400 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 1,543 to Rs. 236,797 from Rs. 235,254 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 217,064 from Rs. 215,650, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.3,050 and Rs.2,614.88 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$18 to \$2,660 from \$2,642, the Association reported.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah along with foreign delegates inaugurating Pakistan First 2 day International Date Palm Festival in collaboration with Khalifa International Awards (UAE) organized by Ministry of National Food Security at Expo Center.

SBP injects Rs1,012b into market

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Friday, injected Rs1,012.3 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase Open Market Operation (OMO).

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on October 4, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted 11 bids totaling to Rs1,012.3 billion.

The central bank received 9 bids for 7-day tenor cumulatively offering an amount of Rs882.3 billion at the rate of return ranging between 17.56 to 17.65 percent while 2 bids amounting to Rs130 billion were received for the 28-day tenor at the rate of return ranging between 17.60 to 17.61 %.

The central bank accepted all the 9 quotes worth Rs882.3 billion for the 7-day tenor at 17.56% rate of return while the 2 bids for 28-day tenor amounting to Rs130 billion were accepted at 17.60% rate of return.

The SBP, meanwhile, also conducted Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation for the 7-day and 28-day tenors but no bid was received for both the tenors.

Pak, China ink material transfer agreement to boost citrus industry

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan, China inked a material transfer agreement to boost citrus industry.

The Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) signed between Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan (HZAU) and the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF). According to Gwadar Pro on Friday, the signing ceremony for citrus rootstock and scion budwood was held at UAF on September 30.

Prof. Dr. Liu Yongzhong, a collaborative scientist from HZAU, handed over nine citrus varieties budwood to Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor of UAF, under the Higher Education Commission-funded project (CEPC-CRG-447).

The agreement marks a major step in the ongoing collaboration between the two universities aimed at enhancing the citrus industry in Pakistan.

Last year, UAF and HZAU signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a China-Pakistan Horticulture Research and Demonstration Center with the urgent objective of

improving citrus production and fruit quality and ultimately increasing profitability.

Citrus holds a prominent position among the thirty fruit crops grown in Pakistan, ranking first in terms of area (approximately 200,000 hectares) and production (2.29 million tonnes). In 2021, Pakistan generated \$171 million through citrus fruit exports, accounting for one-third of the total value of fruit exports.

Punjab stands out as the largest citrus producer in the country, contributing over 95% of the total production.

The mandarin fruit 'Kinnow' is the most cultivated citrus variety in Pakistan, accounting for over 80% of other citrus genotypes, due to its attractive peel color, size, ease of peeling, high juice content, and excellent taste and aroma.

However, citrus trees are sensitive and prone to both biotic and abiotic stresses.

Climate change poses serious challenges to citrus growth and productivity due to abiotic stresses.

Additionally, recent years have seen an increase in insect pest infestations on fruit plantations.

Pakistan's citrus production per unit area is significantly lower (11.4 tonnes/hectare) compared to developed countries (25 tonnes/hectare), with reduced tree lifespan and compromised fruit quality adversely affecting export potential.

Only 10% of the total citrus production is exported, leading to severe financial constraints for citrus producers who must sell their produce locally at lower prices.

Moreover, the Kinnow mandarin, a late variety, has a short harvest window of 2-3 months, further limiting production and export opportunities.

The MTA signed between UAF and HZAU aims to address these challenges by introducing new citrus varieties and technologies that can improve productivity, manage diseases, extend the harvest window, and diversify varieties to reduce the risk associated with Kinnow monoculture.

World Investor Week 2024 marked at PSX with a gong ceremony



F.P. Reort

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), under the aegis of World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), of which PSX is an Affiliate Exchange, in partnership with International Organisation of Securities Commission (IOSCO), marked World Investor Week (WIW) 2024 through a gong ceremony held at PSX Trading Hall. The WIW with the theme of 'Ring the Bell for Financial Literacy' is being held from October 7 - 13, 2024. This is the fourth consecutive year that PSX is holding and organising the World Investor Week.

The participants of the gong ceremony included representatives from the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), SROs, securities brokers, asset management companies, and Pakistan Stock Brokers Association (PSBA) among others. The hosts included Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson PSX; Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, Acting CEO PSX; Board member(s) PSX and senior management of PSX. The week-long activities in World Investor Week will be focused on promoting financial literacy and to raise awareness about investor education and protection. This is an ongoing effort by the capital market to encourage financial inclusion and foster learn-

ing opportunities for investors.

The gong was struck by the Chief Guest, Mr. Akif Saeed, Chairman SECP, amidst the presence of the PSX Chairperson, Board member(s) and Acting CEO. Senior management of PSX, heads of leading brokerage houses and AMCs, were also present to officially mark the week-long World Investor Week and to open the trading day.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Akif Saeed, Chairman SECP, stated, "PSX's unwavering commitment to improving outreach and enhancing financial literacy in the country is laudable. Promoting awareness about the financial landscape is a continuous journey, because just like the evolution of financial markets, ongoing efforts are needed to equip investors to make well-informed decisions, and navigate the complexities of today's financial markets".

He added, "Pakistan's rapidly growing youth population, combined with significant advancements in digital infrastructure, present a remarkable opportunity for our capital market to attract a new generation of investors. With nearly 67% of the population under the age of 30, we have a vast pool of potential investors who are eager to explore opportunities for wealth creation and financial security. As we embark on this week filled with learning,

sharing, and collaboration, I urge each of you to seize this opportunity to disseminate knowledge and empower individuals within our communities. By working together, we can strengthen the foundation of our financial markets, instill confidence among investors, and pave the way for sustainable economic growth".

Nadeem Naqvi, Acting CEO PSX, in his welcome address, thanked the SECP Chairman for gracing the occasion with his presence. He gave an example of the 'Sahulat Account' facility and how easy it was now to open an investment trading account online in just a few minutes. After selecting a stockbroker and online transfer of funds, the prospective investor could start investing within a few hours. This highlighted the enormous technological progress made by Pakistan's capital market institutions (PSX, CDC & NCCPL) in digitising end-to-end account opening, trading and settlement process.

While highlighting the ease and convenience of stock market investing now available, Mr. Naqvi also highlighted the importance of risk assessment, individual investors' personal financial circumstances and advised that only a small portion of an individual's overall savings should be invested in the stock market and investors should gradu-

ally try to learn about companies they invest in and also the interesting journey of companies themselves as they grow and prosper.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson PSX, stated, "Pakistan Stock Exchange marks the World Investor Week each year in recognition of the importance of financial literacy for the public in general and for investors and stakeholders of the capital market in particular.

Pakistan Stock Exchange makes consistent efforts throughout the year to disseminate financial awareness on various platforms such as in-person sessions, workshops, courses and webinars, among others, to highlight the importance of saving and investing, and learning the ropes of investing on the stock market, for the benefit of investors".

She added, "In the last fiscal year, over 80 institutions across the country were imparted sessions on financial education and awareness. As many as 162 investor awareness sessions were held across the country. More than 15,000 members of the general public including students, corporate employees and others from a broad spectrum of society were educated on basics of financial literacy in the last fiscal year through in-person sessions & workshops. In addition to our on-ground efforts, we also reach out through digital platforms whereby PSX regularly conducts webinars in collaboration with brokers, mutual fund companies and other key institutions to generate awareness about savings and investment. The objective is to raise the country's savings rate and deploy those savings into productive sectors".

Decolonization in Pakistan

Khawaja Wajih-u-Din

Decolonization is a process by which colonies become independent of the colonizing country. The Indian Independence Act 1947, containing the provisions for setting up the two independent dominions of Pakistan and India from 15 August 1947, stated that both of the new dominions were to be governed according to the Government of India Act, 1935 until their respective Constituent Assemblies had produced a constitution. Unlike in India, with the appointment of Viscount Mountbatten, Quaid-e-Azam (a native) became Pakistan's first Governor-General.

On 12 March 1949, the Objectives Resolution, which now serves as the grand norm of Pakistan, was adopted. On 23rd March, 1956 Pakistan adopted its constitution and Pakistan thus became an Islamic Republic. Objective resolution, in its entirety has been made part of the constitution of 1973 under article 2 (a) thereof.

Main features of the Objectives Resolution were that Sovereignty over the entire universe belongs to Almighty Allah alone. The authority which He has del-

egated to the state of Pakistan through its people for being exercised within the limits prescribed by Him is a sacred trust. The state shall exercise its power through the representatives of the people. Principles of Democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice as enunciated by Islam will be fully observed. Muslims shall be enabled to organize their lives in accordance with the teachings and requirements of Islam as set out in the Quran and the Sunnah.

Minorities to have freedom to freely profess and practice their religions and develop their cultures. Provisions for safeguarding the legitimate interests of minorities, backward and depressed classes. Objective resolution was a commitment which was not fulfilled. Despite the long lip service, nothing material or practical, was done to replace the colonial mindset in the elected representatives, government, administration, state functionaries, judges, forces and even people from ordinary walk of life. Resultantly the colonial imperialism, without perhaps any intention of the powers that be, continues to flourish in an Islamic state.

The administration, state, machinery, elected

representatives, and Government functionaries continues to have colonial mindset. They proudly write "most obedient servant" to the bosses. They consider themselves as elite class and not answerable to the masses. I remember that as a Section Officer in the then Government of NWFP (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) notifying the death of a Sr. Civil servant. The practice was to write, "is pleased to". I objected to the same and thanks to my superiors got it replaced with the words, with "grief and sorrow", after a lot of arguments.

The Judiciary continues to feels pride in the colonial norms of "His Lordship" and "your honor." The legal fraternity as a whole seems unaware of their importance. Their actions are mostly politically motivated or based on self-advantage and survival. Preservation instinct is deep rooted everywhere. Hence Law continues to be in a foreign language. The proceedings of the courts continue to be in English. The decisions of all the courts are also in the language which majority of the population does not understand.

We do realize that colonial and imperialist

power made laws and trained the state machinery to further their interest, and not in the interest and for welfare of the people of the country. The ground reality is that we continue to suffer from complex because of a foreign language and imported culture. The ground reality in Pakistan is that whoever quotes a price in English in any departmental store is considered to be authentic and reliable in Pakistan. In ordinary walk of life, a person who speaks a local or national language, is looked down upon. Intelligence is measured by the spoken and written English and not by creativity, ability and merit. Parents continue to get their children admitted to English medium institutions, perhaps to produce successful future leaders.

Normally the impact of colonialism on Indigenous peoples results in systemic racism, poverty, economic inequity, violence, loss of language and culture complexes, whether superior or inferior, bigotry, theft, deceit, bribery, fraud, poor treatment of indigenous populations, income and wealth inequality, weak governmental infrastructure, and religious conflicts etc. An impartial assessment of us would conclude

that we have all the traits mentioned above.

Be as it may many of these habits go away with the passage of time and building of strong institutions despite passage of 77 years, there has not been decrease in these traits nor we have been able to build any strong institutions to curb these negative tendencies. The most worrying approach on the ground is association of ethics and morality to the colonial powers in the world. To me, this is the most biggest challenge that our country faces in the modern world, particularly when colonial powers in the world have been exposed for the double standards in the recent Palestinian and other crisis and the duplicity that they have when it comes to human and fundamental rights, protection of their economic, social and political interests.

To know about the locals and their way of life before the British government replaced the east India Company. I need to mention what Lord Macaulay stated in the British Parliament on February 2, 1835. "I have travelled across the length and breadth of India and I have not seen one person who is a beggar, who is a thief.

Such wealth I have seen in this country, such high moral values, people of such calibre, that I do not think we would ever conquer this country, unless we break the very backbone of this nation, which is her spiritual and cultural heritage, and, therefore, I propose that we replace her old and ancient education system, her culture, for if the Indians think that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own, they will lose their self-esteem, their native self-culture and they will become what we want them, a truly dominated nation."

In consequence thereof, as a matter of policy the imperialist power deliberately destroyed every indigenous custom and tradition, values, local institutions, dress codes, language, and replaced it with the system with suited their interest. They did not want people who were creative and had critical thinking or ability. They were not interested in thriving of the local population. The subjugation of the local population was their target, divide and rule was their policy and looting the indigenous resources was their main aim.

For the Hindu population, it was just change of masters. The Muslims hav-

ing remained in power, were the real sufferers under the British imperialism. After Tipu Sultan death to degrade his system of governance, the colonizers downgraded the title of "KHAN Saman "with "khanSama", meaning a cook. It would not be out of place to mention that "KHAN Saman "was a very important government minister for revenue in Sultan's era. Similarly, the governor under the Tipu sultan was called a "Subedar. "Subedar" was categorized as a lower rank army official by them. Likewise, the term "Khalifa" was humiliated by branding barbers as "Khalifa". Khalifa for Muslims is a sacred position which signifies the head of the "Ummah".

The history tells us that many locals who were able, educated, learned and knowledgeable, suddenly became out of job due to change in the official language which became English. The dress code of the locals and the nobility was humiliated by making menial servants of the imperial crown wear it. People standing outside a hotel and waiters are a few examples. The dress code of Qazi's was changed and the dresses that they used to

wear were declared as dress code of low paid employees. Civil service was created to serve the interest of the imperial crown, and not of the locals.

To my mind we must highlight local culture and values. Research and more research on our past is the need of the day. We have to make conscious effort to get rid of colonial legacy conscious slavery and inferiority complex. The government must try to implement local customs and traditions, promote local languages, and values. The system has to get rid of the imperial power in the form of Khan's, Chaudhary's, Wedairas and other landowners who are also a colonial legacy.

We have to improve our system which is based on the objective resolution and ensure that merit is followed in the letter and spirit. The path provided by the father of the nation is significant in developing strong institutions. If New Zealand can be a country which closely follows Quranic principles, why cannot Pakistan do so?

Decolonizing, our minds can be the first step.

(The writer former Registrar Peshawar High Court)



In brief

Waseem to face Memisishi tonight

MALTA (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan's star boxer Muhammad Waseem is set to face Georgia's Jana Memisishi of Georgia in a ranking fight here tonight. The fight, approved by the World Boxing Federation (WBF), will take place at 10:30 PM local Malta time (10:00 PM PST). Muhammad Waseem, the two-time WBC Silver World Champion, has urged Pakistanis to pray for his success, expressing his determination to secure a victory for the nation. "I request all Pakistanis to pray for me so that I can win this fight for Pakistan and make my country proud," Waseem stated ahead of the bout. The fight will see both boxers vying for an important spot in the global rankings. Earlier today, both Waseem and Jana Memisishi weighed in successfully, meeting the required limits for their respective weight classes. For the unversed, Waseem topped the WBA boxing ranking in the Flyweight category in December 2021, becoming the first-ever Pakistani boxer to achieve this feat.

National fastest competition on Oct 8

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 1st Superior national fastest men and women competition will be held on October 8, at Punjab Stadium, Lahore. According to President, Athletics Federation of Pakistan, Brig. Wajahat Hussain (R) all men and women players from all over the country will take part in the mega event. The invitation letter has already been issued to the affiliated units, including departments, provincial and regional associations. He said the cash prizes will be awarded to winner men and women athletes including 1st prize Rs 100,000, 2nd prize Rs 50,000, 3rd prize Rs 25,000 and 4 to 8 position holders Rs 10,000 each. All interested players who can take part in the competition, and can register their name by October 5. All athletes will report at Punjab Stadium, on October 8 at 9am to Rafique Ahmad, President, National Coaching Association and Ch. Asghar Ali Gill, Head Coach, Athletics Federation of Pakistan, for registration and scrutiny of documents. This mega event will be held under supervision of Athletics Federation of Pakistan and in collaboration with Superior University, Lahore.

Court says FIFA rules breach EU law

PARIS (Agencies): The transfer rules of world soccer's governing body FIFA go against European Union laws, the EU's top court said in a ruling on a high-profile case linked to former France player Lassana Diarra on Friday, citing the bloc's free movement principles. "The rules in question are such as to impede the free movement of professional footballers wishing to develop their activity by going to work for a new club," said the Luxembourg-based Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) say a player who terminates a contract before its term "without just cause" is liable to pay compensation to the club, and where the player joins a new club they will be joint and severally liable for payment of compensation.



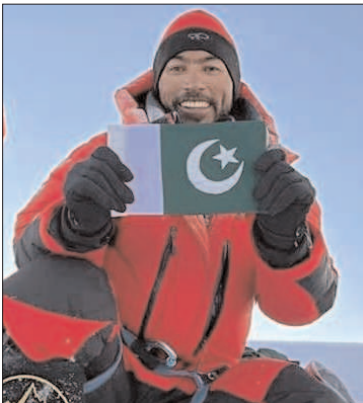
LAHORE: Golfer playing his short during 10th CNS Amateur Net Shield Golf Tournament at Defence Raya Golf club Lahore.

Sirbaz becomes first Pakistani to summit all 14 peaks above 8000m

KHAPLU, Gilgit-Baltistan (Monitoring Desk): Renowned Pakistani climber Sirbaz Khan made history on Friday by becoming the first Pakistani to summit all 14 of the world's highest peaks, with his successful ascent of Shishapangma, standing at 8,027 meters, as confirmed by Pakistan's Alpine Club and Imagine Nepal. The 14 peaks, often referred to as the "eight-thousanders," are over 8,000 meters high and are considered the ultimate test in high-altitude mountaineering. Khan, who was born and raised in Hunza, embarked on this journey in 2017 with the ascent of Nanga Parbat, one of the deadliest mountains in the world. Over the years, he has climbed formidable peaks, including K2, Everest and Annapurna, solidifying his reputation as one of the world's elite mountaineers. He also completed 11 of these summits without supplemental oxygen, demonstrating his remarkable endurance and skill. "Sirbaz Khan has become the first Pakistani mountaineer to conquer all 14 of the world's peaks above 8,000 meters, in an incredible display of courage and determination," Karrar Haidri, the general secretary for the Alpine Club of Pakistan, told private channel in a text message. "This extraordinary accomplishment demonstrates his unwavering passion and dedication to the sport of mountaineering."

South Africa cruise to statement WC win over Windies

DUBAI (Agencies): South Africa opened their Women's T20 World Cup with a statement 10-wicket win over West Indies in Dubai. Last year's finalists reached their below-par target of 119 with 13 balls to spare as Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits both struck impressive half-centuries. Captain Wolvaardt finished unbeaten on 59 and Brits made 57 to complete a dominant performance with both bat and ball. Spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba took 4-29 and all-rounder Marizanne Kapp 2-14 as West Indies stuttered to 118-6 after being put in to bat. Kapp took the prize wicket of captain Hayley Matthews for just 10 before Mlaba worked her way through the middle order, with West Indies slipping to 83-6. But former captain Stafanie Taylor's unbeaten 44 from 41 balls gave the 2016 champions a late boost, though her lone effort proved



most extreme conditions during his mountaineering career. "Faced with freezing temperatures, treacherous avalanches, oxygen-depleted altitudes, and the constant threat of crevasses, he has repeatedly demonstrated his resilience and strength," he added. "His success not only represents personal triumph but also serves as an inspiration to mountaineers worldwide." Khan's achievement was also acknowledged by Imagine Nepal, the tour company that organized the expedition, in a social media post. "In an extraordinary achievement, 11 climbers from Imagine Nepal reached the true summit of Mt. Shishapangma (8,027m) at 4:06 p.m. CST [Central Standard Time] on 04 October 2024," it wrote on Facebook. "Mr. Sirbaz Khan has earned his place in history by summiting all 14

of the highest peaks, making him the first Pakistani climber to achieve this feat," the company added. Speaking to Arab News, Shahbaz Khan, the Pakistani climber's brother, said the whole family was celebrating the moment. "We are gathered to attend the marriage ceremony of our cousin," he said. "All of our relatives are here and celebrating Sirbaz's achievement." He said everyone was praying for his safe descent from the treacherous mountain, adding the next step would be to warmly receive him upon his arrival in Pakistan. Khan also started receiving congratulations from fellow climbers soon after the news of his success began to spread. "I salute your monumental achievement," Shehroz Kashif, a young climber who has already conquered 13 of the world's tallest peaks, said in a Facebook post. "Becoming the first Pakistani to summit all 14 8,000ers is a testament to your unwavering determination, resilience, and mountaineering prowess." "Your name etched in history inspires a nation," he added. Kashif noted that he will be following in Khan's footsteps "in a few days," as he prepares to summit the last of the 14 peaks on his list in Tibet. Pakistan's prominent female mountain climber Naila Kiani also applauded the development on social media. "First Pakistani to summit all 14 X 8,000m peaks," she said without naming Khan. "History has been made."

New Zealand stun India in T20 WC

DUBAI (Agencies): India suffered a shock 58-run defeat by New Zealand in their opening match of the Women's T20 World Cup in Dubai. The White Ferns were on a dismal run of form, losing their 10 previous T20s, but came out with admirable aggression from the outset by posting an imposing 160-4. Openers Suzie Bates and Georgia Plimmer blasted 67 in 7.3 overs, with the former dropped on 18 as India's fielding wilted in response to the explosive start. India, one of the pre-tournament contenders, fought back strongly in the middle overs only for New Zealand skipper Sophie Devine to strike a counter-attacking 57 not out at the death. In reply, India buckled under the run-rate pressure, slipping to 75-6 and then 102 all out in the face of impressively disciplined New Zealand bowling, with seamer Rosemary Mair's career-best 4-19 leading the way.

Five India batters reached double figures but none made more than captain Harmanpreet Kaur's 15 as the wickets tumbled in pursuit of much-needed boundaries throughout. New Zealand's own innings stuttered slightly after Bates and Plimmer fell in consecutive overs and Melie Kerr only managed 13, but Devine's knock proved the difference as her strong finish helped her side take all the momentum into the defence of their total. A tough group which also includes defending champions Australia is now wide open, with India almost in must-win territory already if they are to make it to the semi-finals. They face Pakistan next on Sunday, while New Zealand take on favourites Australia on Tuesday.

Team confident ahead of test series against Pakistan: Zak Crawley

MULTAN (APP): England's opener, Zak Crawley, has expressed team's confidence and readiness ahead of the much-anticipated test series against Pakistan, going to start from October 7, with two matches at Multan Cricket Stadium. Talking to the media after a rigorous practice session at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Friday, Crawley said that the England team was fully prepared and aims to play excellent cricket throughout the series. He acknowledged the challenging weather conditions, saying "the weather in Multan was quite hot, just as it was during the previous tour to Pakistan". He said the team had adapted well, and the preparations were completed. He said that the team was focusing on playing pressure-free cricket to ensure the best possible performance against the strong Pakistan side. Crawley also highlighted the strength of England's bowling attack, including some promising new spinners, which he believes will be pivotal in the upcoming matches. "The pitch here in Multan was quite flat last time, but from what the team has seen, it looks more favorable for the bowlers now. Hopefully, it will also offer good opportunities for the batsmen," Crawley noted. When asked about Pakistan's star batsman and former captain, Babar Azam, Crawley was full of praise. "Babar was an

excellent and experienced batsman and also the Pakistan was a very strong team with skilled batsmen, bowlers, and all-rounders, especially on their home ground, he said and added that the team cannot take Pakistan team lightly, and players were fully prepared to face them. The England team's practice session included intensive drills in batting, bowling, and fielding, with players also completing laps around the ground. The three-match Test series was set to kick off on October 7 in Multan, where both teams will be vying for an early advantage. With both sides looking strong, cricket fans can expect an exciting contest between two well-prepared teams.



MULTAN: England Cricket team players in a net practice session for upcoming Test series against Pakistan Cricket team at Multan Cricket Stadium.

De Bruyne out of Belgium Nations League squad

BRUSSELS (AFP): Belgium coach Domenico Tedesco named his squad on Friday that will take on Italy and France in the Nations League, with Manchester City star Kevin De Bruyne missing out through injury. The 33-year-old midfielder had left the question of his international future somewhat up in the air but told Tedesco that he would still be available for selection for the next two years. Belgium will play Italy in Rome on October 10, before travelling to Brussels to face France four days later. Squad: Goalkeepers: Koen Casteels (Al Qadsiyah/KSA), Matz Sels (Nott'ham Forest/ENG), Maarten Vandevoortd (RB Leipzig/GER) Defenders: Sebastiaan Bornaauw (Wolfsburg/GER), Timothy Castagne (Fulham/ENG), Zeno

Debast (Sporting Portugal/POR), Maxim De Cuyper (Club Bruges), Wout Faes (Leicester/ENG), Matte Smets (Genk), Arthur Theate (Eintracht Frankfurt/GER), Koni De Winter (Genoa/ITA) Midfielders: Charles De Ketelaere (Atalanta/ITA), Amadou Onana (Aston Villa/ENG), Orel Mangala (Lyon/FRA), Youri Tielemans (Aston Villa/ENG), Arne Engels (Celtic/SCO), Malik Fofana (Lyon/FRA) Forwards: Johan Bakayoko (PSV/NED), Jeremy Doku (Manchester City/ENG), Dodi Lukebakio (Sevilla/ESP), Lois Openda (RB Leipzig/GER), Cyril Ngonge (Naples/ITA), Leandro Trossard (Arsenal/ENG).

Muchova ends Sabalenka streak to reach China Open semis



BEIJING (Agencies): Karolina Muchova resisted a fightback from number one seed Aryna Sabalenka to win 7-6 (7-5) 2-6 6-4 and reach the semi-finals of the China Open. Muchova will face China's Qinwen Zheng in the last four after she came from a set down to beat Russia's Mirra Andreeva 5-7 6-0 6-4. The Czech has won her past three matches against world number two Sabalenka, who was attempting to make it 16 wins on the bounce. "Tennis is really a

rollercoaster," Muchova said. "I had to fight for every ball and, in the end, it was worth it. "I'll try to recover as best as possible, I don't have a day off [before the semi-final], and I'll wait to see who my opponent is." Muchova had to defend five break points to come through the first set but was overpowered in the second. Sabalenka then broke in the opening game of the third set, but world number 49 Muchova refused to allow the three-time Grand Slam champion out of sight. Belarusian Sabalenka had not been beaten since 10 August, winning the Cincinnati Open and US Open, external during that period, but it was Muchova who found an extra gear to win four games in a row and take a step closer to her first WTA title of the year. In Friday's other quarter-final, Zheng executed a remarkable turnaround to defeat Russia's Andreeva. World number 22 Andreeva won the first four games of the opener, but lost the following five and had to wrap up the set via a tie-break. Zheng, who won gold at the 2024 Paris Olympics, had a renewed energy when the second set began - recording a bagel to level the match. Andreeva appeared to have wrestled back control when leading 4-2 in the third until world number seven Zheng won four games in a row to book her spot in the semis.



DUBAI: Eden Carson had Shafali Verma caught and bowled, India vs New Zealand, T20 World Cup 2024.



In brief

Police on high alert to ensure law and order

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district police would ensure law and order situation and over 4000 police personnel have been deployed under security arrangements finalized to maintain law and order in Rawalpindi, said City Police Officer (CPO), Rawalpindi, Syed Khalid Hamdani. He informed that police personnel were deployed on all entry and exit points and main roads. Trained squads were also on high alert to deal with such elements who try to disturb law and order. The CPO said that strict legal action would be taken against the rules violators. With the help of CCTV cameras throughout the city, miscreants and lawbreakers would be identified, he said adding, no one would be allowed to disturb law and order or damage the public and private property. Enforcement of the law would be ensured in any case, he added.

IRSA releases 156,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 156,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 126,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1536.72 feet and was 138.72 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 73,400 cusecs and 70,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1211.905 feet, which was 163.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 11,600 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 81,500, 76,800, 62,700 and 11,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 18,800 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

ITP organizes road safety workshop

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Traffic Police ITP education wing organized one-day workshop on road safety at WAPDA Staff College on Friday. The workshop was attended by education wing member, drivers and other staff of the government organization, the spokesman said. Moreover, the workshop participants were briefed on road safety, cautious driving, and other traffic laws, he said. He said ITP education wing educated drivers and staff on road safety, hazards of using mobile phones while driving, seatbelt usage, risks of riding motorcycles without helmets, consideration for rights of other road users, and awareness regarding the use of headlights, zebra crossings, dangers of speeding, and other traffic laws. Organization members praised the Islamabad Police efforts for organizing the initiative which emphasizes the importance of such workshops in educating participants about various aspects of road safety, he added. He said during the event, officers from the education wing advised participants to adhere to traffic laws and drive cautiously to ensure their and others' safety. On the occasion, senior police officers said that it was the duty of the Islamabad Police to inform the drivers about road safety and traffic rules and the Islamabad Police was fulfilling its duty in a professional manner, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar addressing a press conference. —APP Photo

ICT admin bans pillion riding for two days

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad district administration has announced a temporary ban on pillion riding, effective from today and lasting until October 5 to maintain public order and ensure safety in the Federal Capital.

According to the spokesman of ICT administration, the decision aims to prevent potential disruptions to public peace and safety.

Meanwhile, in an official notification, the ban applies to all motorcyclists in Islamabad. No more than one person will be allowed to ride a motorcycle at any

time during the ban. The authorities have warned that strict legal action will be taken against anyone found violating this order.

The ban has been issued under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). The Additional District Magistrate of Islamabad, Usman Ashraf, has stated that the measure is necessary to prevent threats to public peace and safety. The authorities believe that some individuals riding in pairs on motorcycles may engage in activities that could harm public life and property.

The notification explains that the ban is meant to provide immediate protection to the public and avoid any violent incidents.

Furthermore, law enforcement agencies will monitor the situation closely, and violators will face legal consequences.

The ban will be in effect throughout Islamabad district and will apply for the next two days, with the primary goal of maintaining order in the city.

The authorities have urged citizens to comply with the restrictions to help ensure public safety.

Secretary WPC along with MNAs visit NORI hospital

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Shahida Rehmani along with women parliamentarians visited the Nuclear Medicine, Oncology and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI) hospital in Islamabad to commemorate the start of Breast Cancer awareness month.

The delegation was briefed by Director NORI, Dr. Muhammad Faheem, and Head of the Department of Oncology, Dr. Humaira Mahmood, said a news release. The visit was organized to acknowledge the critical issue of breast cancer in Pakistan, assess the current state of healthcare delivery, and discuss the support mechanisms available for patients facing challenges in affording treatment.

The Women Parliamentarians also evaluated the hospital's capacity to manage the increasing patient load and reviewed the use of advanced technologies and medications that offer cutting-edge treatments. During the visit, Dr. Humaira presented detailed statistics on breast cancer in Pakistan, highlighting that breast cancer remains the most prevalent form of cancer, affecting one in every eight women.

She emphasized that the country has a significantly lower rate of early detection compared to Western nations, attributing this disparity to a lack of awareness, poverty, and cultural barriers. The members stressed the urgent need for effective awareness campaigns, particularly for encouraging early detection, to help reduce the alarming number of cases.

The WPC underscored their commitment to amplifying awareness on breast cancer and acknowledged the efforts of NORI Hospital in providing comprehensive cancer care. They praised the hospital's provision of diagnostic and treatment services, including chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and surgical interventions, noting that in 2023 alone, NORI treated 10,198 breast cancer patients, reflecting a rising trend in the incidence of this disease.

Established in 1983 by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), NORI Hospital serves over 18 million people and continues to be at the forefront of cancer treatment in the region. With 19 PAEC hospitals across the country and support from provincial, private, and armed forces hospitals, the healthcare system remains dedicated to combatting cancer and supporting affected families.

Ayaz advocates for teachers' esteemed role in society

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Friday called for appreciating the profound impact that teachers have on individuals and the nation as a whole.

"The teachers not only impart knowledge but also teach and nurture students to become responsible citizens and productive members of the workforce," the Speaker said in his message on the World Teachers' Day, being celebrated annually on October 5 across the globe.

"The teachers impart wisdom and instill ethics in their students often amidst challenging circumstances," he added.

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the religious and cultural

teachings that underscored the respect and reverence owed to the teachers.

"Teaching is not merely a profession but a noble cause."

He said that a great ambition and devotion was required to guide the youth in discerning right from wrong and in turn enabling them to make decisions that affect not only their lives but also the fabric of nation and the world.

Ayaz Sadiq, while urging the nation to honour the educators in Pakistan, stated, "Giving teachers the rightful place in society is essential for promoting education in the country."

The Speaker also highlighted the unwavering commitment of Parliament of Pakistan for uplifting

and upholding the due respect deserved by teachers.

"The Parliament is fully committed to ensure that the teachers across Pakistan are being duly compensated and given their rightful place in the society."

NA Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, in his message, paid rich tribute to the teachers, saying as Islam had declared teachers as spiritual parents, therefore, "it is incumbent upon us to honour them".

He said that the teachers played a vital role in shaping a civilized society. "We owe our success to our teachers, who had strived for our betterment."

Muqam criticizes PTI for disturbing peace in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister Amir Muqam on Friday criticized chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur for disturbing peace and business activity in country through public meetings.

He said Ali Amin Gandapur was using official resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for holding public rally in the federal capital.

Talking to a private television channel, he said

the CM KP should resolve the problems of the people of province and refrain from arranging public gathering in the capital.

"Important high level delegations are coming to this country to enhance bilateral and business relations with Pakistan," he said adding that PTI was trying to disrupt peaceful environment of the capital at this critical moment.

He said that PTI had a track record of derailing

economic activity in the country. The PTI had tried to halt the development projects some years back after staging sit-in in the federal capital, he added.

The people are suffering due to the stubborn attitude of PTI leaders, he said. In reply to a question, he said, no one is allowed to create law and order situation when the SCO session was going to be held in the Islamabad.

Surge in dengue cases, 130 new cases reported

RAWALPINDI (APP): Dengue attacks have accelerated as 130 new cases have been reported during the last 24 hours in Rawalpindi.

The data released by the health authority on Friday shows a total of 1740 patients have been diagnosed with dengue fever since January 2024. Beds' occupancies in the hospitals have also reached 281 as 56 new patients have been admitted to hospitals in one day.

Pothohar Town Peri Urban areas have been reported with 88 patients during the last 24 hours whereas 15 patients were reported from Municipal Corporation and 12 were reported from Rawalpindi Cantonment areas.

Chak Jalal Din of Pothohar Town Peri-Urban area has been a focused area since the majority of patients have been reported from the locality since the dengue outbreak in the current year.

On the other hand, the health authority has also intensified its surveillance, detection, and awareness campaigns. Multiple simultaneous activities are being run by different local administrations in collaborative efforts to tackle the prevailing challenge.

Rawalpindi Waste Management Company conducted an awareness walk and distributed pamphlets containing dengue preventive messages among citizens.

Rawalpindi Cantonment Board has catalyzed its fogging and spraying campaign. Officials and field workers of RCB are also engaged in taking action against dengue SOP's violations.

Various private schools have come upfront to create awareness campaigns among students by delivering lectures in classrooms. Students on Friday interacted with shopkeepers and street hackers to give them general messages about dengue fever, its

causes, and curing tips.

Yasir Rahman, Principal AIMHS led an awareness walk comprising students and teachers in the streets of Teach Bhatta and visited door to door to create awareness.

"We are playing our role on our part by conducting inside and outside activities to fight the dengue issue", he said and highlighted that the response from people remained positive.

Amjad Zeb, Founding Director Anam School informed APP that they were regularly conducting lectures on dengue fever.

"Besides lectures, we also conduct weekly awareness walks in surrounding areas to further enhance awareness among citizens", he said.

Zaheer ud Din Babar, a resident of RCB said that parents should regularly monitor their domestic water points and ensure taking preventive measures.



ISLAMABAD: Two men on their way carrying bundle of dry woods on head for domestic use. —APP Photo

BISP, WFP sign agreement to extend Benazir Nashonuma programme for two years

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have extended their partnership for another two years under the Benazir Nashonuma Programme.

The agreement was signed in a ceremony held today at BISP Headquarters, witnessed by Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of BISP.

Secretary BISP Mr. Amer Ali Ahmad and Ms. Coco Ushiyama, Country Director and Representative of WFP exchanged the agreement documents. This collaboration highlights the critical need to address malnutrition in Pakistan, where nearly 40% of chil-

dren under five suffer from stunting due to poor nutrition.

Benazir Nashonuma Programme aims to reduce stunting among pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and their children under two years of age by providing additional cash support to BISP beneficiary families. PLW and boy child will receive PKR 2,500 per quarter, while girl child will receive PKR 3,000 per quarter. Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson of BISP, Rubina Khalid emphasized the significance of this new agreement, describing it as a key step in the country's fight against malnutrition.

She said "The Government of Pakistan is proud to strengthen this

vital partnership with WFP. Our commitment to the Benazir Nashonuma Programme remains unwavering, and we are dedicated to expanding its reach and effectiveness to ensure that every child in Pakistan gets the opportunity of a healthy start in life, setting the foundation for a brighter and more prosperous future".

The first phase of the agreement concluded in June 2024, and under the second phase, the program will expand to cover 157 districts with 562 facilitation centers. WFP will continue to implement the program following the approved design and protocols, with an increased focus on quality. The second phase will run for two years, concluding in June 2026.

The key participants at the signing ceremony included Ms. Rathi Palakrishnan, Deputy Country Director; Mr. Eric Kenefick, Head of Programme; Ms. Rie Ishii, Head of Supply Chain; Ms. Mamoonah Ghaffar, Programme Policy Officer; Dr. Yasir Ihtesham, Head of Nutrition; Dr. Asma Badar, Programme Policy Officer; Nutrition; Dr. Ijaz Habib, Nutritionist, WFP KP office; and Mr. Ahmed Hassan, Procurement Officer.

IG Rizvi visits D-Chowk, various duty points

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, visited D-Chowk and various duty points and met with the officials of ICT Police and other law enforcement departments who were performing duties in order to maintain the law and order situation in the federal capital on Friday.

According to police statement, IG Rizvi instructed the officials to be highly alert and ready all the time to deal with any emerging law and order situation.

Addressing the officials he said, "Will shall take every possible necessary measures to protect the lives and property of citizens as well as private and commercial property and ready to thwart adventurism from any elements."

He said all the officials who were performing duties were putting their best efforts to maintain the law and order situation in the capital. IG vowed ICT Police will never allow anyone to disturb the peaceful environment of the city and will take all necessary steps to protect the lives and property of the citizens.

60 Afghan nationals held

KABUL (Amu TV): 60 Afghan nationals have been arrested ahead of a planned protest in neighbor country, media reported on Friday. Those detained were found carrying spiked batons, slingshots, and marbles. Authorities mobilized policemen to manage the demonstration and prevent protesters from reaching point. Security measures included deploying forces in the area. Meanwhile, Afghanistan national media yet not confirmed the report.

Marco Polo sheep rising

BADAKHSHAN (TOLONews): Population of Marco Polo sheep, which had been endangered in recent years, is now increasing. Faiz Rahman Ebrahimi, the head of the Badakhshan Environmental Protection Directorate, said that in the past, this rare animal was hunted excessively, but now its hunting has been stopped. The Marco Polo sheep, a rare species with global fame, lives in the mountain ranges of the Wakhan and Ishkashim districts of Badakhshan.

‘We seek cooperation to halt ISIS recruitment’



KABUL (TOLONews): Amir Khan Muttaqi, the acting Foreign Minister, in the sixth Moscow Format meeting, called on regional countries to cooperate in preventing their citizens from being recruited by ISIS and sent to Afghanistan. This meeting was held with the presence of representatives from China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan, India, and Central Asian countries, hosted by Russia, with a focus on Afghanistan.

At this meeting, Muttaqi expressed concerns about the establishment of ISIS training and equipping centers outside Afghanistan's borders. He added that over the past three years, attacks carried out in the name of ISIS in Afghanistan have mostly involved perpetrators who were citizens of other countries. He added: "We take this opportunity to ask all regional countries to cooperate in preventing their citizens from being recruited by ISIS and sent to

Afghanistan or other countries for destructive operations." The acting Foreign Minister also referred to statements made by some countries' representatives at the UN Security Council and in the media regarding existing threats in Afghanistan, calling them baseless. He said: "Do not view Afghanistan through the lens of foreigners." Muttaqi also called on neighboring countries to cooperate in preventing

processed drugs from being smuggled into Afghanistan, adding that an independent, secure, stable, and developed Afghanistan, free of drugs, would be in the interest of the region and the world. He further pointed to the opportunities that Afghanistan's security has provided to the Islamic Emirate and its partners, announcing the initiation of major regional projects, such as the TAPI pipeline project, the Turkmenistan-Pakistan electricity transmission project, and the development of railways and fiber optics in Afghanistan. He also pointed to the failure of the international system in preventing the killing of the people of Gaza by Israel and raised questions about the effectiveness of the United Nations. Earlier, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson had said that the peace process, the establishment of an inclusive government, the fight against terrorism and drugs, as well as Afghanistan's economic and political challenges, would be among the key topics of discussion in this meeting.

Poverty pushes children into hazardous labor

GHOR (Amu TV): Severe poverty in Afghanistan's Ghor province has forced families to send their young children into grueling work, often under dangerous conditions, as economic hardship deepens and aid remains out of reach. Local residents describe a desperate situation in which they have little choice but to rely on their children's labor to survive. For many families in Ghor, the last three years have been particularly brutal. Despite their ongoing struggles, they say they have received no humanitarian assistance from the government or international organizations. Without support, they are left to make difficult decisions, with the welfare and education of their children being the most significant casualties. Among these children is 7-year-old Musa, who was once a student but now spends his days performing physically demanding tasks and begging in the market of Tulak district. His parents, both disabled, are unable to provide for the family, leaving the burden of survival on Musa's small shoulders. "I used to go to school before, but now I can't," Musa said. "My father is paralyzed and can't work." Musa's hands, calloused from labor, reflect the growing reality for children in this region: school is a luxury they can no longer afford. Instead, they are thrust into the role of breadwinners, far too young for such responsibilities. Faqir Ahmad, Musa's father, contracted polio years ago, leaving him paralyzed. Now, he depends entirely on his young son. "There's nothing we can do," Faqir Ahmad explained, his voice heavy with resignation. "We have no food. Sometimes we borrow money just to eat, and my son is the only one who works."

The harsh economic conditions are not unique to Musa's family. Aidi Ma, a woman from the same district, faces a similar plight. Her husband, too, is disabled, leaving her with no choice but to turn to her children for help. Despite applying for aid multiple times, she says none has come. "They wrote my name down, but I haven't received any assistance at all," she said, her frustration evident. The district of Tulak, one of the larger and more populated regions in Ghor, is home to countless families like those of Musa and Aidi Ma. Most residents here live in extreme poverty, exacerbated by the lack of development and the long-standing conflicts that have destabilized much of Afghanistan. In Tulak and other parts of Ghor, even basic necessities such as food, clean water, and health services are scarce. The plight of these families highlights a broader issue affecting much of rural Afghanistan: as international aid dwindles and the government struggles to provide, the most vulnerable, particularly children, are being forced to sacrifice their future for mere survival. Since the Taliban's return to power in 2021, Afghanistan has faced increasing isolation from the international community. Sanctions and a freeze on Afghan assets abroad have crippled the economy. For provinces like Ghor, which were already suffering from underdevelopment and neglect, the situation has become dire. Humanitarian organizations have warned of the growing risk of famine in parts of the country, where millions are now food insecure. In districts like Tulak, where most residents rely on subsistence farming, the harsh winters and droughts have only compounded their difficulties. Many families, like Musa's, have been driven into debt, borrowing just to survive. Yet, even with these growing concerns, aid has not materialized. Locals say that while their names are often registered in aid programs, the promised assistance rarely arrives.

various provinces. The head of the Qatari Red Crescent said: "The Qatari Red Crescent will continue its cooperation with Afghanistan, and we also have another program under the title of 'Livelihood' that will provide job opportunities for another 324 families in different provinces, which will be inaugurated in the near future." At the same time, some participating youth urge the Islamic Emirate and donor countries to provide more opportunities for young people. Mohammad, a student, said: "The professions include tailoring, English, computers, welding, and construction. There are seven professions, and our request is that along with the training, we also get job opportunities." According to officials from the Afghan Red Crescent Society, out of the 800 participants in this program, 650 are women, who will receive training in fields such as tailoring, embroidery, and food preparation for three months.

it has supported us in difficult times when the whole world was heading towards the destruction of Muslims." Officials from the Qatari Red Crescent Society also assured the continuation of their cooperation with Afghanistan, saying that new programs will soon be launched to support an additional 324 families in

and what were once family-friendly environments have become overwhelmingly male-dominated. Sophia, a former second-year psychology student at Kabul University, was forced to stop her studies when the Taliban banned women from attending universities. She says the Taliban have turned Afghanistan into a prison for women, even barring them from recreational parks. "I've tried to visit parks several times, but the Taliban blocked me and my friends from entering," she said. "Just last week, we wanted to go to Qargha, but even though we had a male chaperone, women were not allowed in." Other women express similar frustrations. Nasrin, a resident of Kabul, said, "The Taliban's actions have worsened the mental health issues faced by women." After their return to power, the Taliban initially announced that women could visit parks three days a week without male companions. However, by November 2022, the regime banned women from attending recreational parks altogether, further restricting their already limited public freedoms.

Foreigners sought to bring disunity, ‘promote addiction’

PAKTIA (TOLONews): Shahabuddin Delawar, the head of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, in a meeting with local officials in Paktia province, said that during the past twenty years, foreigners were plotting to disintegrate Afghanistan. Delawar emphasized that encouraging addiction and promoting begging among Afghans were other conspiracies of foreigners in the country, and the authorities must thwart these schemes. The head of the Afghan Red Crescent Society added: "They wanted to divide Afghanistan into five parts: Eastern Afghanistan, Southern Afghanistan, Northern Afghanistan, and Central Afghanistan, to such an extent that each region would be a slave to the infidels." Delawar also pointed out that foreigners have stood against the Afghan people through propaganda and economic tools, preventing them from achieving peace.



Shahabuddin Delawar said: "They created a global conspiracy for our youth to make them addicted to drugs because a drug addict is neither committed to his religion nor his country." These remarks come at a time when senior officials of the Islamic Emirate have recently traveled to various provinces to listen to the problems of the people firsthand.

Afghan carpet exports surpass \$8m in 6 months

KABUL (TOLONews): Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad, spokesperson for the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, said that more than \$8 million worth of carpets were exported in the first six months of the current solar year. According to the spokesperson, Afghanistan has mostly exported carpets to Pakistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Uzbekistan. Efforts are being made to increase carpet exports by providing more facilities for traders. Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad added: "During the first six months of 1403 (solar year), a total of more than 2.3 million kilograms of carpets worth 8.7 million dollars were exported to countries such as Pakistan, Turkey, the

United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Italy, the United States, India, China, and others." Noor Ahmad Noori, head of the Union of Carpet Producers and Exporters, said: "Afghan carpets have a unique style and recognition among global customers. No country's carpets can replace Afghan carpets." Carpet weaving is considered one of the important industries in the country, with most citizens in the northern provinces, especially Jawzjan, Balkh, Faryab, and Sar-e Pol, engaged in carpet weaving. Meanwhile, Iranian media reported that the head of Iran's Commission for Arts and Handicrafts said that the smuggling of carpets from Afghanistan has filled the market for

Iranian handmade carpets. Several carpet sellers have said that holding exhibitions inside and outside the country would increase carpet sales and exports. Kambir, an Afghan carpet seller, told TOLONews: "We request the Islamic Emirate to reopen air corridors and facilitate us so that we can more easily export carpets to European countries, the United States, and Australia." The Afghan Carpet Union has consistently emphasized its participation in national and international exhibitions of the carpet industry and said that if issues in the visa issuance process for traders are addressed and air corridors are activated, carpet exports to various countries will increase further.

Legal migrants permitted only in hard labor jobs

KABUL (Khaama Press): The head of the Islamshahr Labor Office in Tehran announced a ban on employing undocumented Afghan migrants in the district. Behnam Emami stated that legal migrants can only work hard labor jobs and cannot be used in food production or sales sectors. Emami told Mehr News Agency that violators of this rule would face legal consequences. He emphasized that employing foreign nationals in Iran is only permissible for tough jobs and with a valid work visa, and they are prohibited from working in areas such as greenhouses, stores, and food-related industries. Emami urged the public to report any non-Iranian workers found in restricted jobs to the police. He

referred to Article 120 of Iran's Labor Law, which states that foreign nationals can only work in Iran if they possess a specific work visa. According to Emami, employers who hire foreign nationals without proper work permits will first be fined. If they continue to employ undocumented migrants, they will be prosecuted through judicial authorities. The ban and restrictions on Afghan migrants' employment in Iran are part of the broader effort by Iranian authorities to control undocumented migration amid rising tensions and growing numbers of Afghan refugees entering the country. Afghan refugees in Iran are facing increasing difficulties, with limited

employment opportunities and harsh legal restrictions on their livelihoods, contributing to their already precarious situation. Alongside job restrictions, many Afghan refugees are subjected to forced deportation, often without due process, exacerbating the dire humanitarian crisis they face. These deportations have raised concerns about human rights violations, particularly as Afghanistan remains in a state of turmoil. The plight of Afghan refugees highlights the urgent need for international attention and intervention, as these individuals, already fleeing war and instability, are being deprived of fundamental rights, employment, and security in neighboring countries like Iran.

258 migrant families return in single day



KABUL (Amu TV): As deportations continue, 258 Afghan migrant families returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan, according to the Taliban-run refugee ministry. Of these, 57 families came from Pakistan, while 201 returned from Iran. The ministry reported that 30 families entered Afghanistan from Pakistan via the Torkham border crossing, and 27 families crossed through Spin Boldak. Meanwhile, 76 families

returning from Iran used the Silk Road route, with 125 families entering through Islam Qala. The return of Afghan migrants comes amid growing concerns from those living in both neighboring countries about the challenges they face. In September, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that more than 230,000 individuals had returned from Iran to Afghanistan this year, with 43 percent of them being deported.

The UNHCR also noted that since September of last year, over 733,000 Afghan nationals have returned from Pakistan. The report highlighted that 6,094 Afghan citizens have been detained in Pakistan this year for lacking valid documentation. The large-scale return of Afghan migrants reflects ongoing regional migration challenges, with many Afghan families facing uncertainty and difficult living conditions upon their return.

UNICEF reports aiding over 1m Afghan children in August

KABUL (TOLONews): The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that in August, health services were provided to over 1,015,925 children. According to this report, 75,289 of these children, 58% of whom were girls, received outpatient treatment. The organization also stated that an additional 5,934 children were hospitalized at its health centers

in Afghanistan for treatment. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report reads: "In August, 1,015,925 children were screened for wasting, out of which 57,289 (58 per cent girls) were admitted for outpatient treatment, while 5,934 children with severe wasting and medical complications were referred for inpatient care." Dr. Sayed Abdullah

Ahmadi said: "If we look at the child mortality rates, UNICEF's services have had a significant positive impact on reducing child mortality figures." In another part of the report, it is mentioned that sixteen mobile health and nutrition teams provided services to 18,554 individuals in remote and hard-to-reach areas, 32% of whom were children. Dr. Ahmad Shaqib Zahir

stated: "United Nations Children's Fund's health services and assistance are very important and effective, especially in delivering health aid to remote areas, as well as in strengthening coordination of health assistance for disadvantaged individuals." Many citizens travel to the center for treatment due to the lack of healthcare facilities and medical resources in the provinces.

Training for youth in 7 professions provided with Qatar's cooperation



KABUL (TOLONews): A program titled "Livelihood" has been launched in Kabul with the cooperation of Qatar and the Afghan Red Crescent Society. According to officials, this program provides training in seven different professions for 150 young people from three provinces of the country over a period of five months.

Aziz Rahman, Deputy of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, said: "Around 50 young people from the provinces of Helmand, Farah, and Faryab will receive training in seven different professions for five months." Abdul Bar, deputy of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, said: "Qatar is like our second country;

it has supported us in difficult times when the whole world was heading towards the destruction of Muslims." Officials from the Qatari Red Crescent Society also assured the continuation of their cooperation with Afghanistan, saying that new programs will soon be launched to support an additional 324 families in

Family visits to Kabul parks plunge under Taliban restrictions

KABUL (Amu TV): Owners and managers of several recreational parks in Kabul report a sharp decline in family attendance over the past three years since the Taliban returned to power. They attribute this drop to the strict enforcement of rules by the Taliban's morality police, which has severely restricted the presence of women in public spaces. One such park, Zazi Park, located in the Arzan Qimat area of Kabul, was once a popular destination for families. Today, it stands nearly empty. "In the past, 70 percent of our visi-

tors were families," said Habib Khan Zazi, the park's manager. "But since the Taliban's return, the number of families, women, and children visiting has dropped to zero." Zazi explained that the restrictions have caused significant financial losses for the park. "The Ministry's rules prevent families from coming. Before, most of our visitors were families, but now the Ministry has banned them from going to parks." The same situation is mirrored across other parks in Kabul. Women are now a rare sight in public spaces,

and what were once family-friendly environments have become overwhelmingly male-dominated. Sophia, a former second-year psychology student at Kabul University, was forced to stop her studies when the Taliban banned women from attending universities. She says the Taliban have turned Afghanistan into a prison for women, even barring them from recreational parks. "I've tried to visit parks several times, but the Taliban blocked me and my friends from entering," she said. "Just last week, we wanted to go to Qargha, but

even though we had a male chaperone, women were not allowed in." Other women express similar frustrations. Nasrin, a resident of Kabul, said, "The Taliban's actions have worsened the mental health issues faced by women." After their return to power, the Taliban initially announced that women could visit parks three days a week without male companions. However, by November 2022, the regime banned women from attending recreational parks altogether, further restricting their already limited public freedoms.

Israeli threats paralyze paramedics' work — halt two hospitals, close key land crossing

BEIRUT: The Israeli military is preventing paramedics, regardless of affiliation, from carrying out relief efforts in Beirut's southern suburb, as well as in southern Lebanon.

The Lebanese state's Civil Defense center, located in the Hadath area near Beirut's southern suburb, received a call purportedly from the Israeli military on Thursday night warning them not to "move any vehicles toward the targeted site," following a series of airstrikes carried in the Marjayeh area of the suburb, despite having received distress calls for missing persons. On Friday morning photojournalists attempting to reach the site of the strikes, which shook Beirut, Mount Lebanon, and were heard as far as Sidon, were targeted by an Israeli combat drone.

Hezbollah said in a statement: "One member of the Civil Defense from the Islamic Health Organization was killed and several others injured while attempting to clear the rubble at the Marjayeh site, as they were targeted by a drone strike." The Israeli targeting extended to paramedics and hospitals in the southern border area, resulting in two hospitals being forced out of service.

Four paramedics from Hezbollah were killed when they were targeted by a drone strike at the entrance to Marjayoun Governmental Hospital in the morning. The hospital administration decided to evacuate staff and halt work. An Israeli airstrike also targeted a health center in the town of Kherbet Selem, killing two paramedics and wounding several others.

Mays Al-Jabal Hospital announced the suspension of work "due to the Israeli attacks on hospital staff, including the use of internationally prohibited white phosphorus in the vicinity of the hospital, as well as difficulties in securing diesel, electricity, water, food, access for medical and nursing staff and medicines." Saint Therese Medical Hospital in the southern suburb of Beirut announced that it was targeted by Israeli airstrikes, causing serious damage to the building, medical equipment and operating rooms. It appealed for help to continue its operations.

The Israeli military carried out more than 12 airstrikes on Marjayeh. According to Israeli media, it used "fortification-piercing bombs and dropped 73 tons of explosives, in an attempt to assassinate the head of Hezbollah's Executive Council, Hashem Safieddine, a potential successor to the party's former chief Hassan Nasrallah." The attack was described as "the largest since the assassination of Nasrallah a week ago." More than 15 hours after the airstrikes, the fate of Safieddine and those who were meeting with him "in the deepest shelters," as the Israelis described it, remains unclear. Hezbollah did not issue an official state-

ment. The Israeli military said: "We are still assessing the damage caused by the airstrikes that targeted Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in Beirut." Israel's pursuit of Hezbollah extended on Friday morning to cutting off the main artery that connects Lebanon to Syria.

Less than 24 hours after Israel warned Lebanon not to use the Masnaa border crossing for Hezbollah military purposes, Israeli warplanes struck the Lebanese side of the land beyond the police post, creating a deep crater that cut off the road in both directions, completely disrupting traffic. Thousands of Lebanese and Syrian civilians have fled to Syria to escape the war.

According to security reports, the Israeli military shelled "a Hezbollah tunnel on the border between Syria and Lebanon," but the report has not been confirmed by either side. Lebanese Minister of Public Works Ali Hamieh said that the Israeli raid "landed inside Lebanese territory, creating a four-meter-wide crater." Reporters in Bekaa said that "warplanes launched three missiles."

People crossing the border, including women and children, were stuck on the road between the two border points for hours, which forced them to continue their journey on foot. The Israeli military had previously bombed the Matraha border crossing between Syria and Lebanon in Hermel. There are six legal crossings between Lebanon and Syria, in addition to dozens of illegal crossings used for smuggling and by Hezbollah.

Israeli raids on Beirut's southern suburb, southern Lebanon and northern Bekaa continued on Friday, reaching flea markets in Tarya and blocking the main road that connects the village to its neighborhoods. The raids also targeted Hermel, the surroundings of the Lebanese University in Beirut's southern suburb, and a warehouse adjacent to Beirut's airport, without affecting air traffic.

The Israeli military instructed on Friday the residents of over 20 villages in southern Lebanon to evacuate immediately and head north of Al-Awali River. The warnings created a state of shock among residents, some of whom refused to evacuate and remained in their houses. In Qlayaa, Father Pierre Al-Rahii of the St. George's Maronite Church urged residents "not to leave the village despite the threats. He said: "We are peaceful citizens and there are no military movements or facilities in our area. "We took a final decision to protect our village from the entry of weapons and we promise not to leave." Rmeish — a predominantly Christian village on the southern border — was subject to Israeli hostilities for the first time. — Arab News



BEIRUT: An injured resident sitting on a footpath during Israeli attacks on the Mreijeh neighbourhood in Lebanon.

US commends UK and Mauritius on Chagos agreement

F.P. Report

WASHINGTON DC: In today's State Department press briefing, spokesperson Matthew Miller opened by congratulating the United Kingdom and Mauritius on signing an important agreement related to the Chagos Archipelago. The Chagos Islands, a long-disputed territory, have been administered by the UK but are claimed by Mauritius. This agreement marks a significant step toward resolving a decades-old territorial conflict.

Miller emphasized that the US supports this agreement and is committed to fostering

continued diplomatic progress. A key element in the discussion of the Chagos Archipelago is the US military base located on Diego Garcia, the largest island in the archipelago. This base is of strategic importance to the US, as it plays a critical role in its defense and security operations across the Indian Ocean and surrounding regions.

In the current geopolitical climate, Diego Garcia holds even more significance due to rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific, particularly with China's growing influence. The base is vital for conducting surveillance, monitoring

regional threats, and ensuring the free movement of trade through vital sea lanes. It has also been crucial for supporting military operations in the Middle East and South Asia. While the agreement between the UK and Mauritius opens a path toward resolving historical grievances, the US's continued access to Diego Garcia remains central to its regional strategy. The State Department reiterated its confidence in maintaining strong ties with both the UK and Mauritius while ensuring that US defense interests remain secure in the evolving landscape.

Analysts debate

(Continued from Page 1)

Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

Some analysts believe that eliminating Khamenei could have significant long-term benefits for Iran and the broader Middle East. Removing him could weaken the power structure of the hardline regime, which has long resisted democratic reforms and fostered anti-Western sentiment.

By targeting Khamenei, analysts argue, Israel might create an opening for Iran's younger, more progressive generation to push for democratic changes. With Khamenei gone, the Revolutionary Guard and other conservative elements in the Iranian government might find it diffi-

cult to maintain the same level of control, potentially giving way to a more moderate political landscape. This speculation has gained traction among some Middle Eastern and Indian journalists, who argue that Khamenei's removal would not only disrupt Iran's current foreign policies but could also pave the way for internal reform.

Iran's youth, who are increasingly disillusioned with the clerical establishment, might seize the opportunity to advocate for greater political freedoms and engagement with the global community. The briefing also touched on the tragic story of an Azeri girl, originally kidnapped by ISIS from Iraq and later transferred to Hamas in

Gaza. Miller provided details of her rescue, crediting US for her safe return to Iraq. He emphasized the importance of respecting the girl's privacy given the trauma she endured, noting that Iraqi counterparts had initially alerted the US to her presence.

He concluded by highlighting the broader issue of missing girls in Iraq, many of whom remain unaccounted for after years of conflict and extremist violence. The session wrapped up with Miller responding to a final question about Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, stating that US was not informed by Hassan Nasrallah before his killing whether was interested in holding a ceasefire.

Missile attack on Israel was 'legal': Iran

TEHRAN (Reuters): Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Friday that Iran and its regional proxies will not back down from Israel hours after an Israeli attack on Beirut that is thought to have targeted the heir apparent to Tehran-backed Hezbollah's slain secretary general.

"The brilliant action of our armed forces a couple of nights ago was completely legal and legitimate," Khamenei said in a rare appearance leading Friday prayers in Tehran, referring to Iran's missile attacks on Israel on Tuesday. US President Joe Biden said on Thursday Israel's response could include a strike on Iran's oil facilities.

Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh, a stronghold of the Iran-backed Hezbollah, came under renewed strikes near midnight on Thursday after Israel ordered people to leave their homes in some areas, residents and security sources said. The air raids targeted Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine, rumored successor to its assassinated leader Hassan Nasrallah, in an underground bunker. Axios reporter Barak Ravid said on X, citing three Israeli officials.

Safieddine's fate was not clear, he said. Israel's military declined comment and Hezbollah made no comment on Safieddine's fate. His brother Sayyed Abdallah Safieddine, who is Hezbollah's representative to Iran, attended Khamenei's speech in Tehran. Huge explosions shook the sky in the vicinity of Beirut's main airport in the early hours of Friday, and Lebanese civilians said they were living in constant fear.

US President Joe Biden said he did not believe there is going to be an "all-out war" in the Middle East, as Israel weighs options for retaliation, but that more needed to be done to prevent one. While the United States, the European Union, and other allies have called for an immediate 21-day ceasefire in the Israel-Lebanon conflict, Biden said the US was discussing with Israel its options for responding to Tehran's assault, which included Israel striking Iran's oil facilities.

His comments contributed to a surge in global oil prices, and rising Middle East tension has made traders worry about potential supply disruptions. However, Biden added: "There is nothing going to happen today." Asked later if he was urging Israel not to attack Iran's oil installations, Biden said he would not negotiate in public.

WHO okays first mpox test for diagnoses

GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) has approved the use of the first diagnostic test for mpox that will provide immediate results. This will increase testing capabilities in countries facing outbreaks, it says. The WHO announced on Friday that it had approved the "real-time PCR test", Alinity m MPXV assay, which enables the detection of the virus by testing swabs of skin lesions.

Currently, patients have to wait days for results. This test will help health workers confirm suspected cases more "efficiently", the WHO said. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the epicentre of the current outbreak, only 37 percent of suspected cases have been tested this year, the United Nations health agency noted. This test's approval "will be pivotal in expanding diagnostic capacity in countries facing mpox outbreaks, where the need for quick and accurate testing has risen sharply," it added in a statement.

Mpox, which is transmitted by human-to-human contact and contact with infected animals, has been detected in 16 African countries this year. According to the African Union's Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 800 people across the continent have died from the disease, which causes fever, aches and skin lesions. "By detecting DNA from pustular or vesicular rash samples, laboratory and health workers can confirm suspected mpox cases efficiently and effectively," the WHO said. — Aljazeera



RAWALPINDI: Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim exchanging views with General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff.

Pak making landmark strides on foreign policy front: Tarar

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that Pakistan under leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been making landmark achievements on foreign policy front. "Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Pakistan was highly successful and productive as many agreements and MoUs were inked to increase cooperation and trade between the two brotherly countries," he said while addressing a press conference here. He said Pakistan enjoyed brotherly and friendly relations with Malaysia and during his visit to Pakistan, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim took forward matters regarding trade and investment.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had invited the Prime Minister of Malaysia to visit Pakistan on the occasion of the World Economic Forum in Riyadh. Tarar informed that Halal meat and rice exports from Pakistan to Malaysia will be increased and initially one hundred thousand tons of rice will be exported. He said it was worth appreciation that Malaysian PM stated that his country supported Pakistan's demand for implementation of the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir dispute.

About national economy, he said it was improving and it will become more stable with the visits of world leaders to Pakistan. He said Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan during his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at UN General Assembly session, had acknowledged that Pakistan's economy was improving. He said the government was now focusing on promoting trade with other countries which will boost the economy. "Pakistan will prove to be an excellent trade market for the world," he added.

He said it was an honour for Pakistan to host upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in

Islamabad which will be attended by 12 heads of governments from various countries. He said that beautification process of the federal capital was going on ahead of the SCO summit.

He remarked that Islamabad had achieved many milestones on foreign policy front as many countries were giving positive views about Pakistan. About Prime Minister's address to the United Nations General Assembly, he said Shehbaz Sharif, as representative of Muslim Ummah raised his voice for Palestine and Kashmir in the most effective manner. He said Shehbaz Sharif's speech was one of the best speeches ever made in the United Nations.

The minister said even the opposition had praised the Prime Minister's speech at the United Nations which was most watched speech globally. The Prime Minister, he added also highlighted the adverse effects of climate change being suffered by Pakistan in shape of floods. He also raised the issue of terrorism and the sacrifices offered by Pakistani citizens and its security agencies.

The minister said that the loan agreement with International Monetary Fund was finalised during UN GA session which will help further strengthen the economy. He said both the IMF and World Bank had lauded the steps taken by the government for economic growth. Tarar recalled that after coming to power in February, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had promised reforms in Federal Bureau of Revenue and now its digitization process was in process. He said the number of filers was doubled due to the efforts of the government which will prove helpful in increase in tax collection. He said Pakistan's stock exchange was achieving new landmarks as reputed financial journal Bloomberg had termed in most emerging market in entire Asia.

The federal minister of information said that it was the priority of the government to provide maximum

facilities to the people. He said all economic indicators were positive and Pakistan's exports increased and trade deficit decreased and inflation had come down to 6.9 per cent which was not even projection of the experts. He said now it was responsibility of the provincial governments to take steps to reduce transport fares, prices of edibles as was being done by Mariam Nawaz Sharif in the Punjab.

He advised the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to fulfil his responsibilities and take steps for price control in his province including law and order situation. Replying to media persons questions, he said that it was unfortunate that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf held a sit in when Chinese President was due in 2014 which resulted in delay in launch of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Similarly now when Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim was in Islamabad, PTI founder chairman gave call for March towards D Chowk. He alleged that during the PTI rule, Pakistan's relations with all friendly countries affected adversely and Islamabad was isolated on foreign policy front.

He said SCO summit was a great honour for Pakistan and agitation on this occasion would give a negative message about the country. "We have to show the soft and positive identity of Pakistan to the world," he said adding the opposition should protest on the floor of Parliament. The minister said at a time when entire world was appreciating economic development of Pakistan, the opposition also should acknowledge it. He asked KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur that instead of marching towards Islamabad, he should go to Peshawar take steps to reduce transport fares and price of daily use items in the markets. He asked Gandapur to take measures to revamp Counter Terrorism Department and police department in the province.

PHC orders submission of response on police violence

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Waqar Ahmed ordered submission of reply in a petition filed against police firing and shelling in Khyber district tribesmen, on Friday.

During the hearing, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Home Abid Majid, Advocate General Shah Faisal Otmankhel, Capital City Police Officer Peshawar Muhammad Qasim, and petitioner's lawyer Ali Azim Afridi appeared before the court. The petitioner's lawyer informed the court that police fired upon and shelled a peaceful gathering in Khyber, injuring several individuals. Justice Syed Arshad Ali inquired that is Chief Secretary was aware of the situation.

However, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam replied that the writ argued regarding issuance of a letter from the federal government regarding deteriorating law and order. He added that maintaining peace is their priority and that permission is required for gatherings or protests.

In the meantime, Justice Syed Arshad Ali asked is the provincial government had issued any orders. Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam responded that police can take actions without permission if illegal activities occur. Justice Arshad Ali stated that the petition alleges the gathering was organized by a party and questioned why police shelled the area, causing difficulties for residents.

Additional Chief Secretary Home Abid Majid explained that protesters demanding repatriation to their native areas and have been protesting for 38 days, disrupting commercial activities. He clarified that authorities requested protesters to demonstrate peacefully without blocking roads. PHC inquired why protesters weren't being repatriated. Additional Chief Secretary cited due to

ongoing anti-terrorist operations in the area while prioritizing citizen safety.

Advocate General Shah Faisal Otmankhel clarified that the provincial government didn't order shelling on peaceful gatherings and issued verbal orders. Justice Arshad Ali emphasized that verbal orders hold no value, referencing previous claims of federal government directives.

The petitioner's lawyer argued that police shelling affects local residents and requested clarification on who should resolve issues related to their area — provincial or federal government. Additional Chief Secretary Home confirmed with CCPO Peshawar that no operation occurred in Khyber; rather, police action took place in Peshawar's Regi Model Town. PHC divisional bench comprising Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Waqar Ahmad ordered all respondents, including police for submission of written responses after conclusion of initial arguments.

Arif Alvi's wife, son moved SHC

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Former president Dr. Arif Alvi's wife and son, Awaab Alvi, have moved the Sindh High Court (SHC) against the sealing of their dental clinic in Karachi. The family of former president filed plea for de-sealing of their dental clinic located at Sindhi Muslim Society, a posh area of Karachi.

The petition claims that the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) sealed the clinic as an act of political revenge. Barrister Ali Tahir, the petitioners' lawyer, stated that Dr. Arif Alvi is being harassed purely on political grounds. The petition further highlighted that the dental clinic has been operational for many years, and no prior notice was given before sealing, which is deemed an illegal action.

The SBCA sealed a dental clinic owned by former president of Pakistan Arif Alvi. Sources close to the development revealed that the dental clinic, located in SMCHS, was reportedly established in a residential bungalow, which led to the action.

Russia decides 'at highest level' to remove Afghan Taliban from terrorist list

MOSCOW: Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Friday that a decision to remove the Afghan Taliban from a list of terrorist organisations had been "taken at the highest level", the state TASS news agency reported.

The decision needs to be followed up with various legal procedures in order to make it a reality, President Vladimir Putin's special representative on Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, was quoted as saying. Putin said in July that Russia considered Afghanistan's Taliban movement an ally in the fight against terrorism.

Russia has been slowly building ties with the Taliban since it seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 as US-led forces withdrew after 20 years of war but the movement is still officially outlawed in Russia. No country has formally recognised the Taliban-led government as the country's legitimate leadership, although China and the UAE have accepted its

ambassadors.

Russia added the Afghan Taliban to its list of terrorist organisations in 2003. Removing it would be an important step by Moscow towards normalising relations with Afghanistan. The Taliban's acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said in a speech in Moscow that recent decisions by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to remove the former insurgents from a list of banned groups was a welcome step.

"We also appreciate the positive remarks by the high-ranking officials of the Russian Federation in this regard and hope to see more effective steps soon," he said. In separate comments on Friday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow was convinced of the need to maintain "pragmatic dialogue" with the current Afghan government.

"It is obvious that it is impossible to solve problems or even discuss an Afghan settlement without Kabul,"

Lavrov said. "Moscow will continue its course on developing political, trade and economic ties with Kabul," he added, speaking at a meeting in Moscow with Muttaqi and representatives of neighbouring countries.

While he did not mention the Taliban by name, he praised the current Afghan leadership for its efforts to curb drug production and fight Daesh which is outlawed in Russia. Muttaqi said that countries in the region should cooperate against the Daesh, which he said had established training centres outside Afghanistan.

Lavrov said the United States should return confiscated assets to Afghanistan and the West should acknowledge responsibility for the post-conflict reconstruction of the country. The Russian foreign minister also called for an increase in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, and said Russia would keep sending it food and essential goods. — Agencies