

Security beefed up
F.P. Report

LAHORE: Security has been beefed up at Jati Umra, the residence of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Lahore amid PTI Lahore protest. As per details, the routes leading to Jati Umra from Adda Plot have been blocked with containers. It is important to note here that PTI is set to protest in Lahore today, as the Punjab government sealed Minar-e-Pakistan.



PESHAWAR: Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir and other high ups of Army carrying coffin of Shaheed Lt. Col. Muhammad Ali Shoukat after funeral.

Military deployment complete around Islamabad

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Security measures have been intensified with the completion of military deployments in and around Islamabad in light of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting.

Sources indicated that Pakistan Army troops were now in control of D-Chowk, with ongoing patrols in the Red Zone. The Ministry of Interior issued deployment orders under Article 245 of the Constitution. The military presence in Islamabad is set to last from Oct 5 to 17 in accordance with the SCO meeting. The sources added that no miscreant would be allowed to disrupt peace and order.

Lahore in a tight spot

F.P. Report

LAHORE: In its desperate bid to stop the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers from registering their protest on the call of incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan, the Punjab government on Saturday followed the suit of the federal government by placing containers at several places in Lahore.

On the one hand, the adamant PTI workers have resolved to reach Minar-e-Pakistan despite all odds and, on the other hand, the Punjab government has sealed all roads leading to the provincial capital. Railway station, Minar-e-Pakistan ground and general bus stand in Lahore have been turned into no-go areas for the PTI workers as the government has placed containers on all routes leading to these areas.

Rangers have also been deployed alongside Punjab police to maintain law and order, and ensure safety of the citizens. Earlier, police claimed to have arrested 2,500 PTI workers on Friday night after the administration declared them miscreants. The city administration ordered arrest of around 1,600 workers and supporters of the PTI.

Meanwhile, all motorways connecting Lahore and other cities have been closed. Babu Sabu Interchange, Thokar Niaz Baig and other entry points in Lahore have been sealed after being cordoned off with containers. The Lahore-Sialkot Motorway access roads have also been barricaded. The Punjab government has imposed Section 144 in Rawalpindi, Attock and Sargodha from Oct 4 to Oct 6 while banning all sorts of political rallies, sit-ins and protests.

In Lahore, Section 144 has been imposed from Oct 3 to 8. The Home Department spokesperson said any public gathering could be a soft target for the terrorists, adding that orders had been issued for the safety of citizens, property and ensuring law and order situation.

PTI protest continue

Conflicting reports about KP CM arrest

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In a dramatic turn of events, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was 'arrested' in Islamabad moments after he entered the federal capital along with party workers for holding protest despite imposition of Section 144 on Saturday.

The chief minister was arrested by a team of the Islamabad police in KP House for "damaging public properties and attack on the state". He has also been accused of misusing state resources for his party. The KP chief minister had earlier resolved to reach D-Chowk in the federal capital for the PTI protest on Imran Khan's call despite a ban on public gatherings and rallies. Clashes also took place between police and PTI workers at several points in the federal capital.

However, official sources have denied arrest of the KP chief minister while declaring the reports about his detention "false". Earlier in the day, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said nobody would be allowed to sabotage the SCO summit to be held this month.

Speaking to media, the interior minister said he was in constant touch with the prime minister. He stated that the army and FC had been deployed in the capital and that maximum deployment of security personnel would be ensured. Naqvi regretted that the protesters opened fire on police personnel besides using teargas shells. "We have every idea of the motives behind it," he said.

Meanwhile, KP Information Adviser Barrister Saif said security officials had sealed the KP House and taken Gandapur into custody. He said the mobile phone of the chief minister was switched off as "we have no contact with him at this time." Following last night's unrest at Faizabad, a case has been registered against 17 PTI workers under anti-terrorism provisions at the Sadiqabad police station. According to the FIR, four police personnel from Rawalpindi were seriously injured due to stone-pelting by PTI workers at Faizabad.

Naqvi warns KP CM not to disrupt law, order situation

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, in a press briefing at D-Chowk on Saturday, warned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership headed by Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur not to disrupt law-and-order situation ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

He stated that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has "crossed all limits" but continues to test the patience of the federal government. Naqvi accused the PTI leadership of tasking CM Gandapur to disrupt a law-and-order situation ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit where international heads of state are set to arrive in Pakistan for the first time in years.

"Chief Minister KPK Ali Amin Gandapur is leading a mob with the intent to storm Islamabad. He is fully responsible for the current situation," Naqvi said, emphasizing Gandapur's role in orchestrating unrest. Though Gandapur holds a prominent provincial office, Naqvi warned that there

It stated that PTI workers attacked police officers and police mobile vans at the location. The FIR also mentioned that the PTI activists were heading towards Faizabad armed with sticks and shouting anti-state slogans. Security measures have been intensified with the completion of military deployments in and around Islamabad in light of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting.

The Ministry of Interior issued deployment orders under Article 245 of the Constitution. The military will remain deployed in Islamabad till Oct 17. The sources added that no miscreant would be allowed to disrupt peace. PTI supporters have flocked to D-Chowk as heavy rain in Islamabad dampened the effect of tear gas shelling by the police.

PTI protesters occupied D-Chowk as police were forced back after smoke from the shot tear gas shells flowed back over to the law enforcement personnel due to the strong gusty winds. Law enforcement personnel later returned to D-Chowk after the rain subsided. The PTI also shared footage of its supporters thronging D-Chowk.

Meanwhile, the party said its political committee decided that the protest would continue and demanded the immediate release of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. Meanwhile, the situation in the capital continued to remain tense today, a day after violent clashes between PTI supporters and the police, while the party decided to go ahead with its Lahore protest amid blockades and high security.

Life in the capital and adjacent Rawalpindi remained disturbed for a second consecutive day with mobile network services suspended and major roads and entry points still blocked by containers. Hundreds of PTI activists, including senior leaders, had gathered at multiple locations in Islamabad on Friday — defying heavy police blockades and road closures — for its planned protest at D-Chowk despite Section 144 in force.

would be consequences for his actions. "He will have to pay the price," said Naqvi. "I still urge the CM and PTI leadership to avoid clashes and not force law enforcement agencies into taking extreme measures."

Despite repeated requests from the federal government to prevent escalation, Gandapur has ignored these warnings, according to Naqvi. To counter the potential threat, the government has deployed police, Rangers and Frontier Corps (FC), and even called in the Pakistan Army to ensure peace and security. "The government is unclear about PTI's specific demands, but it seems their real aim is to sabotage the SCO summit," Naqvi remarked.

He added that dialogue could only happen if Gandapur showed seriousness, stating, "Dialogue is not possible alongside attempts to storm the capital." When asked about the possibility of imposing an emergency in KPK and arresting the chief minister under Article 6 of the constitution, Naqvi responded that the president and prime minister are in close contact, and all political leader-

ship has been consulted. The interior ministry will implement the agreed-upon strategy in due course.

In a concerning development, Naqvi revealed that Islamabad police have arrested 120 Afghan nationals in the last 48 hours, an alarming sign for the government. Naqvi also criticized PTI protesters, accusing them of opening fire on police near Pathar Garh and using tear gas shells in large quantities.

He questioned how the protesters acquired the tear gas shells and pointed out that this was not a peaceful protest, as claimed by PTI. "Protestors are armed and have been inciting violence, while law enforcement remains unarmed. However, they are pushing the boundaries, forcing us to consider harsher measures to maintain peace," Naqvi said, disclosing that 80 to 85 police officers have been injured and were shifted to hospitals for first aid. Naqvi concluded by reiterating the government's resolve to safeguard the upcoming SCO summit, stating, "Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif has made it clear that no one will be allowed to sabotage this important event."

Indian FM rules out bilateral talks at SCO summit

MUMBAI (Reuters): India's foreign minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar will not discuss bilateral relations when he visits Pakistan this month, the first such visit in nearly a decade, for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit.

"I expect there would be a lot of media interest because of the very nature of the relationship," Jaishankar said in response to a query at an event in New Delhi. "But I do want to say it will be for a multi-lateral event. I am not going there to discuss India-Pakistan relations," he added.

The Indian foreign ministry confirmed that Jaishankar will visit Pakistan to participate in the summit on Oct 15-16 but did not say if he would meet any Pakistani leaders on the sidelines. Relations between the two countries have gone through periods of thaw from time to time but have been largely frozen since they downgraded diplomatic ties in tit-for-tat moves in 2019.

Earlier this year, Jaishankar said that India would want to "find a solution to the issue of years-old cross-border terrorism" but added that it cannot be the "policy of a good neighbour". "I am going there to be a good member of the SCO but since I am a courteous and civil person, I will behave myself accordingly," he said.

March in London in support of Palestinians

LONDON (AFP): Thousands of protesters marched through central London on Saturday calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon as the war in the Palestinian territory neared the one-year mark.

Pro-Palestinian supporters from across the country began the march from Russell Square to Downing Street demanding an end to the conflict, which has killed nearly 42,000 people in Gaza; At Saturday's 20th "National March for Palestine" in London, familiar chants — "ceasefire now," "stop bombing hospitals, stop bombing civilians" and "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" — were joined by shouts of "hands off Lebanon."

The rally came ahead of the one-year anniversary of the October 7 attack in Israel by fighters from Palestinian group Hamas which resulted in the deaths of 1,205 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures. Israel's retaliatory military offensive has killed at least 41,825 people in Gaza, most of them civilians, according to figures provided by the territory's health ministry and described as reliable by the United Nations.

Zackereia Bakir, 28, said he has attended dozens of marches around the UK. Large numbers continue to turn up because "everyone wants a change," Bakir told AFP. "It's continuing to just get worse and worse, and yet nothing seems to be changing... I think it's tiring that we have to continue to come out," said Bakir, joined at the rally by his mother and brother. Several protesters carried posters reading "Starmer has blood on his hands."

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has called for a ceasefire in Gaza and the release of hostages held by Hamas, as well as suspended some arms licenses to Israel. However, many at the rally said it was not enough. Sophia Thomson, 27, found the Labour government's stance "hypocritical." According to Thomson, the size of the protests "goes to show the government doesn't speak for the people." "It's not good enough. It's not good enough," added Bakir, calling for the government to "stop giving a carte blanche of support to the Israeli government." London's Metropolitan police put in place a "significant" policing operation ahead of planned protests and memorial events.

Lt. Col among 6 martyred in operation

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Fire exchange took place between the Security Forces and Khwarij in general area Spinwam, North Waziristan District. Resultantly, six Khwarij were sent to hell due to effective engagement by own troops.

However, during the intense fire exchange, Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ali Shoukat (Age: 43 years, resident of District Faisalabad), a brave officer who was leading his troops from the front, fought gallantly and embraced shahadat along with his five men. The five brave soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice include Lance Naik Muhammad Ullah (age: 31 Years, resident of District Khyber), Lance Naik Akhtar Zaman (age: 30 years, resident of District Lakki Marwat), Lance Naik Shahid Ullah (age: 29 years, resident of District Tank) and Lance Naik Yusuf Ali (age: 31 years, resident of District Orkzai), Sepoy Jameel Ahmed (age: 26 years, resident of District Swat).

Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Kharij found in the area as Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Meanwhile, Law Enforcement Agencies conducted a joint intelligence based operation in general area Charbagh, Swat District.

During the conduct of operation, after an intense fire exchange, two khwarij including Kharij ring leader Atta Ullah @ Mehran were sent to hell, while one kharij was apprehended in injured condition.

Kharij Atta Ullah @ Mehran remained actively involved in numerous terrorists activities in the area including the Improvised Explosive Device blast on a Police Vehicle escorting the convoy of foreign dignitaries in Swat on 22 September 2024. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other Kharij found in the area as security forces in coordination with law enforcement agencies are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country.

Meanwhile, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir along with senior army and civil officers, soldiers and relatives of the martyrs on Saturday offered the funeral prayers of Army martyrs who valiantly embraced martyrdom while fighting terrorists during a fire exchange in Spinwam area of North Waziristan at Peshawar Garrison, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.



The bodies of the martyrs were sent to their native towns where they will be buried with full military honors. These sacrifices of our martyrs sustain our resolve and courage in the ongoing war against terrorism, the ISPR said.

President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday paid tributes to the security forces for a successful operation against terrorists in Spinwam area of North Waziristan resulting in killing of six Khawarij terrorists.

In a statement issued by the President House, Asif Zardari lauded the brave soldiers of Pakistan Army who laid their lives during fight against the terrorists. He commended patriotic spirit of Lt Colonel and other soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the defence of their homeland. The president expressed the commitment to continue operations against terrorists.

He extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyred soldiers and prayed for the elevation of ranks of all martyrs in Jannah. He also prayed to grant patience to the bereaved families to bear the loss with equanimity.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday commended the security forces for killing six Khawarij terrorists in a successful operation against the terrorists in the Spinwam area of North Waziristan.

The prime minister paid tribute to Lt Colonel Muhammad Shaukat, Lance Naik Muhammad Ullah, Lance Naik Akhtar Zaman, Lance Naik Shahid Ullah, Lance Naik Yousaf, and Sepoy Jameel Ahmed, who embraced martyrdom while bravely confronting the terrorists. In a statement, the prime minister prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in Jannah and expressed condolences to their families. The entire nation salutes the martyrs, the prime minister added. He said the Pakistan Army had made unparalleled sacrifices in the war against terrorism.



ISLAMABAD: Supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, gathered for an anti-government rally amid tear gas smoke fired by police to disperse them.

IHC orders govt to allocate PTI place for lawful protest

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed the local authorities to allocate a designated place to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for organising its demonstration and to stop any unlawful protest in the federal capital that create situation of lockdown or disrupt peace during the period of SCO summit.

The directives were issued by IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq through a three-page order on Saturday after hearing the petition filed by Traders Welfare Association President Raja Hassan Akhtar, who sought the court's order to stop the major opposition party's protest in Islamabad.

Law and order situation of Islamabad remains precarious as the Imran Khan-founded party tried to stage a protest at D-Chowk amid the imposition of Section 144 (which bars political activities and gatherings) in the twin cities to ensure security,

ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's meeting. Clashes also broke out between the law enforcers and party workers, with both sides claiming that the other had attacked them.

Police fired tear gas at the protesters on Saturday in the capital as well as at the convoys trying to enter Islamabad, while the workers used slingshots to hit the law enforcers. The PTI's protests entered the second day in Islamabad while it also started in Lahore, badly affecting the routine life due to blockade of roads, police-protesters' clashes, and suspension of metro services.

The high court's top judge noted that the freedom of assembly and movement are fundamental rights provided to the citizens under Articles 16 and 17 of the Constitution. Justice Farooq stated that the Ministry of Interior and the Islamabad administration were responsible for the maintenance of peace and law and order in the

federal capital.

However, such activities "are subject to reasonable and proportional restrictions in accordance with law. Such restrictions are only justifiable through a legitimate purpose which must be in the best interest of the larger public," the order read. The high court directed the authorities to maintain "principles of proportionality and legitimacy of public purpose" and prevent "harsh or disproportionate restrictions which would otherwise amount to unlawful infringement of rights".

IHC CJ Farooq directed authorities to take reasonable and proportional measures to ensure safety and public order in Islamabad. The high court also stated that "no unlawful assembly shall be allowed to be held in ICT keeping in view the provisions of Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act, 2024". It asked the federal government and the Islamabad administration to allocate a designated place to the PTI for an assembly or protest.



Sindh govt spending Rs218bn on Karachi's development

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, during a meeting with the elected body of the National Press Club Islamabad, said that approximately Rs1000 billion is needed for the development of Karachi every year, however, the resources are limited, despite this, the city is set to receive Rs218 billion for development this year.

The meeting was held at the CM House after the Islamabad journalists visited various districts of the province, including Thar, Sukkur, and Gambat, where they commended the government's development efforts.

Murad Shah mentioned in response to a question that a World Bank study conducted by the Sindh government revealed that \$3 billion is needed to make Karachi a liveable city. He suggested that although the required funds are substantial, around Rs1000 billion should be spent on the development and reconstruction of Karachi's infrastructure. "Due to resource constraints, only Rs218 billion has been allocated for Karachi's development," he said.

To another question, the CM said that under the City Government Karachi, the embankments of main Nullahs were allotted, and whatever space was left was allowed to be encroached. As a result, the cleaning of the Nullahs became a serious issue, and the city kept submerging during heavy rains. Mr Shah pointed out that commercial activities were allowed on the footpath, where hundreds of shops were set up. The important roads that needed to be kept non-commercial were made commercial by allowing the establishment of commercial markets and centres, resulting in traffic congestion becoming another issue.

Murad Shah said that after hectic efforts, major nullahs have been cleaned, and the main roads constructed by his government were given stormwater drains to resolve standing water issues. He added that major roads have been reconstructed and constructed, and various flyovers and underpasses developed for a smooth flow of traffic.

The provincial government has developed the BRT Orange line, and work on the BRT Redline was in full swing, followed by the yellow line. "Karachi is a metropolis city, and we are committed to our people and would resolve all its issues," he vowed. He added that People's Bus Service, including Pink bus services dedicated to women, have provided relief to the people of Karachi.

The CM said that the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Unit of his government was the most successful in terms of its transparency and performance. He added that it has been ranked 6th in Asia. Mr Shah said that Sindh was the only province which has constructed three bridges on the

River Indus, of them two in PPP mode. The main roads, Karachi-Thatta, Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas have also been constructed in PPP mode. In Karachi, Malir expressway is being constructed and its one portion will be opened for traffic by the end of this month. He added that Sindh was the only government which has constructed an airport in Thar.

The visiting journalists told the CM that they visited Thar where Hindus were seen leading a harmonised life. The newsmen said that the crime was so low that hardly 50 FIRs were registered during a whole year. The CM said that PPP has a Hindu MNA from Thar elected on a general seat and a Hindu MPA has also been elected from Mirpurkhas city on a general seat. The speaker of the Sindh Assembly is a Christian.

The journalist informed the Chief Minister that they had visited Begum Nusrat Bhutto Women's University and Arur University in Sukkur. They mentioned that both universities are situated in beautiful locations and have impressive architecture.

They also toured Gambat Hospital and praised its services. In response, the Chief Minister mentioned that he was also responsible for the development of Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), and the National Institute of Child Health (NICH). He added that these three hospitals serve the entire Pakistan and even patients from neighbouring countries. He explained that a 25-year agreement had been signed with the federal government to run these hospitals, as the Supreme Court had decided to hand over the hospitals to the federal government.

Murad Shah said that his government is building over two million houses for people affected by floods, with a budget of Rs600 billion. He mentioned that the funds have been secured through the support of donor agencies, the federal government, and his government's resources. He also said that the project has received ample funding due to its transparency.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the chief minister announced a grant for the National Press Club in Islamabad and instructed the Secretary of Information to submit a proposal outlining the purpose of the grant.

Those who attended the meeting include provincial ministers, Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, and Secretary Information Nadeem Memon. The office bearers of the National Press Club Islamabad include President Azhar Jatoti, Vice President Shah Muhammad, Secretary Nayyar Ali, Senior Joint Secretary Oun Sheerazi, Joint Secretaries Talat Farooq, Sehrish Qureshi, and Governing Body.



KARACHI: A lady drives motorcycle, is now a common practice in the city as women got more empower. —APP Photo

Rs. 73m spent on treatment of 894 cops' children

LAHORE (APP): Financial assistance for medical expenses of children suffering from serious illnesses is being provided under the "Hamaray Phool" project of the Police Department.

In the first nine months of this year, over Rs. 73 million were spent on treatment of 894 children, according to a Police Department press release issued on Saturday.

As many as 582 children suffering from cerebral palsy were released Rs 33.75 million, while 152 children with thalassemia were granted Rs. 13.365 million. Additionally, Rs. 9 million were spent on cochlear implant surgeries for six children, and around Rs. 4 million were used for cancer and bone marrow transplant treatments of 15 children. Approximately Rs. 3.5 million were spent on surgeries on 13 children with heart, kidney, and other organ issues.

Maryam urges state to treat PTI like it deals with terrorists

LAHORE (PPI): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was a terrorist party as it attacks the country every time.

Talking to the media, the Punjab Chief Minister said that PTI was never a political party. CM Maryam Nawaz also labeled PTI as a "terrorist group".

In a statement to the media, the CM declared that what she had long been warning about is now clear. The PTI has never been and can never be a political party, the CM stressed.

Maryam urged the state to treat PTI the same way it deals with terrorists. She warned that any delay in doing so could have alarming results. "Their sole objective under the guise of a political party is to set the country on fire and so they do not deserve any leniency," she asserted. She also

accused PTI of engaging militants trained on the front lines to attack both the police and state institutions.

Referring to a recent incident in Lahore, the Punjab CM disclosed that a police constable named Bilal was seriously injured by stone pelting from PTI-affiliated lawyers. "Can any political party behave in this manner, she commented.

Teachers real architects of society: CM : Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has said that teachers are the real architects of society, tasked with spreading the light of knowledge and nurturing the new generation.

In her message on World Teacher Day, being celebrated on Saturday, she paid glowing tribute to educators, stressing their pivotal role in society.

The CM expressed deep respect for all teachers, stating that the act of educating is a sacred duty, akin to a lamp illuminating the darkness of ignorance. She highlighted that teachers provide new dimensions to human minds through knowledge and the arts, declaring that those who teach with dedication and passion are the true heroes of society.

The chief minister remarked that teachers do not merely deliver lessons; they impart the art of transforming dreams into reality. Acknowledging her own journey, the CM stated that she could not forget the significant influence of her teachers on her life.

CM Maryam Nawaz affirmed the importance and dignity of teachers, committing to their welfare and well-being. She emphasised that in reality, every day is dedicated to honoring the contributions of teachers who shape the future.



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PESHAWAR: Senior journalists are being checked during free medical camp organized by Pakistan Institute of Cardiology at Peshawar Press Club.

CS expresses sorrow over martyrdom of soldiers

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry has expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Lt. Col. Muhammad Ali Shaukat and five veterans while fighting the terrorists in Spanwam area of North Waziristan.

In his message on Saturday, he said that Lt. Col. Mohammad Ali Shaukat and five brave soldiers of Pakistan Army have sacrificed their lives for the nation while fighting the enemies of Pakistan on the front line.

The Chief Secretary said that these sacrifices of our officers and brave men against terrorism strengthen our resolve against terrorists.

The ongoing efforts of the security forces reaffirm our resolve to eliminate all forms of terrorism from this country.

The Chief Secretary paid tribute to the soldiers of the Pakistan Army for bravely fighting the terrorists while defending the country and sending six Khawarij to hell.

Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that we share the grief of the families of the martyrs and pray that Allah Almighty grant them patience and give the martyrs a high place in Jannat al-Firdus and make this country the cradle of peace and security.

PHC grants custody of minors to mother

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) granted custody of two children, Zaviar and Ziroun, ages three and four, respectively to their mother.

The court's decision came after the mother filed a petition against the children's father, Mustafa Kamal, who had taken the children away from her forcefully.

According to the mother's lawyer, Akhunzada Ahmed Saeed advocate, the mother is a PhD scholar and is capable of taking care of her children. He argued that Islamic and Pakistani laws clearly state that young children should remain with their mother, especially since the father has remarried.

PHC divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmed, heard the petition and ruled in favor of the mother after considering arguments from both sides.

Previously, the court had granted temporary custody to the mother, but the father had refused to comply.

PTI's agitation: No service to democracy, public welfare of KP

PESHAWAR (APP): At a time when Malaysia's Prime Minister embarked on an official visit to Pakistan, signaling potential opportunities for collaboration, the protest call given by the PTI leadership at federal capital Islamabad on Friday was being termed as totally irrational and beyond understanding.

As economic recovery gained roots after Govt. secured a landmark USD 7billion bailed out package recently from IMF, and the price-hike slashed to a single digit, the uncalled for agitation call given by the Pakistan Tahrir e Insaaf leadership at D Chowk Islamabad was tantamount of creating political and economic instability and depriving the country from direct foreign investment, experts say.

The political and economic observers maintained that Pakistan's economy has started moving in upward trajectory after the prudent economic reforms introduced by the PMLN Govt that was also praised by the world's top monetary institutions.

"From protest agitation call, it is seemed that PTI leadership is not interested in the economic recovery of the country rather trying to get relief for PTI founder, who was in jailed in serious corruption cases," said Ikhtair Wali Khan, Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Information Secretary and former MPA while talking to APP.

Declaring the uncalled for protest demonstrations and roads agitations of PTI leadership as unjustified, Ikhtair Wali Khan said PTI leadership did not learn lesson from past mistakes and flopped Dharna at D Chowk in the past and was again repeating the same blunder despite losing KP and Punjab Govts due to premature dissolution of assemblies of these provinces.

Terming PTI's politics of hooliganism as detrimental for democracy, he said that Pakistan Tahrir e Insaaf's agitation first at Lahore and later in Rawalpindi have totally negated the spirit of democratic principles and political tolerance.

"The clashes of PTI workers with Punjab Police exposed the tall claims of the former calling themselves as champion of democracy and rule of law," he said, adding "PTI workers' scuffling with law enforcers at Rawalpindi were also tantamount to take law into hands and create anarchy in society merely for the sake of politics.

"PTI workers have not only violated the 144CrP at Rawalpindi and Lahore but also tarnished their own image before the entire nation due to uncalled for political hooliganism," he said, alleging that pelting of stones on police's vehicles and breaking citizens' cars has no service to the nation.

The PMLN leader said that no government could allow holding of agitation rallies and demonstrations at red zone especially at Islamabad, claiming that the PTI has been repeatedly requested to postpone its rally for security reasons that were not reciprocated well.

"The Rawalpindi and Lahore flopped rallies exposed the PTI leadership's deep frustration and anxiety after people of Punjab kept their distance from it," he said.

Ikhtair Wali reiterated the CM KP was known for raising merely empty tall slogans and advised him to stage rallies and walks anywhere he chooses as there was no issue with peaceful public gatherings.

However he urged CM KP to start a public meeting from his home constituency of DI Khan and other southern districts where the law and order situation was deteriorating due to lackluster policies of the PTI Govt that came into power with slogans of change.

"When a three-time elected Prime Minister Muammad Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz could face court cases and imprisonment in politically motivated cases without any protest in their favour then why not PTI founder," he said.

Former KP Minister Wajid Ali Khan said there was no need of taking out protest rallies and walks in Islamabad as media is free and politicians' voices could easily be reached to every corner of the country through press conferences and media talks.

He said bringing hordes of protesters from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Islamabad and Lahore was tantamount to putting extraordinary pressure on Govt and state institutions in a bid to get relief for the PTI founder.

Peaceful protest met with bullets is a rebellion against democracy: 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.

Barrister Saif condemned the digging of motorways and the misuse of state power, accusing the federal government of deliberately trying to turn peaceful protests violent.

He declared that the public's response to oppression will be fierce and that those responsible will be held accountable. He further questioned the federal government's fear and advised them not to use institutions for their dirty politics.

"Politics should remain confined to political institutions, and it is now inevitable to get rid of the country from the Sharif family," he said. Barrister Saif labeled the Sharif family as an internationally proven corrupt political family and asked, "What sin is the nation being punished for by being subjected to this corrupt family?"

Responding to Mohsin Naqvi's statement, Barrister Saif called it a lie and said that the claim of the police being peaceful is entirely false. He added that the entire nation is witnessing how peaceful citizens are being subjected to state oppression, with excessive use of tear gas and rubber bullets.

On the arrest of the PTI founder's sister, Aleema Khan, Barrister Saif criticized PML-N for using dirty tactics against women. He called the arrests of female workers a foolish move and accused the federal government of crossing all limits to protect its rule.

He declared that the downfall of PML-N rule is inevitable and that the nation will not provide Maryam Nawaz and Shehbaz Sharif with any place to hide.

Pakistan's multi-faceted approach to family planning

Suhail Kakakhel

THE government of Pakistan must adopt a human rights-based approach to family planning, ensuring that all individuals and couples can freely and responsibly decide the number, spacing, and timing of their children. Such an approach would guarantee that family planning services are available, accessible, acceptable, and of high quality-without discrimination or coercion.

Historically, Pakistan's approach to family planning has evolved across various administrations, reflecting the country's complex social, political, and religious landscape. The balance between modern public health needs and cultural or religious sensitivities has heavily influenced policy shifts.

In the 1960s, Pakistan was one of the first developing nations to initiate family planning programs, largely supported by international organizations such as the UN and USAID. However, these early efforts were often perceived as coercive, leading to resistance from conservative religious factions, which ultimately limited their success.

The military regime of General Zia-ul-Haq (1977-1988) brought a period of Islamization. During this era, family planning initiatives were de-emphasized. While contraceptives remained available, their promotion became subdued as traditional values took precedence. Consequently, religious opposition to family planning grew, and the momentum from earlier initiatives waned.

In the 1990s, family planning re-emerged as a priority, but with a more inclusive approach. The government partnered with NGOs and the private sector, shifting focus from population control to improving maternal and child health. Contraception was promoted within a broader reproductive health framework, and the emphasis on female education and empowerment highlighted the correlation between education and lower fertility rates.

Following the 18th Amendment in 2010, provinces gained greater autonomy in family planning. Punjab and Sindh became more proactive in promoting these services, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan faced greater challenges due to conservative cultural norms.

Pakistan's commitment to the FP2030 initiative demonstrated a shift toward a rights-based approach, emphasizing voluntary, informed choice in reproductive health. The focus expanded to improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, and addressing the unmet need for family planning services, particularly in rural areas.

Moreover, Pakistan has aligned itself with global goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and Goal 5 (Gender Equality). These goals emphasize the importance of access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, alongside improving healthcare delivery and raising awareness.

As part of the FP2030 initiative, Pakistan is committed to implementing evidence-based policy reforms and ensuring universal access to family planning services. This includes addressing gaps in service delivery, especially in remote areas, while promoting gender equality and reproductive rights.

To overcome the persistent challenges in family planning, Pakistan requires a multi-dimensional and context-sensitive strategy. It is essential to address the deep-rooted social, cultural, and economic barriers that hinder progress. Strengthening health infrastructure, fostering political commitment, promoting gender equality, and ensuring local ownership of programs are all critical to achieving sustainable progress.

Governor laments deteriorating condition of education

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Saturday emphasized teachers' contributions are invaluable, as they not only impart knowledge but also play a crucial role in character building and national development.

He said this at the eve of World Teachers' Day, and expressed his heartfelt appreciation for all teachers, whom he described as the architects of the nation dedicated to the education and upbringing of children.

However, Governor Kundi lamented the deteriorating condition of universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, attributing this decline to the provincial government's incompetence.

He said that teachers are beacon of a society but the education sector has been continuously neglected, leading to challenges for both teachers and students.

He urged the government to take immediate notice of this crisis and implement practical measures to improve the conditions of educational institutions.

Restoring the dignity and respect of teachers should be a top priority, as this is the true path to national progress, he concluded.

Governor expresses condolences over security forces' martyrdom in North Waziristan

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Saturday expressed profound sorrow over the martyrdom of five personnel, including a lieutenant colonel, during an exchange of fire between security forces and militants in North Waziristan.

In his statement, the Governor paid tribute to the brave sacrifices of the slain soldiers, emphasizing that these forces laid down their lives to protect the nation.

He assured that their sacrifices will not be in vain. Kundi highlighted the courage of the security forces, who inflicted significant damage on the militants while ensuring the safety of the public.

The Governor reaffirmed that the elimination of terrorist elements and the restoration of peace in the country remain top priorities. He pledged that the nation will never forget the sacrifices of the martyrs.

The struggle for unity: Can we overcome the forces of division?

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

I am deeply anxious and sorrowful, as though my country has been engulfed by an ill fate. The land that once resonated with dreams of freedom and progress now seems burdened by division, chaos, and despair. The vision of a united and prosperous Pakistan is fading, leaving behind confusion, uncertainty, and pain.

In many places, the air is filled with tear gas, a constant reminder of the unrest gripping our cities. Protests, once a peaceful expression of democratic rights, have transformed into battlegrounds. The struggle between protesters and authorities is no longer about dialogue and compromise. Instead, it is a cycle of violence where neither side is willing to understand the current situation, and each confrontation deepens the divide between the rulers and the agitators.

A disturbing trend has emerged during these protests-blocking roads with containers in an attempt to halt movements. This strategy paralyzes daily life, shutting down businesses and closing educational institutions. In emergencies, getting patients to hospitals becomes nearly impossible, creating serious risks for the public. Office attendance drops drastically, and communication channels, including phones and the internet, are disrupted, further isolating people with their love ones and daily business for their livelihood. Families cower in their homes, uncertain of what the future holds. Is this the nation our forefathers envisioned when they sacrificed so much for independence? In this context Political parties must collaborate to develop a joint plan that ensures the democratic right to protest is upheld without disrupting the lives of ordinary citizens.

The rich diversity of our land, which was once our strength, has become a source of endless conflict. Instead of settling our differences, unseen forces are being instigated to divide us. They seek to separate us based on ethnicity, sect, or region have torn apart the fabric of our nation. Brothers are turning against brothers, neighbors against neighbors, not for any rational reason, but because they have been conditioned to see each other as enemies for the fulfilment of hidden agenda.

Institutions that are supposed to protect our national integrity are pitted against each other, seemingly inactive. Who will protect the rights of the people when they have been entrusted with this responsibility and are more focused on protecting their own interests?

Hatred has reached its peak, and the tolerance that once defined us is rapidly disappearing. Social media, which was meant to empower and connect us, has become a breeding ground for division and intolerance. Civil discourse is replaced by a toxic culture of blame and accusation. The values of respect and patience have been drowned out by the need to win every argument, to be louder than the other side, no matter the cost.

In moments like this, I ask "Is there anyone who can stop this downward spiral"? Is there anyone who can rise above the chaos and remind us of what we stand to lose? Our country is not just its borders or its flag; it is the collective spirit of its people. But that spirit is being eroded by the forces of hatred, intolerance, and disunity. We need voices that can rise above the noise-leaders who can pull us back from the brink and remind us of the ideals that once united us.

Where are the statesmen of integrity, the scholars of wisdom, and the activists of conscience who can intervene before it is too late? It is easy to lose hope when everything feels so bleak, but we cannot afford to give in to despair. The future of our nation depends on the actions we take today. Silence and indifference will only allow the darkness to spread. We must confront these issues head-on, no matter how painful it may be, and no matter how much it forces us to confront the ugliness within ourselves.

The nation does not need a single savior; it needs a collective awakening. We must rekindle the spirit of unity that our founding fathers championed.

Surviving these turbulent times is not enough; we must emerge stronger, with a renewed commitment to justice, equality, and peace. We must remember that Pakistan was built on the dreams of millions who believed in a future where people from diverse backgrounds could come together as one.

We cannot let their dreams die. The forces that seek to divide us are strong, but they are not invincible. If we find the courage to come together, to bridge the divides created between us, we can overcome them. We must hold our leaders accountable, demand transparency and fairness, and refuse to be manipulated by political games that only serve to benefit the powerful.

In this time of crisis, each of us has a role to play. We can no longer afford to be bystanders. If we truly care about our country, if we truly wish to see it thrive once again, then we must stand up and be counted. The road to healing will be difficult, but it is a journey we must begin if we are to reclaim the soul of our nation.



In brief

Four bodies found hanging

UMERKOT (INP): The dead bodies of a man and three children were found hanging on trees in a mango orchard in Umerkot, local police said. The bodies were found in Bhodar Farm police station jurisdiction, police officials said. "The deceased have been identified as Chaman Kolhi 32, a resident of Kunri, and his three children", police said. The bodies were found hanging over trees in the mango farm, police said. Police claimed that Chaman Kolhi has allegedly committed suicide with his three children over domestic feud. The bodies of the man and children were removed from trees and shifted to local hospital, police said.

Two youth die, two injured

FAISALABAD (INP): Two youth died while two others injured in a dreadful road accident here on Saturday, police said. According to details, an over speeding car carrying four youth got out of control, hit divider after hitting a container and turned turtle at Expressway near Wapda City in Faisalabad. The accident resulted in death of 16-year-old Mahad Usman and 15-year-old Waizey Selmanullah besides leaving Sherryar Amjad 16, and Ali Hassan 16, critically injured. Bodies of the deceased and the injured youth, all hailing from Medina Town Officers Colony were shifted to Allied Hospital. Meanwhile, the police on charges of stealing irrigation water from Rakh Branch Canal have registered cases against 175 farmers on Saturday. According to a police spokesman, 175 peasants belonging to different villages of Faisalabad altered water channels and stole canal water for irrigating their lands and crops illegally. Therefore, Nishatabad and Sahianwala police have registered separate cases against the water pilferers and started investigation for their arrest, he added.

Accused of acid attack held

LODRHAN (INP): The police on Saturday arrested an accused who attempted to attack a woman with acid and tried to rape her over refusal to enter in friendship with her. According to details, annoyed over refusal to enter in friendship with her, the culprit barged into the house of woman located in Lodhran area of Punjab. Spokesman of the Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) said that the accused tried to throw acid on woman besides attempting to rape her. The woman raised hue and cry due to which people gathered at the scene and culprit fled the scene. The victim lady called Virtual Women Police Station for help. A team of police reached the scene and during a raid arrested the culprit who was being investigated after registering a case against him.

Four of a family die in mishap

TANDO ALLAHYAR (INP): Four family members including father and three children died when a rickshaw overturned into water well here on Saturday. According to details, the incident took place in suburbs of Tando Allahyar where a qingqi rickshaw carrying four family members turned turtle into water well. The accident resulted in death of 44-year-old Minchi Jogi, 12-year-old Tago, 7-year-old Padma Jogi and 5-year-old Jogi Jogi. The deceased belonged to a nomad family hailing from village Ditto Kalro Mirpur Khas Road.



HYDERABAD: A teacher imparting knowledge to students on World Teachers' Day at a government school.

PTI's prioritizing power over national interests

F.P. Report

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Saturday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is prioritizing power over national interests with its commendable. Addressing a press conference at his residence in Sialkot Cantonment area, the defence minister asserted that the loyalty of PTI and its leader, Imran Khan, lies solely in maintaining authority rather than serving Pakistan's interests. He said the pattern of behaviour from the PTI was continuing since 2014 when their protests had delayed the visit of the Chinese President and initiation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Khawaja Muhammad Asif said similar behaviour was being shown by the PTI leaders on Saturday, when the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit was round the corner, and the party was all out to undermine Pakistan's international standing. He raised concerns about the involvement of armed groups, including hundreds of Afghans, during PTI's protests. He accused the PTI of hindering Pakistan's

development through their demonstrations, stating, "PTI's protests have always sought to obstruct Pakistan's progress." He raised an alarm at the identification of some protestors as potentially linked to a banned militant group.

The defence minister said that the PTI was using the public resources to carry out its protests, led by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. He referenced historical precedents, reminding the public of PTI's past actions that delayed international visits and engagements, stating, "Political tensions have always existed, but no party has ever compromised their identity as Pakistanis like the PTI has."

He pointed out the stark contrast between PTI's actions and the sacrifices of Pakistani soldiers, noting that while many have fallen in defence of the nation, the PTI has not paid tribute to these martyrs nor addressed significant international issues such as the Palestinians' cause.

He also linked PTI's current unrest to fears over improving economic indicators in Pakistan, suggesting that the PTI leadership was anxious about legal troubles and was trying to create chaos in response to

the government's successes. He asserted that the prime minister has effectively presented issues like Kashmir and Palestine on the international platforms, which he believes has unsettled the PTI.

Khawaja Asif called for accountability for the PTI actions and highlighted the necessity of exposing their alleged connections with foreign elements that did not align with Pakistan's interests. To a question, he said that the PTI seeks to create chaos and violence. He praised the Punjab police for their resilience in handling the situation, stressing that the armed groups being brought in did not represent the values of Pakistan.

To another query, the defence minister remarked that the KP chief minister had crossed all limits, making it impossible to rule out any response. The PTI had already exploited the province and was now wasting resources in their assaults, which he labeled as acts against the nation. MPAs Muhammad Manshaullah Butt, Chaudhry Faisal Ikram, Shakeela Arthur, PML-N President Sialkot City Muhammad Rafiq Mughal, General Secretary Women's Wing Nasrat Jamshed were present on the occasion.

We are not afraid of arrests, says Asad

F.P. Report

ATTOCK: In a defiant statement, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser declared that his party is unafraid of arrests, following the recent detention of several members, including his brother Adnan Khan.

Qaiser condemned the government's crackdown on PTI leaders and supporters, stating that the ruling authorities have "broken all records of yesterday's atrocities." During a press briefing, Qaiser reported that thousands of tear gas shells had been fired at PTI's peaceful protestors. He mentioned that many participants in the convoy of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Chief Minister were injured due to the government's aggressive response.

"The worst shelling was

unleashed on our workers, who were simply exercising their constitutional right to protest," he asserted. He emphasized the party's determination to gather at D Chowk, despite the violence, insisting that PTI will reach the location "in any case." The PTI leader also highlighted the arrest of Imran Khan's sisters, Aleema and Uzmi Khan, while they were en route to D Chowk. They were taken into custody by police, who transported them away in a van to the Secretariat police station.

Reports indicate that the police have detained dozens of PTI workers across Islamabad, including areas near D Chowk and Chongi No. 26, where severe shelling was reported to disperse crowds. Amid heightened tensions,

Section 144 is currently enforced in both Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The Pakistan Army has been deployed to maintain order, with troops patrolling the capital, particularly in the Red Zone surrounding D Chowk.

Additionally, police have closed off roads between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, causing significant disruptions in communication due to the closure of the GT Road. This security measure comes ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting, leading to the army assuming security responsibilities under Article 245 of the Constitution. As tensions mount, the PTI remains steadfast in its commitment to protest, awaiting further instructions from its leadership.

World Teacher's Day celebrated in Swat

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Swat Press Club hosted a vibrant World Teacher's Day celebration, organized by Afaq, drawing hundreds of school teachers from across the district.

Addressing the gathering, Assistant District Officer Fazal Khaliq, Afaq Malakand Head Majid Ali, and PSMA President Zafar Shalamani, Director Tipu Shaheed college Abdulullah shah, among others, hailed teachers as the backbone of society. "Teachers are the only relation who rejoice in their students' success," they emphasized.

The speakers underscored the weighty responsibility teachers bear, stating, "Parents entrust us with their children's futures. We must restore their confi-

dence by providing quality education and shaping the nation's future leaders."

Fazal Khaliq noted, "Teachers are the architects of the nation, and children are its capital." He urged award-winning educators to continue their exemplary work and encouraged all teachers to strive for excellence. The speakers exhorted teachers who hadn't received awards to enhance their capabilities and contribute to the nation's progress.

The organizers expressed gratitude to Afaq for annually celebrating World Teacher's Day and promoting education through seminars and recognition of outstanding teachers. The event honored top-performing teachers, inspiring others to emulate their dedication and

hard work.

Two children die as wall collapses

F.P. Report

MANSEHRA: At least two young-aged children lost their lives and another girl injured when a wall collapsed on them in Mansehra, police informed on Saturday.

Police said two children, named Sufyan (4) and Abu Bakar (6) and another little girl were playing near their house in Pakhwal Chowk, Mansehra when the wall of the adjacent house collapsed, burying the children under the debris.

Two killed in Swabi wedding firing

F.P. Report

SWABI: At least two people were killed and two others injured when firing took place between two groups over a verbal clash during a musical program in Moza Jangi Dher area of Swabi district, late at night, police informed on Saturday.

Chota Lahore police said, a resident of Manerai, Tariq reported that last night he along with his brother, Tufail Nasir (29) and friend, Asad Khan were present at a musical program of wedding in Moza Jangi Dher.

During the program, he said, his brother had some argument with Saddam, resident of Chota Lahore following which, Saddam started indiscriminate firing, killing his brother Tufail and another 25-year-old youth, Basit, resident of Jalbai, Swabi.

He said 23-year-old Munawwar and 30-year-old Fazal Rehman, resident of Kalabat sustained bullet injuries in the firing. The injured and dead were shifted to Bacha Khan Medical Complex, Shah Mansoor. Chota Lahore police have registered the case and started investigation.

SNGPL disconnects 112 meters

F.P. Report

MULTAN: In the light of the instructions of the General Manager Sui Northern Gas UFG Control Task, the teams disconnected 112 meters over various violations during the last month of September.

According to the details, 18 meters were disconnected for commercial use and fined. Seven meters were disconnected over installing meters from the service area, 19 meters were disconnected for compressor use, FIR was registered against one consumer for direct use, four customers meters were disconnected for giving extension to four to five houses, illegally.

Similarly, two meters were disconnected for shifting meters from one house to another, one customer's meter was disconnected while not online, 23 meters were seized while not on site, two customers' meters were disconnected for reversing the meter reading.

Four meters were disconnected for meter tampering while five consumers who disconnected their meters themselves had their meters seized to prevent illegal use. Due to the meters being installed upside down, two consumers' meters were disconnected, three private colonies were caught, out of which 14 meters were disconnected.

Rivalry claims life

F.P. Report

MARDAN: A man was shot dead by his rivals in Mardan on Saturday morning, police informed.

Police said the incident occurred on Bacha Khan Road, near new Police Lines where rivals shot dead 41-year-old, Asif, resident Toru, Mardan.

Students urged to focus on creativity and critical thinking

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Chairman department of education, University of Malakand, Dr Itbar Khan has asked students to focus on creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration in their studies. He was addressing a function as chief guest on the eve of World Teachers' Day at Government High School Dheri Talash here on Saturday.

The function was also addressed by the school in charge Muhammad Haleem, senior teacher Shahid Mahmood and others. The school students also presented speeches, songs and tableau on the occasion. The speakers shed light on importance of the day and said that teachers occupied a key role in society.

Dr Itbar Khan said that he was proud to be a teacher of teachers and leading the varsity education department. He informed the participants about the day and said that this year valuing teachers' voice was theme of the world teachers day. He said the theme aimed that teachers' voice should be encouraged in framing educational policy and formulating students curriculum.

Dr Itbar Khan said that teachers were rightly regarded as spiritual fathers



and nation builders. He said that teachers had a key role in reforming societies and building nations. He asked students to give respect and regard to teachers if they wished to get successes in this world. The World Teachers' Day was also marked by several other institutions and organizations in the Lower Dir district. Students presented gifts to their teachers and paid tributes to them.

Scholar defends MPhil thesis in University of Malakand: Mr. Noor Jamal, a PhD scholar in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Malakand (UoM), has successfully defended his PhD thesis titled *Analysis of fuzzy differential equations through fixed point approach* at the UoM. His thesis was supervised by

Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, Associate Professor of the said department. The external examiners were Ghaus ur Rahman, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics at the University of Swat, and Prof Dr Gauhar Ali, from Islamia College University Peshawar. Both of the examiners appreciated the hard work of the scholar and the publications from thesis in well reputed international journals.

The Chairperson of the Department, Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad, and all the teachers congratulated the scholar on achieving this milestone and encouraged the scholar to further explore the same area. The scholar, Mr. Noor Jamal, wholeheartedly thanked all his teachers, friends, and well-wishers for their support on his significant achievements.

Students urged to acquire AI knowledge

F.P. Report

MULTAN: International IT expert Tanvir Nandla called on students to equip themselves with skills in Artificial Intelligence (AI), stressing that mastering AI could open up remarkable economic opportunities in the near future.

He expressed these views at the International Teacher Day ceremony, organised by the Food Science and Nutrition Department of Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) on Saturday. Tanvir, while addressing students, highlighted the transformative power of AI, likening its impact to previous eras of major economic change.

"There was a time when industrialisation shaped the future of nations," he remarked, "and those who focused on it made tremendous progress. Similarly, the advent of the internet revolutionised the world economy, bringing untold opportunities to those who embraced it." He further explained, AI is the next frontier, an emerging field that is rapidly changing job markets across the globe.

"The nations and individuals who harness AI will be the ones who thrive in the future," Nandla stated. He encouraged students to not just learn about AI but to actively use it as a tool to identify new opportunities and create pathways for economic growth. "It's not just about learning AI," he stated, "it's about utilizing these tools smartly for personal and professional success."

Nandla also stressed the importance of continuous learning and adapting to new technologies. He said that students who stay updated on the latest developments in AI would be better positioned to secure high-paying jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities. "AI is the key to the future, and it is up to you to decide how you will use it," he added, urging the students to remain innovative and forward-thinking.

The ceremony was also addressed by renowned scholar Dr. Hameed Raza Siddique, who paid tribute to teachers and highlighted their role in shaping society. "Teachers are the foundation of any civilised

nation," Dr. Siddique said. He maintained that students should take full advantage of the knowledge and experience their teachers offer. "A teacher is a guiding light that helps students rise to a respectable position in society," he added. Dr. Siddique expressed deep respect for teachers, stating that their wisdom and dedication are critical in moulding future generations.

Young Pakistanis Organisation (YPO) President Naem Iqbal Naem also shared his thoughts on the importance of teachers in a student's life. He highlighted the sacrifices teachers make to ensure that their students excel not only in their studies but also in their personal development. "Teaching is not just a job; it's a commitment to society," Naem said, while encouraging students to respect and honour their teachers.

The ceremony concluded with a cake-cutting session, where students expressed their gratitude and paid tribute to their teachers. Dr Khurram Afzal, Dr Adnan, Rana Hakim Ali and some others were also present.



QUETTA: Teachers holding a protest rally for acceptance of their demands.

Rescue 1122 receives 7020 fake calls in Sep

F.P. Report

BUNER: Rescue1122 Buner report has disclosed during the month of September received 7020 fake calls and appealed for avoiding this practice in larger public interests, on Saturday.

The District Emergency Officer Engineer Kashif Khan Yousafzai, Rescue 1123 Buner has issued monthly performance report and claimed that rescue has provided services to the public in a total of 299 different accidents. He added out of total calls just 5280 were informational while rest 6020

were unnecessary or harassing calls.

He shared during last month 243 medical, 36 road traffic accidents, 03 bullet injuries, 04 accidents and 18 recovery cases were dealt. According to him, 196 people were affected in these incidents/accidents in which 183 people were given first aid on the spot. He added those were transferred to the hospital out of them 05 died before reaching the hospital.

In addition, a total of 167 ambulance services provided to the public in various accidents besides Health Referral, while performed

services in 88 emergency situations under the hospital-to-hospital transfer service, in which 79 patients were transferred from out district hospitals.

According to him the rescue Buner is ready for all kinds of services to the public 24 hours a day and under the direction of the higher officers, Rescue 1122 is determined to provide more services to the public and improve its performance. Public is requested to cooperate with Rescue 1122 during emergency and refrain from fake and unnecessary calls, district officer appealed.



BEIRUT: A man runs for cover as smoke raises in the background following an Israeli attack in Dahiyeh, Lebanon.

6 migrants die near Guatemalan border after soldiers open fire

MEXICO CITY (AP): Mexican army troops opened fire on a truck carrying migrants from a half dozen countries, and six migrants from Egypt, Peru and Honduras died in an event that President Claudia Sheinbaum described as “deplorable.” Three of the dead were from Egypt, and one each from Peru and Honduras. The other has apparently not yet been identified. Authorities have not yet released their ages, but at least one may have been a minor.

Ten other migrants were wounded in the shooting, but there was no immediate information on their conditions. Peru’s Foreign Ministry confirmed one Peruvian was killed and demanded “an urgent investigation” into the killings. Peru and Mexico have had damaged relations since a 2022 diplomatic spat.

Sheinbaum said the two soldiers who opened fire, her first day in office, had been turned over to civilian prosecutors for questioning, but apparently had not yet been charged. It was the worst killing of migrants by authorities in Mexico since police in the northern state of Tamaulipas killed 17 migrants in 2021. She said the shootings were being investigated to see if any commanders might face punishment, and noted “a situation like this cannot be repeated.” But she left out any mention of that at a ceremony at a Mexico City army base, where army and navy commanders pledged their loyalty to her

in front of massed combat vehicles and hundreds of troops.

“In our country, there is not a state of siege, there are no violations of human rights,” Sheinbaum said, as she promised wage increases for soldiers and sailors. The shootings occurred near the city of Tapachula, in the southern state of Chiapas near the border with Guatemala, Mexico’s Defense Department said in a statement. The Defense Department initially said that soldiers claimed to have heard shots as a convoy of three trucks passed the soldiers’ position.

The Attorney General’s Office later said all three trucks ignored orders to stop and tried to flee. The soldiers pursued them and reported coming under fire from the convoy, and returned fire. One of the trucks eventually stopped, the driver reportedly fled, and a total of 33 migrants were found aboard, from the three countries already mentioned, as well as Nepal, Cuba, India and Pakistan. The Defense Department said four of the migrants were found dead, and 12 wounded. Two of the wounded later died of their injuries. Local prosecutors confirmed all the victims died of gunshot wounds. Neither prosecutors nor the Defense Department specified whether the migrants died as a result of army fire, and Sheinbaum refused to say whether any weapons were found in the migrants’ truck.

The area is a common route for

smuggling migrants, who are often packed into crowded freight trucks. It has also been the scene of drug cartel turf battles, and the department said the trucks “were similar to those used by criminal groups in the region.” The two soldiers who opened fire were also relieved of duty pending investigations. In Mexico, any incident involving civilians is subject to civilian prosecution, but soldiers can also face court-martial for those offenses.

Irineo Mujica, a migrant rights activist, said he doubted the migrants or their smugglers opened fire. “It is really impossible that these people would have been shooting at the army,” Mujica said. “Most of the time, they get through by paying bribes.” The Roman Catholic Mexican Council of Bishops called the killings “a disproportionate use of lethal force,” and said in a statement that “this tragedy is not an isolated incident.”

If the deaths were the result of army fire, as appears likely, it could prove a major embarrassment for Sheinbaum. The new president has followed the lead of former president Andrés Manuel López Obrador in giving the armed forces extraordinary powers in law enforcement, state-run companies, airports, trains and construction projects. It is not the first time Mexican forces have opened fire on vehicles carrying migrants in the area, which is also the object of cartely turf battles.

78 die as ferry capsizes on DR Congo lake

DR CONGO (BBC): At least 78 people have died after a ferry capsized on Lake Kivu, in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, just a few hundred metres from its destination. The boat was travelling from the town of Minova in South Kivu and sank as it was arriving on Goma’s shore.

A video circulating online shows the boat tilting to one side and then sinking. There were 278 passengers onboard, according to a regional governor. “It’ll take at least three days to get the exact numbers, because not all the bodies have been found yet,” Governor Jean Jacques Purisi told Reuters news agency. A local activist, Aaron Ashuza, who was at the scene, told the BBC he saw bodies being pulled out of the river and said the injured had been taken to hospital.

At least two children died after they were taken to hospital after the accident, according to AFP. Speaking from his hospital bed, 51-year-old survivor Alfani Buroko Byamungu, told Reuters news agency that conditions on the water seemed “calm”. He added: “I saw people sinking, many went under. I saw women and children sinking in the water, and I myself was on the verge of drowning, but God helped me.”

Bahati Selemani, a dock worker who took part in the rescue effort, described what happened. “We saw the boat start to capsize. We noticed that the boat was very overloaded and there were also strong waves,” he told AP news agency. “After that, the boat started to capsize little by little. Those who were upstairs started to throw themselves into the lake, and the boat capsized directly into the lake.” Such accidents are common in DR Congo, where boats are frequently overcrowded with passengers who are rarely given safety jackets and often cannot swim. Rescue operations are made difficult as some ships rarely have passenger manifests.

Clashes in Kenya

NAIROBI (AP): Supporters and opponents of Kenya’s deputy president clashed at public forums over an impeachment motion against him, which was introduced in parliament by the ruling alliance this week. Rigathi Gachagua is accused of supporting anti-government protests in June and of being involved in corruption and other irregularities, charges he denies.

A motion for the impeachment of Gachagua was proposed in parliament and Kenyans were given to fill out public participation forms at their constituencies. Public forums are being held across the country to discuss the impeachment. In the capital, Nairobi, a public forum at the Bomas of Kenya turned violent as supporters of President William Ruto clashed with those supporting Gachagua.

70 people killed in gang attack on Haitian town: UN

PORT-AU-PRINCE: At least 70 people have been killed and 3,000 forced to flee when armed men belonging to the Gran Grif gang attacked a town in central Haiti. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said that the attack occurred in Pont-Sonde, 100km (60 miles) north-west of Port-au-Prince.

The UN added that at least 16 people were seriously injured in the attack, including two gang members who were hit during an exchange of gunfire with Haitian police. The office said gang members also reportedly set fire to at least 45 homes and 34 cars.

“Members of the Gran Grif gang used automatic rifles to shoot at the population, killing at least 70 people, among them about 10 women and three infants,” UN Human Rights Office spokesman Thameen Al-Kheetan said in a statement, adding that the agency was “horrificed” by the attack. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

also condemned the attack, his spokesperson said. Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille denounced the attack on X, saying an “odious crime against defenceless women, men and children is not only an attack against victims but against the entire Haitian nation”.

“To those who sow terror, I say this: you will not break our resolve. You will not subdue these people who have always fought for their dignity and freedom. We will never give up our right to live in peace, in security, and in justice,” Conille said. The prime minister’s office said that additional security forces, supported by the Kenyan-led international policing mission, had been deployed overnight to deal with the attack.

However, Gran Grif’s leader, Luckson Elan, whom the UN has sanctioned, blamed the government and victims of the attack for remaining passive as gang members were killed. “It’s Pont-Sonde res-

idents who are at fault. What happened in Pont-Sonde is the fault of the state,” he said in an audio message posted on social media. While the motive for the attack is unclear, attacks of that kind have taken place in the capital, 80 percent of which is controlled by gangs, and they are typically linked to turf wars.

But Pont-Sonde is considered part of Gran Grif’s territory. The area is a major rice producer located in Haiti’s Artibonite region. Artibonite has experienced some of Haiti’s worst violence outside Port-au-Prince, worsening hunger in a country where half the population suffers from severe food shortages. Last week, the UN Human Rights Office said that so far this year, more than 3,661 people have been killed in “senseless” gang violence in the country. The conflict has also displaced at least 700,000 people, according to the International Organization for Migration. — Aljazeera

UK parliament to consider assisted dying law this month

LONDON: The UK parliament will consider a proposal to legalise assisted dying, nine years after rejecting a similar proposal. Kim Leadbeater, a member of parliament with the ruling Labour party, said she would introduce a bill on October 16 to give terminally ill people a “choice” over end-of-life care and provide more protections for them and their loved ones.

Leadbeater said British law on the issue had not been updated in 60 years. “Somebody with a terminal condition and very little time left has only limited options,” she wrote in The Guardian newspaper. “Parliament should now be able to consider a change in the law that would offer reassurance and relief – and most importantly, dignity and choice – to people in the last months of their lives.”

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has previously promised a free vote on the bill. “That means that ministers can vote, or not, however they wish,” Cabinet Secretary Simon Case, the prime minister’s most senior adviser, said. “The Government will therefore remain neutral on the passage of the Bill and on the matter of assisted dying.” Assisted dying is currently illegal in Britain and if successful, the legislation would affect England and Wales. A bill on the issue was introduced in Scotland, which has a separate legal system, earlier this year.

Some 31 countries and territories allow some form of assisted dying, according to Humanists UK, a group that represents the non-religious. “Today marks the historic first step in a journey that should lead to one of the most consequential

and compassionate reforms in our history, finally giving thousands of suffering people the choice and dignity they desire and deserve,” Humanists’ chief executive, Andrew Copson, said in a statement. “Parliamentarians will have in front of them vital questions about eligibility, process and safeguards, that it will be the duty of all of society to help them address.” Euthanasia is currently illegal in the UK, and anyone in England, Wales and Northern Ireland who travels with them to the Dignitas clinic in Switzerland, or stays with someone to comfort them at home as they end their life, could be liable to prosecution for up to 14 years. Details of the bill have not yet been released, but it is expected to allow terminally ill adults with six months or less to live to get medical assistance to end their own lives, the BBC said.

An assisted dying bill was last debated – and defeated – in the House of Commons in 2015. But since then, surveys have shown an increase in support for helping terminally ill people end their lives. High-profile TV broadcaster Esther Rantzen, who has terminal lung cancer, has given the debate renewed impetus after revealing she had joined Dignitas. The clinic helps those with a terminal disease or living with unendurable pain or disability to end their lives.

The Isle of Man and Jersey, self-governing British Crown Dependencies which are not part of the UK, are also moving towards passing their own laws to give terminally ill people the right to die. In 2002, Belgium and the Netherlands became the first EU coun-

tries to allow euthanasia. In 2021, Spain authorised euthanasia and medically assisted suicide for people with serious and incurable illnesses, while Portugal followed suit two years later. Canada has expanded provisions on euthanasia and is one of the most permissive countries in the world on the issue. — Aljazeera

Belarus sentences 12 to up to 25 years

TALLINN (AP): A Belarusian court convicted 12 people, most of them in absentia, and sentenced them to prison terms of up to 25 years for an attack on an airfield that damaged a Russian military radar plane.

The Beriev A-50 plane was hit by a drone attack at the Machulishchy airfield near the capital Minsk in February 2023. Russia stations troops and equipment in Belarus that are used in the war in neighboring Ukraine. A Belarusian guerrilla group made up largely of former soldiers claimed responsibility for the attack.

The sentences were reported on the state news agency Belta. But the independent news site Mediazona reported that seven of those convicted were not in the country. Four of the defendants were convicted for terrorism and sentenced to 15 to 25 years in prison. All are outside Belarus, Mediazona said. Others were sentenced on lesser charges to terms varying from two years and three months to 15 years.

Tunisia votes Sunday in its third presidential election

TUNIS (AP): With his major opponents imprisoned or left off the ballot, Tunisian President Kais Saied faces few obstacles to winning reelection on Sunday, five years after riding anti-establishment backlash to a first term.

The North African country’s Oct. 6 presidential election is its third since protests led to the 2011 ouster of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali — the first autocrat toppled in the Arab Spring uprisings that also overthrew leaders in Egypt, Libya and Yemen. International observers praised the previous two contests as meeting democratic norms. However, a raft of arrests and actions taken by a Saied-appointed election authority have raised questions about whether this year’s race is free and fair. And opposition parties have called for a boycott. What’s at stake?

Not long ago, Tunisia was hailed as the Arab Spring’s only success story. As coups, counter-revolutions and civil wars convulsed the region, the North African nation enshrined a new democratic constitution and saw its leading civil society groups win the Nobel Peace Prize for brokering political compromise. But its new leaders were unable to buoy its struggling economy and were plagued by political infighting and episodes of violence and terrorism.

Amid that backdrop, Saied, then 61 and a political outsider, won his

first term in 2019. He advanced to a runoff promising to usher in a “New Tunisia” and hand more power to young people and local governments. This year’s election will offer a window into popular opinion about the trajectory that Tunisia’s fading democracy has taken since Saied took office. Saied’s supporters appear to have remained loyal to him and his promise to transform Tunisia. But he isn’t affiliated with any political party, and it’s unclear just how deep his support runs among Tunisians.

It’s the first presidential race since Saied upended the country’s politics in July 2021, declaring a state of emergency, sacking his prime minister, suspending the parliament and rewriting Tunisia’s constitution consolidating his own power. Those actions outraged pro-democracy groups and leading opposition parties, who called them a coup. Yet despite anger from career politicians, voters approved Saied’s new constitution the following year in a low-turnout referendum.

Authorities subsequently began arresting Saied’s critics including journalists, lawyers, politicians and civil society figures, charging them with endangering state security and violating a controversial anti-fake news law that observers argue stifles dissent. Fewer voters turned out to participate in parliamentary and local elections in 2022 and 2023 amid eco-

omic woes and widespread political apathy. Who’s running? Many wanted to challenge Saied, but few were able to. Seventeen potential candidates filed paperwork to run and Tunisia’s election authority approved only three: Saied, Zouhair Maghzaoui and Ayachi Zammel.

Maghzaoui is a veteran politician who has campaigned against Saied’s economic program and recent political arrests. Still, he is loathed by opposition parties for backing Saied’s constitution and earlier moves to consolidate power. Zammel is a businessman supported by politicians not boycotting the race. During the campaign, he has been sentenced to prison time in four voter fraud cases related to signatures his team gathered to qualify for the ballot.

Others had hoped to run but were prevented. The election authority, known as ISIE, last month dismissed a court ruling ordering it to reinstate three additional challengers. With many arrested, detained or convicted on charges related to their political activities, Tunisia’s most well-known opposition figures are also not participating. That includes the 83-year-old leader of Tunisia’s most well organized political party Ennahda, which rose to power after the Arab Spring. Rached Ghannouchi, the Islamist Saied’s co-founder and Tunisia’s former house speaker, has been imprisoned since last year after criticizing

Saied.

The crackdown also includes one of Ghannouchi’s most vocal detractors: Abir Moussi, a right-wing lawmaker known for railing against Islamists and speaking nostalgically for pre-Arab Spring Tunisia. The 49-year-old president of the Free Destourian Party also was imprisoned last year after criticizing Saied. Other less known politicians who announced plans to run have also since been jailed or sentenced on similar charges.

Opposition groups have called to boycott the race. The National Salvation Front — a coalition of secular and Islamist parties including Ennahda — has denounced the process as a sham and questioned the election’s legitimacy. What are the other issues? The country’s economy continues to face major challenges. Despite Saied’s promises to chart a new course for Tunisia, unemployment has steadily increased to one of the region’s highest at 16%, with young Tunisians hit particularly hard.

Growth has been slow since the COVID-19 pandemic and Tunisia has remained reliant on multilateral lenders such as the World Bank and the European Union. Today, Tunisia owes them more than \$9 billion. Apart from agricultural reform, Saied’s overarching economic strategy is unclear. Negotiations have long been stalled over a \$1.9 billion

bailout package offered by the International Monetary Fund in 2022. Saied has been unwilling to accept its conditions, which include restructuring indebted state-owned companies and cutting public wages. Some of the IMF’s stipulations — including lifting subsidies for electricity, flour and fuel — would likely be unpopular among Tunisians who rely on their low costs.

Economic analysts say that foreign and local investors are reluctant to invest in Tunisia due to continued political risks and an absence of reassurances. The dire economic straits have had a two-pronged effect on one of Tunisia’s key political issues: migration. From 2019 to 2023, an increasing number of Tunisians attempted to migrate to Europe without authorization. Meanwhile, Saied’s administration has taken a harsh approach against migrants arriving from sub-Saharan Africa, many who have found themselves stuck in Tunisia while trying to reach Europe.

Saied energized his supporters in early 2023 by accusing migrants of violence and crime and portraying them as part of a plot to change the country’s demography. The anti-migrant rhetoric prompted extreme violence against migrants and a crackdown from authorities. Last year, security forces targeted migrant communities from the coast to the capital with a series of arrests, depor-

tation to the desert and the demolition of tent camps in Tunis and coastal towns. Bodies continue to wash ashore on Tunisia’s coastline as boats carrying Tunisians and migrants from sub-Saharan Africa manage only to make it a few nautical miles before sinking.

What does it mean overseas? Tunisia has maintained ties with its traditional Western allies but also forged new partnerships under Saied. Much like many populist leaders who’ve taken power worldwide, Saied emphasizes sovereignty and freeing Tunisia from what he calls “foreign diktats.” He has insisted that Tunisia won’t become a “border guard” for Europe, which has sought agreements with him to better police the Mediterranean.

Tunisia and Iran lifted visa requirements and in May announced plans to boost trade ties. It has also accepted millions in loans as part of China’s Belt and Road Initiative to build hospitals, stadiums and ports. Yet European countries remain Tunisia’s top trade partners and their leaders have maintained productive ties with Saied, hailing agreements to manage migration as a “model” for the region. Saied has spoken ardently in support of Palestinians as war has swept the Middle East and opposes moves made to normalize diplomatic ties with Israel.

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The case for a global climate assembly

It has been nearly 10 years since the world came together in Paris and finally agreed to get serious about averting a climate disaster. But while there is an emerging consensus on the structural economic reforms needed to transform sectors such as energy, transportation and agriculture, the necessary investments are not being made fast enough. Instead, our governance systems are struggling to muster an adequate response to what is an increasingly obvious and severe climate and ecological crisis. Although many governments have proposed robust climate measures, these often trigger a social backlash because they are perceived as unjust and inequitable. Many see policies that pit the old against the young, the city against the country or the Global North against the Global South. Such controversies are tailor-made for social media, where they ripen and then rot in a hothouse of misinformation, incendiary rhetoric and polarization.

Although the argument for the necessity of major reform has been won, the argument for how to do it fairly has not. This challenge will only become more difficult the deeper we get into the net-zero transition. Most people care deeply about addressing the climate crisis: in a survey conducted across 18 G20 countries, 71 percent of respondents agreed that immediate major action is needed to reduce carbon emissions. But trust in government action is lacking, with only 39 percent believing that their own government will act effectively.

One way to address this gap is to allow citizens to participate in the elaboration and implementation of climate policies and measures designed by governments. Instead of having climate policies imposed by technocrats from above, governments should embrace approaches that combine "top-down" with "bottom-up" methods, with the latter bringing together ordinary people who are tasked with shaping a shared vision of the future.

Successful examples of those participatory methods already exist. Citizens' assemblies in France are decision-making bodies composed of randomly selected, demographically representative individuals who deliberate on a specific issue of public concern and provide policy recommendations.

In addition to fostering consensus on divisive topics, citizens' assemblies educate the public about complex policy issues and give citizens a direct role in decisions that affect their lives. These elements are especially important for issues like the net-zero transition, which entails major economic changes that can leave communities feeling divided. Unlike politicians, assembly members make decisions free from electoral pressures and lobbying. Notable examples include Ireland's assemblies on marriage equality and abortion, which led to national referendums and breakthrough legislation, and France's climate assembly, which helped shape its most ambitious climate bill to date. Brazil's long-standing participatory approach to policymaking has also proven successful. For example, its climate plan is being developed through a governance structure that includes several ministries of the federal government, together with representatives from the scientific community, subnational governments, the private sector and civil society.

Moreover, a climate participatory platform (involving both digital and in-person exchanges) has been launched to invite all Brazilian citizens to propose solutions. The National Environmental Conference and the National Social and Economic Development Council, by prioritizing the climate plan, have further contributed to strengthening this bottom-up process.

Such methods can steer climate policy proposals away from sources of polarization and toward opportunities for collaboration and deliberation. Among G20 countries, 62 percent of people favor using citizens' assemblies for decision-making, while that number has risen above 70 percent in countries like Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico, and South Africa, and to over 80 percent in Kenya. More than 170 citizens' assemblies have been held in more than 30 countries, each with the goal of accelerating climate action in ways that support a fair and just transition for all.

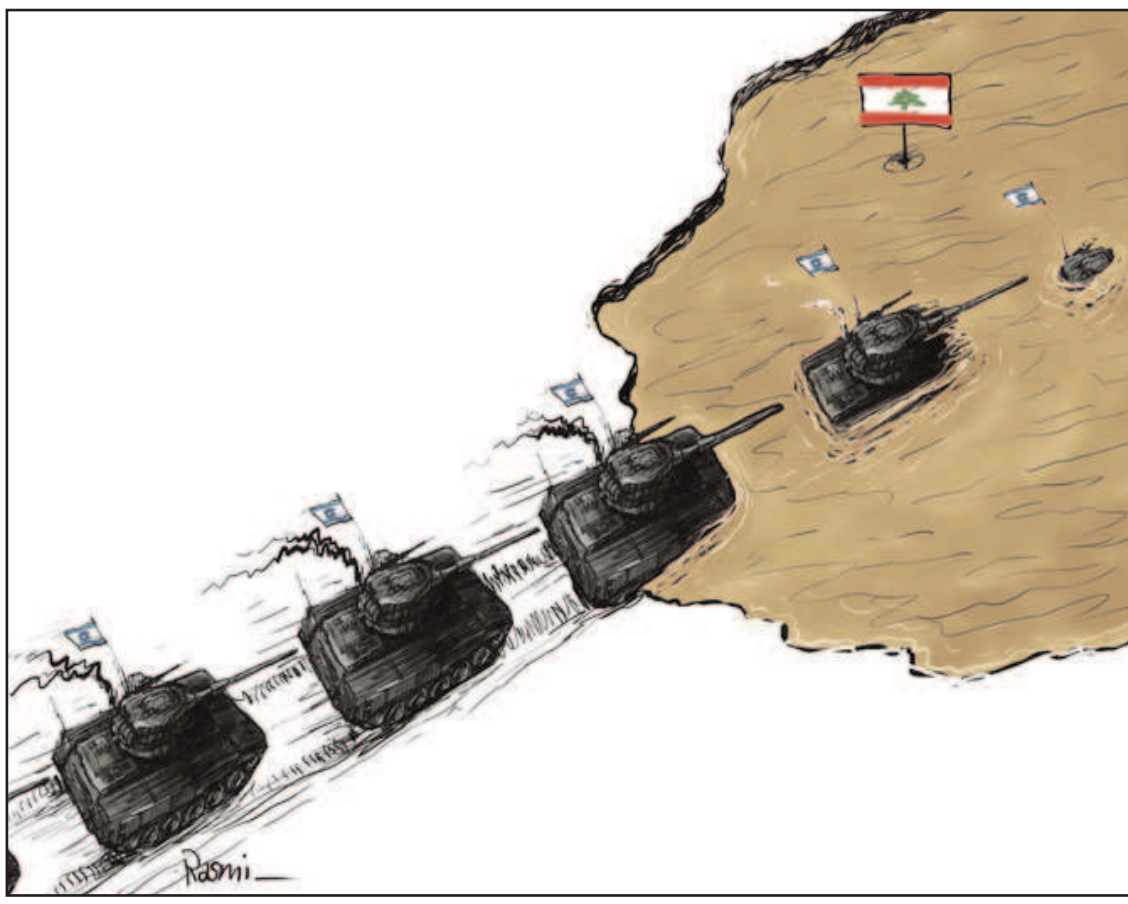
Drawing on the model of the World Social Forum, what we need now is a global climate forum to bring citizens together from every country not just to chart a collective path forward, but to reimagine our politics and encourage a global ethical stocktake. This would be an opportunity for humanity to come together, to understand each other's aspirations and anxieties, and to co-create a green transition that benefits everyone.

Rather than leaving anyone behind, we can forge a new social contract rooted in solidarity, equity and fairness. In 2015, France and Peru established a new mechanism, the Action Agenda, because they recognized that the scale of change needed to tackle the climate crisis requires more than just government action. It also depends on the wealth of ideas that civil society — including businesses, cities and communities — has to offer.

As countries prepare to announce their next climate commitments in 2025, we must acknowledge the critical role that ordinary citizens have to play, both individually and collectively, in addressing the climate crisis. At COP30 (in November 2025) and beyond, we must provide a dedicated space to hear every voice and to ensure that the transition is not only fast but fair. Failing that, we will not achieve our common goals. That is why Brazil is committed to making COP30 the "people's COP" and to giving every person on Earth the opportunity to participate in shaping our common future.

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How West seeks to make Russia's sanctions evasion more expensive

Alexander Kolyandyr

WITH the aid of sanctions, the European Union has reduced exports to Russia to a record low and completely halted the supply of some key industrial components. Yet that is only part of the picture. Some countries like Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Armenia function as intermediaries through which Russia still receives European goods and equipment.

Sanctions evasion via third countries is not a new problem. Even though the full-scale war in Ukraine has been raging for two and a half years, Ukrainians still find recently made Western components in the Russian cruise missiles falling on their cities. As a result, Western policymakers have begun to change their focus. Instead of trying to stop all exports to Russia, which is impossible, they are seeking to make sanctions evasion more costly. According to Eurostat, the bloc's exports to Russia in June were worth 2.4 billion euros (\$2.67 billion). That is about a third of the volume of exports in June 2021, and the lowest level since January 2003. The most dramatic reductions have been in the exports of machinery and equipment, which in June were worth one-tenth of what they were three years earlier (a drop from 3.5 billion euros to 365 million euros).

However, the data for third countries (which have never imposed sanctions on Russia) shows a sharp rise in imports of goods that Russia once obtained directly from the EU. This is the case even without taking into account China, whose imports from the EU are so huge that any changes linked with Russia are not visible in the data. For example, the export of power generation equipment from the EU to Russia has dropped steadily since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In June, it was valued at just 30,000 euros (\$33,200), down from 35 million euros (\$38,575,000) three years earlier. In the same period, however, Turkey increased imports of EU power generation equipment by 42

percent to 48.6 million euros (\$53,785,000), and the United Arab Emirates ramped it up more than fivefold to 54.8 million euros (\$60,646,000). It's difficult to explain such growth as the result of inflation or increased internal demand.

Another critical category of equipment for the Russian economy is EU-made airplane parts. In June 2021, Russia bought 13 million euros worth of airplane parts from the EU. Now it buys none at all. The UAE, however, has increased its imports of EU-made aircraft parts almost fifteen-fold to 23.6

measures look remarkably similar in terms of goals.

The EU now requires exporters and their subsidiaries to make "best efforts" to establish the identity of end buyers. This means exporters must draw up sales contracts for dual-use goods and cutting-edge technologies so that they include a clause forbidding use in Russia, or in the manufacturing of goods destined for the Russian market. And they must take special steps, including risk assessments, to ensure the goods do not end up in Russia. In other words, the responsibility for ensuring EU-made goods stay out of

venting the reexport of items important for the Russian defense sector. Other types of goods will continue to slip through.

Notably, the approach chosen by the EU differs from that of the United States, which is trying to catch those ignoring Western restrictions on Russia and then impose secondary sanctions. This has led to delays and in some cases a complete stop in Russian companies being able to settle payments using banks in Turkey, the UAE, and China. As a result, Russian companies have been forced to use small banks in third countries unafraid of losing access to the US market. But these banks are often less reliable and the costs are higher. Sometimes Russian companies end up making payments in cryptocurrencies or gold. The EU measures will lead to delays with export agreements. To get around the rules, Russian buyers will likely create ever more complex trading arrangements involving more intermediaries, or they will clear goods through customs in third countries before shipping them to Russia. This will make trade more complicated, more expensive, and slower-as well as increase risks and create supply crises. The result will be more inflation in Russia and a less efficient economy.

However, none of the existing measures will fully prevent the reexport of sanctioned goods to Russia. If that were the goal, the West would need to take drastic steps like a full trade embargo maintained with military force. Clearly, the West is not ready for such a move. Nor is it willing to take the more moderate step of imposing import quotas on third countries, as that would violate free trade principles. A more realistic goal for Washington and Brussels is to continue to increase the costs associated with reexport to Russia. Tightening control over intermediaries and exporters significantly increases the pressure from sanctions, hampering the work of many sectors, including Russia's military-industrial complex.

The Moscow Times

Unlike the United States, the EU has traditionally been opposed to so-called secondary sanctions aimed at deterring third-party countries from helping sanctioned countries obtain prohibited goods, but these latest measures look remarkably similar in terms of goals.

million euros, and Turkey has boosted imports by a third to be worth 12.7 million euros. This sort of sanctions evasion sometimes borders on the absurd. Prior to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, there was little demand for EU maritime navigation equipment in landlocked countries like Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. But after the start of the war, demand from those countries skyrocketed. In January 2024, Kyrgyzstan imported almost 1 million euros of maritime navigation equipment from the EU, while Armenia's imports of the same totaled 6.5 million euros. European policymakers are not blind to these problems.

The EU's 14th package of sanctions, passed at the end of June, was designed to limit the reexport of EU goods to Russia. Unlike the United States, the EU has traditionally been opposed to so-called secondary sanctions aimed at deterring third-party countries from helping sanctioned countries obtain prohibited goods, but these latest

Russia has been laid at the door of private companies. The EU itself has a regulatory function, with the power to take companies that break the rules to court, rescind export licenses, and levy fines. It's not only companies that knowingly allow reexporting to Russia that will be penalized but also those that fail to carry out sufficient checks in advance.

Much of this has been implicitly required of EU companies since the start of the war in Ukraine, but it has all been codified by the 14th package of sanctions and will now be enforced EU-wide, and not just by individual member states. The new requirements enter force on Dec. 26, 2024, and companies with existing contracts will have six months to complete deliveries. In private, however, European officials admit these measures won't be enough to fully solve the problem of reexports to Russia. The EU does not have the capacity to check all exports to third countries, so it will likely concentrate its efforts on pre-

US military action in ME not making Israel safer

Rami G Khouri

ON October 1, Iran launched a massive aerial attack on Israel in retaliation for the assassinations of senior Hezbollah and Hamas leaders and some Iranian officers in Beirut and Tehran. In anticipation of the attack and to help defend its ally Israel, the United States had expanded its already significant military presence in the Middle East. Its destroyers helped intercept the 180 projectiles Iran fired at military bases in Israel. Such military action has become routine for the US, which has repeatedly intervened in the region in the past decades to directly or indirectly protect Israel.

However, US military interventions have had the opposite of the intended effect: They have made Israel more vulnerable and more dependent on ever greater deployment of American military power. This legacy has also made Israel the most dangerous place in the world for Jews. This is because the US-Israeli fixation on military force has prevented any efforts to address the core causes of tensions in the region — primarily the Palestinian-Zionist conflict. This has also generated powerful new military actors and popular resistance groups across the Middle East. Hezbollah, Hamas, Ansar Allah (the Houthis) and others now routinely attack both US and Israeli targets.

The power of the axis currently confronting Israel derives not only from its weapons, but also from its close alignment with Arab public opinion. It is willing and able to militarily resist Israel's occupation and subjugation of Arabs, which no Arab state has done since 1973. All this reflects the decades of American-Israeli aggressions and wars, and Arab governments' inability to protect their lands, people, and sovereignty.

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

A regional war is steadily developing and the US is not allowing itself to be dragged into it by Israel, but rather it has willingly joined it. This is because the US loves war and loves to go to war for Israel. There are several reasons for this. Washington has a penchant for warfare because American politicians understand that it boosts the economy. The US defence budget, now nearly \$850bn, increases by 2-3 percent annually, for a reason. War drives defence spending, investments, jobs, and profits for hundreds of big and small companies across the country, most of which donate generously to elected officials' campaigns every two years.

So far, Washington has spent between \$1.8bn and \$4bn bombing Ansar Allah in Yemen, without stopping their attacks on ships pass-

ing through the Red Sea, launched in response to Israel's genocide in Gaza. The combined Israeli, US, British and French operation to intercept drones and missiles Iran launched against Israel in April cost an estimated \$1.1bn. The October 1 military response was likely equally expensive. Some Arab countries also helped intercept Iranian missiles, because Israel alone can no longer protect itself.

Washington spends these large amounts of money willingly, to bolster its global standing and also to keep feeding its expansive military-industrial complex via lucrative contracts for domestic use and foreign export. The nearly \$4bn in US annual aid to Israel also mostly covers war-making systems purchased from American firms, so it constitutes a significant annual cash injection into the US military-industrial complex.

Apart from feeding and flaunting its war machines, the US also loves going to war for Israel for other reasons. Israel's close political and military links with the US are partly a lingering remnant of the Cold War, when Israel was seen as a key ally defending US interests in a region dominated by hostile countries allied with the Soviet Union. After the Cold War, Washington continued to view Tel Aviv as a strategic ally that helps maintain US dominance in the Middle East.

US mainstream media has played a central role in keeping the American public ignorant of Palestinian realities, and supportive of Israel and American largesse towards it. It has justified US military adventures abroad and systematically skewed its reporting to accommodate Israeli positions on the conflicts with Palestinians, Lebanon, Iran, and on the Middle East in general. This latest confrontation will likely not be the last one. As regional conflict flares, the American armadas will continue to visit us regularly and destabilise the region and the world. This legacy of US militarism in the past quarter-century has spawned some 60 military bases and other facilities across the Middle East.

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

The vast majority of Arab public opinion feels strongly that Palestinians must have their sovereign state as part of the process to achieve a regional Arab-Israeli peace. This sentiment is also slowly spreading among the American public, possibly paving the way for a change of policy in Washington. Indeed, investing in true peace efforts would be easier, more equitable, less expensive, and much less destructive than perpetuating the current colonial situation that is regularly buttressed by visiting American troops. This is the best and probably the only way to guarantee Israel's security.

Arab News

Blame the Biden administration for mayhem in Lebanon

Daoud Kuttab

AS the Middle East spirals out of control with a runaway train called Netanyahu acting without guardrails, the question that needs to be asked is where responsibility lies for the continued deaths of children and absence of peace; the booby-trapping of technological equipment and blowing them up in grocery stores and hospitals; and the destruction of high-rise buildings with everyone in them. And who is responsible for 180 Iranian ballistic missiles violating the air space of several Arab countries on their way to Israel?

It is not easy to blame a country as far away as the US is for what is happening in Lebanon and elsewhere in the region, but the Biden administration can longer avoid responsibility for its role as an accomplice.

Biden, who for months refused to vote for a ceasefire in Gaza (while backing one in Ukraine) finally issued a

plan last June and then obtained the approval of the UN Security Council. The plan was accepted by Hamas, and Israel — which then decided to move the goalposts. The US asked Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to enter Rafah, and he responded by occupying the entire Philadelphia corridor on the border with Egypt — a violation of the US-sponsored Camp David agreement. What did the US do? It sent Israel more weapons.

They dispatched the head of the CIA, the secretary of state and the national security adviser to Egypt and Qatar to help negotiate a Gaza peace plan, but they were unable to change the Israeli point of view. To make matters worse, warmonger Netanyahu sought and seems to have received Washington's approval to decimate Hezbollah. The result was booby-trapping and blowing up pagers and walkie-talkies some of which lay around in

homes, grocery stores, or hospitals. Lebanese civilians including children and medical staff were killed. But the Israeli appetite was still not satisfied because residents have been displaced from their homes on the border with Lebanon.

Again the US approved a "limited" attack on Lebanon — a reminder of Ariel Sharon's claim in 1982 that Israel was going to occupy only about 65 km in south Lebanon, and it ended up besieging Beirut. Israel stayed as an occupying power until 1989 when it was routed by the successors of the moderate PLO, Hezbollah. And where is the US in all this? Nowhere to be found. Biden is unable to force his own ally to agree to what it had already accepted in June — a comprehensive three-phase ceasefire deal to end the war in Gaza.

Israel insists that Hezbollah is causing a nui-

sance to Israelis who have been forced to live in hotels rather than their homes. The now deceased leader of Hezbollah, although angry with the pager attack, continued to make his position clear: attacks from Lebanon would stop if there was an agreement on Gaza. If there is one thing Israelis agree on it is that Hassan Nasrallah was much more trustworthy than their own prime minister. Netanyahu himself is also counting on that, if the hostilities end in an agreement. But the problem is that the Israelis want to delink any agreement in Lebanon with the moderate PLO, Hezbollah. And where is the US in all this? Nowhere to be found. Biden is unable to force his own ally to agree to what it had already accepted in June — a comprehensive three-phase ceasefire deal to end the war in Gaza.

Israel insists that Hezbollah is causing a nui-

ated accusation, the Israeli leader who persuaded Donald Trump to tear up an agreement that restricted Iran's nuclear development now wants more: he wants a war with Iran, and knows that in that event Washington would have no choice but to defend Israel. Furthermore, when Israel assassinated on sovereign Iranian soil the very person they were negotiating with, it raised the stakes. And while Iran didn't respond directly, its ally in Lebanon did.

Fortunately, Iran and to a lesser degree Hezbollah will not be goaded into such a war, but the US has a real problem in Lebanon and it can't continue to stand idly by, or even send top-notch emissaries without giving them the real tools to put a stop to this craziness. Israeli hostages, like the tens of thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel without trial or charge and being denied Red Cross visits, must be released. The Israelis must

withdraw from Gaza and a sincere effort must be immediately launched to end the 57-year occupation of Palestinian territory.

The military escalation in Lebanon can be stopped quickly if the Biden administration acts decisively and uses all political means at its disposal, including an arms embargo and sanctions if needed to get the Israelis to accept a Gaza ceasefire. Such decisive action would need to be followed immediately by considerable efforts to resolve the Palestine issue. The US cannot ask the parties to solve their own problems through negotiations while one side, Israel, is publicly refusing to negotiate. The decades-old occupation and colonial settlements have now been declared illegal by the world's top court and the UN General Assembly. It is high time to find a just and permanent solution so that the people of Israel and Palestine can live in peace.

One year of genocide

HISTORY is the biggest teacher. It tells us about the colonizers, Bosnia Serbia War, the genocides in the Indian subcontinent, the two world wars, Americas and Australia where the indigenous population was wiped off because they were not prepared enough and couldn't resist to protect their freedom.

The occupied territory has been historically a very important place for all the religions. It is a center of civilization culture along with its strategic location make it all the more important. It is also a holy land having religious significance. In the case of Palestine historical conquests and struggle for power in this part of the world throughout history is widely known.

The Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli land, sea and air blockade since 2007. Israel has waged four wars on Gaza since 2008. No portion of Gaza society or economy has been left untouched. The latest war is underway. It has been one year of barbarism, savagery, brutality on Gaza perpetrated by bloodthirsty and war criminals headed by the Israeli prime minister.

Ground Reality: The latest death toll in Gaza stands at 42,183 Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as per the news from Aljazeera News, including nearly 16,500 children. Injured are reported to be more than 95,921. While more than 10,000 are reported missing. In West Bank at least 716 people, including more than 160 children are reported killed while injured are reported to be more than 5,700.

As of September 24, 2024, The Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent, nonprofit organization's preliminary investigations showed at least 116 journalists and media workers were among the killed by the IDF (Israel, Defense Forces) since the war began, making it the deadliest period for journalists. More than 885 healthcare workers reportedly killed in Gaza and the West Bank since 7 October 2023 at per the figures quoted by the World Health Organization. While more than 100 staff members of the United nation, relief fund have been killed by Israel in Gaza as per the UN report. In addition to the above ten thousand innocent Palestinians were taken into illegal custody by the Zionist army. They tortured, humiliated them by inter alia committing sodomy with the prisoners, and pushed iron rods up their rectums.

On the other hand officials in Israel revised the death toll from the October 7 attacks down from 1,405 to 1,139 and at least 8,730 injured. While in Lebanon over 700 people are reported dead and thousands are reported injured, including elderly men, women, and children. It includes, major military commanders, and the Secretary General of Hizbullah.

The UN Secretary General was forced to say that Gaza is hell on earth. The UN has further stated that Gaza is a graveyard of children. The international media has reported that Gaza has been reduced to 42,000,000 tons of rubble. Professor Robert Pepe at the university of Chicago has reported that Gaza has suffered intense civilian punishment campaign in the history where hospitals, schools, libraries, bookstores, universities, churches, masks, and even Cemeteries have been bombed repeatedly. Even the declared safe zones have been repeatedly targeted by the Zionist army. The international media has reported at least seven such attacks between January ,2024 to April, 2024 resulting in killing off hundreds

Questions; There are a few questions which irk everybody's mind. These can be summarized as follows: –

1. where are we heading in special reference to Palestinian issue.
2. what Israel's long-term strategy be? 3. ? what has been achieved in the fight by Hamas. Gaza almost destroyed West Bank about

to be decimated. 4. ? Does the human cost justify the effort by the helpless freedom fighters in Gaza, West Bank and Lebanon.

The answers to these questions not simple. However, for proper comprehension, we have to study the history of the world and all the freedom struggles. It would tell us that nations had to pay a very heavy price for freedom. Loss of humans was one of them. So, Gaza is no exception. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair's sister-in-law said in 2008 reported that Gaza is effectively the world's largest internment camp.

A section of people believes that events that took place on seventh October 2023 were not justified. If those were not justified, then annihilating an entire area along with thousands of people, including children cannot be justified either. Various theories in this regard were analyzed in my article titled "the Palestinian crisis".

We living in the luxury of our homes cannot understand the mindset and psychology of ordinary Palestinians. they had to break free. They knew that it would be a long war. They were aware of the fact that they had-to pay a price for the attempt at liberation. Now the Palestinian people believe that they are moving towards their goal. The struggle of the Palestinians is labeled as war of attrition. This is the impression that one gets if you watch the international media and scholars of Palestine and other Muslims all over the world in their lectures and talks.

Omar Mukhtar, a famous Libyan resistance fighter who fought against the Italians in the 1930s had said that, "We will not surrender / We win or we die / Our flag will not fall down / It will wave up high forever". This slogan is very dear to the people fighting for Palestine. The bigger picture has been explained in my article published one year ago titled "Armageddon, the final frontier". Having said that we are all aware of the expansion policies of the Zionist and apartheid state of Israel. Israel's actions in Gaza and beyond are part of a larger, long-term strategy rooted in Zionist ideology, aiming to depopulate and settle in Palestinian territories. This plan, which predates Hamas, seeks to remove Palestinians and replace them with settlers.

Israel's end goal is to establish a Jewish state on both banks of the Jordan River, as envisioned by Ze'ev Jabotinsky, an influential Zionist ideologue. Depopulation, Settlement Expansion, Divide and Rule and Security Control are key components of Israel strategy. Militarily Israel is very well equipped and scientifically advanced with modern weapons, including supersonic aircraft's having AI technology and advanced defense systems. Because of which it always behaves like bull in a China shop. Along with the military and diplomatic support of the governments of some superpowers, it does not care for the public opinion of the world. while the other side has no fighter jets nor any anti-aircraft guns or scientific radar systems or tanks, heavy machinery, including armed, personal carriers, etc. The brave Palestinians confront Zionist forces with only their faith and zeal for freedom.

Media warfare or intellectual warfare is an increasingly important aspect of wars. It was out of reach previously to the Palestinian people. But now they have made effective use of media outlets and means of communication invented by Jews against them. It has resulted in shifting of public perception in favor of two state solution. The narrative and myth of Israel has been destroyed one year into the war and apart from merciless killing of innocent civilians, intruding men, women and children it has not achieved anything.

Even the Jews themselves seem to be realizing their mistake of,

Khawaja Wajih-u-Din

shifting to Israel. The times of Israel reported that. About 12,300 Israelis left the country that month and had not returned as of June 2024. This compared to only 3,200 who left permanently the year before— a 285 percent increase.

Historically there is no truth in the local perception that as the Palestinians sold their land to Jews, and therefore, their rights do-not remain on the land. As per the article published in daily times and other research. In 1945, the total area of landholdings by Jews was 906, 800 dunams (1 dunam=4 acre). This equaled 3.5 per cent of the total land under the legal control of local Arabs, and by 1948, it was estimated at around 2 million, seven per cent of the total Palestinian land.

Rashid Khalidi, an American historian, estimated that a little over a third of the total seven per cent was sold by absentee landlords of Palestinian origin to the Jews. And only six per cent of the total seven per cent was sold by local landlords or peasants to Jews. These estimates were also corroborated by Walter Lehn, a voracious writer on the Israel-Palestine conflict, and reports from the Jewish Agency that confirmed that the majority of land purchased was from large absentee landlords.

Achievements; In any case Shifting of public opinion in favor of Palestinian state is a no mean achievement. It was not possible had it not been for the sacrifices made by the Palestinians. In countries all over the world, there has been wide condemnations, protests by all walks of life and boycott of Israeli products .Even the university students joined the protests and sit ins .For the first time, perhaps we saw Jews protesting all over the world with the slogan, not in our name.

As per daily Dawn, Public sentiment against Israel has led to a 20-30pc sales decline and the closure of several popular Western company outlets over the past six months. Economic times reported that Starbucks lost approximately \$11 billion in value, erasing 9.4% Of the company's total value due to the boycott. Economic times reported the same. McDonald's lost \$7 billion of its value and its shares fell by more than 3%, reported, Al Jazeera.

KFC Indonesia, recorded a net loss of some 348.83 billion rupiah (US\$21.5 million) in the first quarter of this year, a jump of more than 60 times from a loss of 5.56 billion rupiah (US\$343,825) in the same period last year. Economic Times reported on 4.9.24 that Coca-Cola and PepsiCo lost popularity to local Cola brands due to boycott over Gaza in Muslim countries

As per Dhaka Tribune sales of Coca-Cola dropped by 80 to 85 % in the last few days.

Forty-six thousand Israeli businesses have been forced to shut as a result of the ongoing war and its devastating effect on the economy, Hebrew newspaper Maariv reported on 10 July, referring to Israel as a "country in collapse." Experts estimate that the economic toll of the war may cost Israel an estimated \$400 billion in lost economic activity over the next decade – threatens Israel's economic future. For Israel, 90% of the economic shock will come from indirect effects: reduced investment, slowing productivity growth and labor market disruption, as per Wikipedia. The cost of genocide is expected to reach more than \$55bn by next year.

Credit rating agencies have downgraded Israel for the first time in its history. Therefore, it would be safe to say that Israel may be at the verge of an internal collapse, Palestine took seat among UN member states at 79th General Assembly Session in 24 September. As of June 2024, the State of Palestine is recognized as a sovereign state by 146 of the 193member states of the United

Nations, or just over 75% of all UN members.

Due to shift in public perception around the world the Israeli Prime Minister addressed an almost empty general assembly in late September this year. Yet another landmark was that the International Court of Justice has ruled that Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is illegal and that Israeli policies violate international law.

Lessons Learned; Lessons learned are that public pressure or perception may not always be enough. It has to be coupled with some practical steps to enforce an adjudication, resolution or popular public demand. It's always a chosen few who matter ultimately, in this regard. The aim of the Muslim Uma should be those chosen few ones who matter. In Modern times the moral degradation of an average Muslim and the Muslim Rulers in power has been evident. Inferior Psychology coupled with lack of character leads to inability to take strong actions against oppressors . It's a bleak picture for the Muslim block. we have to work on our ethics and morality as a first priority.

Suggestions; It's high time that the Muslim countries all over the world should solve internal disputes and focus on a bigger picture. Like OIC should have a deterrence force which can be used against any enemy on the patterns of NATO. As far as UN is concerned, I think the power of the five permanent members has to be withdrawn if there is any future for the said body. The decision has to be based on popular vote in the security council with no one having a veto power. Smart tactics are required by all the Muslim thinkers and planners by exploiting Ultra-orthodox Jewish group called "Haredis " As of 2020, there were about 2.1 million Haredim globally, representing 14% of the world's Jewish population. Haredim primarily live in Israel (17% of Israeli Jews said 14% of the total population). They have about 18 seats in Knesset. there is Israeli Prime Minister has 64 seats and 61 are required for majority so Harides have the power to bring down the government of Israel. Fall of the Israeli government is highly likely in case of the legislation on their forced military service goes through in Parliament.

Historically, Haredis were against the creation of the state of Israel and can be a big existential threat to the government and the state. Haredis disagree with Israel's traditional method of conflict resolution – specifically, a military solution – and do not want to be party to its violent tactics. Muslims all over the world should buy property in Gaza and West Bank to keep the Palestinians afloat and help their economic depravity. All the people should necessarily boycott every product associated with Israel, except life-saving medicine. By doing so we would play our small part to help the helpless people of Palestine. "MAJOR PROBLEM OF WORLD: Zionist Economy is my article published some months back may be worth checking. A lasting resolution to the conflict will require a comprehensive and inclusive approach, taking into the account the rights and aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians.

Conclusion: In (85:10) the Holy Quran has clarified that "Those who persecute the believing men and women and then do not repent will certainly suffer the punishment of Hell and the torment of burning.". Surah Nisa 4 Aya 56 says that "Surely those who reject Our signs, We will cast them into the Fire. Whenever their skin is burnt completely, We will replace it so they will ?constantly? taste the punishment. Indeed, Allah is Almighty, All-Wise". It is the fate of those in Israel who believe they can get away with anything.

The writer is former Registrar Peshawar High Court.

Xi rubbing his hands with glee

Charles Moore

I stick by the old journalistic rule that “Half an hour spent with Who’s Who is never wasted”. It is a tremendous compendium of information about well-known people. Its entrants are allowed, within reason, to write their own entries. So the reader learns how they wish to present themselves.

For many years, Jeremy Corbyn’s Who’s Who entry has recorded his support for issues related to the Chagos Islands. It is one of a list of similar foreign causes which appeal to Mr Corbyn under his overarching principle that in any international dispute, the interests of Britain and America must always be opposed. So it is surprising that one of Sir Keir Starmer’s early foreign policy acts is to announce that the islands no longer belong to Britain, but to Mauritius, and that, to further this, Britain will now give Mauritius “an indexed annual payment” and endow it with a trust fund. (Despite this, by the way, it is reported that many Chagossians themselves are displeased by Britain’s decision, since they see themselves as Chagossians, not Mauritians.)

The surprise comes because we thought Sir Keir had firmly set his face against the obsessions of Corbynism. A year ago next week, after the Hamas atrocities of October 7, he came out fast to back Israel’s right to self-defence, justifiably keen to squash Islamist/hard-Left libels about Israeli “genocide”. At his party’s conference this year, he countered a heckler shouting about Gaza by saying, “This guy’s obviously got a pass to the 2019 conference” – the last one in which Mr Corbyn was Labour leader. Sir Keir is determined to put that time behind him. So why, given that Britain has only so many foreign-policy shots to fire, do he and the Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, don a Corbynista bandana and have a go at a tiny vestige of the British Empire? Isn’t this the sort of “performative” stuff of which Sir Keir often complains?

After all, there is no shortage of serious foreign policy issues to address. As in the 1930s, or the early days of the Cold War, we are living at a time when the state of the world should trouble us at home. The problem is the emergence of an axis of powers – call it an “axis of evil”, if you want; I would – who see their interests as directly in conflict with those of the West. China, Russia and Iran

(not forgetting dear little North Korea) cooperate over weapons, missiles, cyber-security, propaganda, policy in international institutions such as the UN, much more. Mostly, they cooperate against us.

As well as cooperation, there is connectivity. Earlier this week, I interviewed the former US Secretary of State (and Director of the CIA), Mike Pompeo, at the think-tank Policy Exchange. Illustrating the Chinese threat, he asserted that “All of you sitting here have a Taiwanese component on your person.” If China invades Taiwan, he said, “In four weeks, the shelves in your shops will be empty.” In the United States and Britain, Mr Pompeo added, China is running “the deepest influence operation in the history of civilisation”, vastly magnified from anything in the past by technology. It includes talking to our children (through Tik-Tok), seeking to affect election results, spying on US state governments, penetration of universities, stealing of intellectual property, spying on and policing Chinese students in the West and inserting surveillance into electric vehicles.

Given that these phenomena are now all about us, it is remarkable how little attention we still pay. When I first met Mr Pompeo, early in 2020, he was here to persuade Boris Johnson’s government to strip Huawei out of its supposedly secure systems. At the time, Boris insouciantly refused, but after a few weeks of Covid (with millions of deaths spread worldwide from China), changed his mind. Four years on, though, we are still half-asleep. One Labour motive in giving up the Chagos Islands will be post-colonial guilt. Sir Keir and his ministers may see tiny far-flung British possessions as both shameful and pointless. But it is worth reflecting that the far-flung quality was always part of the intention: great empires depend on sea-lanes and on deep ports, on the right channels from one sea to another and on encircling the world.

As Britain has forgotten this, China has learnt it. When seeking to present its history as peaceful, China likes to emphasise how it never had a sea-borne empire. It certainly does now. Its Belt and Road Initiative is a global attempt at one. Britain may think it has little use for Mauritius and the Chagos Islands, but China well understands the point of

Culture is our weapon

Milo Rau

HENRY Kissinger is reputed to have asked China’s prime minister Zhou Enlai whether the French Revolution had been a success. “Too early to tell,” was the reply. If the question were asked again today, the answer would be: “Probably not.” Because all three of the values underpinning the revolution – liberty, fraternity and equality – are now disappearing into thin air in Europe, the birthplace of democracy.

And the political changes seem irreversible: In seven European democracies, far-right parties have entered government, and in several more states, including France, they are pushing at the gates of power. Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia and, of course, Russia, have quasi-autocratic governments. Last Sunday the Austrian Freedom party (FPÖ), a party that even the conservative media describe as “radical rightwing”, won a general election for the first time. They campaigned on the slogan “Fortress Austria”, in effect advocating an ethnically and culturally cleansed country. The term is reminiscent of “Fortress Europe” – a phrase favoured by Goebbels.

The FPÖ manifesto calls for “two genders” to be enshrined in the constitution, “remigration” to be radically implemented and for the creation of a two-tier society in which only “real” Austrians are entitled to social benefits. In the words of the FPÖ, it wants to “gain full power over government, space and people”. In the area of cultural policy, it wants to follow the example of neighbouring Hungary and Slovakia and cut public subsidies for “woke events”, such as the Eurovision song contest and the Vienna festival, which I am the director of. In the eyes of the FPÖ,

“woke” is presumably anything that is not brass band music, operetta or Germanic-pop schlager music.

In doing so, it is politicising a trend that has been apparent throughout Europe for many years: cutting cultural budgets on the grounds that they are not economically viable. I remember in 2019, when I was still artistic director of the NTGent in Belgium, we demonstrated against the Flemish region’s budget cuts. The process of allocating subsidies was akin to distributing scarce food after a natural disaster: institutions and independent companies were thrown together into a pool that had far too little money at its disposal.

In neoliberal fashion, the actual problem – namely, insufficient subsidies for the arts – was translated into a competitive conflict. Now a similar process is taking place in the Netherlands, and is also expected in Germany. During the Flemish budget cuts, I recall an independent study being commissioned to examine the return on public investment in all sectors. Culture came out on top.

But budget cuts are no longer about money, they are nothing less than a tool of creeping censorship. They are about dismantling diverse and inclusive societies. In much of eastern Europe, the cultural clear-out is almost complete. In Slovakia, the heads of national cultural institutions are being replaced one by one by rightwing bureaucrats.

After two decades of cuts, the German-language culture channel 3Sat, a collaboration between public broadcasters in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, is on the verge of closure. As far as Belgium, the Netherlands and France are concerned, by the end of

outposts right across the oceans. Besides, in this resource-hungry world (no nation hungrier than China), faraway places turn out to be important. Think of the Falkland Islands – another colony Britain tried to give away – now seeking to explore, against London’s crazed net zero wishes, their considerable oil-fields.

Inside the confusions of Western foreign policy lies a strange reluctance to focus. This is not a problem for our adversaries. It is, in some ultimate sense, mad for Putin to try to conquer Ukraine, for Iran to destroy Israel or for China to try to run the world; but in the shorter term, these aims are clear and lend purpose to everything else. We in the West, despite our greater prosperity, technology and potential arsenals, seem weirdly reluctant to measure the realities of power. What good is it if our diplomats, rather than advancing British interests, seek to persuade an African country to improve LGBT rights or move faster to net zero? What, after all, are we offering them?

The protracted and consequently bloodier fighting in Gaza has happened, in part, because the Americans, let alone Britain and the EU, keep quibbling and fussing about ceasefires. Our obsession is “proportionality”, but since Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas have repeatedly sworn that the destruction of Israel is their purpose, how could half-measures against them be proportionate? They must be rendered incapable of achieving what they most desire. The logical and deserved fate of a nation whose mission is to obliterate another one is to crush its capacity do so.

There are some indications that, behind the scenes, this is what the West, or at least the United States, now recognises. In the past three weeks, Israel has won, by its own feats, a freedom of action which its allies had been trying to deny it. What America says, especially in an election year, is not always the whole of what it means. After Iran ineffectively fired almost 200 ballistic missiles on Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu said it would pay. He did not say how, of course, but the fact that the US carrier strike group Harry S Truman is nearing position off the coast suggests that the thought is slowly dawning that Israel should be helped to finish the job. It would be nice if Sir Keir could do Britain’s little bit.

The Telegraph

How Israel’s invasion of Lebanon poses risks to Turkiye

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s suggestion last week that “Israel’s next target is Turkiye” marks a crucial shift in rhetoric as we approach the first anniversary of the start of war in Gaza. While Turkiye has consistently characterized Israel’s aggression as endangering regional peace, framing it as a direct threat to Turkiye itself is a notable development.

Turkiye’s geopolitical position inevitably ties it closely to the conflict in Gaza, especially in light of Iran’s military responses to Israeli actions. Turkish statements reflect not only concerns for regional stability but also for the war’s broader implications, and Turkish authorities have arrested and charged dozens of people suspected of having ties to Mossad.

Parliamentary Speaker Numan Kurtulmus expressed similar sentiments to Erdogan, and some journalists and policymakers have also highlighted the Israeli threat to Turkiye. The Greater Israel or “promised land” mentioned in the Torah encompasses all or parts of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Kuwait and Turkiye. This perceived threat was fueled by a controversial article in The Jerusalem Post referring specifically to Lebanon. The article was deleted after a significant back-

Sinem Cengiz

lash, but it ignited heated discussions on social media, with critics accusing the publication of endorsing expansionist ideologies under religious pretenses. The incident has amplified Turkish concerns.

Nevertheless, it appears that Turkish policymakers are sending a message less to Israel and more to the US. As a NATO member, Turkiye is unlikely to be a direct military target for Israel, but unwavering US support for Israel is a real concern for Ankara. While Turkiye remained cautious after last week’s Iranian missile attack on Israel, it was especially concerned after President Joe Biden’s promise that the US would assist Israel in defending against further strikes. And although Israel’s offensive into Lebanon came as no surprise, its intensity has begun to cause alarm in Ankara.

Turkiye’s engagement in Lebanon reflects a broader Middle East strategy. While it is widely believed that Turkiye’s actions in Lebanon aim to counter Iranian influence, another motivation appears to be a direct counter to Israel. For decades, Turkiye has been actively pursuing a multidimensional foreign policy in Lebanon, seeking to bolster its influence through humanitarian

and developmental aid, while also supporting the country’s territorial integrity. As part of Turkiye’s humanitarian policy, hundreds of Lebanese citizens arrived in Istanbul after fleeing Israeli airstrikes.

Erdogan has warned that the consequences of a ground operation in Lebanon would differ significantly from Israel’s previous occupations, and said Turkiye would stand by Lebanon and support it with all available means. This has raised expectations that Turkiye might consider sending troops, but this is unlikely.

Turkish soldiers are already deployed in Lebanon as part of the UN interim force was established in 1978 when Israel withdrew from Lebanon. The peacekeeping force is intended to provide security and help the Lebanese government rebuild its authority. The force was supposed to create a buffer, but today it is being proved that it is not enough. Moreover, Israel has not hesitated to target UN personnel in defiance of international law.

However, Turkiye’s presence inside the UN force could deter Israeli military action against them. If Israel escalates its military operations in Lebanon, it could significantly alter the regional bal-

ance of power and further complicate the conflict dynamics. It could also draw in Syria and Iran. Although Turkiye may not be a key player and its direct investments in Lebanon are small, officials in Ankara are worried that a war between Israel and Hezbollah could trigger a widespread crisis, adversely affecting Turkiye’s interests in various countries.

The fear that further Israeli incursions in Lebanon could have widespread ramifications influences Ankara’s geopolitical strategy. Policymakers are worried not only about the immediate implications for Lebanon but also the potential for a larger conflict that could affect Turkiye’s interests across the region. In this context, by positioning itself as a supporter of Lebanese sovereignty and stability, Turkiye aims to strengthen its regional posture and send a significant message to the US and Israel’s other allies to prevent further escalation of the conflict.

In the end, although Ankara has maintained a diplomatic tone so far, a significant Israeli escalation of its offensive in Lebanon could alter the situation. Can Turkiye, given its historical responsibilities, help prevent further conflict in the region just by maintaining a presence, all while ensuring the safety of its troops and avoiding direct involvement in the war?

The Guardian



One year of Gaza genocide: How Pakistanis boycotted companies supporting Israel

KARACHI (AA): Wamiq Haris was overseeing a waiter at his small restaurant in the eastern district of Pakistan's commercial capital, Karachi, who was placing soda and water bottles in a fridge.

It was a typical restaurant atmosphere. However, one thing was clearly missing: Western brands, mainly beverages.

Despite a year after the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip that killed more than 41,000 people, mostly women and children, a boycott of foreign brands, particularly from pro-Tel Aviv countries, is palpable across the South Asian nuclear country.

The boycott campaign is not official, although Pakistan outrightly opposes Israeli occupation.

"Customers are still demanding local brands, which has drastically reduced the consumption of Western products, particularly beverages and desserts over the past one year," Haris told Anadolu.

"For the last several months, we have been ordering a limited stock of international brands of soda and ice cream due to a scanty demand," he added. The significant drop in

sales of foreign beverages is a microcosm of a socially-driven movement to boycott US- and Europe-linked products in Pakistan amid the onslaught in Gaza.

"We thought the boycott, in line with similar campaigns in the past, would continue for a few months, but let me admit, I was wrong. It's the same: people (still) tend to boycott," said Haris.

From traditional caterers to fast food restaurants, and bar associations to social clubs, the boycott movement has left its footprint.

Footfall for customers at American fast food chains KFC and McDonald's has also dried up in recent months, forcing restaurants to reduce operations across the country.

The plunging sales forced the closure a few months ago of one of the first foreign fast-food branches in Karachi that was launched in the 1990s.

The High Court Bar Association of southern Sindh province, which banned sales of branded beverages and water within the court's premises last November, has stuck to its guns.



Many organizations, including the Karachi Bar Association and media clubs also followed suit, although foreign brands, mainly soda and water, are still available.

"Before ordering (for wedding ceremonies) people are clearly telling; no foreign brands of beverages and ice cream," Mohammad Kafeel, a Karachi-based caterer told Anadolu.

Months ago, a video went viral on social media

that showed a young man sporting "keffiyeh," a black-and-white checkered scarf that is a symbol of the Palestinian liberation movement, at his engagement ceremony in Karachi.

Other videos showed Pakistanis, including women and children, carrying Palestinian flags and protesting regularly at KFC and McDonald's restaurants across the country.

Local brands fill gap The boycotts have

boosted prospects for native alternatives as several brands are vying to fill the gap, with some seeing a surprise surge in sales.

Cola Next is a local soda brand that has ostensibly replaced global beverage brands in recent months with a "manifold" surge in sales, according to a spokesperson, who refused to give exact figures.

Kababjis, a local fast-food chain is another example of a roaring busi-

ness in the wake of the boycott. The chain has introduced its own brand KFC, or Kababjis Fried Chicken, which dealt a blow to the sales of the original KFC, which runs 128 restaurants in 37 cities in Pakistan.

Quality issues Taking advantage of the boycott, the local companies, although, significantly increased their sales and profits, however, many failed to compete with foreign products in terms of

quality and sustainable market strategy.

In September, on the overall level, those who agreed with a boycott were 68%, slightly higher than the 65% recorded in April, according to Kashif Hafeez, head of Pulse Consultant, a Karachi-based think tank that has monitored the boycott campaign since last October.

Compared to the first wave of tracking in November 2023, however, there is a sharp decline of almost 15% -- 85% to 70%.

"After Ramadan, we observed a significant increase of 16% amongst agreed to boycott (from 68% in December 2023 to 84% in April 2024) in practical impact," added Hafeez.

But in the September wave, the practical effect dropped 10%, declining from 84% to 74%.

Boycott sentiments were more entrenched in children and upper socio-economic classes, he added.

The number of those who practically participated in the boycott of US and other pro-Israel countries' products has declined,

however, due to a string of reasons ranging from low-quality to sustainable supplies and a lack of brand-building by local companies, according to Hafeez.

"It's (decline) is not because of the break in sentiments but because local companies have failed to provide quality products, aside from incompatible prices, unsustainable supplies and less attention towards brand-building," he said.

He said, unfortunately, local brands used the opportunity to increase profits on the back of public sentiments instead of building their brands and improving quality.

"I want to cite an example of a local soft drink brand that managed to snatch a sizable market share due to the boycott of international brands but it did not even provide its own chillers to the sellers. They even relied on the chillers of rival foreign brands to sell their products," he said.

It compelled many to switch back to foreign brands, said Hafeez.

Nevertheless, he added, a large number of customers still stick to the boycott campaign.

IBA Karachi Launches Report on 'The State of Pakistan's Economy'



F.P. Report

KARACHI: IBA's School of Economics & Social Sciences (IBA-SESS) in collaboration with Center for Business and Economic Research (IBA-CBER) launched its report 'The State of Pakistan's Economy 2024-25' at the Main Campus, IBA Karachi. This year's theme is 'Tapping the Economic Potential: Strategies for Productivity and Growth'.

The report is authored by the faculty members and students from the Department of Economics, IBA-SESS and edited by Professor, IBA-SESS, Dr. Heman Das Lohano and Professor and Director IBA-CBER, Dr. Lubna Naz.

This report analyzes key economic sectors in Pakistan, proposing strategies to unlock the country's potential for sustainable growth and prosperity. It offers fresh perspectives

on longstanding challenges, making it an essential reading for students, policymakers, and anyone interested in economic improvement. While highlighting Pakistan's abundant resources, strategic location, and youthful population, the report also addresses significant obstacles including inflation, low growth, and energy shortages.

Renowned economists and practitioners Dr. Farooq Pasha, Dr. Shereen Narejo, and Dr. Mahmood Khalid discussed the key findings and recommendations of the report during the launch event, providing valuable insights into Pakistan's economic landscape. The session was moderated by Dr. Lohano, who started the discussion by emphasizing that to unlock its full economic potential, Pakistan needs to adopt a comprehensive approach that addresses both short-term challenges

and long-term structural issues.

Dr. Khalid stated that the tax policies designed by FBR should be consistent and have rationale. Currently the system is too complicated, especially for the wholesalers and retailers who can easily be brought into the tax net. He also opined that the cost of compliance is very high.

Dr. Narejo emphasized that creation of jobs in the economy is more important than ever before. Millions have become jobless especially after the covid. She added that estimates show that the home-based economy is around \$453 billion. This should be tapped. Similarly, waste management has a huge potential, from just using banana waste, five different products can be made.

Following the discussion, the attendees engaged in a Q&A session with the panelists. The event concluded with Dean SESS, Dr. Asma Hyder, Professor SESS, Dr. Muhammad Nasir, and Visiting Faculty, Dr. Syed Jaffar Ahmed, presenting mementos to the panelists.

The Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, with almost seven decades of legacy, is a multi-disciplinary Institute. In 2020, the institution broadened its academic landscape by launching three new schools: the School of Business Studies (SBS), the School of Economics & Social Sciences (SESS), and the School of Mathematics & Computer Science (SMCS).

This strategic expansion features IBA's commitment to advancing educational innovation and maintaining excellence across diverse fields.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of Frontier Custom Agents Association (FCAA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar president, PAJCCI senior vice president and executive member of the SCCI Ziaul Haq Sarhadi presenting a bouquet of SCCI President Fazal Moqem Khan.

Two percent cess halts KP exports: President SCCI

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fazal Moqem Khan said export from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had halted after imposition of two percent cess and feared of shifting of export to other provinces from KP if the cess couldn't withdraw immediately.

Fazal Moqem said the provincial government move was not only adversely affecting exports but also incurred huge financial loss to exporters.

He stated that export is shifting from KP to other provinces owing to negligence of the provincial

government.

Fazal Moqem asked federal and provincial governments to take pragmatic steps for facilitate businesses, trade and export.

The SCCI chief noted the traders have been facing difficulties owing to lack of facilities at Azakhel Dryport.

The issues were taken up by a delegation of Frontier Custom Agents Association (FCAA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar president, PAJCCI senior vice president and executive member of the SCCI Ziaul Haq Sarhadi during a meeting with the SCCI chief Fazal Moqem Khan held at the chamber house on

Saturday.

The association senior vice president Khalid Shahzad, vice president Imtiaz Ahmad Ali, executive members Mansoor Ahmad, Javed Khan, Tariq Afridi, Israr Afridi, Nizam Shah, Arshad Khan, Sher Muhammad, Wahab Khan and Faiz Muhammad were amongst members of the delegation.

On the occasion, the delegation congratulated the newly elected president Fazal Moqem Khan, Senior Vice president Abdul Jalil Jan and Vice president Shehryar Khan.

PAJCCI senior office bearer apprised the meeting about hurdles in Pak-Afghan mutual trade, trans-

port, especially lack of facilities at Azakhel Dryport. On the occasion, the SCCI chief assured the delegation to take up all issues with relevant authorities to streamline business, trade and export.

Fazal Moqem also called for revival of a cargo train from Peshawar to Karachi and Good in Transit to Afghanistan (GITA) and provision of facilities at all trade routes and to activate the process of trade and export in an expedited and simplified manner.

Earlier, office bearers of the SCCI congratulated Ziaul Sarhadi for being elected as senior vice president of PAJCCI.

NBP wins ADB Disability Inclusion Champion Award

F.P. Report

KARACHI: National Bank of Pakistan has won the prestigious Disability Inclusion Award 2024 from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). This is a historic moment, as NBP is the first bank from Pakistan to receive this award, competing against top banks from Asia and the Pacific. This achievement positions NBP as a leader in disability inclusion, both nationally and internationally. The commitment from NBP's BoD, the President, HRMG, and group chiefs is commendable and reflects the organization's ongoing dedication to fostering an inclusive workplace for all.

Mr. Mirza Muhammad Asim Baig, Group Head HRMG, received this distinguished award on behalf of NBP at a grand ceremony in Singapore. The bank's exemplary efforts in



creating a barrier-free environment, implementing inclusive policies, and empowering employees with disabilities have earned it this significant recognition and are a testament to NBP's commitment to leading the way in inclusion.

The award acknowledges our efforts in creating an inclusive and accessible environment through employing 169 individuals with disabilities, the highest in Pakistan's banking sector, establishing model branches with full accessibility features, implementing inclusive policies and training programs, and setting a benchmark for diversity.

These dimensions highlight the bank's ongoing commitment to being a leader in disability inclusion and its efforts to create meaningful change for employees with disabilities.

Italian prosecutors accuse 7 people, 2 firms over flawed Boeing plane parts

MILAN (Reuters): Italian prosecutors on Saturday accused seven people and two sub-contractors of crimes including fraud and breaching airplane safety rules following an investigation into suspected flawed parts produced by an Italian company for Boeing (BA.N), opens new tab.

The prosecutors launched their investigation in late 2021, opens new tab after Boeing said some parts for its 787 Dreamliner plane supplied by a company working for Italian aerospace group Leonardo (LDOF.MI), opens new tab had been improperly manufactured.

Investigators found that two Italian sub-contractors used cheaper and non-compliant forms of titanium and aluminium to make certain parts, saving significant sums of money on their raw material costs, the prosecutors said in a statement, without naming the sub-contractors or the seven people.

"This resulted in the realisation of airplane parts with significantly

lower static and stress resistance characteristics, with repercussions on aviation safety," the prosecutors in the southern city of Brindisi said.

Aerospace experts working with prosecutors certified at least 4,829 non-compliant components made of titanium and 1,158 made of aluminium, they said.

"The expert work and investigations concluded that some non-compliant structural components could, in the long run, create harm to the safety of the aircraft, requiring the U.S. company to initiate an extraordinary maintenance campaign of the aircraft involved," they said, adding Boeing and Leonardo were victims of

the alleged crimes and had cooperated with the probe. The seven people and two sub-contractors will now be given time to present any new evidence in their defence, before the prosecutors decide whether to request a judge to call a trial. Leonardo declined to comment. Boeing said it would comment in due course.



Court Notice

In the Court of Mr. Obaidul Rahim Sahib Civil Judge One Takht Bhai. District Mardan. Case no. 43/1, Reference. 29.02.2024. The next release date is 10-07-2024. Muhammad Ayaz son of Bakhtoor, resident of Hajiabad, Taimergarh, Lower Dir

In the name of Anwar-ul-Haq, son of Noor-ul-Haq, living in Labor Colony, Takht Bhai, District Mardan, Now Saudi Arabia (Defendant). It is difficult to report the defendant in the above mentioned case in an easy way. This is notified through advertisement that on the date 07.10.2024, the original "attorney" and "authority" should appear in the court. Otherwise action will be taken against them.

China home sales rise

BEIJING (Reuters): China's home sales rose during the National Day holiday after a string of property stimulus measures to boost the country's beleaguered real estate market since late September, state media said on Saturday.

Across the world's second-largest economy, policies including reductions in down-payment ratios and mortgage rates have been introduced this year to support the property sector, which previously made up one-quarter of economic activity.

During the week-long holiday period that started on Tuesday, the number of house visits, which reflects a willingness to buy a home, increased significantly while sales of homes in many places rose to "varying degrees", state broadcaster CCTV reported. More than 50 cities introduced policies to boost the real estate market, while nearly 2,000 developments from more than 1,000 property companies participated in promotions, CCTV said, citing the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development.



In brief

Gauff fights back to reach China Open final

BEIJING (Agencies): Fourth seed Coco Gauff came from a set and a break down to beat Paula Badosa to reach her first China Open final. The 20-year-old American dug deep to come through 4-6 6-4 6-2. Spaniard Badosa, ranked 19th in the world but a former world number two, had looked in a good position when she served at 4-3 up in the second set. But Gauff broke and rattled off the next four games to set up a decider, eventually wrapping up victory in two hours and 21 minutes. She will face Karolina Muchova in Sunday's decider after the Czech player defeated home favourite and fifth seed Qinwen Zheng 6-3 6-4. Zheng, the Olympic champion, needed medical treatment for a hand injury after taking a tumble during the opening set. Although both players had their opportunities, it was Muchova, who reached last year's French Open final but is now ranked 49 in the world after wrist surgery, who took advantage. The win saw her avenge defeat by Zheng in the final in Palermo in July and reach a second career WTA 1000 final after Cincinnati last year, where she lost to Gauff. Badosa, who was as low as 140th in the rankings in May, was on a good run of form in Beijing which included victory over second seed and US Open finalist Jessica Pegula in the last 16. And she took advantage of Gauff's inconsistencies, particularly on her serve which produced 11 double faults, to win the opening set and break in the first game of the second. Gauff is working with new coach Matt Daly after ending her partnership with Brad Gilbert last month following her fourth-round exit at the US Open, where she was defending her title.

Bagnaia wins Japan MotoGP

MOTEGI (AFP): Francesco Bagnaia profited from a mistake by rookie Pedro Acosta to win the Japan MotoGP sprint on Saturday and close the gap on overall championship leader Jorge Martin. Spaniard Acosta crashed with four laps to go while leading the field at Motegi, allowing defending world champion Bagnaia to take first ahead of Enea Bastianini and Marc Marquez. Spain's Martin finished fourth and saw his overall lead over Italian Bagnaia in the championship standings cut to 15 points. "I am very happy because with these conditions, it's not very easy to win and gain points," Bagnaia said after a sprint race that took place under heavy clouds with intermittent spots of rain. "It's the maximum so thanks to my team again and let's keep working like this." Four race weekends remain after Sunday's Grand Prix in Japan. Pramac rider Martin is looking to win his first MotoGP championship after finishing second behind Ducati's Bagnaia last year. Acosta was looking for his maiden sprint win after taking pole for the first time in the morning qualifying. The 20-year-old lost the lead to Bagnaia at the first corner but regained it soon after and was pushing hard for the victory. Instead, he slipped off his bike and let Bagnaia through, although the Italian still had to fight hard to hold off Bastianini and Marquez in a frantic finish. Bagnaia finished just 0.181sec ahead of Bastianini and 0.349 in front of Marquez. "The pace was very good for the sprint race," said Bastianini, who is third in the overall championship standings and shaved Martin's lead over him to 72 points.

Australia beat Sri Lanka in Women's T20 WC

SHARJAH (AFP): Megan Schutt on Saturday equalled the highest wickets for a bowler in Women's T20 World Cup as she helped Australia begin their title defence with a six-wicket win over Sri Lanka. The pace bowler returned figures of 3-12 in Sharjah's extreme heat to move level with former South African quick Shabnim Ismail on 43 wickets in the tournament. Schutt's efforts kept Sri Lanka down to 93-7, a total the Australian batters overhauled with 34 balls to spare after losing four wickets. Opener Beth Mooney, player of the tournament in the 2023 edition, hit an unbeaten 43 and took regular drink breaks to beat the heat. "In the heat it was tough," player of the match Schutt said. "I think Moons lost about 16 kilos out there. I think we've finally acclimatised because I didn't feel like I would die today. We've played in hot condi-

tions before. It is what it is, got to suck up and get on with it." Sri Lanka slumped to their second loss in the tournament and are still looking for their first victory against Australia in women's T20 matches. The Sri Lankans elected to bat first but got their first runs on the 16th ball before Schutt sent back opener Vishmi Gunaratne out for a duck. Disciplined attack The Sri Lankan batters found it tough to score against a disciplined attack and Sophie Molineux got two wickets with her left-arm spin to further dent the opposition. "We are struggling on these tracks with low turn and bounce," Sri Lanka skipper Chamari Athapaththu said. "Our first four batters struggled and that cost us. I hope we will improve in our next game (against India on Wednesday) and our girls will perform well in Dubai." Schutt took two wickets on two balls in the

first over to reach 43 wickets in 25 matches of the tournament before Inoshi Priyadharshani avoided the hat-trick. South African Ismail claimed 43 wickets in 32 T20 matches before her retirement last year. Sri Lanka hurt Australia's reply with key wickets including when Udeshika Prabodhani bowled skipper Alyssa Healy for four in the first over. Kavisha Dilhari's direct throw from covers got Georgia Wareham run out on three and six-time winners Australia briefly looked in trouble at 35-3 when Sugandika Kumari bowled Ellyse Perry for 17. The left-handed Mooney put on 43 runs with Ashleigh Gardner, who fell for 12, and Phoebe Litchfield made nine not out. Australia remain favourites for their seventh title in the tournament -- their first appearance since the retirement of four-time winning captain Meg Lanning.



SHARJAH: Beth Mooney steered Australia in the chase.

Liverpool extend Premier League lead with win at Palace

LONDON (AFP): Liverpool extended their lead at the top of the Premier League to four points thanks to Diogo Jota's winner in a 1-0 victory at Crystal Palace on Saturday. Arne Slot has now won nine of his first 10 games since succeeding Jurgen Klopp, but was frustrated that the visitors invited a late onslaught from the winless Eagles. Victory came at a cost for Liverpool as goalkeeper Alisson Becker limped off in the closing stages ahead of a much more testing run of fixtures after the international break. "We should have finished it off with such a dominant performance," said Slot. "If you score the second you break them mentally and now all the fans kept believing in a result because it was only 1-0, even though in my opinion we were the dominant team." Defeat leaves Palace still in the bottom three with just three points from their opening seven games. Slot's seamless start saw him become the first Liverpool manager to win eight of his first nine games after beating Bologna 2-0 in the Champions League on Wednesday. However, the Dutchman has been quick to point out that tougher tests lie ahead of his side's

Premier League title credentials. Liverpool face Chelsea, Arsenal, Aston Villa and Manchester City in their next six Premier League games. "It's very good we have won these games and now it is up to us to show ourselves in the big games," added Slot. "Unfortunately Ali will not be with us, I assume, if I saw the way he walked off the pitch correctly." Slot saw both sides of his team at Selhurst Park as they failed to make the most of their first-half dominance, but held out at the back for a fifth clean sheet in seven league games. Palace did have the ball in the net inside 30 seconds but Eddie Nketiah had strayed offside before flicking in Ismaila Sarr's cross. Alisson limps off Liverpool quickly took control and the lead after just nine minutes when Jota stole in ahead of Marc Guehi and Trevoh Chalobah to prod in Cody Gakpo's low cross. Jota was guilty of passing up the visitors' best chance to add to their lead before the break when he sliced wide from Trent Alexander-Arnold's teasing. Palace finally flickered into life in first-half stoppage time when Sarr was denied by a fine save from

Alisson after finding a gap in the Liverpool defence. The pattern continued into the second period with Liverpool unable to put Palace to bed. Mohamed Salah should have done better when he fired straight at Dean Henderson before Jota headed wide a glorious chance from Alexander-Arnold's free-kick. Slot's men were nearly made to pay after Jean-Philippe Mateta's introduction perked up the Palace attack. Alisson got down low to his left to parry Nketiah's effort before the Brazilian beat away Eberechi Eze's powerful strike. But Liverpool were dealt a body blow with 12 minutes remaining when Alisson pulled up with a muscle injury. Normal back up Caoimhin Kelleher was also absent due to illness so Czech international Vitezslav Jaros was forced into his Liverpool debut. Jaros had to make one huge save from Eze and also rushed impressively off his line to deny Mateta a sight of goal. Arsenal and Manchester City could cut the gap at the top back to one point later on Saturday. But Liverpool will go into the upcoming international break at the summit and happy with the start to life under Slot.



Struggling Pakistan look to thwart adaptable England

MULTAN (AFP): Pakistan play England in a three-Test series starting Monday in Multan with the visitors favourites to inflict more damage on a team mired in a painful losing streak. England's 3-0 whitewash on their last trip to Pakistan in 2022 was the first clean sweep by any visiting team to the country, and plunged the hosts into a slump that has left them winless in their last 10 home Tests. The visitors will be buoyed by memories of that famous win, but begin the series without talismanic leader Ben Stokes, who will miss the first Test due to a hamstring injury. While England sit in third place in the ICC Test rankings, five spots above Pakistan, they travel to South Asia with an inexperienced pace attack following the retirement of James Anderson and Stuart Broad. Pakistan, meanwhile, are known for their unpredictability and will be desperate to wipe away the humiliation of a shock 2-0 defeat at the hands of low-ranked Bangladesh last month. Captain Shan Masood, whose tenure has been marked by a run of five consecutive defeats, said his players were motivated to prove themselves. "We took steps in the right direction in Australia despite losing, but we could not take them forward in the Bangladesh series," Masood said this week. "We are eager to stage a comeback in this important series." Test of Azam Pakistan cricket is flailing in all formats, with a revolving door of bosses and allegations of nepotism



Captain Shan Masood has a chat with coach Jason Gillespie.

crushing the development of the nation's most popular sport. Superstar batsman Babar Azam relinquished the white-ball captaincy this week, saying he wanted to focus on his batting after a run-drought of 16 Test innings without a half-century. The three Tests in Multan and Rawalpindi scheduled to wrap up on October 28 will be the first trial of the 29-year-old's renewed commitment to his craft. "We all know how good a player he is," said Masood. "The good thing is that he is not out of form, and we can hope he is just one innings away from producing his best." While all eyes are on Azam to score big, Pakistan will hope pace spearheads Shaheen Shah Afridi -- who missed the 2022 Test with a knee injury -- and Naseem Shah can crack England's robust batting order. "We have told our fast

bowlers that they are very important in taking 20 wickets," said Masood. Steadfast without Stokes Stokes will miss the first Test as he struggles to recover from a hamstring injury inflicted while playing for Northern Superchargers in The Hundred on August 11. There are doubts over his return for the second match starting October 15, but England's record has remained strong in his absence. Top-order batter Ollie Pope led them to a 3-0 whitewash of the West Indies and a 2-1 win over Sri Lanka. Two years ago, it was England's batting that set the tone for the 3-0 victory on the very first day of the series, smashing 506-4 to set a new record for an opening day total in Tests. Top batter Joe Root will also be eyeing the record books, needing just 71 runs to best Alastair Cook's tally of 12,472, the most by any

England batter. Even without Stokes, England will have five pace bowlers led by fast-rising Gus Atkinson who has taken an impressive 34 wickets since his debut earlier this year. But the quintet will all be bowling for the first time in Pakistani conditions. Experienced Jack Leach heads the spin attack, accompanied by Shoaib Bashir and Rehan Ahmed. Harry Brook led the way with three hundreds in the 2022 series while Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett and Pope also feasted on slow and flat tracks. "I know that Shan Masood has been asking for quicker, more lively wickets for their fast bowlers. Obviously last time we were there they were slow, dry and spun a bit," Stokes said before arrival. "So, we've got to go there with an open mind about what we're going to get."

Team confident to overcome past mistakes: Saud Shakeel

MULTAN (APP): Pakistan's Test Vice-Captain Saud Shakeel said on Saturday the national team was confident to rectify its mistakes in the test series against England. Talking to the media ahead of the Test series against England, he expressed confidence in his team's preparation and the potential to exploit England's aggressive playing style. He said that just one day left before the start of the match, he shared his thoughts on the pitch, game plan, and the team's mindset. Commenting on the pitch conditions in Multan, Saud Shakeel admitted uncertainty. "At this point, it was hard to predict how the pitch will behave. It could be fast or slow, he said. Despite not having a concrete idea of the wicket, Shakeel emphasized that Pakistan was ready for all scenarios. The vice-captain highlighted the difference in roles between captain and a vice-captain, acknowledging the significant responsibilities that rest on captain's shoulders. "There was a big difference between a captain and a vice-captain. The captain has a lot more responsibility," Shakeel explained. Shakeel also reflected on the team's recent performances, acknowledging that they did not play well in the previous series. However, he was confident in Pakistan's ability to learn from past mistakes and put pressure on England. "Our goal was to force England into making mistakes" he said and added that the England play attacking cricket, but with that comes opportunities for us to capitalize on their errors. The Pakistan vice-captain was optimistic about his team's chances, particularly against England's relatively inexperienced fast bowlers. "Their fast bowlers do not have as much experience, and the team aims to take advantage of that, he remarked."

Despite the aggressive brand of cricket England was known for, Shakeel remains confident in Pakistan's ability to deliver. "We are here to perform and execute our plans. We were close to winning in the previous Test matches, and now we hope to deliver a strong performance. Said added" Shakeel also put to rest any rumors of division within the squad, affirming that the team was united and in good spirits.

Djokovic 'shakes rust off' to make third round of Shanghai Masters



SHANGHAI (AFP): Novak Djokovic said it took time to "get the rust off" as he fought through two tiebreaks to make his way into the third round of the Shanghai Masters on Saturday. The Serbian beat American Alex Michelsen in a thrilling two-set match that finished 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (11/9). Meanwhile Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz showed why they were top in the world as they raced through to the next stage with confident straight-set wins. Sinner dispatched Japan's Taro Daniel 6-1, 6-4, while Alcaraz made short work of China's Shang Juncheng, winning 6-2, 6-2. Four-time Shanghai champion Djokovic did not have it quite so easy against 43rd ranked Michelsen. Introduced as the "Greatest Of All Time" as he walked onto the court, he received a rapturous welcome from the packed stadium. But Michelsen started the first set strongly, breaking Djokovic early and going 1-4 up -- to the displeasure of the crowd, fully behind the 37-year-old former world number one. To their delight, the Serbian levelled, and then hit his stride in the tiebreak, winning it 7-3. The reverse happened in the second set when it was 20-year-old Michelsen's turn to catch up to take it to the tiebreak. Djokovic admitted to being "surprised" by Michelsen. Earlier, arch-rival

"It took me a little bit of time to get the rust off and to start feeling better on the court," he said. "I was very glad to keep calm when it mattered in both tiebreaks." The crowd, already in a frenzy after Djokovic spoke Mandarin at the end of the match, went wild as he showed off a new trick -- a sentence in the Shanghaiese vernacular. Unruffled Sinner World number one Sinner has said he is not in a "comfortable" situation thanks to a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) appeal a decision by tennis authorities to clear him of wrongdoing after he twice tested positive for a steroid in March. His recent blistering winning streak was broken by Alcaraz in the China Open final on Wednesday. But there was no tiredness on display from either player on Saturday, with 23-year-old Sinner looking completely unruffled in the first set against the 93rd-ranked Daniel. Daniel fell behind again in the second set and despite rallying halfway through to gently test Sinner, the Italian kept his cool, ending the set 6-4. "I had only one practice session yesterday but I felt very comfortable on the court," he said after the match. Sinner will face Argentina's Tomas Martin Etcheverry on Sunday. "It will be a tough one tomorrow, very physical, because me and Tomas know each other quite well now," he said. Earlier, arch-rival

Alcaraz also looked comfortable throughout, breaking in the first game, with teenager Shang unable to make much headway against the world number two. Despite their enthusiasm for Shang, the crowd could not resist Alcaraz's charm. At the Spaniard's encouragement, they broke into loud cheers when he won a particularly exciting rally in which he hit a tricky backwards shot to keep the point alive. "I just had one practice then was straight into this match, so to be able to show this level in the first match, I'm just really proud," 21-year-old Alcaraz said after the match. Alcaraz will next face another Chinese player, wildcard Wu Yibing, who beat 25th seed Nicolas Jarry in the second round. Rublev loses The tournament lost its second top-ten player on Saturday, as Andrey Rublev fell to 19-year-old Czech Jakub Mensik, joining Norwegian Casper Ruud on the notable casualties list. The Russian, a finalist at last year's Shanghai Masters, roared in jubilation after winning a tiebreaker to take the first set. But 65th-ranked Mensik broke Rublev in the first game of the second set, and again in the fifth to draw even. The Czech then came from behind in the third to beat the world number six for the second time this year, with a final score of 6-7 (7/9), 6-4, 6-3.



In brief

IRSA releases 154,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 154,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 120,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1536.80 feet and was 138.80 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. The water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 70,800 cusecs and 68,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 121-.85 feet, which was 162.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,100 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 75,300, 76,800, 65,000 and 11,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 18,100 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

ANF foils major smuggling attempt

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) successfully foiled a major methamphetamine (ice) smuggling attempt at the Chakri Motorway Toll Plaza on Saturday. Acting on verified intelligence, ANF officers intercepted a Hino truck and arrested its driver. During the search, 10 kilograms of methamphetamine were discovered expertly concealed inside two batteries installed in the truck. In total, four packets of ice, each weighing 2.5 kilograms, were recovered. The ANF stated that it remains fully aware of the evolving and innovative methods that smugglers use to traffic drugs. This latest operation highlights the force's effectiveness in countering these tactics. "This is a significant achievement in our ongoing battle against the smuggling of methamphetamine," an ANF spokesperson remarked. The force remains steadfast in its mission to protect society, particularly the youth, from the harmful effects of drugs. A case has been registered against the suspect under the Anti-Narcotics Act, and further investigations are underway.

World Teacher's Day Celebrated

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) F-11/3 on Saturday celebrated 'World Teachers' Day' under the leadership of Principal Farah Hamid. Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal graced the occasion along with Mohyudin Ahmad Wani, Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training. The event was attended by students, teachers, and educationists, who came together to honor the teaching profession in a spirit of admiration and gratitude. The students paid tribute to their teachers through songs, tableau performances, and heartfelt speeches. In his address, Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need for advancing education to meet the demands of the 21st century. He praised various initiatives undertaken by the college, including the establishment of a colorful library, a Mother-Child Healthcare Center, High-Tech IT lab, Gym, Podcast room, Art and a smart classroom. He also commended the Early Childhood Center, designed for children aged 3 to 5, which reflects the institution's dedication to modern education.

Naqvi visits hospital to meet injured police officers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday morning visited Polyclinic Hospital to meet police officers who were injured in the line of duty while bravely confronting miscreants belonging to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

During his visit, Naqvi personally inquired about the well-being of the injured officers and closely monitored their medical condition. Praising the unwavering resolve of the officers, Naqvi commended their patience and profes-

sionalism in the face of adversity.

"Despite the miscreant activities, you have shown great patience," he said, highlighting their composure under pressure.

The interior minister further lauded their commitment to their duty, stating, "You have set a great example of duty in upholding the law." He expressed pride in their bravery, remarking, "You are the brave sons of Islamabad police, and we are proud of you."

He also acknowledged their significant role in

maintaining peace in the capital, adding, "We salute you for ensuring public order in Islamabad."

During the visit, Naqvi directed the hospital administration to provide the best possible medical care to the injured officers, ensuring their swift recovery.

Inspector General of Islamabad Police, Ali Nasir Rizvi, accompanied Minister Naqvi on his visit, underscoring the government's support for the injured officers and their families during this challenging time.

Gillani expresses deep Grief over martyrdom of soldiers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, on Saturday, expressed profound sorrow over the martyrdom of Pakistan Army personnel, including a Lieutenant Colonel, during an operation in North Waziristan.

In a statement, the Chairman said the nation is immensely proud of the brave soldiers of the

Pakistan Army who are sacrificing their lives in the service of the country.

He acknowledged their pivotal role in making the country's defense invincible.

"Our Army and the nation stand united in the fight against terrorism. The Pakistan Army is conducting operations with a well-structured strategy to eliminate this menace," he

remarked.

He further highlighted the Army's unparalleled sacrifices in the war against terrorism, emphasizing that the entire nation is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with its armed forces in this ongoing battle.

He praised the dedication and valour of the soldiers, stating that their sacrifices ensure the safety and security of Pakistan.

Minister lauds teacher's role in shaping nation's future

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on World Teachers' Day lauded the role of teachers in shaping the future of a nation.

In his message on "World Teachers' Day" being observed on Saturday across the globe including Pakistan, he stated: "Dear Respected Teachers" I extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to each of you for your

tireless efforts in shaping young minds and building a better future.

"Your dedication, passion, and commitment to education are the cornerstone of our society's progress. You not only impart knowledge but also inspire, motivate, and nurture the next generation of leaders" the Education Minister mentioned.

"As I reflect on my journey, I am reminded of the profound impact my teachers had on my life. Their

guidance, encouragement, and wisdom helped shape me into the person I am today" he appreciated.

To all the teachers, I say: you are the true nation-builders. Your selflessness, expertise, and love for teaching make a lasting difference in the lives of your students, the minister said.

He urged "Let us celebrate your contributions, your perseverance, and your unwavering commitment to education. Thank you for all that you do".

PML-N stands firm against PTI's "Destructive Agenda": Kardar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader MPA Uzma Kardar on Saturday strongly criticized Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for its alleged anti-state agenda and accused it of promoting unlawful activities that undermine the values of young generations.

Talking to PTV news, she accused Imran Khan, PTI's chairman of prioritizing his personal quest for power over the well-being of the nation, exploiting citizens to advance his agenda and allegedly working to destabilize the country through foreign interference.

She also labelled PTI's Islamabad protest a failure, indicating her strong disap-

proval of the party's actions.

Uzma Kardar, also accused the top leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of craving a return to power, adding that PTI's top leadership is working against the state's interests, specifically targeting CPEC Phase 2 and foreign visits to Pakistan. These foreign visits are crucial as they showcase Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability, she highlighted.

Uzma blamed the PTI is responsible for damaging Pakistan's youth and devaluing its youngsters which is a serious accusation.

Pakistan's hosting a historic conference in Islamabad with participation from foreign countries

including India is indeed an honour for the country, showcasing its commitment to international cooperation and diplomacy, she said adding, however, PTI is prioritizing its agenda over national interest.

Pakistan's progress and reputation are at stake when political parties like PTI prioritizes their agendas over national interests, she added.

Uzma Kardar's statement highlighted the positive economic trajectory under PML-N leadership, indicating that economic indicators are trending upward, adding that this progress is a testament to the party's effective governance, particularly under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Minister directs for full scale response to dengue threats

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Health Minister, Khawaja Salman Rafique urged the health authority to respond to the prevailing dengue situation with full scale by utilizing all resources and with zero tolerance towards any negligence by the health officials.

He said that controlling dengue is the top priority of the government. He remarked this while chairing an anti-dengue meeting which was held in the deputy commissioner's office. The meeting was attended by MNA Malik Abrar, Focal Persons for Dengue Dr Wasim Akram, Additional Deputy Commissioner Hasan Tariq and other heads of relevant departments.

The minister reviewed the dengue situation in Rawalpindi in detail and directed the officers from relevant departments to go out in the field and perform their duties as a national duty. "Case response should be immediately covered by IRS spraying and fogging", he said.

The minister further

directed that the surveillance teams should educate the people about preventive measures to prevent dengue. He informed the meeting that he had arrived in Rawalpindi on the special instructions of CM Maryam Nawaz.

The minister while highlighting the continuity of awareness campaigns stressed that special campaigns should be conducted to create awareness among the people about dengue.

Dr Waseem Akram during the meeting said that a clean sweep should be done by focusing on high-risk union councils.

CEO Health leads anti-dengue campaigns: An awareness campaign was organized in Chak Jalal Din, the most dengue affected area of Pothohar Town (Peri Urban). The campaign was directly led and supervised by Dr. Asif Arbab Niazi, CEO Health Authority Rawalpindi, during which citizens were cognised on the prevailing dengue situation.

The campaign started

before the Friday prayers in which health workers distributed pamphlets containing dengue SOPs and necessary measures on dengue positivity. The CEO Health Authority Rawalpindi visited different mosques and addressed the citizens during the Friday sermons. In his addresses he highlighted the causes, symptoms and effects of dengue fever. He further informed people the importance of timely reporting to hospitals in case of finding dengue symptoms in patient.

The CEO appealed to the citizens to follow SOPs devised by the government to prevent and control dengue spread. He urged them to play their due role and assist the health workers promoting dengue awareness in the fight against dengue.

After the Friday prayers, an anti-dengue walk was conducted in the main bazaars and streets of Chak Jalal Din. The CEO himself led the walk and made announcements regarding ongoing fight against the dengue challenge.



ISLAMABAD: A view of heavy rain in the federal capital. —APP Photo

Protest ahead of SCO summit harms national image: Abdullah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Tehreek-e-Jawanaan Pakistan (TJP) Mohammad Abdullah Gul on Saturday said the political party's protest ahead of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit was damaging the national prestige.

The TJP chairman expressed these views in his statement on the protest call of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on SCO conference.

Gul said that whenever a delega-

tion of foreign delegates or a conference was held in Islamabad, protests and demonstrations start in the country.

He said that about three years ago when OIC conference was held in the federal capital, then the opposition parties staged protest and sit in the federal capital.

"With this, Pakistan's prestige was greatly damaged due to protests, but now that the SCO sum-

mit is very close to be held in Islamabad, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has staged a protest in D-Chowk, due to which it damaged the image of the country," Abdullah Gul said.

He said that protest was the right of every citizen and political party to struggle for their rights, but such activities should be avoided on the eve of arrivals of international delegations and meetings to save our humiliation.

Ahsan Iqbal pays tribute to teachers on 'World Teachers' Day'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Ahsan Iqbal here on Saturday paid rich tributes to teachers on 'World Teachers' Day', saying they were the builders of nation.

Addressing a ceremony at Islamabad Model College for Women, the minister praised teachers' great services and said that teachers were being paid tribute worldwide for their contribution in preparing youth for the future. He quoted

Aristotle, saying, parents bring children into the world, but teachers teach them how to live.

He said, teachers' services and mission are unforgettable, however deplored that today, when we should have been united in paying tribute to our teachers, some elements were spreading chaos in the country. He said, Pakistan needs to move forward so we must not become part in hindering its progress.

The federal minister also discussed Pakistan's

economic growth, saying, the world acknowledges the country's progress. He said that Pakistan Stock Exchange was setting new records while China was discussing the new phase of CPEC.

Emphasizing the importance of teachers in the digital revolution, the federal minister stressed the need to update the education system to promote creative and critical thinking skills. He said that there was need to revamp curriculum to eliminate rote learning

and promote innovative capabilities.

He appreciated the efforts of Federal Secretary Education, Mohyuddin Wani, in equipping all government schools and colleges in Islamabad with modern facilities, which he termed a significant step towards improving education standards.

He announced that next year, Pakistan will host National Teacher Awards on World Teachers' Day to recognize and reward the best teachers across the country.

Ex-Secretary of Bangladesh govt remembers his teachers on 'World Teachers Day'

ISLAMABAD (APP): A nostalgic testament from a student Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed a retired Additional Secretary of the Bangladesh Government, who called Islamabad College for Boys G-6/3 home from 1969 to 1971. Though fate took him to Bangladesh in 1971, his affection for his school and teachers endured.

On World Teachers' Day, Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed who is former Editor of Bangladesh Quarterly, currently working as a columnist for the Dhaka-based 'The Financial Express' also showed his deepest gratitude in this special message "Remembering My Teachers at Islamabad Model School for Boys I have wonderful memories of my alma-mater 'Islamabad Model School for Boys' (IMS), later called Islamabad College for Boys - G-6/3 (ICB)".

"My encounter with one of the IMS teachers happened even before I got admitted to the school in April 1969. That was when the then sports teacher of the school saved my life by taking me to the nearby Poly Clinic on his motorcycle when I was profusely bleeding from the head after accidentally hit by a stone on the playing ground of the school. That teacher even escorted me to my home

after I was treated at the Poly Clinic" he mentioned.

"Later, when I joined class six of IMS at the start of the 1969 academic year, I encountered many wonderful teachers who wielded enormous influence in my life and career. They included our dynamic and upright principal Mr. H. H. Siddiqui, who was one of the most inspirational figures and eloquent speakers that I ever met. Then there was our hugely handsome class teacher Mr Fazle Rahim – who infused much-needed confidence in me about my mathematical skills; the stylish and sports-minded geography teacher Mr Subhanullah – who was good in both Urdu and Bengali – always making us feel at home in his presence and actively engaging with us even in the playing-field.

He said then there were the outstanding English teachers – the phenomenal Mr Jinnah and the legendary Mr Robson– whose pronunciations were as good as any native Englishmen; the demure Mr Iftekharuddin another UK-trained teacher who took us to the golden realm of history, heritage and civilization; the vibrant religious studies cum civics teachers Mr Irshad and Mr Arif who were always ready to explain

everything to us most candidly and conversationally; the philosopher-like Easy-Urdu teacher Mr Jan-e-Alam who himself was a distinguished poet; and the empathetic house-master Mr Shamsi who was a caring and father-like figure to many of us.

"I am eternally grateful to my IMS teachers, as I can still earn a living as a freelance translator cum writer even in my retired life because of a strong foundation in English that was laid during my school years" he remembered.

He recalled that many other students of Bangladesh origin at IMS did even better than me. They included the ex-Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh late Mijarul Quayes, high-ranking IMF/IFC officials S M Tareq, Syed Akhtar Mahmud and Reza Kibria, former CEO of GSK-Bangladesh and GSK-Pakistan Azizul Huq, and many others.

"It is because of the edifice that was laid at our wonderful alma mater that many of us could shine in life. Our gratitude, love and respect for our IMS teachers are bound to last forever till we land on the other side of the rainbow. May the Almighty Allah continue to shower His immense blessings and mercy on them all".



ISLAMABAD: People visiting stalls during the "Daachi Arts & Craft Exhibition" at Pak China Friendship Centre. —APP Photo

7 killed in Nuristan accident

PARON (Pajhwok): At least seven people, including women and children, have been killed and eight others wounded as a result of a traffic accident in eastern Nuristan province, an official said on Saturday. Police spokesman Ghulam Rahman Haidari told Pajhwok Afghan News a pick-up vehicle flipped over in the Bajgul area of Doab district on Friday. He said seven people, including women and children, lost their lives and eight others were injured in the incident.

Taliban detain six in Kabul

KABUL (Amu TV): The Taliban's Vice and Virtue Ministry announced that its moral police have detained six individuals in Kabul on charges of engaging in "immoral relations." The statement did not disclose the identities of those arrested, but the detentions have sparked renewed criticism of the Taliban's strict enforcement of its controversial morality laws. The incident comes amid growing opposition to the Taliban's Vice and Virtue laws.

Russia to remove IE from terrorist list: Kabulov



KABUL (TOLONews): Zamir Kabulov, Russia's Special Representative for Afghanistan, stated in a press conference that Russia will soon remove the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan from its list of terrorist organizations.

Speaking to reporters after the conclusion of the Moscow Format meeting, Kabulov said that the decision to remove the Islamic Emirate from this list has been made at a higher level.

Russia's special representative for Afghanistan said: "A decision in principle on this issue has been taken by Russia's top leadership, but this whole process must be done within the Russian legal framework. It requires meticulous work by lawyers, parliament and other agencies to ensure that this process is completed in the manner established by law."

At the same time, the acting foreign minister of the Islamic Emirate, who was also present at the press conference, denied the existence of opposition groups to the Islamic Emirate or any groups posing threats to other countries from within Afghanistan. According to Amir Khan Muttaqi, security in Afghanistan is stable, and the caretaker government has control in all sectors.

Amir Khan Muttaqi said: "The system is in full control across Afghanistan, and there are no opposition groups or any group posing threats to others. We urge that attention not be paid to disruptive circles and that no one listens to them."

In addition, the acting foreign minister, during a meeting on the sidelines of the Moscow Format

with Sergey Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister, emphasized the importance of the Moscow Format for the caretaker government of Afghanistan. He expressed his desire for this format to become a mechanism for expanding relations and cooperation between Afghanistan and regional countries.

Hafiz Zia Ahmad Takal, deputy spokesperson for the foreign ministry, stated: "The foreign minister said that the Moscow Format holds special importance for the government of Afghanistan and requested that this format be transformed into a mechanism for fostering cooperation between Afghanistan and regional countries."

The sixth meeting of the Moscow Format was held yesterday (Friday) in Russia, with the participation of representatives from over ten countries. The joint statement from this meeting emphasized bilateral and multilateral cooperation against terrorism, economic collaboration with Afghanistan, support for Afghanistan as an independent country, the protection of women's and ethnic groups' rights, and the formation of an inclusive government.

Two Afghan citizens executed in Iran

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Iran Human Rights Organization has reported the execution of eight prisoners, including two Afghan citizens, at Ghezel Hesar Prison in Karaj.

The organization stated on Friday that these individuals were executed on charges including rape and murder. According to the statement released by the Norway-based Iran Human Rights Organization on Friday, two Afghan citizens were executed in Ghezel Hesar Prison, Karaj, on charges of rape.

The report also mentioned that four other individuals, including one woman, were executed on charges of premeditated murder, while two others were executed for "moharebeh" through armed robbery on the morning of Wednesday, October 2nd.

The human rights organization did not provide further details on the identities of the two Afghan citizens or the women who were executed. There has been no additional information released about the legal proceedings or the prison conditions of the Afghan prisoners, and Iranian authorities have yet to comment on the matter.

Previously, the Iran Human Rights Organization had warned about the transfer of nine prisoners to solitary confinement in preparation for their execution. According to human rights organizations, since the beginning of this year, more than 381 people, including 15 women, have been executed in various prisons across Iran.

The increase in executions in Iran has drawn sharp criticism from international human rights organizations, who call for transparency and fair trials for those on death row.

The continued use of the death penalty in Iran, particularly in cases involving foreign nationals like Afghan citizens, raises serious concerns about the fairness of trials and the rights of the accused. The lack of transparency surrounding these executions only deepens these concerns.

As the number of executions continues to rise in Iran, international pressure is mounting on the country to reform its legal system and to adhere to international human rights standards, especially in cases involving serious charges like rape, murder.

Herat ports record 98% surge in export transactions

HERAT (BNA): Exports from Herat's Islam Qala and Torgundi ports have witnessed a remarkable 98% increase compared to the previous year, reflecting a significant rise in Afghanistan's trade activities.

Mohammad Yousuf Amin, Executive Director of the Herat Chamber of Commerce and Investment, informed Bakhtar News Agency that these exports encompass animal products, agricultural produce, domestic manufacturing, and minerals. These goods have been exported to neighboring countries, Central Asia, the United Arab Emirates, European nations, and the United States.

Amin further highlighted that the surge in exports is the result of several key factors, including the signing of new contracts, increased mining operations, enhanced domestic production, improved quality of agricultural products, strengthened highway security, and the provision of necessary facilitation by the Islamic Emirate's relevant authorities for the business community.

He further noted that a large portion of these exports was conducted via land routes, while some were transported through the rail network. Additionally, traders in Herat have urged the government to further streamline the visa process for businesspersons, enabling them to enhance their export capacity and better access international markets.

Muttaqi: IE seeks positive relations with all countries

KABUL (TOLONews): Amir Khan Muttaqi, the acting Foreign Minister, stated in an interview with the BBC that the Islamic Emirate's relations with regional countries are expanding.

Muttaqi said that the interim Afghan government is seeking peace and stability in the region and desires positive relations with all countries, including the United States.

Regarding this, the acting Foreign Minister said: "The relations we have with regional countries—

we want similar positive relations with other nations of the world, including Western countries and the US. We have not closed the door on anyone."

In another part of the interview, this official from Afghanistan's interim government emphasized that the Islamic Emirate seeks peace and stability in the region and that countries' concerns about threats originating from Afghanistan are diminishing.

Muttaqi added: "There is not much concern anymore, and it's decreasing day by day. Now, many are saying that Afghanistan will not face problems in the future. Everyone has come to the conclusion that there is no threat from Afghanistan."

Additionally, the acting Foreign Minister mentioned in another part of his remarks that talks are ongoing with Pakistani officials to reopen crossings for Afghan exports and to resolve this challenge as soon as possible.

Joint Russo-Afghan energy projects on the cards

KABUL (Pajhwok): Moscow says it will hammer out joint energy projects with Kabul, signaling burgeoning relations between the two sides.

The Foreign Ministry in Moscow made the announcement after a meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Afghan counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi.

On Friday, the top Russian and Afghan diplomats met on the sidelines of the sixth round of the Moscow-format consultations on Afghanistan.

In a statement, cited by TASS, the ministry said the parties stressed mutual interest of Russia and Afghanistan in maintaining political links and boosting mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation.

It placed a special emphasis on working out joint projects in the energy and agricultural sectors.

The two sides discussed an amicable Afghan settlement and cooperation between Moscow and Kabul.

The parties stressed the key role of regional negotiating mechanisms on Afghanistan, primarily the Moscow format.

The called dictates from external forces on Afghanistan's internal development counterproductive.

In his speech at the meeting, Lavrov called for vigilance in relation to attempts by the US and its allies to control Afghan peace efforts, including by using UN's authority.

"We strongly believe that by coordinating with each other, regional mechanisms can achieve the most significant results," Lavrov commented.

Migrants in Iran report poor living conditions

TEHRAN (TOLONews): Afghan migrants in Iran complain of poor living conditions and are calling on the caretaker government of Afghanistan to address their problems.

They say they are facing various challenges, including arrests and work bans in some provinces of Iran.

Mohammad Akbar Sultani, an Afghan migrant in Iran, said: "The hard jobs that Iranians themselves cannot do are for Afghans, but only if they have a smart card. Based on having this card, they can work."

Meanwhile, the Head of the Labor, Cooperatives, and Social Welfare Department of Eslamshahr, Iran, announced that the employment of illegal migrants is prohibited, and only migrants with legal documents are allowed to work.

Behnam Emami, head of the Labor, Cooperation, and Welfare Department of Eslamshahr, said: "The employment of foreign nationals in our country is only allowed in tough jobs and with a work visa. They should not be employed in food-related jobs such as greenhouses, stores, and businesses."

Some migrants who have returned to Afghanistan also complain about the challenges they face and are calling on the Islamic Emirate for help.

Mohammad Hussain, a returned migrant, said: "We came from Pakistan to Afghanistan, and they gave us 22,000 afghani, which only covered travel expenses, and we are still in debt. It has been five months since we returned, and no one has asked about us."

Naveed, another returned migrant, said:

"We ask the government to create job opportunities within the country. I was in the camp for three days. It was oppression that even a disbeliever would not endure."

Mohammad Khan Talibi Mohammadzai, a migrant rights activist, said: "With the arrival of winter, these migrants face serious challenges regarding their stay. They need to obtain permits, and for that, proper coordination through diplomatic channels between the two countries should be made to work out an accurate mechanism to solve the migrants' problems."

Earlier, the deputy spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate said that discussions between officials of the caretaker government and Iranian officials are underway to find a solution to the migrants' problems in Iran.

Minister seeks Turkish investment in mineral projects

KABUL(BNA): Mullah Hidayatullah Badri, the Acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum, during a meeting with Süleyman Cilio, CEO of the Turkish company 77 Group, emphasized the need for expanded investment in Afghanistan's strategic mineral resources, particularly talc, iron, and copper.

As reported by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, Mr. Cilio provided a detailed briefing on the company's operations and expressed optimism regarding the finalization of the necessary legal documentation.

He highlighted the forthcoming agreement for the Yateem Taq Cement



Project in Jowzjan province, which is expected to be signed between the Ministry and the 77 Group.

Mullah Hidayatullah Badri commended the 77 Group for its contributions to Afghanistan's mining sector and encouraged further investment in the country's valuable mineral

assets, focusing on enhancing the development of talc, iron, and copper mines to bolster the nation's economic growth and infrastructure.

Afghanistan ranked sixth most vulnerable to global climate crisis

KABUL (Khaama Press): The World Food Programme (WFP) has highlighted that Afghanistan is the sixth most vulnerable country to climate crises and emphasized its investment in flood prediction and food preparation for high-risk areas.

On Saturday, October 5th, the WFP said that its early warning system can predict where floods are likely to occur and identify which areas are most at risk.

The report mentioned that with the implementation of this system, WFP can provide emergency assistance to high-risk regions of the country up to

three months in advance. Gabriela Luz, a member of WFP's Early Warning and Famine Prevention team, warned that this winter in the Northern Hemisphere will likely result in decreased rainfall and snowfall in Afghanistan.

The WFP report also stated that 12.4 million people in Afghanistan are currently facing hunger.

Previously, the WFP noted that floods in northern Afghanistan had affected over 80,000 people and that \$14 million is needed to address the country's climate and food crises.

The WFP's efforts to mitigate the impact of climate

change aim to reduce the risk of natural disasters, such as floods, which have devastated Afghan communities. The WFP has called for international support to help fund its operations in Afghanistan, ensuring that vulnerable populations receive the necessary aid in time.

Afghanistan's ongoing climate challenges and the country's economic difficulties have exacerbated the food insecurity crisis, leaving millions of people in dire need of assistance.

As winter approaches, the WFP is scaling up its efforts to deliver food and other essential supplies to regions expected to be

hardest hit by harsh weather and possible floods.

The WFP's proactive approach to predicting and preparing for natural disasters in Afghanistan is crucial in mitigating the effects of climate change. However, substantial financial and international support remains critical to addressing the ongoing crises.

With millions of Afghans facing hunger and the country highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters, global cooperation is essential in providing the necessary resources to combat both the immediate and long-term effects of these challenges.

Farah officials aim to educate deaf students through 12th grade



FARAH (TOLONews): Local officials in Farah say they are working to provide education for deaf students in the province up to the 12th grade. Currently, more than 30 deaf children in the city of Farah are being taught in sign language, and according to the officials, they have

demonstrated remarkable talent.

Abdul Ghafoor, a teacher, said: "The only issue these students have is that they cannot hear. In other aspects, their abilities are like regular students, and their learning speed is even faster. We are making every effort, with the limited resources we

have, to teach them through sign language and ensure they reach the 12th grade." Reza Ahmad, a 15-year-old student at the Deaf Education Center in Farah, has been unable to hear or speak since birth. He harbors many dreams, and becoming a teacher is among his greatest aspirations.

Reza Ahmad said: "I dream of becoming a good teacher in the future. I ask the government to provide us with more resources." Sayed Yousuf Sadat, head of technical and vocational education in Farah, told TOLONews: "Currently, we have students up to the 3rd grade, with a total of about 32 students.

Each class has 10 or 11 students, and their teachers hold bachelor's and master's degrees and teach them using sign language. The lessons are being conducted regularly, and there are no issues." Although there is no exact data on the number of deaf children in Farah province, it is said that there are hundreds of deaf children in the province who still do not have access to education.

Jaghori residents fund construction of health centre



GHAZNI CITY (Pajhwok): The construction of a health centre building, funded by local residents, has begun in the Jaghori district of southern Ghazni province.

Tribal leader Zaki told Pajhwok Afghan News, construction work on the health centre, costing 45 million afis paid by locals, started yesterday in the Angori Bazaar area of the district.

Zaki said: "The spirit behind the initiative is to address the problems Jaghori residents are

faced with, especially the women of this area."

The construction of the health centre would account for 45 million afis pooled by locals and a number of Afghans living abroad, he added.

A local doctor, Aimal Alizai, told Pajhwok the health centre would address the problems of the area people.

Some patients died on their way to Ghazni City due to the lack of a health centre in the area and the lousy condition of roads, Alizai said.

Public Health Director

Dr. Mohammad Zeerak expressed pleasure over the step and promised cooperation with the locals in solving their problems.

The three-storey health centre will be built on 2.5 acre of land, having three halls, 30 rooms, a surgery department, maternity and pediatric wards, a lab and other necessary facilities, Zeerak explained.

The people of Jaghori district have already paid for the construction of some other development projects such as bridges, roads, dams and schools.



LONDON: Pro-Palestinian protesters shouting slogans during a protest against Israeli attacks on Gaza.

Protestors want to damage country: Memon

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information Sharjeel Inam Memon said on Saturday that the people of Islamabad are experiencing hardships due to a political party's protest.

This unrest stems from an individual seeking to damage Pakistan's development and security. This person is acting according to a well-planned conspiracy, aiming to disrupt the country and its institutions.

In a press conference in Islamabad, Memon said that such chaos are not typical during the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and the Shanghai Conference. There are underlying facts behind this situation. The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has launched an attack on the federal capital with a militant group that is armed with sticks, cranes, and machinery. Government resources and facilities are being exploited for this purpose. Certain groups were already brought to Islamabad to incite anarchy, and their aim is to challenge the stability of the country.

He said that these individuals are operating under the propaganda of "No Pakistan without the captain." Zach Goldsmith, a relative of Imran Khan residing in London, tweeted that Israel is only one ray of hope on the world map. Goldsmith supports Israel's attacks on Lebanon and Iran while oppressing Palestine. Imran Khan campaigned in favor of his relative Zach Goldsmith in opposition to Sadiq Khan, who is of Pakistani origin. Just two days ago, Goldsmith, a family member of Imran Khan, stated that Israel is fighting for its survival.

Memon stated that PTI leaders have claimed that Jaishankar will come to address at D Chowk, and tomorrow they will also invite Netanyahu. To date, no party has requested that an Indian minister be allowed to speak at D Chowk. The objective of hostile forces is to weaken Pakistan by instigating chaos within the country, as they cannot confront Pakistan's strong defense directly. Thanks to the robust defense established by leaders like Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the late Benazir Bhutto, conspiracies are being employed instead of military attacks.

He stated that Dr. Israr Ahmed, Hakeem Saeed, and others have already clarified everything regarding Imran Khan and the New World Order. There are attempts to undermine Pakistan and its constitution as



part of a well-planned conspiracy. People have also come from Afghanistan, and we take pride in all nations, including the Pakhtuns. The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who is attacking the federation, should cease these actions.

Memon stated that no political party, including the People's Party, desires Governor's rule in any province. However, if a Chief Minister acts unconstitutionally, other options must be considered. He emphasized that Imran Khan and his sponsors are targeting Pakistan.

Memon stated that the Sindh government is constructing 1 million houses for homeless individuals and that the economy continues to improve. He expressed a desire to see every institution strong and stable. He noted that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is advocating for the independence of the judiciary, emphasizing that they do not want any future prime minister to be hanged, nor do they want any future judge to become like Iftikhar Chaudhry or Saqib Nisar.

He stated that Ms. Faryal Talpur was arrested from the hospital and that the People's Party has made significant sacrifices. After the martyrdom of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, President Asif Ali Zardari saved the country by raising slogans of "Pakistan Khappay." He pointed out that Asifa Bhutto Zardari was not allowed to meet her father despite a court order. He criticized that Imran Khan has been provided with every facility in jail, claiming he can walk freely, questioning what difficulties he has truly faced. Memon stated that the current target is Pakistan, with the law being flouted and attacks occurring on the federal government and the police. He prayed for everyone's safety, emphasizing that every life is precious.

US will not renew legal status for migrants

WASHINGTON (Reuters): The Biden administration will not renew a temporary humanitarian entry program for hundreds of thousands of migrants with US sponsors who arrived in recent years, the US Department of Homeland Security said.

Some 530,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela have entered the US by air since October 2022 and received two-year grants under the "parole" program that will begin to expire in coming weeks. However, many of those migrants could remain in the country under other programs. The parole program allows migrants with existing US sponsors to enter the country for humanitarian reasons or if their entry is deemed a significant public benefit. It will continue to accept new applications from those abroad.

US President Joe Biden's administration launched the parole program as a way to provide migrants avenues to enter legally and decrease illegal crossings at the US-Mexico border. Record numbers of migrants were caught crossing illegally during Biden's presidency but crossings have plummeted in recent months as Biden rolled out new border restrictions. Immigration is a top voter issue in the Nov. 5 election that will pit Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris against Republican Donald Trump, who has criticized the parole program.

Ukraine downs a Russian warplane

KYIV (AP): Ukrainian forces said they shot down a Russian fighter plane on Saturday while Russia claimed it made gains in Ukraine's east. The Russian bomber was shot down near the city of Kostiantynivka in the Donetsk province, head of the Kostiantynivka Military Administration Serhiy Horbunov was quoted as saying by Ukraine's public broadcaster. Photos showed charred remains of an aircraft after it landed on a house that caught fire.

Also in the partially occupied Donetsk province, Russia's Defense Ministry claimed Saturday that it had taken control of the village of Zhelanne Druhe. If confirmed, the capture would come three days after Ukrainian forces said they were withdrawing from the front-line town of Vuhledar, some 33 kilometers (21 miles) from Zhelanne Druhe, following a hard-fought two-year defense.

Although unlikely to change the course of the war, the loss of Vuhledar is indicative of Kyiv's worsening position, in part the result of Washington's refusal to grant Ukraine permission to strike targets deep inside Russian territory and preventing Kyiv from degrading Moscow's capabilities. Zelensky will present his victory plan to allies.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Saturday that he will present his "victory plan" at the Oct. 12 meeting of the Ramstein group of nations that supplies arms to Ukraine. "We will present the victory plan — clear, concrete steps toward a just end to the war. The determination of our partners and the strengthening of Ukraine are what can stop Russian aggression," he wrote on X, adding that the 25th Ramstein meeting would be the first to take place at the leaders' level.

World acknowledging Pakistan's viable economic policies: Attaullah Tarar

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said that the world is acknowledging country's viable economic policies as Pakistan's economic indicators are moving in the right direction.

Addressing a press conference at PML-N Secretariat here on Saturday, he said that heads of different countries were coming to Pakistan and added that the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had raised Palestine and Kashmir issues in United Nations General Assembly session very effectively.

He said when the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi had visited Pakistan, a novelty in diplomacy was witnessed. Attaullah Tarar said another delegation of Saudi Arabia was coming to Pakistan and cooperation was increasing. He said that Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim had left Pakistan after completing his visit, but unfortunately efforts were made to hold march towards D-Chowk during the presence of Malaysian prime minister in the country.

He said that PM Shehbaz Sharif's speech in United Nations General Assembly session was widely hailed by all segments of society. He said, "Foreign guest always come to Pakistan to strengthen ties." It was agreed that Pakistan would export halal meat worth \$200 million and 100,000 tonnes of rice to Malaysia and hindrances in this regard would be removed, he said and added that different countries were interested for doing trade besides making an investment in Pakistan.

Attaullah Tarar said that according to Bloomberg Pakistan economy was taking off and its stock market was one of the emerging market of Asia.

He said that Public Works Department had been closed down and corrupt officers of FBR had been sidelined. He said that Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, China Turkey almost every country was appreciating the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's commitment and country's economic policies aimed at putting the country on road to progress.

The information minister said that country's exports had increased by 14 per cent while the FBR digitalization was done without spending a single penny, adding that privatisation matters of Pakistan International Airlines and other state owned enterprises were underway. He said that the number of FBR filers had doubled, adding that this would definitely yield positive results for the country.

Attaullah Tarar said that economic vision of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was being implemented and now the world was terming Pakistan's economy as emerging economy. He said that credit goes to PML-N that it saved the country from default. He said that World Bank President Ajay Banga was also terming Pakistan's economy policy as good policy. The minister said that subsidy had been provided on electricity while prices of essential items were reducing. Price of petrol had been reduced for five times, he said and added with the grace of Allah Almighty Pakiatan would become prosperous. He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was again using tactics of holding public meetings and marches because they couldn't digest country's progress and stability.

He said that PTI should focus on bringing change in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa instead of creating unrest and chaos. He said that KP Chief Minister should focus on providing health, education and other facilities to people of KP but unfortunately he was using all his energies to

keep his leader happy. He said that credit goes to the PML-N for constructing motorways, China Pakistan Economic Corridor project, energy projects, growth of industry and many other big initiatives.

He said that purpose of holding protest in red zone was just to halt the country's system. Tarar said that Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit was a matter for pride for Pakistan and nobody would be allowed to sabotage it. He said, "Incumbent government wants to highlight positive image of the country."

Attaullah Tarar said that Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit would be held as per plan. He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had badly harmed the country during its tenure. KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was using government machinery against the federation. PTI Barrister Saif invited Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar to attend PTI's protest, Attaullah Tarar said and added that one could imagine about PTI's mindset from this.

The federal minister said that nobody would be allowed to violate the law. After doing May 9, now all those involved in it were denying their involvement, he said and questioned that how they could deny evidences of video footage. No single person from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf condemned the tweet of Zac Goldsmith which he had given in favour of Israel, he added. He further said that the PML-N strongly condemned the tweet of Zac Goldsmith. He said that October 7, would be observed as a "Day of Solidarity with Palestine" adding that walks, seminars and podcasts would be held in this regard. He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf could do nothing except for causing chaos and unrest in the country.

KP CM setup commission for fair distribution of uplift funds

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: As an important step for the local population of North Waziristan District, the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur has constituted a Provincial Joint Commission to ensure the fair distribution of development funds from royalties generated by the recently discovered petroleum and gas resources in North Waziristan. This commission will work to protect the rights of the local population with regard to the revenue/royalty of the recently discovered natural resources. A formal notification has been issued by the Chief Minister's Secretariat to this end.

According to the notification, the 13-member commission consists of Advisor to Chief Minister on Information and Public Relations,

Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, MNA Mufti Misbahuddin, MPA Naik Muhammad Khan, and MPA Muhammad Iqbal. Other members of the commission include the Secretary Energy and Power Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Additional Secretary Ministry of Petroleum Islamabad, officials from Mari Petroleum

Company, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited, RPO Bannu, and a representative of 11 Corps. Commissioner Bannu will also be member and convener of the commission.

The commission will formulate a long-term policy to ensure that the recently discovered natural resources are utilized in the best interests of the country, region, and local population, will act as a liaison amongst the local population, provincial and federal governments, and other stakeholders in this regard. The notification further states that the commission will ensure the protection of the legitimate rights of the local population in line with government policy and, in consultation with local elders, will guarantee the supply of gas from Shewa to Daud Khel.

Moreover, the Chief Minister has also decided to establish committees at the district and tehsil levels as a three-tier consultative framework, whose members will be notified in consultation with local elders and elected public representatives of the area. The Provincial Joint Commission, in consultation with the district and tehsil committees, will

finalize long-term policies for the utilization of the revenues of these natural resources.

In a statement issued in this regard, the Chief Minister has said that the current provincial government will ensure the fair and just distribution of the resources and development funds generated from the royalties of Petroleum and gas adding that the Provincial Joint Commission and committees at the district and tehsil levels are being established to achieve this end. He has further said that this three-tier consultative framework will ensure the protection of the local population's rights in the revenue generated from these natural resources and will contribute to regional welfare and development.

Gandapur has stated that the framework will also formulate long-term policies to promote regional stability and ensure employment opportunities for the local people, and added that the current provincial government is committed to the fast track development of merged districts and is implementing a comprehensive plan to bring these districts at par with other developed regions in terms of development.

Israel issues Gaza evacuation warning

GAZA (AFP): The Israeli army warned residents to evacuate part of central Gaza on Saturday, saying the military was preparing to use "great force" against Hamas fighters in the area. The evacuation call is the first in weeks for Gaza as the Israeli military has largely shifted its focus to fighting Hezbollah in Lebanon.

"Hamas and the terrorist organizations continue their terrorist activities within your area and, as a result, the IDF (military) will act with great force against these elements," the evacuation order posted by the Israeli army said, with an attached map listing the blocks to be evacuated. Palestinians living in areas near the Netzarim Corridor in central Gaza have been warned to evacuate under the latest order posted on X.

Israel has destroyed large swathes of Gaza since Hamas's October 7 attack last year, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu repeatedly pledging to secure total victory over the militants. A year later, the confirmed death toll from the Hamas attack — including hostages killed in captivity — has reached 1,205 on the Israeli side, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures. Militants abducted 251 hostages during the attack, 97 of whom are still held in Gaza, including 33 the Israeli military has said are dead.

In Gaza, nearly all of its 2.4 million residents have been displaced at least once. At least 41,825 people have been killed, most of them women or children, according to the territory's health ministry. The United Nations has acknowledged the figures as reliable. The Israeli military has often returned to areas where it has previously conducted operations in response to reports of resurgent Hamas activity.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Saturday that at least 41,825 people have been killed in almost a year of war between Israel and Palestinian militants. The toll includes 23 deaths in the previous 24 hours, according to the ministry, which said 96,910 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip since the war began when Hamas militants attacked Israel on October 7. Children in Khan Yunis tilted their heads back, mouths open,

as they received oral drops during the second phase of a polio vaccination campaign in Gaza.

"I have been vaccinated," five children said proudly one by one, their inked fingers proof of their inoculation against polio. Gaza's health ministry reported the first case of polio in 25 years last month, amid the devastating Israel-Hamas war in the Palestinian territory. At tent camps for the displaced, schools-turned-shelters and health centers, parents brought babies, infants and teenagers for vaccines provided by UN agencies.

"I live in a tent next to a sewage pond with significant disease and epidemic issues, and mosquitoes and worms have affected us," said Amani Ashur, 37, who brought his one-year-old son Abdul Rahman to be vaccinated. Like most Gazans, Ashur has been displaced at least once, finding shelter in the Al-Amal neighborhood of Khan Yunis. His child, like many others, has fallen ill from diseases spreading through the makeshift shelters.

Gazans said they feared the spread of diseases due to the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in the camps and shelters. "I was worried about my child, so I brought him to be vaccinated," said Safaa Al-Balbisi, 34, about her two-year-old son Yahya. "The war, lack of cleanliness, and living in tents and streets, along with the widespread sewage issues, have all contributed to the spread of diseases."

Raafat Tuman, 46, brought his two-year-old son Adam to Khan Yunis's Nasser hospital after learning of the campaign on social media. "I decided to vaccinate my child to protect him from (polio) and other illnesses," he said. Hundreds of families gathered at the school-turned-shelter, waiting for the vaccines to arrive. Thursday marked the fifth day of polio vaccinations in Gaza and the first in the south of the coastal territory.

UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) spokeswoman Louise Wateridge said the aim was to vaccinate 200,000 children against the disease during this phase. So far, the vaccination drive was going as planned, said Majdi Dahir, Gaza health ministry technical director for the polio campaign.

Iran renews call for Gaza, Lebanon ceasefires

DAMASCUS (AFP): Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi renewed his call for ceasefires in both Gaza and Lebanon on Saturday as he held talks with his country's Syrian ally.

"The most important issue today is the ceasefire, especially in Lebanon and in Gaza," he told reporters. "There are initiatives in this regard, there have been consultations that we hope will be successful." Syrian President Bashar Assad said Iran's second-ever missile attack on Israel this week was a "lesson" for Israel. The missile attack on Tuesday evening, just days after Israel killed the leader of Iran-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, was "a strong response and taught the Zionist entity a lesson," Assad was quoted as saying as Araghchi visited Damascus.

Araghchi's visit to Damascus, his first since he took office in August, comes almost a year after Iran-backed Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked Israel, triggering war in Gaza. The conflict has also drawn in Iran's Lebanese ally, Hezbollah and on September 23 Israel sharply intensified its campaign against the militant group. "The purpose of my trip to Damascus is to continue consultations regarding the developments in the region," Araghchi said. His meetings in the Syrian capital follow a visit to Beirut Friday during which he voiced support for a truce in Lebanon acceptable to Hezbollah "simultaneously with a ceasefire in Gaza."