

Cop, 2 others killed in Lakki  
F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: A police official embraced martyrdom when unidentified gunmen attacked him in a remote Pahar Khel Pakka area on Saturday. Police identified the deceased cop as Qadir Khan and said that two villagers including Abdul Hakim and his son Rafiullah also lost their lives in the attack. They said that the bodies were shifted to the DHQ Hospital Tajazai while the attackers fled the place.

Curfew imposed  
F.P. Report

WANA: The district administration has imposed a three-day curfew in Lower South Waziristan areas of Sanga and Inzar Chinna from Sunday. A notification issued from the Deputy Commissioner office said on Saturday that during the curfew time no human movement would be allowed. The curfew will remain effective from 05:00 a.m. to 06:00 p.m.



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# PPP wants political stability in country

## F.P. Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday urged all the stakeholders to play their role in achieving political stability in the country. He was addressing the PPP's workers through video link on party's 57th Foundation Day.

"The opposition is impediment in the way of political stability in the country. It is not politics what happened on May 9," said the PPP chairman. He added that PPP wanted political stability in Pakistan and both the government and opposition should play their role in it. Earlier, Bilawal cordially congratulated party workers on the Foundation Day, celebrating 57 years of unwavering commitment to establish democracy, rule of law and empowering people.

"The economic stability is only possible

when there will be political stability in the country," said Bilawal. He said that attempts were made to eliminate the PPP in the past but it is still here with a passion to serve the masses. According to Bilawal, PPP wants peace in the country as it is essential for the economic development. The PPP chairman urged all the institutions to work within their constitutional limits.

Taking a jibe at PTI, Bilawal said that the opposition is only interested in getting relief for its leader and doesn't want to solve the issues of the country. "PPP has the solution of all the problems being faced by the country and we believe in positive politics," said Bilawal. He also referred to the reports that the Centre was planning to impose governor rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"If the matter is presented before us we will try to take decision with mutual consultation." Speculation started circulating on

social and local media after federal cabinet, according to PM's aide Rana Sanaullah, discussed the option of imposing governor rule in KP in the aftermath of party's protest in the federal capital. However, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has dispelled the speculations, saying that the Centre was not planning to impose a governor rule in KP.

Firing a salvo at the PTI, Bilawal said that the opposition party was not showing interest in solving public problems. He said their sole priority was to ensure release of their incarcerated leader. The PPP leader said that they wanted to restore peace and end terrorism in the country. He said that the political parties and the institutions were capable to steer the country out of crisis.

Bilawal declared opposition "biggest obstacle" in bringing political stability in the country. In the same address, the PPP chief said that the space for politics is less in the

country, stressing the need for all political parties to return to the political sphere. He also criticised the federal government policies for agriculture, saying it was feared that such policies would lead to the "economic murder" of farmers instead of benefitting them.

Calling upon the Centre to listen to the reservations of the provincial governments, Bilawal said the federal government was planning to draw a canal from the Indus River. "If the government pushes forward with this decision, the problem between the federal government and the province will increase," he warned.

Bilawal said the decision would also have a negative impact on the country's economy. "PPP will not accept any forced decision." Moving on to terrorism, the PPP chairman said: "Our army, police and [political] leadership rendered [unmatched] sacrifices and



defeated terrorists." Stressing the need for a new action plan, he said terrorism was rearing its head once again in Sindh, Balochistan and Islamabad.



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur inquiring about the health of an injured of D-Chowk protest at LRH.

## No compromise on peace in Kurram: KP CM

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, visited Kohat on Saturday to attend a Grand Jirga constituted by the provincial government to address the ongoing issues in the Kurram district. Senior officials from the concerned divisional and district administrations briefed the Chief Minister on the latest situation of law and order in the area, the ceasefire between conflicting parties, and government efforts to ensure lasting peace there.

Addressing the jirga, the Chief Minister directed law enforcement agencies to treat any individual disrupting peace as a terrorist, and said that the security forces are deployed in the area on the request of the provincial government to restore peace, and added that security forces, police and civil administration are making coordinated efforts to restore complete peace in the district.

The Chief Minister concerned

authorities to dismantle all the bunkers in the area without discrimination, and urged the federal government to deploy additional FC platoons to support peace initiatives as requested by the provincial government. He also directed the Grand Jirga to remain active in the area until complete peace is restored there assuring full support from the provincial government.

Gandapur called on the local community to identify those responsible for disturbing peace and urged tribal elders to play their role in fostering harmony between rival groups. He directed the concerned administration to collect heavy weapons from the local population and also temporarily collect the arms from residents of border areas.

"Anyone who takes up arms will be treated as a terrorist, and their fate will be that of a terrorist" the Chief Minister warned. He assured that funds would be released on a priority basis for the temporary displaced families and pledged the dignified return of all inter-

nally displaced persons (IDPs).

He stressed that violence and conflict are not solutions to any problem, highlighting the importance of dialogue and negotiations in resolving disputes. "In line with Pashtun traditions, we are making every effort to resolve this issue peacefully through the jirga," he added, and urged both the sides to cooperate with the administration and jirga to ensure sustainable peace, which is in the best interest of both the region and the government as well.

Members of the National Assembly Shehryar Khan Afridi, Hamid Hussain, and Yousuf Khan, along with provincial cabinet members Aftab Alam Khan Afridi, Pakhtoon Yar Khan, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, MPA Shafi Jan, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, Additional Chief Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs Muhammad Abid Majeed, and other relevant officials also attended the jirga.

## KP Cabinet meeting scheduled for tomorrow

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet meeting has been scheduled to be held on December 2 to meet on 22 points agenda.

In a notification issued on Saturday, the 22-point agenda items included the creation of seats for ten judges in Peshawar High Courts besides approval of a writ petition against the Election Commission is also part of the agenda in the provincial cabinet meeting.

Similarly, an increase in the development budget of various departments, and the purchasing of security equipment in jails is also included in the agenda. The annual report of the KP Public Service Commission would be presented during the meeting, the notification concluded.

## Journalist Matiullah released on bail

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Senior journalist Matiullah Jan was released from jail in a terrorism and narcotics case after an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in the federal capital approved his bail petition on Saturday. ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra, who presided over the hearing, approved the bail against a bond worth Rs10,000.

The development comes two days after the journalist was arrested by the Islamabad Police at the E-9 checkpoint for allegedly assaulting the police, forcibly snatching their weaponry, and issuing threats along with being under the influence of drugs with the substance "ice" reportedly recovered from his vehicle as well.

The FIR registered against him includes CrPc's Sections 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 382 (theft after preparation made for causing death, hurt or restraint in order to the committing of the theft), 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees), 506 (criminal intimidation) along with 7ATA (terrorism-related section) and a narcotics-related section.

An ATC then approved a two-day physical remand of the journalist. However, on Friday, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) suspended Jan's physical remand granted to police by the trial court. The journalist's arrest had not only warranted condemnations from media and human rights organisations but also from within the incumbent government as well. Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah termed the case "fabricated".

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) veteran and former Senate chairman Raza Rabbani urged the government to release Jan, while Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz PML-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui said: "I do not support what happened to [Matiullah] Jan at all". "What happened to Jan is very sad regardless at whose behest it was done," remarked the lawmaker.

## Pakistan reaffirms commitment to combating HIV/AIDS: PM

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said Pakistan stood united with the global community in reaffirming its firm commitment to strengthening the national HIV response and ensuring that no one was left behind.

The theme, "Take the Rights Path : My health, My right," reminds us that the journey to eliminate AIDS as a public health threat begins with a firm commitment to human rights, the prime minister said in a message in connection with World AIDS Day 2024. He said upholding the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and promoting the inclusion of all communities were essential for eradicating AIDS as a public health threat.

"Healthcare is a fundamental right. Through our collective efforts, we will ensure that all our citizens enjoy this fundamental right in an equitable manner. By working together, we will continue to strengthen our health systems and expand access to essential services for our citizens," the prime minister added. He highlighted that HIV/AIDS remained a health challenge and a significant socio-economic issue that threatened livelihoods, disrupts families, and deepens inequalities. Gaps in testing and treatment coverage call for deep introspection - a call to reach the most vul-

nerable, making strategies to be truly responsive to those at risk, and ensuring that our policies evolve to meet the shifting dynamics of the epidemic.

"Despite our collective efforts, the HIV epidemic in Pakistan continues to grow, underscoring the need for bold, innovative, and sustainable interventions. It is only through the strategy rooted in equality and inclusion that we can halt the spread of HIV. Strong political will, effective leadership, and enhanced financial commitments are essential to implementing a rights-based national HIV strategy," he remarked.

PM Shehbaz Sharif emphasized that the urgent challenges that needed our attention were eliminating spread of HIV/AIDS through needle sharing among people who inject drugs, safe blood transfusion, and eliminating mother-to-child HIV transmission. We must also address the vulnerabilities of marginalized groups, particularly adolescent girls and young women, who face heightened risks of HIV infection.

"On this World AIDS Day, let us stand united to 'take the rights path' towards an AIDS-free Pakistan. A future free from AIDS can only be achieved through collective action that upholds human dignity, equity, and inclusion," he said adding, "Let us act decisively and compassionately, empowering those most affected

by HIV to lead the way. Together, we can safeguard the health and well-being of our future generations and build a healthier and just society for all".

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif expressed deepest sympathies on behalf of the Pakistani people for the brotherly people of Malaysia over the loss of lives and property caused by recent floods due to torrential rains in several states of the country.

The prime minister in his telephonic conversation with his Malaysian counterpart Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, assured that the people of Pakistan stood in solidarity with their Malaysian brothers and sisters during this challenging time. He also appreciated the swift and effective measures taken by the Malaysian government to address this natural calamity.

The prime minister offered all possible assistance to Malaysia and announced the immediate dispatch of humanitarian aid as a gesture of Pakistan's support for its Malaysian brothers and sisters. Referring to Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's recent visit to Pakistan in October this year, PM Shehbaz expressed satisfaction with the positive momentum in bilateral relations and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

## Nobody will be allowed to disturb country's peace: Tarar

### F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Saturday regretted that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was now resorting to a "false narrative of dead bodies" to cover up the embarrassment of fleeing from the protest site in the Blue Area.

In a media talk regarding fake photos and posts uploaded by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on social media, he said the party had failed to produce even a single video of the firing. He pointed out that the Pakistan

Institute of Medical Sciences and Polyclinic Hospital had clearly stated that they did not receive any dead bodies.

At first, the PTI claimed that sniper shots were fired, then it was claimed that there was direct firing on the violent protesters, he said. The minister remarked that three days had passed, but the PTI could not even produce even a single video of direct firing. Instead, they were sharing old photos and artificial intelligence-generated images on social media including those of Gaza victims of Israeli atrocities. Even one footage of an incident in 2019 was shared

when ironically PTI itself was in power.

The Information Minister said that on the contrary, the violent PTI protesters used different weapons against the security personnel and also inflicted damage on public property. He questioned why the PTI did not post the pictures of martyred rangers, and police personnel who lost their lives in line of duty. He recalled that once during a public meeting of the founding chairman of PTI in Multan a few years ago, 12 people died in the stampede but that callous person did not stop his speech.

## Kh Asif: PTI creating false propaganda

### F.P. Report

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is spreading false propaganda about the bodies, saying that the PTI has always practiced the politics of chaos.

He expressed these views at a press conference at his residence at the cantonment here today. "We have to destroy the evil intentions of our enemies. The important and concrete steps taken by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during the current and previous government have started producing positive results. The PIA is moving towards improvement. Permission to fly in the European Union and the United States will take it to new heights. We found the country's economy in ruins, which is improving day by day and the country has embarked on the path to development and prosperity, while we are continuing our journey under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for the complete restoration of the economy," he added.

He said, "In the improvement that has taken place during the last seven or eight months, the former Federal Minister for Aviation, my brother Saad Rafique, has also played a very important role. He took important and concrete steps during his tenure as the Minister of Aviation, the results of which we have started seeing today.

It is a very good thing that our national airline will now be able to travel to Europe and America again, which will make it better." He paid tribute to all the people including PM Shehbaz Sharif and Saad Rafique who made efforts for the noble cause. "Everyone knows what the PTI did on November 24. It is spreading false propaganda on dead bodies.

## 13 more killed in Parachinar clashes

### F.P. Report

PARACHINAR: Sectarian feuding in Parachinar has killed 13 more people, a local government official said Saturday, bringing the total death toll in a recent spasm of violence to 124. It reports in media that, fresh fighting broke out last Thursday when two separate convoys travelling under police escort were ambushed, killing more than 40 and sparking 10 days of battling with light and heavy weapons in Parachinar, the main town in Kurram District.

A Kurram local government official put the death toll at 124 on Saturday after 13 more people were killed in the past two days. Two were Sunni and 11 Shiite, he said. "There is a severe lack of trust between the two sides, and neither tribe is willing to comply with government orders to cease hostilities," he told, speaking on condition of anonymity. Kurram district -- in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, near the bor-

der with Afghanistan -- has a large Shiite population and the communities have clashed for decades. "Police report that many people want to flee the area due to the violence, but the deteriorating security situation makes it impossible," he added.

Meanwhile, judicial officials remain stranded in Parachinar amidst the unrest. According to the President of the Sadda Tehsil Bar, two judges and 25 judicial staff members have been unable to leave the area for the past 10 days. The provincial government had proposed airlifting them via helicopter, but no rescue operation has been carried out thus far.

The situation has remained tense since 21 November and violence persists despite a recent ceasefire agreement. A 10-day truce was brokered earlier in the week, but intermittent violence has rendered it ineffective.

The recent episode of clashes began nine days ago with ambushes on two sepa-

rate convoys under police escort, resulting in 52 deaths on the first day. Since then, violence between the warring factions has escalated, with police struggling to maintain control. The main highway closure has not only disrupted local transportation but also caused a complete suspension of trade with Afghanistan, particularly at the Kharlachi border. Meanwhile, the district administration is working to enforce the ceasefire.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan recorded 79 deaths in the region between July and October this year, highlighting the persistent instability. Previous efforts to mediate peace, including a seven-day truce brokered by provincial officials earlier this month, have failed to hold. A high-powered delegation, including KP Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and IGP Akhtar Hayat Gandapur, had also negotiated a ceasefire last weekend, but violence resumed shortly afterward.

### انتقال پرملا

## إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

نہایت افسوس کے ساتھ اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ

وزارت اطلاعات و نشریات کے آفیسر

محمد صالح (پریس کنسلر دینی تفصیلت، یو اے ای)

کے والد گرامی بقضائے الہی وفات پا گئے ہیں

ان کی نماز جنازہ آج بروز اتوار، بوقت 11 بجے

گاؤں محمد ناڑی، غنی خان روڈ ضلع چارسدہ

میں ادا کی جائے گی۔

ان کو اپنی خصوصی دعاؤں میں یاد رکھیں۔



گوئی سب لو کش





**SANGHAR:** A group photo of participants of All Pakistan Bilingual Declamation Contest 2024 held at Cadet College Sanghar.

## Police arrested 4,642 gamblers

LAHORE (APP): Lahore police stepped up efforts to combat gambling, including both physical gambling dens and online platforms. In various operations throughout this year, the police have arrested 4,642 individuals involved in gambling and registered 1,092 cases.

The Lahore Police spokesman has confirmed that stake money worth more than Rs17.6 million was recovered from the suspects during these raids. The arrests were spread across multiple divisions in Lahore, including 1,513 in the City Division, 968 in the Cantonment Division, 552 in the Civil Lines Division, 421 in the Sadar Division, 695 in Iqbal Town and 493 in Model Town.

CCPO Bilal Siddique Kamyana emphasized that the police were not only targeting traditional gambling dens but also taking action against online gambling. He directed to intensify the crackdown, including intelligence-based raids on gambling dens. He also urged increased use of information technology to track down and dismantle online gambling networks. Additionally, he highlighted the need for vigilance against social media accounts and apps that promote online gambling.

## 200,000 youths to be equipped with IT skills

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that Information Technology is bringing revolutionary changes in almost every sector of life.

He said this while addressing foundation stone laying ceremony of a multipurpose building at Information Technology

University (ITU) on Saturday. "ITU is among best IT universities of the country and credit goes to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who had laid the foundation of the university knowing the importance of IT, being the then Punjab Chief Minister. Progress of every sector that is linked with the economy is connected with IT," he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said that new technologies and emerging applications were replacing all traditional production models. He said that one 'Uber' application completely reorganized the public transport system and similarly online e-commerce actually shut down big retailer stores in America.

## International Women HRs Defenders Day held

**Saqib Mushtaq**

ISLAMABAD: On International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, the United States recognizes the tireless efforts of women and girls who advocate for human rights and fundamental freedoms around the world.

All over the world, women work to challenge systemic injustices and advocate for the rights of all. Women human rights defenders face an increased risk of experiencing threats, harassment, and gender-based violence, both online and offline. Despite efforts



to weaken and silence them, they remain unwavering in their commitment to defend human rights. They are forces of change that remind us of the crucial role women play in shaping a more just, equitable, and safer world for all.

The United States will continue to support all

human rights defenders and ensure that they have safe and open environments to carry out their work free of reprisal. We stand prepared to partner with all those committed to promoting their efforts and addressing the unique challenges that women human rights defenders face.

## Punjab CM to lead high-level delegation to China

LAHORE (APP): Maryam Nawaz will be the first female Chief Minister of Punjab to visit China as Beijing has extended an official invitation for mid-December.

Senior official sources of PML-N told APP that the Maryam Nawaz has been invited by the People's Republic of China for an official visit from December 8 to 15.

The invitation comes from ruling

Communist Party of China, highlighting its interest in enhancing bilateral relations with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). CM Maryam Nawaz will be accompanied by a high-level delegation during her 8-day visit, which will take her to major Chinese cities including Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangdong, sources said.

The upcoming visit will be historic

milestone for Maryam Nawaz, who has taken the coveted role, marking the first instance of a woman serving as a Chief Minister in any province of the South Asian nation.

China's invitation to CM Maryam Nawaz underscores desire to further strengthen mutual cooperation between the two nations, especially with the PML-N, signaling a new phase in Pakistan-China relations.

## Women Development Department champions empowerment in textile industry

**E.P. Report**

KARACHI: The Women Development Department, Government of Sindh, in collaboration with the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), organized an event under the theme "Empowering Women in Pakistan's Textile Industry" as part of the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" campaign.

The event was held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Karachi. During her address, Ms. Shahina Sher Ali, Provincial Minister for Women Development, emphasized the need for a zero-tolerance policy towards gender-based violence (GBV) in workplaces.

Mr. Rashid Ahmed Zardari, Secretary of the Women Development Department, highlighted the significance of the 16-day campaign, stating, "Every year, we observe this campaign to reaffirm our commitment to eradicating gender-based violence worldwide."



Ms. Saqiba Aziz, Component Manager (GIZ), presented a project titled "Strengthening Women's Role in the Textile Industry to Promote Employment," showcasing the project's role in promoting gender equality.

Success stories of women excelling in the textile sector were shared by AGI Denim, Artistic Milliners, and Mustaqim Industries, highlighting their efforts and commitment to creating a safe and inclusive environment in the textile industry.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Ashiq Hussain Kalhoro, Deputy Director of the Women Development Department, stated that 28% of women in Pakistan are affected by gender-based violence, which negatively impacts societal well-being and economic productivity.

Leaders from various organizations related to the textile industry recognized the GIZ W.E. Project as a positive step towards gender equality and sustainable economic development. At the conclusion of the event, the guests congratulated Sadiq Akbar, Saqiba Aziz, and the entire GIZ team on the launch of the W.E. Project in Sindh.

## ANP workers termed Intra-party election irregular

**Syed Waliullah Shah**

NEWSHERA: The leaders and workers of Awami National Party (ANP) Nowshera have expressed deep reservations on the recent intra-party elections. They stated that the allegations of seeking positions, being divisive, and conspiratorial leveled against them are baseless and false.

This was claimed by former candidate NA-34 Mian Babar Shah Kakakhel, Hameed Khan, Zulfiqar Khan, Khan Ayaz Khan and Wajahat Durrani along with other workers while addressing a press conference at Al-Majeed House Nowshera, stated that the recent intra-party elections were not transparent and were conducted in an undemocratic manner.

The speakers alleged that the party's provincial and central leadership was informed about their reservations, but no attention was paid to their concerns. They stated that the party's organizational structure was not followed during the elections, and the process was marred by irregularities.

The leaders and workers of ANP Nowshera demanded that the party's provincial and central leadership should take immediate notice of their reservations and address their concerns. They warned that if their concerns were not addressed, they would be forced to take further action.

They also appealed to the party's leadership to ensure transparency and accountability in the party's affairs and to follow the party's constitution and organizational structure. The press conference was attended by a large number of party workers and supporters, who expressed their solidarity with the leaders and workers of ANP Nowshera.

## Azma exposes false propaganda of PTI

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has exposed the false propaganda of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

She shared a video of a person who was falsely declared dead. Azma Bokhari revealed all the fake videos and posts from the PTI's propaganda cell.

In this regard, she said that after yet another failed rebellion, "vultures" of the PTI movement were resorting to fake videos and images. "The propaganda cell of PTI is desperately trying to sell lies and search for dead bodies. According to some 'patriotic Pakistanis,' this is their fundamental right to do so."

**GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA  
COMMUNICATION & WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING**  
**(Single Stage Two Envelope E-Bidding System).**

The C&W Division No-1 Swat at Saidu Sharif, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites Electronic Bids from eligible firms / contractors in accordance with KPRA Procurement rule-2014, amended upto 10-05-2022 on Single Stage Two Envelope procedure for the following works.

S#	Name of work	Required Category of PEC	Bid Security+ Stamp duty	Bidding entry fee @0.03%	Period of completion	Last date and time of submission of E-Bids	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid
1	Re-Construction of Boundary Wall / Retaining Wall & Special Repair / Renovation of Camp Office at Commissioner House Saidu Sharif Swat	C-6 & Above	Rs:314100/-	Rs:4200/-	As per work order	23-12-2024 at 12.00 hours	On same day at 14:00 hours
2	Special Repair of C&W Offices/ Residential Buildings at Saidu Sharif Swat.SH. Special Repair of Chief Engineer (North) Office Including SE H/Q Design Engineer Office/Material Testing Laboratory with Allied Sections.	C-6 & Above	Rs:337000/-	Rs:4500/-	As per work order	23-12-2024 at 12.00 hours	On same day at 14:00 hours
3	Special Repair of C&W Offices/ Residential Buildings at Saidu Sharif Swat.SH. Special Repair to Residential Building at Barkalay Saidu Sharif Swat	C-6 & Above	Rs:340000/-	Rs:4500/-	As per work order	23-12-2024 at 12.00 hours	On same day at 14:00 hours

- Instruction to Bidders can be obtained from this office on any working day or downloaded from C&W website ([www.cwd.gkp.pk](http://www.cwd.gkp.pk)) before the submission date/time.
- The bidder should submit their E-bids as per KPRA Notification No.S.R.O(14)/Vol: 1-24/2021-22 dated: 10-05-2022.
- A copy of the technical proposal in the required format is mandatory and to be uploaded as a part of E-bid before submitting Financial Bid.
- Original copies of Call Deposit for bid security and bidding entry Fee 0.03% should be enclosed in the Technical Proposal and shall reach to this office before closing date/time.
- Legible scanned copy of bid security shall be submitted electronically alongwith the bid on E-bidding system.
- All bidders are required to be registered with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Act, 2013 Act No.XXI of 2013.
- The Financial bid will be opened after the approval of Technical bids from competent authority.
- Venue of Bids opening is Office of the Executive Engineer C&W Division No-1 Swat.

**INF(P)3216/2024**

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**C&W DIVISION NO-1-SWAT, Ph.No.0946-9240117**  
Email: [xen.cnwbswat@gmail.com](mailto:xen.cnwbswat@gmail.com)

**FAZAIA SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**  
**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AS PRINCIPAL**

For the Post of **Principal** of a highly reputed Fazaia College at Kallar Kahar, application are invited from energetic, competent and well-qualified candidates who are seeking for a bright career under an inspiring work environment.

**Eligibility:** Male/Female, medically fit, having age not more than 60 years for retired Education officers from armed forces and also civilian candidates. The candidates should be well-acquainted with communication, administrative and management skills.

Description of the Vacancies	Qualification and Experience
<b>Principal (Male/Female)</b>	<b>For Retired Education Officers from Armed Forces</b> (MA/MSc in any subject with a minimum of 15 years commissioned service.  <b>For Civilians</b> MA/MSc, MED in any other subject having minimum of 5-10 years teaching and 5-10 years supervisory / administration experience with minimum of 15 years aggregate experience at Intermediate or Degree College level.

**Ineligibility:**

- The candidate trained /dismissed prematurely from any post at any government or non-governmental institution.
- The candidate terminated from any Fazaia institution due to any allegation / discipline issue.
- The candidate with history of any moral turpitude, financial embezzlement or criminal offences. The applicants are to produce NOC of the previous institution in this regard.

**Pay/ Perks:**

- Selected candidates will be offered good pay package.

**Note.**

- It is a contract-based employment annually renewable on the basis of performance.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.
- TA/DA will not be admissible for interview.
- Reputation of finally selected candidates will confirm his/her previous workplace.
- Concealment of any fact or information may lead to strict disciplinary action even after selection.

Send your applications addressed to **Chairman Managing Committee**, along with resume and attested copies of testimonials, at the given below address latest by **15 December, 2024**. Applications received after due date will not be considered.

**Postal Address:**  
**Fazaia Inter College, PAF Base, Kallar Kahar, Distt Chakwal.**  
**Contact: 0543-588200, 0320-5750026**  
**E-mail: [fickkahr@gmail.com](mailto:fickkahr@gmail.com)**



**Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre**

A JCI Enterprise Accredited Organisation

## Career Opportunities in SKMCH&RC, Peshawar

Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC) is a specialist tertiary care cancer centre built and funded by charitable donations with a mission to provide the best possible cancer care to all patients. SKMCH&RC has a team of UK and US-trained physicians who provide state-of-the-art diagnostic, treatment and support services to patients. SKMCH&RC is pleased to invite applications for the following positions:

### Medical Consultants:

- Consultant Anaesthetist
- Consultant Breast Surgeon
- Consultant Clinical & Radiation Oncologist
- Consultant Clinical Haematologist
- Consultant Head and Neck Surgeon
- Consultant Medical Oncologist
- Consultant Nuclear Medicine
- Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
- Consultant Paediatric Oncologist
- Consultant Pathologist
- Consultant Physician, Critical Care & Pulmonary Medicine
- Consultant Physician, Internal Medicine & Pulmonology
- Consultant Physician, Internal Medicine & Gastroenterology
- Consultant Physician, Internal Medicine & Infectious Diseases
- Consultant Physician, Internal Medicine & Nephrology
- Consultant Radiologist
- Consultant Upper GI Surgeon
- Consultant Urologist

### Locum Consultants:

- Locum Consultant Anaesthetist
- Locum Consultant Breast Surgeon
- Locum Consultant Pathologist

- Locum Consultant Radiologist
- Locum Consultant Urologist

### Part-Time Consultant:

- Part-Time Consultant Anaesthetist

### Senior Instructors:

- Senior Instructor Anaesthesia
- Senior Instructor Breast Surgery
- Senior Instructor Clinical Haematology
- Senior Instructor Clinical and Radiation Oncology
- Senior Instructor Head and Neck Surgery
- Senior Instructor Medical Oncology
- Senior Instructor Paediatric Oncology
- Senior Instructor Radiology

### SKM Fellowships:

- Fellow in Anaesthesia
- Fellow in Clinical & Radiation Oncology
- Fellow in Medical Oncology

### Nursing:

- Clinical Nurse Manager

**Note:** All Senior Instructor positions for Peshawar involve working at Lahore for two years, followed by two years of training overseas. For further details regarding the position and eligibility criteria, please visit our website on [www.shaukatkhanum.org.pk](http://www.shaukatkhanum.org.pk)

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Only online applications will be entertained. Please share your CV at the email address given below and do mention the position applied for in the subject line. We regret that only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

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## Human Resources Department

Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre  
5-B, Sector A-2, Office Enclave, Phase V,  
Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan.

**Tel: +92 91 5885000 Ext. 3538, 3541**

**Email: [careers.peshawar@shaukatkhanum.org.pk](mailto:careers.peshawar@shaukatkhanum.org.pk)**



# Governor highlights PPP services for country on its 57th Foundation Day

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi has said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has played a pivotal role in country's integrity and stability. Speaking at the 57th Foundation Day of PPP, held at the Governor House Peshawar under the auspices of the Pakistan Peoples Students Federation (PSPF), Kundi said today's event was not only a source of pride for him but for every party worker as well.

The event, attended by PSPF Provincial President Rashid Afridi, PPP leaders including Fazal Hussain, and several key party figures such as Provincial Deputy General Secretary Abrar Saeed Swati, Inamullah Dawood Zai, Shoaib, and Mohammad Naeem, saw speeches reflecting on the party's legacy.

Governor Kundi highlighted the PPP's historic commitment to the rights of the people and its significant role in promoting democratic values. He remarked, "The foundation of PPP was laid on sacrifices and public service. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto raised the public's awareness of their fundamental rights, while Benazir Bhutto took this struggle to new heights. Today, under the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Asif Ali Zardari, the party remains steadfast in its principles while confronting the challenges faced by the country."

Kundi urged the party workers to remain united and continue advancing the party's mission. He assured them that he would uphold the trust placed in him by the party leadership and would not leave any stone unturned in fulfilling his responsibilities.

During the ceremony, prayers were offered for the martyrs of the party, including Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. A cake-cutting ceremony was held.

The participants showed solidarity by chanting slogans and reaffirming their commitment to the leadership of the party, vowing to work for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan under its guidance.

**Governor offers condolence with Journalist Saiful Islam Saifi over demise of wife:** Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Saturday visited Peshawar Press Club to offer condolence with senior journalist Saiful Islam Saifi over the death of his wife.

Upon arrival, he was warmly received by Peshawar Press Club President Arshad Aziz Malik, General Secretary Irfan Musazai, President of the Khyber Union of Journalists Kashif-ud-Din Syed, and other office bearers.

During his visit, Governor Kundi expressed his heartfelt condolences to Saiful Islam Saifi, praying for the eternal peace of the departed soul, and for the strength and patience of the bereaved family.

He also prayed for the elevation of her ranks in the afterlife.

Later, Governor Kundi while talking to media discussed the political situation in the country, especially in KP, along with the prevailing issues of unrest and other concerns facing the province.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with a delegation from Surizai Bala area of provincial metropolis led by Misbah u Din.

## Kundi assures Surizai team for fulfilling their demands

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: A delegation from Surizai Bala area of provincial metropolis led by former candidate for NA-30 Misbah u Din met with the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, to discuss various local issues facing by the residents.

The delegation included Engineer Muhammad Imran, Fazal Rabbi, Nazim, Inspector Gohar Ali, Dr. Kashif and Haji Jan Afzal highlighted several key issues, including persistent and severe load shedding in the area, which has been affecting the daily lives of the residents.

The delegation brought to the Governor's attention the fact that the area has been without Sui gas for the past five years, causing immense hardship to the local population. They requested the Governor to establish additional police checkpoints in the area to maintain law and order and prevent criminal activities.

The delegation highlighted the shortage of teachers at the local girls' school and requested the Governor to take steps to address this issue. They delegation also demanded extension of the BRT system to their area to improve public transportation and facilitate the movement of people.

The delegation requested the Governor to establish a girls' degree college in the area to provide better educational opportunities to the local female population.

The Governor assured the delegation that he would take immediate action to address their concerns and that all issues would be resolved on a priority basis.

## Mishal Yousafzai de-notified as Special Assistant to KP CM

PESHAWAR (INP): Azam from her role as Special Assistant. Mishal Yousafzai confirmed her removal, saying that she was de-notified based on her interview with the channel. However, no such statement regarding the reason behind her removal was made by the KP government. Mishal Yousafzai also serves as the spokesperson for PTI founder Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi.

In an interview to a local private tv, Mishal Yousafzai claimed that Imran Khan who instructed Bushra Bibi to go to D-Chowk. "When Imran Khan asked her to go, how could Bushra Bibi step back?" she said.

Mishal Yousafzai alleged that Bushra Bibi did not want to return as her vehicle was fired upon and targeted with chemicals, which blurred the windows, forcing her to switch vehicles. "During this time, I was also separated from Bushra Bibi," she added.

## 50 old automobiles from 1935 to 1980 participate in exhibition

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: The spectacular 15th Vintage and Classic Car show attracted a large number of visitors and enthusiasts of old automobiles held at the Peshawar Services Club on Saturday.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) in collaboration with Classic Land Rover had arranged the event, which saw the participation of vintage car enthusiasts from Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Faisalabad, Peshawar and other cities.

These classic car lovers had brought their prized vehicles to showcase at the exhibition.

KPCTA Director General Tashfeen Haider was the chief guest on the occasion while Asim Durrani from Classic Land Rover, KPCTA Events Manager Haseena Shaikat and other prominent personalities attended the event.

A large number of visitors including families, fans and enthusiasts of vintage and classic cars turned up to the venue to enjoy the show, traditional Khattak dance and the rubab music.

The car show featured a wide variety of classic and vintage cars, including Mercedes, Jaguar, Ford, Chevrolet, Mini, VW, Land Rover, Mustang, Porsche, vintage Vespa motorcycles, and other iconic vehicles from 1935 to 1980 and traditional rubab music and Khatak dance performances that mesmerized the visitors.

The participants and visitors praised the organisers for arranging the thrilling event in Peshawar. The female participants also enjoyed the traditional rubab music and Khatak dance performances, making the event a delightful experience for all.

After the exhibition, the participants would leave for Swabi where they would join the 12th Indus River Cross Jeep Race at the historic Hund point in Swabi at the Indus River after passing through the Balahissar Fort today.

Afterward, these vintage vehicles would travel from Swabi through Faisalabad, Rahimyar Khan, Moro, the Thar desert, and finally reach Karachi.

On this occasion, Tashfeen Haider said that more efforts would be made to organize similar events, including the Khyber to Karachi rally and Peshawar show.

He also said that the exhibitions would be expanded to historical sites in the future. He said that the goal of the rally and the car show was to send a message of peace from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and to once again make Peshawar a city of flowers and joy.



PESHAWAR: President PPP Women Wing KP and Chairperson BISP Robina Khalid sitting on stage during a ceremony of 57th Foundation Day of PPP.

## New case of Mpox infection detected in KP — patient held at Bacha Khan airport

PESHAWAR (APP): A new case of mpox infection has been detected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, raising the toll of the zoonotic disease in province to six during the current year.

According to a press release of Health Department issued here on Saturday, all the previous five mpox patients have recovered from the infection.

The Public Health Referral Laboratory of Khyber Medical University (KMU) has confirmed mpox infection in blood sample of a 35 years old resident of Lakki Marwat who was held at Bacha Khan airport upon return from Dubai on November 28, last, says the press release.

The patient is resident of Kot Kashmir union council of Lakki Marwat district and had arrived Peshawar on the night of November 28, 2024.

After finding symptoms of mpox infection in passenger during screening, the patient was shifted to Khyber Teaching hospital for blood collection and diagnosis.

The Rapid Response teams collected blood samples and sent to Public Health Reference Laboratory at Khyber Medical University (KMU) which confirmed mpox infection in the patient.

The patient, during inquiry, informed that he is living in Dubai for the last five years and work their as driver.

The patient is stable and is informed about the illness, social distancing and other preventive measures for curbing its spread.

Meanwhile, District Health Officer (DHO) Lakki Marwat has been instructed by Director Public Health KP, Dr Irshad Ahmad Roghani to take swift and coordinated action to contain any potential risks associated with further spread of the disease.

The DHO is further directed to promptly address the matter by taking onboard the District Outbreak Coordination Committee to ensure that appropriate response is conducted as per the guidelines shared by National Institute of Health (NIH).

## Police arrest nine suspects in search operations

PESHAWAR (APP): SP Warsak Division, Mukhtiar Ali on Saturday said that a total of nine suspects were arrested during search and strike operations in Malakandair, Warsak and adjacent areas.

According to a press statement, the district police teams conducted search and strike operations in their respective areas. During the operation, police arrested nine suspects and recovered one Kalashnikov, one rifle and 11 magazines of pistols with cartridges.

The arrested identified as Yasir, Sardar Ali, Ikram, Haris, Umer Khan, Imran, Noor Muhammad, Manzoor and Muhammad Imran.

## Pakistan Army helps save lives in road accident

PESHAWAR (APP): The Jawsan of Pakistan Army in North Waziristan provided much needed and swift assistance to the victims of a road mishap near Saidgai and besides providing intine medical cover to the injured, shifted them to hospital.

According to the local administration on Saturday, a passenger coach skidded off the road near Saidgai area and plunged into a deep ditch, claiming a life and leaving 10 others injured.

The Pakistan Army acted quickly after receiving news of the accident and dispatched its rescue teams, paramedics to support the local Rescue 1122 in relief and rescue operation.

The Army led a successful operation at the scene of the mishap and retrieved the injured passengers from the ditch. The army paramedical staff provided urgent medical aid to the injured on-the-spot to stabilize them before transferring them to DHQ Hospital in Bannu for further treatment.

The timely intervention by the Pakistan Army saved precious lives of the injured. Local residents appreciated their quick and effective response, expressing their deep gratitude for the rescue and medical assistance provided during this difficult time.

## Police seize 7kg hashish

PESHAWAR (APP): Phandu police on Saturday arrested two narcotics smugglers and recovered seven-kilogram hashish during a routine inspection at Hazarkhwani.

Police team at Hazarkhwani check post at Ring Road intercepted a suspected car and recovered seven-kilogram hashish from its secret compartments. The arrested suspects identified as Intizar and Tahir are from the Mardan district.

A case has been registered against the arrested and further investigations were underway.

# HEC 2023 Graduate Education Policy

**Dr. Waseem Hassan and Dr. Imdad Ullah Mohammadzai**

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan, introduced the 2023 Graduate Education Policy, to be adopted by universities through statutory bodies. While the policy aims to raise academic standards, it poses challenges for some departments lacking advanced research facilities. Unlike the 2021 policy, which required one "Y" category journal article for a Ph.D. in sciences, the 2023 policy demands two "X" category articles or one in a "W" category journal. These stricter requirements may impact the feasibility and credibility of research in under-resourced laboratories, warranting further consideration and refinement.

A leading university in Pakistan has introduced a revised credit hour scheme for faculty, making research supervision optional. Under the new policy, associate professors must teach nine credit hours, with an option to supervise M.Phil or Ph.D. scholars for 2-3 credit hours or take on an additional 3-credit course instead. This flexibility allows faculty to focus on their strengths, enhancing job satisfaction and performance. However, it may reduce the number of qualified research supervisors, potentially affecting research output and the academic development of Ph.D. scholars, particularly in under-resourced environments. This seems a bit confusing, on one hand, the national organization is raising the bar for research publication, making it more challenging for researchers to meet the new standards. On the other hand, the university is relaxing the requirements for teaching obligations, effectively making research supervision optional for faculty members.

The HEC has recommended publishing "article/s" which is fine. In considering the types of research publications, it is important to recognize the significant value that systematic reviews and meta-analyses bring to scientific literature. A systematic review is a type of research that summarizes the results of available studies on a specific topic using a standardized and methodical approach. While, meta-analysis is a statistical technique that combines the results of multiple studies to identify patterns, discrepancies, or overall effects. This makes them not just reviews, but significant pieces of research that can inform practice, policy, and further research directions. Therefore, why not give proper weightage and consideration to such "reviews," acknowledging their substantial contribution to the scientific community and ensuring they receive appropriate recognition and value in academic literature?

Furthermore, how about considering the substantial impact of publishing letters, opinions, or comments in highly prestigious journals such as World Psychiatry, Lancet Psychiatry, Nature, Science, New England Journal of Medicine, or CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians (2022 Impact Factor = 254.7)? Publishing such pieces in these top-tier journals is a remarkable achievement, given their rigorous peer-review process and high standards for scientific excellence. It is important to note that there are dozens of Scopus/Web of Science indexed journals that even contain the word "letter" in their titles. In fact, 36 such journals (some of the journals have very high impact factors) have published at least 10,000 papers. This raises an interesting point: what about publishing "research letters" or why not consider them? To address the varying types of scholarly contributions, a flexible publication requirement for PhD candidates in science disciplines could be proposed: Option #1: Publish at least one research article in a W category journal or two research articles in X category journals (this is what HEC has introduced in 2023 policy). Option #2: Publish at least one research article in a W category journal or one research article and one review in X category journals. Option #3: Publish at least one research article in a W category journal or one research article and two or three letters in X category journals. These numbers are proposals and can be adjusted by the competent authority, which may also consider the impact factors of the journals to ensure quality and relevance.

The current policy requiring research synopsis approval before publishing an article poses practical challenges. Students typically spend two to four semesters completing coursework with good grades before presenting their research synopsis to the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC). Some universities allow students to appear before the GSC only after coursework completion. GSC meetings, held monthly, forward approved synopses to the Advanced Studies and Research Board (ASRB). However, the high number of scholars often delays approvals, with revisions or rejections potentially extending the process by one or two semesters.

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) mandates a minimum Ph.D. duration of three years, but delays in GSC and ASRB processes make it nearly impossible for scholars to complete their research and thesis within the remaining time. These delays impose financial strain, hinder academic progress, and risk losing publication opportunities in high-impact journals, especially for novel research. To address this, revising the policy to allow scholars to present their proposals immediately after securing admission, rather than after coursework completion, could save time, reduce committee burdens, and preserve research novelty.

The HEC's 2023 policy requires articles to be published in a "relevant research journal," but this poses challenges for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research, which spans multiple fields. For instance, a biochemist studying nematodes may face a dilemma in choosing between biochemistry or zoology journals, as each department might view the other as irrelevant. To address this, suggestions include:

To address challenges in publishing multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research, several measures can be implemented. First, a curated list of recognized interdisciplinary journals catering to multiple fields can provide clear guidance for researchers. Second, the definition of a "relevant journal" should be broadened to include those bridging diverse disciplines, acknowledging the integrative nature of such work. Third, a review process involving experts from all relevant fields can ensure the comprehensive evaluation of multidisciplinary studies. Finally, candidates should be encouraged to justify their choice of journal, explaining how its scope aligns with the interdisciplinary nature of their research and why it is the most appropriate venue for their work.

In conclusion, the suggested measures aim to create a flexible yet rigorous framework for PhD candidates, fostering innovation, collaboration, and research excellence. Of course, further suggestions are sincerely welcome.





## In brief

### Open katchery tomorrow F.P. Report

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Division, Syed Motasim Billah would hold an open katchery on December 2 under Chief Minister's Awami Agenda Program. The open katchery would be held in Government Degree College for Boys Hungu. Locals have been urged to attend the katchery and inform officials about their problems. Open katchery would also be attended by Deputy Commissioner Hungu and representatives of district departments. Commissioner would hear the complaints of people and issue on the spot directives to address concerns and problems of people.

### Two killed in Pakpattan F.P. Report

PAKHPATTAN: At least two persons including a woman were killed on the spot while another person was critically wounded when a speedy Mazda bus hit their motorcycle on Kartarpur Bridge, Depalpur Road in Pakpattan on early Saturday morning. Rescue sources said that two vehicles' collision claimed two lives in Pakpattan, a private news channel reported. The dead persons were later identified as Yousaf and Kausar Bibi. Soon after the accident, Rescue 1122 team reached the site and shifted the dead and injured person to District Hospital Pakpattan. Further investigation was underway.

### Case registered against 2 people DADU (INP): A criminal case has been filed against two individuals under the Sindh Wildlife Protection Act 2020 for the killing of an Indus dolphin, a rare species also known as the "Queen of the Indus River." The Indus dolphin, which had strayed into the Dadu Canal, was found dead several kilometres (km) away near the Phakka Distributary (commonly known as Amb Mori). According to Javed Mahar, Conservator of Sindh Wildlife, the culprits removed the Indus dolphin from the canal two days ago, clicked photos, and uploaded them on social media. This act caused the dolphin's skin to dry, leading to its death. Upon receiving reports, the Sindh Wildlife Department team in Dadu inspected the site, gathered evidence, and initiated a search operation to rescue the dolphin. Tragically, the dead dolphin was found approximately 8 km away near the village of Gulpan Panhor. The suspects now face charges under wildlife protection laws, carrying a potential penalty of five years imprisonment and a fine of PKR 750,000. The trial will be conducted in the District and Sessions Court of Dadu.

### PFA discards substandard milk F.P. Report

MULTAN: The Punjab food Authority (PFA) teams discarded 520 litres of substandard milk on Bosan road. According to a spokesperson, PFA teams conducted a checkpoint operation on the Bosan road and discarded 520 litres of milk from 30 transport vehicles, imposing fine amounting Rs 21,000 to the suppliers. PFA Director General (DG) Mohammed Asim Javed said that milk was found substandard during checking through lacto-scan machine. Traces of chemicals, water and white powder were witnessed into the mixture being sold in the name of milk in market.

# PPP founding anniversary celebrated in AJK

## F.P. Report

MIRPUR: The 58th founding anniversary of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was celebrated with great enthusiasm throughout Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

The celebrations were marked by a commitment to uphold the legacy of the party's founders, Chief Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto. Participants renewed their pledge to continue working for the progress and prosperity of the country as a whole, with a special focus on the needs of the suppressed and neglected classes of society.

Special ceremonies to celebrate the founding anniversary of the party were hosted in various parts of AJK including the district headquarters under the auspices of local units of the PPP AJK chapter. The ceremonies were followed by special programs to

mark the significance of the founding anniversary of the party.

Addressing these ceremonies speakers paid rich tributes to the founder chairman of the PPP late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and late Mohterma Benazir Bhutto for sacrificing their lives for the nation and the country, particularly for the downtrodden class of the society.

In Mirpur district, special ceremonies were held under the auspices of the local leaders of PPP AJK at Naangi House. While addressing the ceremonies hosted to observe the day, speakers paid rich tributes to departed leaders of the party including Shaheed ZAB and Shaheed BB for laying down the supreme sacrifices of their lives for the upholding of democracy and democratic values and for the sovereignty, solidarity and integrity of the country and the nation.

Speakers said the best way to pay rich tributes to the departed great souls of ZAB and BB was to continue the mission and ideologies of the martyred founding father of the PPP Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed BB to make the country economically strong and prosperous besides bringing it in the ranks of the developed nations. Paying rich tributes to the two martyred leaders of the party, speakers said "shaheed ZAB preferred to go to gallows and shaheed BB laid down her life without comprising in the principles by rendering meritorious services to the nation and most particularly for maintaining the national unity, solidarity, and cohesion among the people of all the four provinces of the country as well as AJK besides for the promotion of democracy and maintaining democratic norms and values in the country".

# Seminar held regarding violence on women

## F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: An awareness event against violence and oppression of women was organized in Yasin Bibi Girls College Pirsadu area of Takhtbhai. A large number of students and teachers from different girls' high schools participated in large numbers.

Speaking at the awareness event, Yasmeen Bibi

Girls College Principal Shabeena Khan said that by highlighting the causes of violence against women and its negative effects in the future, she asked the participants to raise their voices against violence for the establishment of a peaceful society emphasized the need to do and play an active role.

The participants pledged to raise their voice against

forced and forced marriages, honor killings and all kinds of violence and to fight for them because the role of women in the society is in the form of mother, sister, wife, therefore, it cannot be ignored in any way. Islam has given a high position to women. Therefore, respecting men with the heart and soul of women is the Sunnah of the Prophet therefore, men should follow it.

# Murder suspect held

## F.P. Report

MARDAN: Police arrested suspect involved alleged involvement in the murder of Syed Shazin, the brother of a local journalist, Syed Shazib Bacha. The arrest was made possible due to the special instructions of

District Police Officer. The suspect Sajid, son of Noor Ali, a resident of Khorabad, Nowshera, was apprehended through modern technical means and effective investigation. The police have started further investigation and are working to arrest other accom-

plices involved in the crime. The District Police Officer praised the police team for their success, stating that the police are fulfilling their duties to protect the lives and property of the people, and those involved in such incidents will be dealt with strictly.

# 12 criminals arrested

## F.P. Report

SARGODHA: Police have arrested 12 alleged criminals from various parts of the district and recovered contraband from them.

Teams of different police stations conducted raids and arrested Naveed, Saleem, Arslan, Tahir, Wajid, Shams, Shahid, Arif, Rehan, Majid, Mubashir and Zain. The police recovered 1.8-kg hashish, nine

pistols, five guns, three Kalashnikovs, 490 bullets and cash in millions of rupees from them.

Meanwhile, District police foiled attempt to supply 2500 kilograms dead chicken in the jurisdiction of Phularwan police station. According to a spokesperson, while acting on a tip-off, the police team stopped a vehicle at Saem Naladhoori road in which the

dead chicken was loaded. The police teams informed the Superintendent slaughter house Bhalwal, Dr Zile-e-Hussnain and food Authority Officer, Muhammad Bilal who checked the chicken and declared it dead.

Police wasted the dead chicken on the spot and registered case against the three accused Imran Maseeh, Faisal Shahzad and Muhammad Ashraf.

## Pakistan Army helps save lives in road accident F.P. Report

MIRAN SHAH: The Jawans of Pakistan Army in North Waziristan provided much needed and swift assistance to the victims of a road mishap near Saidgai and besides providing intimate medical cover to the injured, shifted them to hospital.

According to the local administration on Saturday, a passenger coach skidded off the road near Saidgai area and plunged into a deep ditch, claiming a life and leaving 10 others injured. The Pakistan Army acted quickly after receiving news of the accident and dispatched its rescue teams, paramedics to support the local Rescue 1122 in relief and rescue operation.

The Army led a successful operation at the scene of the mishap and retrieved the injured passengers from the ditch. The army paramedical staff provided urgent medical aid to the injured on-the-spot to stabilize them before transferring them to DHQ Hospital in Bannu for further treatment. The timely intervention by the Pakistan Army saved precious lives of the injured. Local residents appreciated their quick and effective response, expressing their deep gratitude for the rescue and medical assistance provided during this difficult time.

## FC to plays its for development F.P. Report

WANA: Commandant FC South Waziristan Muhammad Tahir announced concrete measures to put the region on the path of development. He stated that South Waziristan will be transformed into a blossoming area through developmental initiatives, with the welfare and progress of the youth being among his top priorities. Emphasizing the importance of sports, he expressed his commitment to providing sports facilities in every village.

The historic Government High School of Wana, under the leadership of Principal Ghulam Hussain Wazir, has qualified for the provincial football match. The school's football team has made history with its outstanding performance.

Commandant Muhammad Tahir congratulated the team on their success and paid tribute to them. On this occasion, he also thanked Wing Commander Colonel Safdar and Captain Ibrahim for encouraging the team.

# JI calls jirga on law, order situation in Swat on 8th



## F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Jamaat-i-Islami has announced to hold a grand jirga at Mingora Swat on Dec, 8 regarding the deteriorating law and order situation in the region. The announcement was made by the JI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa North chief and former senior minister Inayatullah Khan while speaking at a news conference at Chakdara here on Saturday. The JI Lower Dir chief and former MNA Maulana Asadullah, JI Bajaur chapter leaders Sardar Khan, JI tehsil chief Dr Bashir Khan and other activists were also in attendance.

Inayatullah said that the law and order situation in the newly merged districts and other parts of the province was deteriorating with each passing day. He said that the JI Bajaur chapter general secretary Muhammad Hameed Sufi was killed in target killing on Nov 14 when he was returning home after offering his evening prayer. Mr Inayat said the JI would host the Dec, 8 Swat jirga.

He announced that leaders of all political parties, tribal elders, lawyers, journalists and businessmen from across the Malakand division would be invited to attend the jirga in order to chalk out a joint strategy to cope with the situation. He said the jirga would declare a future course of action on its conclusion. The JI leader said that no political party alone could resolve the issue of lawlessness in the region. He said that it was the responsibility of all political parties and civil society organizations to make collective efforts to bring peace back in the region.

**Open kutheri:** A young lady, during an open kutheri, has complained that despite

a court marriage the Timergara police harassed her. She said that her husband was arrested and police took Rs 9000 from him as a bribe. The district administration arranged the open kutcheri for women at the Timergara Rest house with assistant commissioner Zaid Khan in the chair. Heads of various departments were also present on the occasion.

The lady said that court marriage was her legal right and he had done it with her free will. She complained that the Timergara police were harassing her. Dozens of women from different areas attended the event. The AC assured the lady that a proper inquiry would be conducted against the police officials for taking bribes and harassing her.

Speaking on the occasion the in-charge of Timergara Dar ul Aman (shelter home) Ms Nida Bibi complained about shortage of medicines for psychiatric patients. She asked the administration to take notice of the shortage and provide the center with proper stock of medicines. She said that some of the poor inmates needed warm clothes and sweaters for the chilly winter. She said that wealthy people should come forward to assist the poor needy women and children at the center. She also demanded for provision of two lady security constables.

Another lady, Nabeela Bibi, an employee of the Dar ul Aman said that she had not received her salary since June. She demanded immediate release of her salaries. Addressing the event, the assistant commissioner Zaid Khan said the district administration would try its best to resolve the issues raised by women participants.

# Arrest of murderers directed

## F.P. Report

LARKANA: Deputy Inspector General Police Larkana directed Senior Superintendent Police district Shikarpur Shahzeb Chachhar to arrested murderers involved in the killing of two women, on Saturday.

The deceased women identified as Ayaz Khatoon and Nawab Khatoon on charges of black parts in village Sultan Kamalani Jatoi. Entire sub-division with heavy force under the leadership of the DSP of the area, they immediately Orders have been issued to bring under the law, it should be noted that this initiative of DIG Police Range Larkana Nasir Aftab Pathan is being appreciated in public circles.

**Health management seminar held:** A one-day health management semi-

nar was organized in Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Medical University by the Directorate of Health in collaboration with the Indonesian Consulate. Delivering a lecture by Indonesian council General Arie Poluzi said on the topic and emphasizing effective strategy and mutual cooperation, he added that both Indonesia and Pakistan have large populations and a large proportion of the population in both countries.

Angry at the youth, he further said there is a shortage of doctors in Indonesia and Pakistani graduate doctors should apply for jobs and post-graduation in Indonesia. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor of SMBB University Larkana Prof. Dr. Nusrat Shah said that Indonesia is giving 250 fully funded scholarships

for students here, which students should take full advantage of. And compared to the United States, we should go to East Asian countries because there are cheaper education and more job opportunities.

## Gamblers arrested F.P. Report

MULTAN: The district police have arrested seven gamblers, here on Saturday.

According to a police spokesperson, teams conducted raids and netted seven gamblers, recovering stake money amounting Rs.27, 000, four mobile phones and motorcycle from their possession. Further investigation was underway.

# Evaluation of judges and responsibilities under Constitution

## Zia-ur-Rehman Tajik

**A judge is considered a priest in the temple of justice and a neutral arbiter in the court of law. The judge applies the rules of the court and the law fairly and transparently in the dispensation of justice. He is appointed or elevated to decide cases, issues and questions brought before him and is free from all kinds of pressure in deciding cases in a particular way.**

A Judge is not connected to any party or person involved in the case and treats every person before him equally. Because justice is one of the central values of a legal system, and every democracy is based on justice. Chamber dictionary defines a judge as "a person who is in charge of trial in a court and decide how a person who is guilty of a crime should be punished. Mariam Webster dictionary defines a judge as "one who makes judgement such as a public official authorized to decide a question before a court and give in authoritative opinion.

In Pakistan justice is dispensed by the judges of subordinate judiciary, special court and Tribunals and judges of superior judiciary. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, judges of the subordinate judiciary are appointed as per the provision of section 5 of KPK judicial service rules 2001. The civil judges/judicial magistrates are appointed by the High Court on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission. The senior civil judges and Distt and session Judges are not directly appointed but are promoted based on seniority cum fitness amongst the Civil Judges/ Judicial magistrates and Additional District

and session judges on the recommendation of the departmental promotion committee. On the other hand, 2/3 of the Additional District and Session judges are promoted from the senior civil judges/judicial magistrate, and 1/3 are directly appointed from amongst the members of the Bar, Public Prosecutor and Government Pleaders. Section 6 to 8 of the Judicial Service Rules 2001 provides the age, qualification and experience for the said promotion and appointment.

The grievance of the said judges about the terms and condition of service is redressed by the Subordinate Judiciary Service Tribunal established under section 3 of the Subordinate Judiciary Service Tribunal Act 1991, which consists of 4 sitting Judges of the High Court nominated by the Chief Justice of the High Court of whom the senior most as the Chairman and members of the Tribunal exercise their power and perform their functions by the provisions of the Subordinate Judiciary Service Tribunal Act and Rules of 1991 and 1992 respectively.

Disciplinary proceedings against the Judges of the Subordinate Judiciary are initiated under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government Servant (Efficiency and Disciplinary) Rules 2011 under the express authorization provided by R-1(2) of the said Rules. But U/A 175 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan judiciary is an independent organ of the state, and for the members of the subordinate judiciary, there should be separate Efficiency and Disciplinary Rules and the

judicial officer conduct Rules. The Governor of the province and the provincial government are bound U/A 129 of the constitution read with section 2 of the KPK Civil Servant Act to promulgate special Rules for them because the KPK Government Servant (E and D) rules 2011 does not provide specific and relevant provision about the conduct of the members of the subordinates judiciary.

Judges of the High Courts, Federal Shariat Court and Supreme Court of Pakistan are appointed and elevated by the President of Pakistan U/A 193,177 and 203(C) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the recommendation of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan by following the procedure provided by the article 175A of the Constitution. The retiring age for the supreme court judges under Article 179 of the Constitution is 65 years, except for the chief justice of Pakistan, who will retire before attaining the age of 65 years on completion of 3 years tenure as Chief Justice of Pakistan. For the judges of the High Court, the retirement age is 62 years u/a 193 of the constitution unless they are removed from office as per the mandate of Article 209 of the constitution or resigned under Article 206 of the constitution.

Judges of the superior judiciary are removed from office by the president on the report of the supreme judicial council when a judge is incapable of performing the duties of his office or has been guilty of misconduct under article 209 (6) (b) of the Constitution. Proceeding U/A 209 can be initiated, and a report

can be made only against a sitting judge, and the moment a judge retires or resigns, the proceeding will abate because, after retirement or resignation, no removal order can be issued against the judge U/A 209(6) of the constitution. Article 209(5) needs amendment, and the word retired judge needs to be inserted to make accountable the retired judges for their misconduct in the shape of depriving them of pension and re-appointment on a constitutional post specified for the retired Judges of superior courts. The object of removal of a judge is not a punishment; rather, a judge is to be removed in the larger interest of the public. His removal is to protect the public from an unfit judge and appoint a better one.

Judges of the superior courts are protected by Article 68 of the constitution, and their conduct cannot be discussed in the parliament. Section 77 of the Pakistan penal code also protects all judges from criminal liabilities for the acts performed during judicial work. Similarly, section 23A of the Civil Servant Act 1973 also protects all civil servants, including judges of the subordinate judiciary and special courts and Tribunals, from all kinds of prosecution and disciplinary proceedings for anything done in good faith in an official capacity under the said Act.

A judge is the fountain of justice and is the last hope of the litigants because delivering justice is the characteristic of Almighty Allah and the best virtue. A judge should act as a silent spectator and must speak through his judgement and decide cases according to the law of his legal system. During the performance

of duties, the Judge must be equipped with a great quality of emotional regulation and to handle every situation in a cool, transparent and composed manner. Emotionally balanced judges are warmly welcomed by the members of the Bar and the litigants because they manage the interaction between passion and reason to reach a balanced and just decision. The judge is not expected to suppress their emotions in emotional situations arising in the court. Thomas Hobbes said that the ideal judge is (divested of all fear, anger, hatred, love and compassion).

The judge must exercise his power impartially and objectively by treating the parties equally before him without a personal stake in the outcome. Impartiality and objectivity repose public confidence in the Judge and public confidence is the ethical standard of the judges that they are not interested party to the legal proceeding and are not fighting for their power but for protecting the Constitution and the Rule of law. Because of that reason, the public recognises the legitimacy of the judgement even if the public disagrees with their contents.

To maintain public confidence, the judges ought to be aware of their power, limits and role in the court. A judge should not be an activist and should not act like a politician or policy maker and should stay in his Land by strictly observing the doctrine of trichotomy of power and should decide cases and interpret the law only.

The purpose of separation of power is to strengthen freedom and prevent the concentration of power in the hands of one governmental actor in a manner

likely to harm the freedom of the individual. A judge must also recognize his mistake because like all mortal Judge err. Judges must also display modesty, avoid arrogance and must be honest in court proceedings.

The role of the judge is to understand the purpose of law in society and to help the law achieve its purpose. The judges, being the interpreter of the law, understand the law better than the parliament's creator, and the law cannot be implemented without being interpreted by the courts. The judge must aspire to just conclusions and fair decisions, being an independent person and is subject to no other authority except the law and the constitution. In the performance duties, a judge does not depend on any other because a judge's master is the law, and he has no other master. In the dispensation of justice and adjudication of issues, the judge is alone and subject to no authority other than the understanding of the law.

Judges of superior courts also have the power to declare a law unconstitutional under the express authorization provided by Article 8 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973, such a declaration does not undermine the legislature or violate the separation of power because the legislature has no authority to pass unconstitutional Acts. The authority to decide the limits of legislation and its validity belongs to the judiciary. The court will also respect all acts of the executive within its lawful province; the executive will respect all the decisions of the courts as to what its lawful province is.

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# France’s govt warns of ‘big storm’ as no-trust vote looms

PARIS (AP): France’s minority government may be on its last legs as opposition lawmakers moved this week toward a no-confidence vote. In a last-ditch effort to save themselves, Cabinet members warned of domestic and international turmoil if the government is toppled.

Prime Minister Michel Barnier, a conservative allied with French President Emmanuel Macron’s centrists, acknowledged his government’s fragile position over a key budget vote in a television interview. The budget bill for next year must be passed by Dec. 21. If a no-confidence vote passes in parliament thanks to what he called an “alliance” between the left and the far right, “there will be a big storm and very serious turbulence on the financial markets,” Barnier said.

Foreign minister Jean-Noël Barrot also raised warning flags. “At a time when war is on our doorstep, when the planet is in turmoil, when China and the United States want to outpace us ... those who make the decision to overthrow Barnier’s government and deprive France of a budget will be responsible for the mess and disorder,” Barrot said on news broadcaster CNews. Barrot’s comments came as France helped broker the ceasefire deal that ended fighting between Israel and Lebanon’s Hezbollah militant group alongside the US.

Following the June-July parliamentary elections, the National Assembly, France’s powerful lower house of parliament, was divided into three major blocs: a left-wing coalition known as the New Popular Front, Macron’s centrist allies and the far-right National Rally party. None of them won an outright majority. Until now, the government counted on the far right’s support to be able to stay in power.

However, far-right leader Marine Le Pen this week threatened to push for a no-confidence motion unless significant changes are made to the country’s budget bill for next year. Le Pen has demanded a freeze on electricity taxes and an increase in state pensions from January. Barnier offered a compromise, promising not to raise electricity taxes.

France is under pressure from the European Union’s executive body to

reduce its colossal debt. Barnier’s Cabinet is seeking to reduce the country’s deficit from an estimated 6% of Gross Domestic Product now to 5% next year through a 60-billion euro (\$66 billion) squeeze. Finance Minister Antoine Armand has argued that disagreeing with the government is not a reason to “plunge the country into a budgetary and financial unknown.” With no proper budget to get the state finances back on track, “there’s a risk of stalling like a plane that is at altitude and at some point risks losing control,” Armand said on news broadcaster BFM TV.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Yaël Braun-Pivet, said this week that under the French Constitution and other rules, France will not be at risk of a government shutdown that in the United States would disrupt many services and squeeze federal employees. Many opposition lawmakers who appear ready to bring the government down have argued that an outgoing government could potentially present a special law to levy taxes from Jan. 1. It would also be able to decide on renewing spendings by decree in order to pay civil servants, pensions and other key state expenses. Le Pen, in a column published in Le Figaro newspaper, said “even in the event of a no-confidence vote, taxes would be raised, civil servants paid, pensions paid, and medical care reimbursed.”

She accused the government of ignoring all of her party’s proposals. “And by rejecting this budget... we would be the so-called ‘architects of chaos’? That can’t be serious,” she wrote. Mathilde Panot, head of the hard-left France Unbowed group at the National Assembly, said “they can explain it’s going to be a catastrophe, a grasshopper invasion, a nuclear accident. But the reality is that we have what we need to ensure the continuity of the state.” Speaking on FranceInfo, Panot asked for a left-wing Cabinet to be appointed instead. That option had been rejected this summer by Macron, in charge of naming the prime minister. The next key test is coming for Barnier’s government, with a vote on the divisive social security budget scheduled at the National Assembly.

# Russia warns US against ‘spiral of escalation’

MOSCOW (Reuters): Russia warned the United States to halt what it called a “spiral of escalation” over Ukraine, but said it would keep informing Washington about test missile launches in order to avoid “dangerous mistakes”.

The comments from Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov sent a signal that Moscow, which last week approved a new policy that lowered its threshold for the use of nuclear weapons, wants to keep communication channels open at a time of acute tensions with the US. Ryabkov was speaking six days after Russia launched what it described as a new intermediate-range hypersonic ballistic missile called the Oreshnik against Ukraine – something he said had sent a clear message to the West.

“The signal is very clear and obvious – stop, you should not do this any more, you mustn’t supply Kyiv with everything they want, don’t encourage them towards new military adventures, they are too dangerous,” state media quoted Ryabkov as saying. “The current (US) administration must stop this spiral of escalation,” Ryabkov added. “They simply must, otherwise the situation will become too dangerous for everyone, including the United States itself.”

President Vladimir Putin said last week that Russia fired the Oreshnik in response to Ukraine’s first use of US ATACMS ballistic missiles and British Storm Shadow cruise missiles to strike at Russian territory with permission from the West. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia’s use of the new missile – which Kyiv said reached a speed of 13,600 kph (8,450 miles per hour) – amounted to “a clear and severe escalation” in the war and called for strong worldwide condemnation.

The US military said the missile was experimental and that Russia likely possessed only a handful of them. The Kremlin has said Russia was not technically obliged to warn the United States about the launch of the Oreshnik because it was intermediate-range rather than intercontinental, but that Moscow informed the

US 30 minutes before the launch anyway. “I am sure you understand that this was a stabilising factor in the very dangerous situation in which we currently find ourselves. We are committed to this practice and we hope that the United States will also be committed to it,” Ryabkov was quoted as saying.

“And we also hope that such actions will help reduce the risks of miscalculation or dangerous mistakes.” In a separate development, Russia state news agency TASS quoted an official as saying Moscow was continuing work to put its Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile – part of its strategic nuclear arsenal – on combat duty. Sarmat is designed to deliver nuclear warheads to strike targets thousands of miles away in the United States or Europe, but its development has been dogged by delays and testing setbacks. In September, arms experts said Russia appeared to have suffered a catastrophic failure in the missile’s latest test, leaving a deep crater at the launch silo.

# Albanian Opp leader released from house arrest

TIRANA (AP): An Albanian court released from house arrest former Prime Minister Sali Berisha, who leads the opposition Democratic Party and is charged with corruption. The Special Court for Corruption and Organized Crime, which covers cases involving senior officials and politicians, revoked its order for Berisha’s house arrest, issued almost a year ago, without giving any reason.

Berisha’s parliamentary immunity was removed in December 2023 and he was placed under house arrest after he violated an earlier order to report to the court every two weeks. He was also barred from traveling abroad, but that order was struck down last week by the Constitutional Court.

Berisha, 80, hailed hundreds of supporters waiting for him at the Democratic Party’s headquarters shouting his name. “Today we are nearer than ever to our triumph, the Democratic Party’s return to power,” he told the crowd, repeating the party’s call to the governing Socialists to create a technocratic caretaker cabinet to take the country to free elections.

During his period of house arrest, Berisha stayed

in his apartment in downtown Tirana. Though he was banned from communicating with other people than his family and lawyers, every evening he gave speeches to small groups of supporters gathered outside his building. Depriving Berisha of communication and physical presence to lead his party was a daily issue in Albania’s politics because he’s the leader of the main opposition party. A parliamentary election will take place next spring. In October 2023, prosecutors put him under investigation for allegedly abusing his post to help his son-in-law, Jamarber Maltezi, privatize public land to build 17 apartment buildings in the capital, Tirana.

In September this year Berisha was formally charged with corruption in connection with a property deal. He has denied the charges, describing them as political repression ordered by Prime Minister Edi Rama of the governing left-wing Socialist Party. Berisha was prime minister from 2005-2013 and served as president from 1992-1997. He was re-elected as a lawmaker for the Democratic Party in the

# Philippine VP accuses president of seeking her removal

MANILA (Reuters): The Philippines’ embattled vice president accused President Ferdinand Marcos Jr of seeking to remove her from office, after the national police filed a formal complaint accusing her of assault and coercion.

In the latest turn in a dramatic fallout between two influential political families, police said Vice President Sara Duterte was involved in recent incidents in the lower house of Congress and at a hospital in which she was responsible for direct assault, disobedience, and grave coercion. Duterte, the daughter of firebrand former President Rodrigo Duterte, has been the subject of a heated congressional enquiry into her spending as vice president and education minister, during which she has evaded questions and clashed repeatedly with lawmakers. She denies wrongdoing.

Tempers flared when one of her aides was detained at the complex of the lower house and transferred to a government hospital for medical attention, with Duterte’s security team accused by police of pushing a police officer. “The PNP remains steadfast in its commitment to uphold justice and ensure that all individuals are held accountable under the law, regardless of their position,” Philippine National Police chief Rommel Francisco Marbil said.

Duterte told a press conference the complaints “do not hold water”. “I believe we reached the point of no return,” she said of her relationship with Marcos. “It is clear that they are really going after me. They want to remove me from power.”

Duterte has been embroiled in a bitter row with Marcos and his cousin, House Speaker Martin Romualdez, since the collapse of a formidable alliance between their two powerful families that helped Marcos win the 2022 election by a huge margin. She said she had hired an assassin to kill the president, his wife and Romualdez, in the event that she herself were killed, prompting a strong rebuke from Marcos. Law enforcement officials summoned Duterte for questioning over the statement, which she said had been taken out of context to create a false narrative that Marcos’ life was in danger, calling her remarks a “conditional act of revenge.”



GAZA: Palestinians waiting to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen in Khan Younis.

# China scientists rush to climate-proof potatoes

YANQING (Reuters): In a research facility in the northwest of Beijing, molecular biologist Li Jieping and his team harvest a cluster of seven unusually small potatoes, one as tiny as a quail’s egg, from a potted plant. Grown under conditions that simulate predictions of higher temperatures at the end of the century, the potatoes provide an ominous sign of future food security.

At just 136 grams (4.8 oz), the tubers weigh less than half that of a typical potato in China, where the most popular varieties are often twice the size of a baseball. China is the world’s biggest producer of potatoes, which are crucial to global food security because of their high yield relative to other staple crops. But they are particularly vulnerable to heat, and climate change, driven by fossil fuel emissions, is pushing temperatures to dangerous new heights while also worsening drought and flooding. With an urgent need to protect food supplies, Li, a researcher at the International Potato Center (CIP) in Beijing, is leading a three-year study into the effects of higher temperatures on the vegetable. His team is focusing on China’s two most common varieties.

“I worry about what will happen in the future,” Li said. “Farmers will

harvest fewer potato tubers, it will influence food security.” Li’s team grew their crop over three months in a walk-in chamber set at 3 degrees Celsius above the current average temperature in northern Hebei and Inner Mongolia, the higher altitude provinces where potatoes are usually grown in China. Their research, published in the journal Climate Smart Agriculture this month, found the higher temperatures accelerated tuber growth by 10 days, but cut potato yields by more than half.

Under current climate policies, the world is facing as much as 3.1 C of warming above pre-industrial levels by 2100, according to a United Nations report released in October. Farmers in China say they are already feeling the effect of extreme weather events. In Inner Mongolia, dozens of workers clutching white sacks rush to gather potatoes dug up from the soil before the next downpour.

“The biggest challenge for potatoes this year is the heavy rain,” said manager Wang Shiyi. “It has caused various diseases... and greatly slowed down the harvest progress.” Meanwhile, seed potato producer Yakeshi Senfeng Potato Industry Company has invested in aeroponic systems where plants are grown in

the air under controlled conditions. Farmers are increasingly demanding potato varieties that are higher-yielding and less susceptible to disease, particularly late blight, which caused the Irish Potato Famine of the mid-19th century and thrives in warm and humid conditions.

“Some new and more aggressive (late blight) strains have begun to appear, and they are more resistant to traditional prevention and control methods,” said general manager Li Xuemin, explaining the Inner Mongolia-based company’s strategy. The research by CIP, which is headquartered in Lima, is part of a collaborative effort with the Chinese government to help farmers adapt to the warmer, wetter conditions. In the greenhouse outside Li’s lab, workers swab pollen on white potato flowers to develop heat-tolerant varieties.

Li says Chinese farmers will need to make changes within the next decade, planting during spring instead of the start of summer, or moving to even higher altitudes to escape the heat. “Farmers have to start preparing for climate change,” Li said. “If we don’t find a solution, they will make less money from lower yields and the price of potatoes may rise.”

# Chinese ships gather near island disputed with Philippines

HONG KONG/MANILA (Reuters): Satellite images obtained by Reuters show a build-up of Chinese civilian vessels near contested Thitu Island, Manila’s key outpost in the South China Sea, but a senior Philippine navy officer said they are “not a cause for concern”.

One of the images taken by Maxar Technologies and reviewed by Reuters shows about 60 vessels, some within 2 nautical miles of Thitu, a strategically important island from which Manila monitors Chinese vessels and aircraft in the busy waterway. Vice Admiral Alfonso Torres, chief of the Philippines’ Western Command, said it was common for “maritime militia” ships to gather in the area. Manila, the Pentagon and foreign diplomats say such vessels work with the Chinese coast guard and navy to strengthen Beijing’s presence in disputed waters.

Rear Admiral Roy Trinidad, Philippines Navy spokesman for the South China Sea, also said maritime militia ships were regularly in the area, adding that Manila was aware of the vessels, which he called an “illegal presence”, but there was no need for alarm. “It’s not a cause for concern,” Trinidad said. “We don’t have to read every action and react to that... What is important for us is to maintain our posture.”

Online ship trackers show that many of the vessels in the satellite photos are Chinese-registered fishing craft. The Chinese defence ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. China has never confirmed it has a militia of civilian vessels. The island, which the Philippines calls Pag-Asa, is Manila’s biggest and most strategically important in the disputed South China Sea, which is largely claimed by China and through which billions of dollars worth of goods pass each year. A 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague found that Beijing’s expansive claims had no basis under international law.

The build-up comes after months of clashes and ramblings between Chinese coast guard and fishing vessels and Philippines ships, particularly at the Scarborough and Second Thomas Shoals. Thitu is close to a Chinese naval base and runway on Subi reef, which has sometimes served as a port for large numbers of Chinese maritime militia vessels,

Trinidad said.

“When you go in there (to Subi), when you go out, you will pass through the territorial sea of Pag-Asa,” he said. Regional diplomats and security analysts are watching developments closely, with some noting the Chinese vessels had their transponders on this week, allowing them to be tracked. Singapore-based security scholar Collin Koh said Beijing could be testing Manila’s reactions at a moment of domestic political tension in the Philippines.

Embattled Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte accused President Ferdinand Marcos Jr of seeking to remove her from office, after the national police filed a formal complaint accusing her of assault and coercion. “This needs to be watched in the days ahead,” said Koh, of Singapore’s S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies. If the militia presence continues, Koh said, it could be that China is hoping to delay Philippine construction work on the island. A new aircraft hangar is reportedly due for completion in the next few weeks, the latest in a several moves to buttress the Philippines’ presence on Thitu and improve monitoring capabilities.

# Corruption investigation: Chinese Minister fate unclear

WASHINGTON/BEIJING (Reuters): The fate of Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun remained unclear, as two US officials told Reuters that he was being investigated for corruption while another urged caution.

The Financial Times first reported that Dong was being investigated as part of a wide-ranging anti-corruption probe that has roiled the top ranks of the People’s Liberation Army. One US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told Reuters that a Chinese investigation into its strategic rocket forces had expanded to other issues in the military and procurement.

The official added that the investigation into Dong was significant because Chinese President Xi Jinping had appointed Dong himself. But another senior US official, also speaking on the condition of anonymity, urged caution on reports about his investigation without offering details on whether the report was accurate. Dong would be the third consecutive serving or former Chinese defence minister to be investigated for alleged corruption.

When asked at a daily press briefing about the report, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said it was “chasing shadows”. China’s defence ministry did not immediately reply to Reuters requests for com-

ment. China’s military underwent a sweeping anti-corruption purge since last year, with at least nine PLA generals and a handful of defence industry executives removed from the national legislative body to date. Dong, a former PLA Navy chief, was appointed defence minister in December 2023. His predecessor, Li Shangfu, was removed after seven months into the job. Dong last week declined to meet US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin during a meeting of defence ministers in Laos citing US actions over Taiwan, a move the Pentagon chief said was unfortunate.

US officials said they were not concerned about military-to-military relations between Washington and Beijing if Dong was removed, adding that China would be able to quickly put in place a successor. As defence minister, Dong is responsible for China’s military diplomacy with other nations. He oversaw a recent thaw in US-China military-to-military ties, with both nations holding theatre-level commander talks in September for the first time. But he was not promoted to the six-member Central Military Commission (CMC), China’s highest-level military body, during a major Communist Party plenum earlier this year, where personnel reshuffles would normally be announced.

China’s defence minister has tradi-

tionally been a member of both the CMC, which is headed by Xi, and the State Council, China’s cabinet-level executive body. Dong was not appointed to the State Council either during a government reshuffle in March. “Frankly nothing would surprise me anymore,” said Dennis Wilder, a professor at Georgetown University and former US intelligence analyst. “The history with these investigations in the PLA are that once the string of corruption is pulled many other threads are revealed and the sweater unravels.”

Dong’s two immediate predecessors, Li and Wei Fenghe, were expelled from the Communist Party in June for “serious violations of discipline”, a euphemism for corruption. A Communist Party statement at the time said the pair “betrayed the trust of the party and the Central Military Commission, seriously polluted the political environment of the military, and caused great damage to ... the image of its senior leaders”. The pair were also found to have received huge sums of money in bribes and sought to provide “personnel benefits” for others, the statement said, such as promotions or higher rankings in the military. Reuters exclusively reported last year that Li was under investigation for suspected corruption in military procurement.



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## UK, China can set example of joint climate action

GLOBAL surface temperatures reached record levels in 2024 as the impacts of climate change are being felt around the world. All countries, no matter their development status, are affected by climate change. For example, this month has seen floods in Valencia, Spain, claiming more than 200 lives, and flooding in Colombia causing a state of emergency affecting over 200,000 people. In China, the rated precipitation in the first three quarters of this year was 10.5 percent higher than in the same period of a normal year, with extreme rainfall, and sudden and frequent floods and climate-related disasters resulting in a large number of casualties, relocation of people and economic losses.

Multilateral talks at the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, have delivered some progress, especially on climate finance. The just-concluded Baku conference was "finance COP" where a new goal for climate finance was negotiated. According to the deal, developed countries have promised to contribute \$300 billion as climate finance per year by 2035. Though it was far short of the trillion dollars sought by the least- and less-developed countries, it was a hard-won achievement for developing countries.

For the first time the total climate finance includes a possible voluntary contribution from China, which acknowledges its position both as a major economy and a major investor in green technology in developing countries. The participating countries also agreed to the rules of the carbon market, which should boost market-oriented cooperation on climate and enable businesses to support the recovery of nature and promotion of carbon removal technologies in other countries.

However, there was less progress on climate mitigation aspects. At the COP28 in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, last year, the participating countries agreed to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030 and transition away from fossil fuels. Yet it was difficult to reach a consensus on the mitigation work program which would continue this progress in Baku, with the participating countries eventually deciding to revisit the issue next year and continue talking meanwhile. The slow progress on multilateral issues means there is increasing focus on bilateral, sub-national and country-group dialogues that can offer ways to further progress. Amid rising political tensions worldwide, strong bilateral cooperation between the United Kingdom and China can provide the international leadership needed to boost the fight against climate change this decade. During the COP29 talks in Baku, British and Chinese leaders met at the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and agreed to cooperate on areas such as clean energy and climate change as part of their efforts to address shared global challenges.

Following this meeting, and to support both multilateral and bilateral cooperation, we propose that our expert climate change committees advance our interactions. Our committees have different mandates and institutional structures. Nevertheless, we can collaborate effectively to better advise our countries on how to decarbonize and achieve green transition in a way that creates jobs and boosts the economy. The UK climate committee recently advised the UK government on its 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution, while the Chinese climate committee is advising the Chinese government on how to achieve its dual carbon goals and minimize climate risks, as well as support the international climate negotiations. Both countries could reach a broader and more practical consensus with support from their respective climate committees.

Supported by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment and Chatham House, the UK climate science community and policy experts have been collaborating since 2013 in order to better understand the risks posed by climate change, and the policies needed to improve resilience against climate change. In the last two years, this collaboration has deepened. The two countries' climate committees have jointly explored how to provide constructive advice to our governments across a range of agreed issues of common interest and relevance to our respective national context. We, hereby, propose that our expert committees advance the interaction within their current institutional structures to help us better advise our respective governments.

There is a need to support our countries' efforts to decarbonize their energy supply while ensuring energy security. Both countries have ambitious plans to increase renewable energy generation and our committees can support this effort through their work. The committees can further deepen their collaboration on evaluating climate risks, especially in urban and regional areas, and river basins. We also need to better understand and link climate governance with nature governance. Piers Forster, interim chair of the UK Climate Change Committee, presented the results from the London Climate Resilience Review at two China-led events on the sidelines of COP29, and the UK climate committee is preparing a report on how well can the UK adapt to climate change. As an expert in the Chinese delegation, Wang Yi, vice-chair of China Expert Panel on Climate Change, was invited to the "China Pavilion" on the sidelines the official events of the UNFCCC, and various events organised by the business communities and social organisations at COP29, to speak on the progress of the climate conference, share China's experience in energy transition, and policies to address climate change and overcome common challenges. Experts and scholars from the UK and China, who have been engaged in cooperation and have attended several UN climate change conferences, shared their research findings and assessment of climate risk assessment, asserting the need to link climate governance with nature management. And by deepening their cooperation, they can improve our climate risk assessments and response.

In order to build a greener, more climate-resilient and inclusive sustainable society, the UK and China should take full advantage of their successful climate cooperation over the past decade to further deepen our cooperation. The two countries could also consider issuing a joint statement to promote the multilateral climate agenda. And workstreams could be set up with focus on clean energy transition, co-governance of climate and nature, reducing climate risks, strengthening climate-resilience, green finance to work together with other countries to promote the green transition in an equitable, just and orderly manner, and facilitate sustainable economic development. We look forward to the UK and China formally submitting comprehensive and strong NDCs for 2035. By progressing toward these targets, the two sides can set an example for the rest of the world to follow.

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## Empowering the future: SDGs commitment

Marya Haleema

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), established in 1965 for the welfare of humanity, has undertaken numerous commendable initiatives to date. However, its "Sustainable Development Goals" (SDG Goals) are particularly praiseworthy. It is imperative that global efforts to achieve these goals are supported, and that we play our part in their realization. We should strive to raise awareness and understanding in this regard and ensure that we contribute, at the very least, within our own communities.

It is essential for us to reflect on the kind of world we are preparing for future generations. To create a prosperous and secure environment in our homes, communities, cities, and country, we must focus on fostering the well-being, health, education, and skill development of our people.

Let us examine how these goals align with our national priorities and address the shared challenges of developing nations, such as poverty, inadequate healthcare, and lack of education, water scarcity, environmental issues, and the need for sustainable productivity. By collaborating with the global community through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) program, we can work on practical solutions. Understanding these goals is crucial to ensuring effective and impactful implementation.

The first goal among these objectives is the eradication of poverty. As we all know, currently, the global poverty rate is 9.2%, with 689 million people living below the poverty line. In 107 developing countries, 1.3 billion people are facing dire conditions.

In Pakistan, the poverty rate stands at 45%, which is alarming. It is essential for us to collaborate with the global community to address this issue. In this regard, the United Nations has developed a detailed roadmap, providing comprehensive guidelines to tackle every aspect of the problem. Key points include: "Creating comprehensive and sustainable employment opportunities to reduce and eventually eradicate poverty.

"Providing equal rights and social security to those affected by poverty." Generating new opportunities during and after natural, social, or economic disasters.

The second goal of sustainable development is to eradicate hunger. Despite advancements and numerous strategies, a segment of the global population con-

cation and quality learning. Providing inclusive and equitable education is every citizen's right and the responsibility of every government. However, lack of resources has been a major barrier. Pakistan's literacy rate has never been satisfactory, making this program essential. Key points are: "Ensuring free primary and secondary education.

kets, and industrial research to move the world towards prosperity.

Reducing inequalities involves equitable distribution of wealth beyond a few groups. Promoting global social and economic equality, irrespective of race, color, or creed, is crucial. Fostering sustainable cities and communities includes ensuring affordable and safe housing, efficient transport systems, and preserving cultural and natural heritage. These must be inclusive, promoting a safe world without discrimination.

Promoting responsible consumption and production ensures the effective use of natural resources, proper management of chemicals and waste, and optimal utilization of global resources. Immediate and comprehensive actions are required to address climate change and its impacts. This includes developing integrated and consistent policies, raising awareness, and preparing for future natural disasters.

Preserving marine life involves protecting oceans, ensuring sustainable use of marine resources, reducing pollution, and promoting safe fishing practices. Coastal cleaning and protection are also vital. Life on land is a key objective, focusing on environmental protection, forest conservation, and biodiversity preservation, safeguarding mountains, and securing freshwater reserves for sustainable use.

Strengthening institutions for peace and justice aims to promote peaceful, inclusive, and educated societies. This includes ensuring transparent and continuous access to justice, ending violence, stopping child abuse, and combating human trafficking. Achieving these goals requires partnerships. Strengthening means of implementation and revitalizing global partnerships for sustainable development is essential. It ensures safe and prosperous lives for current and future generations. These UN-provided guidelines are for the welfare and survival of humanity. There is a need to disseminate this message, raise awareness, and highlight these issues at every level to ensure effective implementation. Every citizen in developing countries must play their part.

"Providing qualified teachers. "Promoting girls' education." Focusing on education for differently-abled individuals and integrating them into society. "Making vocational and technical education accessible.

Promoting gender equality is another vital goal. Discrimination against women and girls is prevalent in our society and worldwide. Addressing this requires providing safety, gathering accurate data, and preparing actionable policies to ensure implementation. Access to clean drinking water and sanitation remains a critical issue. A comprehensive action plan addresses how to provide affordable, safe drinking water, promote hygiene, and protect freshwater resources.

Promoting decent work and economic growth is another important goal. This can help societies provide dignified employment opportunities and foster economic growth through awareness. Sustainable and inclusive infrastructure development aims to create a stable and prosperous environment for economic growth and human well-being. It emphasizes technology, industry, financial institutions, economic mar-

## Putin's shifting red line

Christian Edwards

OVER 1,000 days of war, Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly warned Kyiv's Western allies of dire - potentially nuclear - consequences if they "escalate" the war by giving Ukraine the weapons it needs to defend itself. Putin's threats became even fiercer this month after the Biden administration finally gave Kyiv permission to launch longer-range American weapons at targets deep inside Russia. In response, Putin updated Russia's nuclear doctrine and fired a new, nuclear-capable ballistic missile at Ukraine. The message was taken as a clear threat to Ukraine's backers: Don't test us.

But, nearly three years into the war, these developments have assumed a familiar rhythm. Each time Ukraine made a request - first asking for tanks, then fighter jets, then cluster munitions, then long-range weapons - its allies agonized over whether to grant it, fearing it would escalate the conflict and provoke a Russian response.

Each time, when the West finally accepted Ukraine's requests, Russia's most catastrophic threats did not materialize. What was taboo one week became normal the next. Despite Putin's heightened threats since the latest taboo crumbled, there is little reason to believe that this time will be different, analysts told CNN. Instead, they said the anxious reaction to Ukraine's newly granted powers is another example of the Kremlin's successful strategy of forcing the West to see the conflict on Russia's terms, confusing each fresh attempt by Ukraine to resist Russian aggression as a major "escalation."

Alongside the battlefields, the Kremlin has been engaged in a fight to force the West to argue from Russian premises rather than its own, and to "make decisions in that Kremlin-generation alternative reality that will allow Russia to win in the real world," the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), a think-tank, said in a report in March.

Kateryna Stepanenko, a co-author of that report, told CNN the strategy was a revival of the Soviet concept "reflexive control," by which a state imposes a false set of choices on its adversary, forcing the adversary to make decisions against its own interests.

"The persistent Western debates and delays in Western military aid to Ukraine is a clear example of the Kremlin's successful reflexive control strategy, which had committed the Western to self-deterrence despite routine Russian escalations of the war," Stepanenko said. This strategy could be seen in action on Thursday after Russia launched a large-scale attack targeting Ukraine's power grid. Although Putin said the attack was "a response from our side" to the Biden administration's decision on longer-range weapons, Russia has not yet admitted a pretext for such strikes in the past.

The recent policy changes by Ukraine's Western allies - which came after Russia involved some 11,000 North Korean troops in its war effort - "is not an escalation as the Kremlin is attempting to frame it," Stepanenko said. "Russia launched an unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine and had been routinely escalating the war to sustain its initiative on the battlefield. The approval of Ukraine's use of long-range strike systems against Russia is finally allowing Ukraine to level out

its capabilities," she said.

The Biden administration sent US-made Army Tactical Missile Systems, or ATACMS, to Ukraine earlier this year, but placed strict conditions on how they could be used: They could be fired at Russian targets in occupied Ukraine, but not on Russia's own territory. William Alberque, a former director of NATO's Arms Control, Disarmament, and WMD Non-Proliferation Centre, said this policy made little sense - and was to Russia's huge benefit.

By providing Ukraine with ATACMS but only allowing it to strike parts of Ukraine occupied by Russia, "we sent Russia the message: 'You know what? If you just move a couple meters over that border, you're safe as houses,'" Alberque told CNN. "I'm sure the Russian commanders couldn't believe their luck. 'So if I set up my command headquarters here, they'll blow me up, but if I set up a kilometer away, I'm fine?' Really? Awesome!"

In effect, this policy led to "the idea that Russia can kill anyone anywhere in Ukraine, but Ukraine can't kill the troops that are actually attacking them if they're across the border (in Russia)." This idea is "non-sense," Alberque said. Ukraine's actions remain within the laws of armed conflict. As Poland's Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski put it to CNN in September, "the victim of aggression has the right to defend itself also on the territory of the aggressor."

Amid the anxious responses to last week's developments, it is easy to forget that Ukraine has long launched home-grown drones at targets extremely deep in Russia - and that it had already fired Western weapons at territory the Kremlin considers its own. The decision to fire slightly longer-range Western weapons is a difference of degree, not of kind. For more than a year, Kyiv has used British Storm Shadows to strike Crimea, which Russia has occupied since 2014. For months, Kyiv has been allowed to fire ATACMS at Russian targets in occupied Ukraine. By law, Russia considers these territories its own, and warned of dire consequences if Ukraine targeted them with Western weaponry.

Since May, Washington has also allowed Kyiv to use shorter-range American rockets to strike targets in Russia across the border from Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region. Before President Joe Biden green-lighted that decision, Putin made similar nuclear threats, warning the move could lead to "serious consequences" for "small and densely populated countries." It did not. "Again and again, we prove that when you cross a fake red line - nothing really happens," said Alberque. Still, he said the threats were enough to prevent the West from giving Ukraine what it needed to defend itself.

Although the threats have yet again intensified following last week's developments, Albuquerque said there is little reason to suspect that this time really is different. The prospect of an incoming Trump administration - long assumed to be Putin's desired outcome - means Russia is even less likely than usual to make good on its threats. "The (risk) that they're suddenly going to do something that would risk actual intervention by the United States or by NATO allies - or would fundamentally change global attitudes towards the conflict - is relatively low," said Alberque. CNN

## Trump is likely to dial back tribal management of federal land

DONALD Trump's return to the White House will mark the end of a nascent partnership between the federal government and Native American communities on the management of federal land and water resources that are claimed by those communities. Instead, Trump has promised a raft of policies to open federal lands for business opportunities and to put more of them under private management. His pick for Interior secretary, Gov. Doug Burgum (R-N.D.), has deep connections to fossil fuel companies and makes clear the incoming administration's intentions to open more land for oil and gas drilling.

The federal government controls nearly one-third of the country's land area, and land under state and local government ownership adds to this total. Essentially all of those lands were previ-

ously claimed by Native Americans - and many still are. These communities have been calling for the expansion of a model of land and water stewardship that directly involves tribes in management and preservation.

The Biden administration encouraged tribal management of several federal tracts of land in recent years. In June 2022, for example, the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service formalized a partnership with a group of five tribes to co-manage Bears Ears National Monument. And last month, the government and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric administration designated the country's third-largest marine sanctuary, the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, off the coast of California. It was a landmark moment for indigenous communities and a win for environmental conservation in an area of

rich marine life. The sanctuary will be co-managed with tribal partners, especially the Chumash people, whose ancestral territory encompasses the sanctuary. Joint land and resource management with government partners is short of what most indigenous communities prefer. It is a far cry from the return of the territories that were wrested from them during American settlement.

A thicket of thorny political and legal issues makes it unlikely that much of this territory will be directly returned to these communities in the near future, though there has been some progress in that direction.

One of the most significant recent cases involved the return of nearly 12,000 acres of federal land to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in northern Minnesota. But this case stands out in part because of its rarity. Most Native American petitions

for land returns have gone unmet.

The obstacles are far fewer in extending partnerships to indigenous groups to help manage these lands. These partnerships give indigenous communities greater land access and an ability to protect and steward what are often culturally and spiritually significant lands. This is deeply meaningful and could act as a stepping stone toward greater control over ancestral lands.

The degree of control varies. Some communities, such as the Yolgou on the eastern coast of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory, have achieved rights approximating ownership in key areas such as Blue Mud Bay, a culturally significant bay that is also a productive commercial fishery. Others, like the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people in Queensland, have returned

to managing ancestral lands in partnership with the government.

South Africa has moved in the same direction since the end of apartheid. Alongside a large program of land restitution and land reallocation to Blacks who suffered forced removals during apartheid, the government has also partnered with indigenous communities to manage lands and resources where outright land returns are impractical for political or economic reasons. For instance, the government has recognized claims by the Makuleke people to ancestral homelands within Kruger National Park and has partnered with them to manage portions of the park.

Partnerships for indigenous land and water management can also provide revenue opportunities for these communities. In Australia, one-quarter of permit revenues to visit the famed Uluru rock forma-

tion, also known as Ayers Rock, at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park goes to supporting the Aboriginal community that calls the area home. Arrangements like this can provide indigenous communities with much-needed resource streams to help reconstitute frayed tribal life and languages in the aftermath of decades of disruptive and destructive settlement policies.

Opportunities to cultivate partnerships like these abound in America given the nation's vast collection of federal lands and waters. In addition to their cultural importance, these partnerships also represent an economic opportunity for tribes that aim to nurture their tribal memberships and steward their ancestral homelands. It is a simple and long overdue first step in repairing relationships with the traditional inhabitants of the land. But it is one that is poised to halt under the second Trump administration.



# How and why was People's Tribunal on Gaza established?

Hilal Elver

THE idea of establishing a people's tribunal to expose ongoing genocide and atrocities in Gaza came from a small group of concerned Turkish citizens who were trying to respond and raise public awareness in May 2024. Coincidentally, in August, Bogazici University organized the conference "International Law after Gaza" in Istanbul and invited scholars working on the Israel-Palestine conflict from an international law point of view.

Under the leadership of Richard Falk, chair of Global Law at Queen Mary University of London and UN former special rapporteur on human rights violations in the occupied Palestine territories since 1967, we, as a group of concerned scholars who have been working on Palestine, further discussed the idea of a people's tribunal to judicate, expose, and condemn the government of Israel and its close allies supporting the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The failure of the UN Security Council to attain a cease-fire deal because of the veto power of the permanent members, especially the US, as well as the silence and complicity of several Western governments and growing global public outrage of opinion, were the main motivations for this initiative.

The idea of establishing a people's tribunal to adjudicate severe human rights violations and/or war crimes is not new. The inspiration for people's tribunals originated with the Russell Tribunal established in 1966 by British philosopher Bertrand Russell and French writer/philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre. The original Russell Tribunal critically examined the US military intervention in Vietnam and set a precedent for subsequent people's tribunals. Although unofficial and lacking enforcement power, the Russell Tribunal sought to hold those in power accountable by mobilizing public opinion. At that time, the tribunal made a huge impact among American people who were against the war, as well as global public opinion that was helpful in delegitimizing the American government's war against the Vietnamese people.

After the Russell Tribunal, the model expanded globally, addressing various human rights violations. In 1975, Basso Foundations established a Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT) in Italy, not only dealing with war

crimes but also focusing on various violations of human rights, such as apartheid in South Africa, human rights violations in Latin America and the Philippines, and later environmental wrongdoings. For instance, in 2000 in Japan, a women's tribunal focused on gender-based violence and discrimination, specifically focusing on the "comfort women" during World War II. In 2016, the International Monsanto Tribunal in Brussels addressed corporate crimes involving the environment and human health. In recent years, several initiatives have been directed at ecocide (for deliberate large-scale environmental harm) and environmental crimes of transnational corporations.

These non-binding, non-governmental initiatives serve as a platform for addressing grievances and violations of rights as well as exposing injustices, particularly in cases where official legal mechanisms are perceived as inadequate, inaccessible, or complicit. These tribunals aim to provide moral authority and bring attention to issues that might otherwise remain overlooked, marginalized, or suppressed.

The Gaza Tribunal is set rather differently than earlier models, and it is not structured strictly to mimic judicial institutions. There is an ongoing genocide, and at least two important international courts have Gaza on their agendas. The first one began in 2023 with South Africa's application to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) under the rules of the 1948 Genocide Convention. Starting from January 2024, the ICJ has so far issued three sets of provisional measures pronouncing positively as to the "plausibility of genocide." The ICJ ordered Israel to immediately stop committing severe human rights violations and war crimes, such as starvation. The full investigation and final ICJ decision about genocide is likely to take several years.

The second international legal initiative was taken by the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), who recommended the issuance of an arrest warrant against the leadership of Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and then-Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. After a delay of six months, the Pre-trial Chamber of the ICC announced

the issuance of arrest warrants on Nov. 20. This is an important development and will undoubtedly impact not only the Israeli-Palestinian conflict but should strengthen the ICC's institutional legitimacy.

Considering these ongoing court proceedings, the Gaza Tribunal is structured to be flexible, faster, and designed to serve a far more comprehensive investigation than is typical of strictly legalistic inquiries by international courts. The Gaza Tribunal has been planned to consider the wider impacts and complications of Israeli behavior in addition to genocide. This includes the historical foundation of Israel as a Western settler-colonial project, which has led directly to the long-suffering of the Palestinian people living under a cruel occupation that has included ethnic cleansing, dispossession, repression, humiliation, apartheid, and destruction, preparing the way for the current genocide. The Gaza Tribunal will extend its mandate to famine crime, ecocide (crime against nature), scholasticate (crime against education), democide (crime against housing), sanatsicide (destruction or exploitation of health care), and sociocide (crimes exploiting or destroying cultural tradition and historical identity) in Gaza and occupied territories. The Gaza Tribunal also deals with the wider implications of Israel's attack on neighboring countries, threatening peace and security in the region and the wider world.

People's tribunals are typically organized by activists, academics, and non-governmental organizations, with strong engagement from affected societies. The Gaza Tribunal is a global independent project free from any direct or indirect influence of governments, active politicians, and diplomats. The structure of the tribunal consists of a small Steering Committee, chaired by the president, that is responsible for administering the entire machinery of the Gaza Tribunal, including a larger Advisory Policy Council (APC) gathered from among globally respected intellectuals and members at large invited to take part based on their expert knowledge of Palestinian issues. Selection criteria took account of race, gender, and geographical diversity. A jury of independent experts, comprising lawyers, academics, cultural and

moral authority figures, as well as activists, will collectively assess the evidence and testimonies that will be assembled to underpin the work of the Gaza Tribunal. Palestinian civil society organizations, as well as the global solidarity movement, will play a vital role at every stage of the Gaza Tribunal.

The Gaza Tribunal seeks to cooperate with reliable and influential international media, especially those operating in the Global South. So far, the mainstream Western media has either played no role in delimiting the crimes of Israel or deliberately manipulated public opinion in ways detrimental to the Palestinians and advantageous to vulture profiteering from Israeli criminality.

The tentative schedule is set to hold a first hearing in April 2025 in a country whose government is receptive to the Gaza Tribunal approach without compromising our independence. The final hearing is currently planned to take place in Istanbul in October 2025. We are also considering alternative possibilities, including Malaysia and Indonesia. Because this is an ongoing genocide, we believe that it is desirable to be flexible with respect to timetable, location, and overall logistics.

The Gaza Tribunal is aiming to meticulously collect evidence, especially visual materials that document the most serious of Israel's violations. An objective of the Gaza Tribunal is to contribute to the formation of an accurate and comprehensive historical record of the genocide and to provide guidance for future legal proceedings.

Finally, while the judgments of the people's tribunal are not legally binding or directly enforceable, they carry symbolic and moral weight, often influencing public opinion and policy and triggering further legal and civil society action that could contribute to reaching a just and durable peace.

We hope the Gaza Tribunal amplifies the voices of Palestinians marginalized and victimized by mainstream media and the dominant political system. By shedding light on systemic injustices and pushing for accountability, the Gaza Tribunal challenges the status quo, catalyzing legal, social, and political change for the future, not only with respect to the Palestinian ordeal but for the benefit of all vulnerable, repressed groups.

AS the Russia-Ukraine war progresses from a bilateral conflict to a global power struggle, the diversity of actors on the battlefield introduces new dimensions to the conflict. Both Ukraine and Russia are integrating foreign fighters into their military operations, transcending the use of traditional armed forces. This development has significant implications for the trajectory of the war and profoundly impacts international diplomacy and geopolitical balances.

States are creating foreign military legions to fulfill the need for flexible and rapid response forces that can support their traditional military capabilities. From French and Spanish forces in the colonial wars to modern groups such as Russia's Wagner Group and Western military volunteers in Syria, foreign legions are present in conflicts as military and ideological-political assets.

Similarly, in Afghanistan, Iraq, Chechnya, and Nigeria, foreign fighters motivated by ideology provided support to local resistance movements, while international coalition forces and volunteer soldiers played a significant role in state-level interventions.

On Nov. 12, 2024, North Korea and Russia approved a strategic partnership agreement, thereby taking a significant step in strengthening the military ties. The

23-article agreement serves to institutionalize defense cooperation between the two countries, with a particular focus on providing comprehensive support against external aggression. The North Korean military is renowned for its secrecy and discipline. It comprises approximately 1.28 million active personnel and 600,000 reserves. The mandatory military service period lasts up to 10 years for men and 8 years for women. Ideological training and loyalty to the regime are the core structural elements of this period. Nevertheless, shortcomings in military technology and a paucity of international experience give rise to substantial skepticism regarding the actual combat effectiveness of the armed forces.

Speculation regarding the deployment of North Korean troops in support of Russian military operations has elicited a range of responses from the international community. Despite the Russian government's refutation of these allegations, which it asserts are limited to the exchange of military expertise, the prospective consequences are significant for both Russia and North Korea. For Russia, North Korean troops could assist in addressing manpower deficiencies on the battlefield. Additionally, due to their discipline and ideological commitment, they

may offer advantages in specific missions. For North Korea, participation could facilitate the lifting of international sanctions and contribute to the strengthening of bilateral relations with Russia.

Nevertheless, the alliance entails certain risks. The deployment of North Korean troops could potentially lead to morale issues among local Russian forces and result in coordination challenges on the ground. Such actions could also prompt the imposition of more stringent sanctions by Western powers. For North Korea, the potential for significant casualties or failures among its troops carries with it the risk of unavoidable media attention, which could ultimately damage the regime's international standing. On Oct. 25, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy enacted legislation that permits foreign volunteers in the Ukrainian International Legion to serve as officers. This decision appears to be a strategic move at a critical juncture in the war.

Initially regarded as a symbolic entity, the Ukrainian International Legion, comprising fighters from over 50 countries, has assumed greater significance as the war persists and the necessity for seasoned leadership intensifies. The appointment of foreign officers is regarded as a strategic measure to address the deficit of technical expertise

and combat experience. Nevertheless, this course of action entails certain risks. It is possible that Ukrainian soldiers may react unfavorably to receiving orders from foreign officers, which could result in a decline in morale and the emergence of internal tensions. Furthermore, the deployment of foreign officers may reinforce the perception that Ukraine's military operations are heavily reliant on external assistance.

The mounting reliance on foreign military forces by both Russia and Ukraine may be an indication of strategic preparations for a prolonged conflict. Nevertheless, this reliance entails inherent risks for both parties with regard to the equilibrium of power and motivation. Language barriers and operational challenges reduce the effectiveness of foreign fighters on the battlefield for both Ukraine and Russia, leading to coordination issues during combat. These difficulties limit the contributions of foreign units and increase the burden on local soldiers and commanders.

In conclusion, the course of this war will be shaped not only by the actions on the battlefield but also by the ability of each side to maintain international support. The strategic withdrawal of the party experiencing a loss of power and motivation will ultimately determine the final outcome of the conflict.

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# Britain cannot sustain these immigration levels

David Frost

RARELY does the Office for National Statistics (ONS) produce a press release that leaves me genuinely gobsmacked, but it managed it on Thursday with its latest migration figures. It wasn't just the numbers that surprised me, the fact that net migration was over 900,000 in the year to June 2023. That's bad enough. But I was also amazed by the level of revision of the figures: all the recent numbers are much higher than we thought.

I remember exactly a year ago waiting for the equivalent set of figures, amid speculation that the 2023 total could be nearly a million. When it landed, at just 672,000, it temporarily took the wind out of the sails of Rishi Sunak's many critics. Yet now it turns out the actual figure was not far off a million after all.

Overall, these massive revisions show that, over the past three years, 300,000 more people came here than we thought. Those who said that we had lost control of our borders and had no real idea of how many people were coming into the country were right.

And finally I was pretty surprised by the way the ONS reported the figures. The top line in their press release, and in the top ONS post on X (formerly Twitter), was "20 per cent fall in net migration".

Well, yes, but only because the earlier figures have been revised hugely upwards. The figure for the year to June 2024 - 728,000, the 20 per cent fall - is actually an increase on that original 672,000 estimate for the previous year. A more accurate top line would have been "migration figures revised up significantly, but start to come down".

We've all got a huge interest in reliable migration figures, neutrally and fairly presented. At the moment, it seems we have neither.

In the past 10 years almost four million people net have moved to Britain. Those are the ones we know about. We have no real idea of the number of people here illegally. It's not straightforward to relate these figures to the overall population, thanks to the stupid decision to allow Scotland to conduct its own census separately from the rest of us, and to do so badly. But the ONS notes that the foreign-born population has gone up by nearly 1.5 million people even since census day, the highest increase for at least 75 years - at a time, of course, when the birth rate for people born here is declining. Five in every six migrants now come from outside Europe.

We can't carry on like this. We will never become a high-wage,

high-productivity economy while we are hooked on the sugar rush of uncontrolled migration. Most of the country can feel the strain on public services. And while migration isn't the only reason for our super-high house prices (quantitative easing and super-low interest rates are also responsible), it's a major contributor to it. We are four million houses short compared to where we would be if we'd built at the same rate as France. Migration over the past 10 years is, plausibly, 1.5 to 2?million households. There, you have a big part of our problem.

Now, these figures probably are going to fall somewhat in the next couple of years - unless Labour relaxes the rules again, perhaps with a migration deal with the EU - because of the restrictions brought in by Rishi Sunak's government, under pressure from Robert Jenrick, at the end of 2023. But how far will they actually fall? Experts originally thought the new normal might be around 300,000 a year. Yet after today's ONS announcement the starting point is significantly higher, so perhaps the future steady state will be, too. And anyway, all these numbers are far too big. Remember that Tory pledge to get migration under 100,000? Well, we did achieve it, just, in one year, the pandemic

year, and it took the closing down of normal economic and social life to achieve it.

That is a statement of the depth of our problem. Kemi Badenoch was right, in her rushed announcement earlier this week, to say "we got it wrong". We know that, but it's going to be very difficult to restore credibility when a chunk of the Conservative parliamentary party wills the end but plainly does not will the means: withdrawal from the ECHR. We also know Labour has no intention of putting things right. By the next election, the population will be - at best - 1.5 million people higher, mostly from outside Europe, and all the strains will be that much greater.

Voters' confidence in politicians' ability to deal with this problem is now dangerously weak. It's going to take decisive measures to deal with it: an extremely low and rigorously enforced migration cap, proper border control, deterrence and deportation of illegal migrants and criminals, and a serious and assertive policy of integration for long-term migrants already here. If Donald Trump can do something like this in the US during his presidency, expect calls to repeat it here. Mainstream politicians must now rise to this task. If they don't, before long - and I don't welcome the prospect - they will be elbowed aside by those who will.

The Telegraph

# Ethical policing maintaining professional standards

IN our society, ethical policing is not just a concept; it's about winning the hearts of the people by treating them with respect, fairness, and humanity. This is how trust between the police and the public can truly grow. It's interesting to consider how some people feel that police are often more focused on enforcing order and efficiency than on building peace and trust within communities. This approach can sometimes fuel tensions and mistrust between law enforcement and the public they serve.

For example, many police officers prioritize metrics like arrest rates or response times, sometimes at the expense of nurturing community relationships. This performance-driven approach-relying on practices like stop-and-frisk or zero-tolerance policies-might make statistics look good, but it often leaves communities feeling targeted rather than safe. To shift this, police departments could adopt community-focused policing that emphasizes dialogue, collaboration, and understanding. By engaging more openly with the community, officers can foster a sense of safety that's about trust and peace, not just law enforcement.

Sometimes, in the name of efficiency, police officers resort to unethical or even illegal methods, which end up harming the community's trust in law enforcement. This could mean fabricating evidence or witnesses, staging fake recoveries of stolen goods, or even creating false crime narratives to show operational success. Though these tactics may temporarily improve certain metrics, they compromise integrity and trust, ultimately hurting the communities the police are meant to protect. Building real safety requires a focus on honesty and transparency to regain public trust.

In Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), some police officers may prioritize pleasing their superiors over actual peacekeeping, leading to staged operations or manipulated statistics that misrepresent the reality. This can create an "artificial ventilator" effect, where an image of stability is maintained on the surface, but real community tensions are left unresolved. Not only does this harm public trust, but it also diverts police efforts away from the real work of building genuine relationships and addressing the community's core needs. To promote lasting peace, KP needs a shift towards accountability and active community engagement.

When such practices become routine, they may contribute to a cycle of corruption. Officers often fund these staged operations by collecting money through illegal means, like bribes or extortion. This corrupt approach compromises the integrity of the police and creates a culture of distrust. Instead of upholding safety and law, officers may find themselves prioritizing personal gain, using staged encounters as a performance metric. Breaking this cycle requires systemic reforms that promote transparency, ethical behavior, and true accountability.

In their pursuit of recognition and rewards, innocent people can become casualties of these extrajudicial tactics. Wrongful accusations and violent confrontations can leave families with the immense burden of restoring their loved one's reputation while dealing with the emotional and financial strains of such injustices. This stigma can affect not just individuals, but entire communities, weakening their faith in law enforcement.

This harmful cycle shows the urgency of reforms that focus on justice and accountability over superficial metrics, so that every person is treated with dignity and respect.

The use of phrases like "half fry" for injured suspects and "full fry" for those killed in staged encounters is a disturbing reflection of a culture that normalizes violence. Such terminology dehumanizes people, reducing confrontations to mere transactions with potentially severe consequences. This can push individuals accused of crimes to offer bribes, creating a cycle where staged

encounters are a way for some officers to profit. This erosion of community trust calls for immediate reform to establish accountability and ethical behavior.

In KP, the stability of peace and security sometimes feels like it's on "ventilator support." While staged operations and social media posts might present a favorable image, they rarely address the deeper issues of poverty, unemployment, and limited community engagement. Without serious efforts to confront these challenges, superficial strategies are unlikely to yield any lasting

But when the same gang members are released just a few days later, the media spotlight shifts, exposing this as a temporary show rather than a true crackdown. This cycle can deeply undermine public trust in the justice system, as people see offenders being paraded as "captured" one moment, only to return to the streets shortly after. Such practices create a damaging perception that justice is inconsistent and that real accountability is lacking.

change. If the focus remains on appearances rather than genuine improvements, KP may face long-term challenges. A committed approach that centers on community safety, accountability, and effective crime prevention is essential. Only with such an approach can we hope to see real improvements in the safety and well-being of KP's communities.

The police department has been struggling for years to eradicate street crime, but the outcomes have often fallen short of expectations. This ongoing challenge can largely be attributed to the issues mentioned above. When the focus is on creating an image of control rather than tackling the root causes of crime-like poverty, unemployment, and the lack of strong community relationships-any gains in reducing street crime are likely to be temporary.

For real progress, the approach needs to shift from surface-level solutions and performance metrics to strategies that emphasize community engagement, transparency, and integrity. Addressing these underlying issues, rather than relying on staged operations or manipulated statistics, could lead to more genuine and lasting improvements in public safety and trust.

This artificial approach ultimately benefits the culprits as well, as they often escape proper prosecution and punishment. When policing is more focused on creating an appearance of control than on actually enforcing the law fairly and transparently, it creates loopholes that offenders can exploit. Instead of being held accountable, criminals may evade justice due to staged recoveries, fabricated evidence, or manipulated statistics that prioritize short-term "success" over real justice.

This cycle not only emboldens offenders but also weakens the public's faith in the legal system, as people see criminals going unpunished while police efforts seem misdirected. To break this cycle, policing strategies must focus on genuine accountability, thorough investigations, and ethical practices that ensure offenders are properly prosecuted and face the appropriate consequences for their actions.

Sometimes, the police stage an operation and present it as a major success, showcasing the arrest of a "big gang" across social media and in the news. But when the same gang members are released just a few days later, the media spotlight shifts, exposing this as a temporary show rather than a true crackdown. This cycle can deeply undermine public trust in the justice system, as people see offenders being paraded as "captured" one moment, only to return to the streets shortly after.

Such practices create a damaging perception that justice is inconsistent and that real accountability is lacking. Instead of building confidence, these staged

operations lead people to question the effectiveness of the police, the judiciary, and the entire justice system. Over time, these repeated cycles of "catch and release" erode the credibility of law enforcement and justice institutions. To restore public trust, there needs to be a focus on genuine, sustainable actions that ensure criminal networks face proper prosecution and are held accountable through transparent, lawful processes.

In an effort to improve performance metrics and gain favor with superiors, some police officers may

prioritize their personal image over genuine public safety, putting the city and its citizens at risk. This focus on appearances over real results leads to a culture where officers are rewarded for short-term "successes" rather than sustainable community protection. As a result, individuals who prioritize ethics and effective crime-fighting may be sidelined, while those more focused on optics rise through the ranks.

This misalignment deprives the system of "right people for the right job," allowing unqualified or self-serving individuals to assume influential positions. Over time, this erodes the integrity and effectiveness of law enforcement, creating a cycle that is difficult to break. Instead of a well-functioning system rooted in accountability and competence, the community is left vulnerable, facing increased risks due to a lack of genuine commitment to their safety. Reforms that focus on integrity, fair evaluations, and a clear focus on public welfare over personal gain are essential to restore trust and ensure a truly protective and effective police force.

This focus on performance metrics and personal gain can also lead to factionalism within the police force, where officers form groups or alliances, often creating an environment ripe for corruption and the rise of internal "mafias." When police factions prioritize loyalty to each other over public duty, they may protect each other's interests at the expense of justice, undermining any efforts to root out crime and misconduct. This creates a dangerous situation where certain officers or groups hold unchecked power, using their influence for personal gain instead of public service.

For the people, this reality can be devastating. Instead of having a police force dedicated to their protection, they face a system where backdoor deals and group loyalties mean that real criminals may go unpunished, while the vulnerable suffer without recourse. The division within the department ultimately harms not only public trust but also the very structure of law enforcement, making it nearly impossible for ethical officers to do their jobs effectively. Combating this issue requires strong leadership, transparency, and a commitment to dismantling any alliances that work against public interest, ensuring that the police department serves its true purpose: protecting and serving the community.

Addressing these deeply ingrained issues within the police force requires a multifaceted approach that combines structural reforms, accountability measures, and a shift in culture. Ethical policing must become the cornerstone of law enforcement, prioritizing fairness, justice, and respect for human dignity above all else.

The smart cop





# Efficient banking sector pivotal for Pakistan's growth

## F.P. Report

KARACHI: Innovation, financial inclusion, SME lending and forward-thinking banking regulations are key to boosting the efficiency of Pakistan's banks, according to a new analysis by CERP and Alchemy Technologies, supported by the Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA).

At the launch of Banking on our Banks: Aligning Growth with Development held in Karachi on Saturday, industry stakeholders highlighted the vital role of the banking sector in driving growth and development. While the sector has shown great improvements, it is important to move beyond meas-

uring profitability and growth as the only relevant performance indicators for evaluating the competitiveness of our banks.

The growing performance disparity with regional counterparts, overdependence on specific economic sectors, regulatory constraints, and limited incentives for people to use formal banking channels create an environment that hinders innovation, limiting the growth potential of Pakistan's banks.

Jameel Ahmad, Governor State Bank of Pakistan, as the chief guest, stated, "Our banking sector is well positioned in terms of solvency, asset quality, and profitability to contribute to the economic

growth and development of Pakistan by embracing technology and fostering innovation. While remaining focused on governance and risk management, we can enhance the capacity and resilience of our banking sector to serve all segments of the economy."

Opening the event, Zafar Masud, Chairman PBA said, "It is important to recognise that Pakistan's banks operate in a challenging environment, with 52% of the undocumented economy and many sectors actively avoiding the tax net. Despite these challenges, the banking sector continues to contribute generously to the national exchequer and fiscal deficit, with a willingness

to do even more through income-based taxes than the taxes on balance sheet like the ADR. This level of commitment is rare, especially in emerging economies like ours, and deserves recognition and applause."

Banks are incentivized to lend within well-trodden paths, prioritizing uncompetitive sectors like energy, agriculture, logistics and textiles while ignoring industries with long-term potential. Absence of competition discourages new product development and the ability to take bets on newer sectors. Cumbersome approval processes and predictable returns make innovation a losing bet not just at the regulator

but also within banking boardrooms.

"The truth is that changing rules doesn't change behaviour, incentives do. With the right data and solutions, we can build a unified banking ecosystem ready to fuel Pakistan's economic recovery," said Maroof A. Syed, President and CEO of CERP.

The event also included panel discussions where the joint analysis was debated by Maheen Rahman, CEO, InfraZamin Pakistan, Ahmed Khan Bozai, Vice Chairman, PBA & Citi Country Officer, Citibank N. A., Pakistan, Asif Ali Qureshi, CEO, UBL Funds and Mutaher Khan, Co-Founder, Data Darbar and a way forward was charted

by Shahid Mustafa, Co-Founder, Tameer Microfinance Bank & CEO, Pakistan Microfinance Investment Company (PMIC), Khurshed Kotwal Vice President, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan and Atif Muhammad Ali, Chief Commercial Officer, Engro Fertilizers Ltd.

The event discussions highlighted regulatory challenges, the high costs associated with digitalization and the resulting overreliance on unprofitable sectors. However, with well-implemented and strategic reforms, these issues can be addressed, reducing frictional costs and enhancing banks' long-term competitiveness.

"We need market-driven

incentives, robust regulatory frameworks, forward-looking boards and a sandbox approach to experimentation. Otherwise, banks will continue to prioritize comfort lending over bold decisions necessary for economic transformation," said Jawwad Farid, CEO at Alchemy Technologies and Professor of Practice at IBA.

To foster sustained growth, participation in the formal economy has to be incentivized. In order for banks to help small businesses to thrive, regulatory frameworks have to reconsider tax strategies. Banks, too, need to evolve their boards to be more diverse and supportive of new visions. All three sectors

need each other to drive the reforms necessary to make Pakistan's economy competitive and complex enough to withstand global challenges.

The event concluded with Muneer Kamal, CEO and Secretary General PBA, expressing his appreciation for CERP and Alchemy Technologies for spearheading this important dialogue. He also reaffirmed the sector's commitment to stimulating economic activity and emphasized that PBA's ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the SBP on key development areas will eventually drive sustainable progress and promote long-term growth for Pakistan.

## Azerbaijan ambassador meets Aleem Khan — joint projects and trade discussed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, called on Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment, and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in a meeting on Saturday, where they both agreed to promote joint projects and trade partnerships, with practical work set to begin in the coming days.

The bilateral diplomatic activities between Azerbaijan and Pakistan over the past several months, including high-level delegation exchanges and Pakistan's active participation in the COP 29 conference in Baku, have started to yield positive results, said a press release.

During the meeting,

Federal Minister Aleem Khan warmly welcomed Ambassador Farhadov and emphasized that, in addition to tourism, Pakistan can further strengthen bilateral cooperation with its friendly nations across various sectors. He highlighted the need to translate mutual relations into business and trade, noting that positive progress has already been made on both sides.

Aleem Khan invited Azerbaijani companies to invest and start businesses in Pakistan, stating that foreign investment can be facilitated through government-to-government (G2G) and business-to-business (B2B) channels in the current environment.

The minister also discussed opportunities for

Azerbaijani investment in the M6 and M9 motorways from Karachi to Sukkur and Sukkur to Hyderabad. The minister underlined that Pakistan offers vast opportunities in numerous sectors, urging investors to take full advantage.

Ambassador Farhadov expressed his country's commitment to working with Pakistan on investment and joint projects.

The meeting also highlighted the collaborative efforts of Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Türkiye.

Following the discussions, it was decided, on the instructions of Aleem Khan, to appoint a Focal Person from the Board of Investment to maintain close communication with the Government of Azerbaijan.

## PBIT, Tihal and KBM to sign MoU

LAHORE (APP): The Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain here Saturday chaired a meeting in which Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT), Tihal International Business Services Company (China) and KBM Group of Companies agreed to collaborate to bring direct Chinese investment to Pakistan particularly to Punjab.

The collaboration will focus on attracting direct Chinese investment in sectors such as information technology, construction, agriculture, manufacturing, and textiles.

In order to achieve this goal, a mutual agreement will soon be signed among the three organizations, and a framework for cooperation will also be developed. Implementation of this agreement will lead to increased investment by Chinese companies in Punjab.

On this occasion, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain highlighted that Punjab offers a highly favorable environment for investment, which is why both local and foreign investors are turning towards the province. He stated that Punjab aims to benefit from China's advanced agriculture and technology.

Provincial Minister also revealed that the Punjab government is launching new billion rupees projects to promote the fish industry, including the establishment of modern fish farms in Muzaffargarh and Rahim Yar Khan. Additionally, he shared details about the establishment of a Garment City on 630 acres in the Quaid-i-Azam Business Park, Sheikhupura, which will facilitate the relocation of China's textile industry and the setup of new factories. He also mentioned that TEVTA institutions, labs and courses are being updated to meet modern requirements.

Punjab's economic development. He said that Punjab accounts for 55 percent of Pakistan's GDP and provides employment to 38 million people. However, he expressed concern over the country's low foreign direct investment (FDI), which is currently at USD 2.3 billion. He called for efforts to unlock potential in sectors like engineering, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and information technology.

Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman emphasized the need for eco-friendly, cost-effective technologies, particularly for SMEs. He also advocated for expanding certification labs.

Vice President Shahid Nazir suggested organizing international conferences and roadshows to enhance investor engagement.

## ‘Projects being focused to attract investments’

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) is introducing well-prepared and tangible projects to attract investors.

PBIT Chairman Muntaha Ashraf stated this in a meeting with business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Saturday. LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry also spoke on the occasion while Executive Committee Members Shouban Akhter, Ahad Amin Malik, Irfan Ahmad Qureshi and former Vice President Mian Zahid Javed were also present.

PBIT Chairman Muntaha Ashraf stressed that instead of mere documentation, the board is committed to develop solid,

investment-ready projects to facilitate potential investors.

He mentioned that PBIT has identified 10 sectors with high investment potential, particularly shrimp farming, which offers significant export prospects. He said that a new data repository is being developed to provide crucial information and streamline the investment process, asserting that Business Facilitation Center is providing the services of 35 federal and provincial departments to support businesses more effectively.

The Chairman said that the board is actively pursuing the relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan and plans to collaborate with LCCI in this regard.

LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad highlighted PBIT's critical role in

## Pakistan Banking Awards 2024:

## Mobilink Bank named ‘Best Microfinance Bank’

## F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance institution, Mobilink Bank was honored as the 'Best Microfinance Bank' at the Pakistan Banking Awards 2024. The recognition highlights the Bank's pivotal role in advancing financial inclusion and digital empowerment, and underscores its prowess in leveraging innovative fintech solutions to shape a digitally future-ready Pakistan.

Commenting on the achievement, CEO Jazz and Chairman, Mobilink Bank, Aamir Ibrahim said, "This award is a testament to the trust placed in Mobilink Bank by millions of Pakistanis and reflects our collective mission to uplift society through financial inclusion. Mobilink Bank's success lies in its commitment to empowering individuals, particularly women, by providing them with the tools and resources to thrive. This recognition resonates with our ongoing efforts to foster economic growth, resilience, and progress across the country. I commend the entire team for their dedication and look forward to their continued impact in transforming lives."

Interim CEO Mobilink Bank, Haaris Mahmood



Chaudhary said, "The award is an honor that reflects our unwavering commitment to empowering small businesses, women, and underserved communities through innovative, digital banking solutions that drive meaningful change. Looking forward, we remain committed to expanding access and creating lasting opportunities for those who need it most, as we work towards building a more inclusive, future-ready digital financial ecosystem for fostering sustainable growth and economic progress."

Mobilink Bank drives financial inclusion through innovative fintech solutions to empower underserved communities in the digital age. Through its Women Inspirational Network

(WIN), it has equipped over 20,000 women with financial and digital literacy, and aims to onboard 50,000 more into the formal banking system by 2026 in partnership with Care International Pakistan. The Bank also advocates women's inheritance rights through a comprehensive awareness campaign and, as an industry-first initiative, provides an innovative digital inheritance calculator on its 'DOST' app to empower users, especially women with accurate share calculations and informed decision-making.

The Bank works in collaboration with multiple active players to amplify the reach and impact of its initiatives. The Bank's DOST App further enhances this effort by pro-

viding users with flexible, self-paced learning opportunities, making financial education more accessible and inclusive.

In 2023-2024, the Mobilink Bank School of Learning delivered over 83,000 hours of training to enhance the digital skills of both employees and entrepreneurs. Through the National Financial Literacy Program (NFLP-II), the Bank reached 2,780 rural beneficiaries, including 71% of women. This achievement earned the Bank the 'Best NFLP Team Award' from the State Bank of Pakistan. The bank's innovative services, training programs and collaborative efforts reflect its vision of helping create a digitally agile, inclusive, and future-ready Pakistan.

## Ratings for 11 banks upgraded

RIYADH (Arab News): Eleven banks in Saudi Arabia have seen their long-term deposit and senior unsecured ratings upgraded by Moody's thanks to a strong operating environment.

The ratings agency also attributed the decision — which affects institutions including Saudi National Bank, Al Rajhi Bank, Riyad Bank — to the higher capacity of the Kingdom's government to support the banks in case of need.

Earlier in November, Moody's changed the issuer rating of the Saudi government from Aa3 from A1 and its outlook to stable from positive.

Other banks to be affected by the latest change include Saudi Awwal Bank, Banque Saudi Fransi, and Alinma Bank, as well as Arab National Bank, Bank AlBilad, and the Saudi Investment Bank. Bank AlJazira and Gulf International Bank — Saudi Arabia also saw changes.

The agency also changed the outlook to stable from positive on the long-term deposit ratings of all the banks except for Al Rajhi Bank, which already held that rating.

"Credit conditions for banks in Saudi Arabia are improving as economic diversification momentum remains robust," said Moody's in a press release, adding: "We expect non-hydrocarbon private sector GDP to continue expanding by about 4-5 percent in the coming years — among the highest in the Gulf Cooperation Council region and an indication of continued progress in diversification that will reduce the Kingdom's exposure to oil market developments and long-term carbon transition over time."

## 75 years of unwavering excellence: Diamond Jubilee celebrations of NBP held

## F.P. Report

KARACHI: Exuberant celebrations filled with unwavering dedication and opulent prestige marked the 75th anniversary of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP). Held at the historic Mohatta Palace in Karachi, the event was attended by eminent dignitaries from the government, business community, and customers from across the country.

Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President NBP, warmly welcomed the Chief Guest, Jameel Ahmad, Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, industrial catalysts, and other distinguished guests alongside members of NBP's management.

The event marked the Diamond Jubilee of NBP's illustrious journey as a cornerstone of Pakistan's resilient and robust financial infrastructure. It highlighted the bank's indispensable role in the nation's economic and social development and reflected its unwavering commitment to excellence, resilience, and progress.

The celebration featured several memorable highlights, including stirring keynote addresses, a meticulously curated commemorative occasion tracing the bank's remarkable history, and an insightful exploration of its visionary strategies.

In his inspiring address to the distinguished gathering, Rehmat Ali Hasnie reflected on the institution's



remarkable evolution over the past seven decades. He emphasized NBP's central role in facilitating transformative government initiatives, promoting financial inclusion, and spearheading the digital revolution within Pakistan's banking sector.

Jameel Ahmad, Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) highlighted, "The 75-year journey of NBP is not only a celebration of past triumphs but a resolute pledge to the future. Our legacy is built on resilience, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to the nation's prosperity. As we look forward, NBP remains dedi-

cated to pioneering technological advancements, promoting sustainability, and fostering inclusivity, all while continuing to serve as a catalyst for Pakistan's growth and global prominence," he declared to enthusiastic applause.

The event brought together a distinguished assembly of government officials, business leaders, and representatives of civil society, underscoring NBP's pivotal role as a trusted partner in driving the nation's economic progress. Guests had the opportunity to explore the bank's enduring legacy through immersive, interac-

tive exhibits showcasing its rich history and visionary initiatives in sustainability, digital banking, and financial empowerment.

As the event concluded, NBP's leadership expressed heartfelt gratitude to its dedicated staff, valued partners, and loyal customers, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in the bank's remarkable success. As NBP embarks on the next chapter of its legacy, it reaffirms its mission to remain at the forefront of Pakistan's financial sector, committed to fostering innovation, inclusivity, and prosperity for all.

## Enhancement of operations: IIAP implements innovative initiative

## F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad International Airport (IIAP) management has successfully completed a groundbreaking project to repurpose wide-body aircraft stands for narrow body aircraft operations. This complex initiative not only enhances passenger convenience but also significantly increases airport revenue.

IIAP currently operates six narrow body aircraft stands and nine widebody aircraft bridges. As a result

of this innovative project, eight of the widebody aircraft bridges can now also be used for narrow body aircraft operations, offering greater flexibility and efficiency.

In the first phase of the project, three widebody bridges were made compatible with narrow body aircraft, resulting in Rs. 136 million in additional revenue through passenger boarding bridges. Building on this success, the management in the second phase has extended the initiative to five more wide-

body bridges/stands, enabling narrow body aircraft operations on a total of eight widebody bridges.

This expansion will further boost operational efficiency, reduce aircraft turnaround times, and minimize carbon emissions, reinforcing the airport's commitment to eco-friendly practices. The project, executed entirely in-house, underscores Islamabad International Airport (IIAP)'s commitment to passenger satisfaction, resource optimization, and substantial revenue growth.

## HCSTSI officials participates in meeting

HYDERABAD (APP): On the directives of the President of Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI), Muhammad Saleem Memon, Senior Vice President Ahmed Idrees Chohan and Vice President Shan Sehgal participated in the Advisory Board meeting of the National Incubation Center (NIC) Hyderabad.

The meeting brought together prominent members from Hyderabad's industry, software sector and academia to discuss strategies for strengthening the regional startup ecosystem and fostering collaborative initiatives.

During the meeting, Senior Vice President Ahmed Idrees Chohan, lauded the exceptional performance of NIC Hyderabad, stating, HCSTSI has always supported initiatives that contribute to the growth

of local industries and businesses. NIC's role in fostering the startup ecosystem is commendable, and we are committed to extending our full cooperation in advancing this mission.

Vice President Shan Sehgal, emphasized the significance of collaboration with the banking sector and proposed an innovative idea during his address.

He remarked that at present banks hold significant financial resources allocated for SMEs. NIC can collaborate with these banks to secure loans for its startups based on well-developed business plans.

This collaboration will not only provide startups with essential financial resources but also ensure the successful execution of their projects.

Sehgal further advocated for strengthening the relationship between HCSTSI

members and NIC Hyderabad, encouraging members to explore the center's operations and facilities.

He invited the NIC team to visit the Chamber to jointly work towards improving the region's business environment, saying, we look forward to hosting NIC Hyderabad at our Chamber to foster greater collaboration that will drive meaningful progress for the local economy.

The meeting also featured a detailed presentation by NIC Hyderabad's Project Director, Syeda Sana Shah and Manager Monitoring & Evaluation, Shahzana Memon.

They highlighted the center's remarkable achievements, revealing that NIC Hyderabad has incubated 128 startups to date, collectively generating Rs. 406 million in revenue and creating over 2,000 jobs.





In brief

Badminton tournament concludes

SARGODHA (APP): A two-day inter-collegiate girls' badminton tournament, organized by the Board of Education, concluded at Government Graduate College for Women, Farooq Colony. In the closing ceremony, Principal Government Graduate College for Women, Farooq Colony, Madam Muntaha Javed, was the special guest and Director Sports Education Board Roshan Zameer Kalro, Waqas Butt and Professor Physical Education, Madam Sabahat, were also present. Graduate College for Women Farooq Colony won second position while first and third positions were won by private colleges. Addressing the audience, Madam Muntaha Javed said that sports competitions provide an excellent platform for the youth to show their talents. She added that Sargodha education sports competitions organized by the board will not only increase the physical abilities of women athletes but also provide them with opportunities to participate in national and international sports. Later, Director Sports Education Board Roshan Zameer Kalro thanked Madam Muntaha Javed and Professor of Physical Education Madam Sabahat for hosting the tournament and ensuring best arrangements.

Trump beats world champion

YORK (Agencies): Judd Trump reached his fourth UK Championship final with a comfortable 6-2 victory over world champion Kyren Wilson at the Barbican in York. While the match failed to scale the heights of the expected blockbuster between the top two ranked players in the world, the outcome provides Trump with a small measure of revenge after his losses to Wilson in the finals of the Xī'an Grand Prix and Northern Ireland Open earlier this term. World number one Trump had looked slightly out of sorts in the opening two frames, with a purposeful Wilson enjoying a run of 62 to lead 2-0. However, the momentum shifted spectacularly the other way with Trump then reeling off six consecutive frames against an opponent who looked shorn of confidence. A 43rd century of the season allowed Trump to draw level and with Wilson's play punctuated by loose safety shots, unexpected missed pots and moments of misfortune, he took full advantage. A run of 65 helped Trump go 5-2 up and he sealed his win with another century break. Trump's success also dashed Wilson's hopes of becoming the first player to win the world and UK titles in the same year since Mark Selby in 2016. And it ensured that Trump, who is aiming to win the tournament for the first time since 2011, has tipped his earnings for the season over £1m regardless of the result in Sunday's final against either Mark Allen or Barry Hawkins.

Hazlewood out of 2nd Test

SYDNEY (AFP): Australian pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood was on Saturday ruled out of the second Test against India in Adelaide, with seamers Sean Abbott and Brendon Doggett added to their squad. The right-arm, who took five wickets in Australia's 295-run first Test defeat at Perth, has what Cricket Australia described as "a low-grade left side injury". "Hazlewood will remain with the group in Adelaide to prepare for the remainder of the series," CA added.

# Pakistan U19 beat India U19 after Shahzaib's superlative 159

Dubai (Monitoring Desk): Opener Shahzaib Khan stroked a superlative 159 as Pakistan U19 convincingly defeated India U19 by 43 runs in a Group-A ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup fixture at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Saturday. Shahzaib's 147-ball knock, featuring five fours and 10 sixes, propelled Pakistan to a total of 281 for seven in their allotted 50 overs. In reply, India U19 were bowled out for 238 in 47.1 overs after slipping to 81 for four and then 190 for nine. Promising fast bowler Ali Raza starred with the ball, claiming three wickets for 36 runs. The Mansehra-born Shahzaib laid a solid foundation with fellow opener Usman Khan, sharing a 160-run stand in 30.4 overs. Usman contributed a steady

94-ball 60, including six boundaries. Both openers came into this match in fine form, having scored 330 and 314 runs, respectively in a recent tri-series involving Afghanistan and hosts UAE. For the third wicket, Shahzaib added 71 runs with Muhammad Riazullah (27). Pakistan batters accelerated towards the end, adding 74 runs in the last 10 overs after reaching 207 for two in 40 overs. Captain Saad Baig's decision to bat first proved fruitful as his side posted a challenging total of 281. Fast bowler Samarth Nagaraj was the standout performer for India, taking three wickets for 45 runs, while Ayush Mhatre chipped in with two for 30. India began their chase positively but suffered early blows. Abdul Subhan dismissed Mhatre (20) at 28 in 3.4 overs before Ali Raza

removed Vaibhav Suryavanshi in the next over. Usman Khan and Faham-ul-Haq added to India's woes, reducing them to 81 for four. A 53-run fifth-wicket partnership between Nikhil Kumar and Kiran Chormale briefly revived India. However, Faham broke the stand by dismissing Chormale (20). Kumar, who top-scored with a 77-ball 67, added 40 runs with wicket-keeper-batter Harvansh Pangalia (26) before falling to off-spinner Naveed Ahmed Khan at 174 in the 36th over. For Pakistan, Ali Raza's figures of 9-1-36-3 stood out, while Abdul Subhan (2-45) and Faham-ul-Haq (2-41) provided excellent support. Pakistan's next match is against the UAE on 2 December at the same venue. Scores in brief



Pakistan U19 beat India U19 by 43 runs, Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Pakistan U19 281-7, 50 overs (Shahzaib Khan 159, Usman Khan 60, 47.1 overs (Nikhil Kumar 67, Mohamed Enaan 30, Harvansh Nagaraj 3-45, Ayush Mhatre 2-30). India U19 238 all-out, Abdul Subhan 2-45, Faham-ul-Haq 41). Player of the match – Shahzaib Khan (Pakistan U19).

## Champions Trophy 2025 PCB chief hints at a “win-win situation” for all

DUBAI (Monitoring Desk): The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi, has called for a new formula based on parity for the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025, hinting at a win-win situation for all. Speaking to the media at Dubai Stadium, Naqvi emphasized that any new formula regarding the ICC event must ensure equality and fairness. “A lot of things are going on, I don't want to comment too much because that can ruin everything, we have presented our point of view to ICC, while India has also given its opinion. All the boards are trying to ensure a win-win for all, Pakistan also wants that cricket should win but anything with respect”, the chairman PCB said.

He also hinted that Pakistan can boycott tournaments in India if the Indian team refuses to play in Pakistan. “It is not possible that we go to India, but they don't come to Pakistan”, maintained Naqvi. The Chairman insisted that Pakistan too, in tit for tat, could boycott the tournaments scheduled in India, but we want the victory of sport”. “The dignity of Pakistan is paramount, and we cannot compromise on it,” Naqvi said. “We want a long-term solution that covers future events, not just the Champions Trophy 2025”, urging, that this problem must be resolved once and for all on a parity basis. Earlier, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), on the directives from the gov-

ernment, wrote to the ICC in which it rejected a hybrid model for the tournament. The ambiguity surrounding the event has broadcasters concerned about their viewership as they urged the ICC to immediately release the schedule for the Champions Trophy 2025. While the cricket governing body initially planned to release the schedule on November 12, the BCCI's refusal to send its team to Pakistan resulted in a delay in the announcement of the schedule. Pertinent to note here that the broadcasting rights, awarded to broadcasters until 2027 for a record \$3 billion, hinge largely on the popularity of marquee matches, particularly between Pakistan and India, which consistently draw the highest viewership.

## Pakistan unveil Playing XI for T20I

BULAWAYO (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced the Playing XI for the first T20I of the three-match series against Zimbabwe, scheduled to be played at the Queens Sports Club here on 1 December. Salman Ali Agha will lead Pakistan as white-ball captain Mohammad Rizwan has been tested for the T20I series against Zimbabwe. Meanwhile, Saim Ayub, who clinched the Player of the Series award during the ODI series, has been added to the T20I squad and will open the innings in the first T20I, the PCB revealed on their social media accounts. Usman Khan will don the wicket-keeping gloves as Haseebullah Khan, who kept the wickets in the third T20I against Australia, was not included in the line-up. Top-order batter Omair Bin Yousuf, middle-order batter Tayyab Tahir and mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed will make their return to the T20I side. Abbas Afridi, Jahadad Khan and Haris Rauf will make Pakistan's pace attack against Zimbabwe, while Abrar and Sufiyan Mueqem are two specialist spinners in the line-up. For the unversed, Pakistan made a resounding comeback to win the ODI series 2-1 after Zimbabwe defeated them in the first ODI by 80 runs in the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) Method.

Pakistan Playing XI: Saim Ayub, Usman Khan (wk), Omair Bin Yousuf, Salman Agha (c), Tayyab Tahir, Irfan Khan, Abbas Afridi, Jahadad Khan, Sufiyan Mueqem, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf.

## Semi-finals lineup set for Blind WC

MULTAN (APP): The stage is set for the semi-finals of the 4th T-20 Blind Cricket World Cup, with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal advancing to the final four. In the much-anticipated lineup, Pakistan will face Nepal while Bangladesh would clash with Sri Lanka in the semi finals. The group stage concluded with Pakistan securing the top spot after a stellar undefeated run. Bangladesh finished second, followed by Sri Lanka in third and Nepal in fourth. The semi-finals will take place at Multan Cricket Stadium on December 1, with the first match starting at 9:00 AM between Pakistan and Nepal and the second at 1:00 PM featuring Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. In a group match played here at Multan Cricket Stadium on Saturday, Pakistan delivered a dominant performance, defeating Afghanistan by seven wickets. Winning the toss, Pakistan elected to field, restricting Afghanistan to a modest 94 runs in 19.2 overs. Ajmal Amarkhel's 15 runs off 13 balls were the standout contribution for Afghanistan. Pakistan's Fakhar Abbas impressed with the ball, taking 3 wickets for just 4 runs in 2.2 overs. Chasing 95, Pakistan achieved the target in just 9.5 overs with three wickets down.

## Pak players dominate CAS Serena Hotels Int'l Squash C'ship 2024

RAWALPINDI (DNA): Chief of Air Staff - Serena Hotels International Squash Championship 2024, organized by Pakistan Air Force in collaboration with Pakistan Squash Federation and Serena Hotels, has concluded at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad. The prestigious tournament featured 24 top-tier players from eight countries, including Egypt, England, Hong Kong, Ireland, Kuwait, Malaysia, Netherlands and Pakistan, who competed for the coveted title. Air Marshal Shakil Ghazanfar, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Personnel), attended the ceremony as Chief Guest, and distributed trophy and prizes to the winner and runner ups. In the final match Noor

Zaman from Pakistan defeated Nasir Iqbal from Pakistan with a game score of 3-0 to claim the title. Both players displayed exceptional skills and sportsmanship, making the contest a memorable one for fans and participants alike. Speaking at the closing ceremony, the Chief Guest, extended heartfelt congratulations to both international and domestic players for their remarkable performances throughout the championship. He said, "This tournament has been a testament to the talent, dedication, and passion for squash, not only from our Pakistani players but also from our international participants. Pakistan Air Force remains committed to nurturing and promoting squash at all levels, ensuring that Pakistan reclaims

its legacy in squash. I urge our youth to follow in the footsteps of these athletes and pursue excellence." Pakistan Air Force, under the leadership of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force has been instrumental in promoting squash, providing opportunities for young talent to thrive. Through consistent support and dedication, PAF is committed to reviving Pakistan's legacy in squash, encouraging youth to excel both nationally and internationally. The CAS Serena Hotels International Squash Championship 2024 has been a resounding success, uniting players and fans in their passion for squash while showcasing Pakistan's capability to host world-class sporting events.

## S Africa thrash Sri Lanka to fuel World Test C'ship bid

DURBAN (AFP): South Africa's chances of reaching the World Test Championship final received a boost when they completed a 233-run over Sri Lanka on the fourth day of the first Test at Kingsmead on Saturday. The result lifted South Africa to second place in the WTC table, which is calculated on average points earned. With their remaining three matches to be played at home – the second Test against Sri Lanka followed by two against Pakistan – South Africa are well-placed to qualify for the final at Lord's in London next June if they carry on winning. "That's always been one of our goals as a team," said South African captain Temba Bavuma. "The conversation has always been there. We've not been loud about it but that conversation will probably become more alive now." Set a massive 516 runs to win, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 282. Left-arm fast bowler Marco Jansen, the destroyer

in Sri Lanka's record-low first innings of 42, took four for 73 to finish with match figures of 11 for 86. He was named player of the match. Bavuma said conditions had changed considerably during the match, in which South Africa battled to make 191 in the first innings before Sri Lanka were blown away in 13.5 overs, with Jansen taking seven for 13. "We were in a tough position and we knew we had to dig deep," said Bavuma. "We were quite confident that if they could put us under pressure with the ball we could do the same to them." "We weren't expecting things to go so quickly but we knew the conditions (for bowling) were in our favour and that we could exploit them." Referring to the Test championship, Bavuma said his team needed to continue to focus internally on what they needed to do, rather than be concerned about factors beyond their control. Sri Lankan captain Dhananjaya de Silva said the first innings had been

decisive – "our bowling as well as our batting." He said Sri Lanka could have bowled better to restrict South Africa to around 120, although he paid tribute to Bavuma, who scored 70 in the first innings and 113 in the second. The collapse to 42 all out against a "brilliant" Jansen happened so quickly, he said, that "we didn't have time to think. We had better plans in the second innings." In contrast to the first innings, the tourists made the South Africans work for their wickets on Saturday. Dinesh Chandimal (83) and De Silva (59) put on 95 for the sixth wicket and kept South Africa in the field for most of the morning after resuming at 103 for five. The breakthrough for South Africa came when De Silva chipped a catch to midwicket off left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj. Kusal Mendis made an attacking 48 before he became Jansen's 10th victim of the match. The second Test starts at Gqeberha on Thursday.



DURBAN: Gerald Coetzee exults having dismissed the set Dinesh Chandimal caught and bowled.

## Piastri wins Qatar Grand Prix sprint as McLaren widen gap on Ferrari



DOHA (AFP): Oscar Piastri was gifted victory by his McLaren team-mate Lando Norris in Saturday's sprint at the Qatar Grand Prix as the British team consolidated their bid for the constructors' title for the first time since 1998 with a 1-2 triumph. In an example of perfect teamwork, Norris led from pole to flag before slowing to allow Piastri to win by 0.136 seconds ahead of Mercedes' George Russell in third. The result secured 15 points for McLaren in their bid to resist Ferrari, extending their advantage to 34 points with two Grands Prix remaining. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz finished fourth ahead of team-mate Charles Leclerc, seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes and Haas' Nico Hulkenberg, Max Verstappen, Pierre Gasly of Alpine and Kevin Magnussen in the second Haas. "It was defence all the way the whole race for me," said Piastri. "I had a good start and then Turn One, but not the pace I needed and then I was struggling, but it was great teamwork and a great McLaren 1-2!" Norris said he had disobeyed the team to give Piastri his victory as his payback for the Australian's assistance at the Brazilian Grand Prix sprint when he was hoping to keep alive his bid for the

drivers' title and Piastri gave him the victory. "We scored the 1-2 we were aiming for and we have maximum points so I am happy for the team... Perfectly-executed! We did our job. It ended a bit closer than I wanted, but I had this planned since Brazil and it's what I wanted. The team told me not to do it, but I did it the best way I could." Russell said: "We were very close in T1 a couple of times, but Lando backing up to help Oscar with DRS... It was pretty infuriating to be honest, but I understand why." "Thanks for the teamwork!" The race was preceded by much paddock discussion of Hamilton's speed, or apparent lack of it in Friday's qualifying, the Briton claiming he was "definitely not fast anymore" after being outqualified again by Russell. His former McLaren team-mate Jensen Button, the 2009 world champion, reacted by saying: "it's getting to him a little bit... But, that's the thing with Lewis. You expect him to get more in qualifying. It hasn't happened, but we know his pace and he's still quick. It is in there." As if to prove it, Hamilton made a blistering start by overtaking Leclerc as Norris led from pole, with Piastri passing Russell for second.

Verstappen, struggling with oversteer, dropped to eighth. "I'm trying to five Oscar DRS every lap," said Norris, in hope of helping McLaren claim a valuable one-two. By lap 10, Norris was ahead of Piastri by three-tenths with Russell nine-tenths back in third, ahead of Sainz, Hamilton, Leclerc and Hulkenberg. Most were in a 'DRS train' and preserving their tyres for the final laps. On lap 13, a masterful move by Leclerc into Turn One saw the Monegasque fight his way past Hamilton, the pair running wheel to wheel before the Ferrari pulled away. Russell was also busy hunting down Piastri and failed in a bid to pass on lap 14 while Norris reported his front tyres were losing performance – yet he clocked a fastest lap to stay on top, hoping to drag his team-mate with him. The order remained unchanged going into lap 18, the penultimate, with Russell attacking again at Turn One on lap 19, Piastri defending adroitly to stay second until they reached the chequered flag where Norris backed off to swap positions. "Thank you for the team-work, much appreciated," said the victorious Piastri as he crossed the line to the relief of team boss Zak Brown. "It's what we wanted."





## In brief

### AIOU announces results

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced the results of its Matric and FA programs for the Spring Semester 2024.

According to the AIOU, the students can check their results on their CMS portals. Results of the Associate Degree programs are being finalized and are expected to be declared by mid of this month. The university's academic activities have been streamlined, and the timely release of results is a testament to good governance. Under the leadership and strategic guidance of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, there has been a significant reduction in student complaints. Students' trust in the university has grown, which is reflected in an increase in enrollment each semester compared to the previous one.

### ANF foils drugs smuggling bid

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in an operation managed to foil a drug smuggling bid and recovered 3.8 kg Ice, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Saturday. He informed that in an operation, ANF conducted a raid at GPO on Chandigarh Road, Karachi and recovered a huge quantity of drugs from a parcel booked for New Zealand. Upon search of the parcel, 3.8 kg ice absorbed in children's clothes was recovered which was booked for New Zealand by a resident of Peshawar. ANF is making efforts to net the accused, the spokesman said adding that the Force is determined to fight drug smuggling at the national and international levels. Strict action in accordance with the law is being taken against the drug smugglers as elements involved in drug smuggling are enemies of humanity and do not deserve any concessions, he added.

### CDA to install decorative lights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to install decorative lights permanently on major thoroughfares to enhance beauty of the federal capital. The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by the authority's chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Saturday to review the Islamabad beautification plan. In the first phase, LED floodlights will be installed along Constitution Avenue. The Chairman CDA stated that the lights should be energy-efficient and cost-effective. He emphasized that effective and permanent measures should be taken for protection of lights. He instructed to prepare PC-I of the project and to present it for approval at the earliest. The Chairman CDA directed to carry out repair of all sign and direction boards installed in the city immediately under the Beautification. He instructed that a plan be presented to beautify the city's key buildings. He directed that a team consisting of architects be formed to assist with the beautification plan. The meeting decided that all avenues in the city would be beautified in phases. During the briefing, it was informed that under the Beautification Plan, plants have been planted that will ensure the city remains adorned with beautiful flowers throughout the year. The meeting was informed that the plan aims to balance the city's natural beauty with modernity. It was also mentioned that symmetry will be ensured among the elements contributing to the beautification of the city.



ISLAMABAD: Men carrying dry woods on their head for domestic use near Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital. —APP Photo

## CM Punjab visits CMH Rawalpindi to boost morale of injured security personnel

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif visited Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Rawalpindi to inquire health of injured security personnels during violence of political party. During her visit, Maryam Nawaz Sharif said "Rangers and police personnels are sons of the nation. We are proud of them, and will not spare the protesters who have mercilessly tortured them." She added, "The personnels of Pakistan Army and security agencies are restoring peace in the country by sacrificing their lives. The corrupt political party should have been

been ashamed of attacking them." She highlighted, "The Federal and Punjab governments are indebted to the injured security personnels, and we stand by them and their families."

Chief Minister personally visited each injured Rangers and police personnel undergoing treatment, and inquired about their well-being.

She appreciated their high morale and sense of duty. The injured personnels told Chief Minister about the merciless violence of the protesters against them. They briefed, "Firing was carried out at close range, and violence was carried out with nailed sticks. The

skull of one official and the bones of most of them were broken, while some others had their eyes affected."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif consoled the injured officials and encouraged them. She said, "Attacks on state institutions, property and security personnels are highly condemnable." She added, "The miscreants and PTI members who injured the security personnels will be brought to justice, and severe exemplary punishment will be given to them."

The injured officials expressed their determination to recover and return to their duties soon.

## WPC to host two-day workshop

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) will host a two-day workshop from Sunday to promote women's rights and foster an inclusive political environment, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) of Pakistan's 16th National Assembly, under the leadership of Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani, will host the "Thought Leadership Workshop" on Sunday (December 1st) and the "Digital Democracy Workshop" on Monday (December 2nd).

These workshops are a key component of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a global call to action for the protection and empowerment of women. They will focus on addressing critical issues such as ending gender-based violence, ensuring women's physical, social, legal, and online safety, and combating all forms of harassment.

The workshops are designed to facilitate a powerful dialogue and equip participants with the skills, knowledge & tools needed for identifying, sensitising and tackling women-related issues through informed legislation and promoting and upholding digital democracy.

Secretary of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus and a Member of the National Assembly, Dr. Shahida Rehmani will deliver keynote addresses, outlining the core objectives of the workshops.

She will emphasize the importance of empowering Women Members of the National Assembly to ensure robust women participation in Pakistan's General Elections. Additionally, Dr. Shahida Rehmani will underscore the need for ethical parliamentary practices.

## PTI's anti-govt agenda exposed, says Aqeel Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government's spokesperson on legal affairs Barrister Aqeel Malik Saturday squarely placed the responsibility for the prevailing chaos in the country and the recent attack on Islamabad over the leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

The PTI leadership were accused of fueling chaos in Pakistan, with their anti-government agenda being exposed, Aqeel Ahmad remarked while speaking to PTV News here. He further said the PTI leadership was starkly divided in recent protests in Islamabad, with internal conflicts and blatant disregard for govern-

ment directives.

Despite clear warnings, they defied the rules, entering D-Chowk without permission and utilizing KPK machinery in Islamabad to dismantle obstacles, in a brazen display of defiance, he added.

Aqeel Ahmad stated that PTI's actions were a direct disregard for the government's repeated warnings, which specified Sanjrani as the only authorized location for PTI protests. He stated that the PTI leadership abandoned its supporters and violated rules despite receiving fair warnings. According to him, the PTI leadership's actions

were irresponsible and put their supporters in a critical situation, adding that this incident has raised concerns about the party's leadership and its commitment to its supporters as well.

"The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has failed to address the deteriorating law and order situation in the province, instead prioritizing protests in Islamabad", Aqeel Ahmad added.

Responding to a query, he disclosed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has formed a task force to investigate the recent operation in Islamabad that aims to probe the matter on merit.

## Maryam directs for timely completion of Hospital

RAWALPINDI (APP): Senior Punjab Minister, Maryam Aurangzeb on Saturday visited the long-stalled federal government project Zacha Bacha Hospital, Rawalpindi and reviewed the details regarding the handing over of the project to the Punjab government.

According to the details, the minister inspected the constructed parts of the hospital and was briefed about the project. A detailed briefing on the work done and the remaining project was given to the minister.

Speaking during the briefing, Maryam Aurangzeb said that the project was started with public money but has been continuously stalled. She said that CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed to complete and activate the project for the welfare of the people.

She said that the process of transferring this project from the federation to the provincial government of Punjab was being reviewed and important decisions would be taken in this regard in a special meeting to be chaired by the chief minister.

The minister further said that the chief minister does not want any accusations regarding this project and she wants immediate implementation of this project for public welfare.

Maryam Aurangzeb said that the Punjab government would plan to increase the number of beds from 200 to 400. A formal timeline of the project will be drawn up and the project will be realistically completed after handing over to Punjab, she added.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Member National Assembly Hanif Abbasi said that the PML-N government started mega projects like Metro Bus Service and Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology in Rawalpindi, and functionalised them in timely for public interest. He said that cutting the ribbon and laying the foundation stone of the project is not a big deal, but the on-time completion of the project should be focused.

Earlier during the briefing, it was informed that the project was started 20 years ago with a cost of 1.6 billion rupees and now its cost has reached 8 billion rupees, but the project has not been completed. MNAs Tahira Aurangzeb, Malik Ibrar, VC Rawalpindi Medical University and Commissioner Amir Khattak were also present during the briefing.

## ICT Police honors bravery and sacrifices of its officers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Territory (ICT) Police organized a prestigious ceremony on Saturday to pay tribute to its brave, fearless, and dedicated officers.

A public relation officer told APP that the ceremony was held at the Police Lines Headquarters to recognize the police officers who demonstrated exceptional bravery and courage during recent law and order.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, was the chief guest, while DIG Syed Ali Raza, DIG Headquarters/Security Muhammad Jawad Tariq, all AIGs, SSPs, SPs, and police officers from all divisions were present.

IGP Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, paid tribute to the officers who displayed unmatched bravery and made eternal sacrifices to uphold law and order in

the federal capital.

He said, "I am proud to lead this brave force, and I will always remember my time serving with Islamabad Police. Every officer in this force is chosen and appointed by Allah. By renewing your commitment to Allah, you have safeguarded the lives and property of the people and thwarted the miscreants in their nefarious plans."

He further emphasized, "My force has shown extraordinary bravery in serving and protecting the citizens, as well as maintaining law and order in the city."

All of my officers—whether executive or ministerial staff—were present at the forefront of every action. By working tirelessly, day and night, they ensured the peace and security of the city's residents.

No citizen's life or property was harmed. All law enforcement officers

worked together as a family, successfully repelling the invasion of the federal capital by miscreants."

IGP Islamabad reiterated, "Islamabad Police stands out among all police forces, setting examples of courage and bravery, and has become a beacon for others. You have made your families, your teachers, your commander, and the citizens of this city immensely proud. The people of Islamabad hold you in great regard."

In his message to all forces, he reaffirmed, "Islamabad Police remains the leading force in ensuring law and order in the federal capital."

IG Rizvi concluded by honoring the memory of the 63 martyrs and the valor of the ghazis, stating, "All officers of Islamabad Police have carried the department's legacy with pride."

## DREAMS project to help improve city's water supply system

RAWALPINDI (APP): Director General (DG), Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), Kinza Murtaza has said that the Developing Resilient Environment and Advancing Municipal Services (DREAMS) project is a key initiative

which would help improve Rawalpindi city's water supply system. The project would help address the growing water needs of the city and enhance its infrastructure for better service delivery.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, the DG highlighted the significance of the project in providing sustainable water solutions for Rawalpindi. "The overall scope of the DREAMS project involves the treatment and transportation of 14.5 million gallons per day (mgd) of water from Chahan Dam to Rawalpindi city. Additionally, the project will involve the improvement and replacement of

the existing water supply system in Rawalpindi," said Kinza Murtaza.

She emphasized that Rawalpindi's increasing population and urbanization have placed significant pressure on the existing water supply system.

The project is a response to these challenges and will include the development of new water sources, the renovation of existing infrastructure, and the implementation of advanced technologies to ensure a sustainable and efficient water supply for the city, she said adding, "The DREAMS project is a critical step towards addressing the growing demand for water in Rawalpindi. It aims to modernize the city's water supply infrastructure and provide residents with reliable access to clean and safe drinking water."

The project would benefit thousands of households across Rawalpindi city by improving the effi-

ciency of the water distribution network, reducing water losses, and ensuring better management of resources.

In addition, the project will focus on long-term sustainability, integrating climate resilience and water conservation measures to meet the future demands of the city, the DG said.

The project is funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), ensuring that it meets international standards and contributes to enhancing the resilience and efficiency of the city's municipal services.

Lot-1 of the project, valued Rs 6.326 billion, focuses on the development of an Integrated Water Supply System.

The scope of this part of the project includes the construction of a Raw Water Intake System and a Water Treatment Plant with a capacity of 12 mgs, sourced from the Chahan Dam.



### Traders urged to return

KABUL (BNA): The Acting Minister of Industry and Commerce of Afghanistan, in a meeting with Afghan traders residing in Turkey, invited them to return to Afghanistan and invest in the country. According to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Nooruddin Azizi, the Acting Minister of Industry and Commerce, during his visit to Turkey, met with Afghan traders residing there in the presence of Afghanistan's Consul General.

### 12,000 Afghans entered Brazil

KABUL (Ariana News): UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, reported that over the past three years, more than 12,000 Afghans have entered Brazil with humanitarian visas. UNHCR published the report on the situation and number of immigrants in Brazil. According to this report, Brazil hosts 790,000 refugees from different countries of the world, especially Afghanistan, Venezuela, Haiti, Syria and Ukraine.

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

## Poultry production: Afghanistan nears self-sufficiency

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock of Afghanistan said that since the return of the Islamic Emirate to power, the number of poultry farms in the country has increased from 3,000 to 15,000.

Misbahuddin Mustaeen, the spokesperson for the ministry, emphasized that Afghanistan has now nearly achieved self-sufficiency in poultry meat production.

"When the Islamic Emirate came to power, the number of poultry farms had dropped to 3,000. However, due to extensive

efforts, this number has now risen to 15,000, and we have almost achieved self-sufficiency in poultry meat production," he said.

At the same time, the Kabul Poultry Association assured the quality and standardization of poultry farms and slaughterhouses in Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan has now achieved self-sufficiency in poultry farming, and we currently have 13 slaughterhouses, four of which are located in Kabul, with the rest in the provinces," said Hakim Jan Ibrahimkhil, the head of the association.

"Islamic Emirate must support domestic production in such a way that it increases, and all government offices and affiliated organizations utilize these products." Sailab Samandar, an economic affairs expert said.

Officials of the Islamic Emirate have repeatedly announced that Afghanistan has now achieved full self-sufficiency in the production of 36 types of goods and partial self-sufficiency in 31 other types of goods. Supporting domestic production has been declared as one of the interim government's priorities.

## Residents of Wakhan demand basic services

BADAKHSHAN (TOLONews): Several residents in Wakhan district, Badakhshan province, have expressed concerns over the lack of access to basic life services such as healthcare centers, schools, and telecommunications networks.

They are calling on the interim government officials to address these challenges.

Wakhan is one of the border districts of Badakhshan, located 200 kilometers from Faizabad, the provincial capital, and has a population of over 18,000 people.

Faizullah, a resident of the district, said: "It takes hours, two or three hours, for a student to reach school."

Wali Abidi, another resident of Wakhan, said: "There is no telecommunications network, only the Salam network is active, and other networks function only in the center."

However, local officials in Badakhshan assure them efforts are being made to address these problems.

Hekmatullah Mohammadi, the head of information at the Badakhshan Department of Information and Culture, said: "We are paying attention to their other problems, whether it's health issues, lack of roads, or other facilities, and the local government is working to resolve these problems to the extent possible."

Badakhshan, in northeastern Afghanistan, is one of the provinces where residents of border districts face issues such as poor roads, lack of healthcare centers, and weak telecommunications and internet networks. They consistently urge officials to address these problems.

## Illegal migration to Iran continued

NIMROZ (TOLONews): Every day, hundreds of Afghan citizens cross the border from Nimroz province into Iran illegally.

These individuals, mostly compelled by economic hardships and a lack of job opportunities in the country, urge the interim government to create employment opportunities within Afghanistan.

Mohammad, a 16-year-old from Badghis province, is one of these migrants. Due to livelihood challenges and unemployment, he has decided to take the risks and travel to Iran illegally.

"Providing for my family's living expenses in the country has forced me to embark on this dangerous and difficult illegal journey," said Mohammad.

Faheem, a resident of Kabul. He said that if there were jobs in his country, he would never leave Afghanistan.

"If I am given the opportunity to work and earn enough to support my household, I am willing to work in my own country. I call on the government to create jobs for us, the youth," said Faheem.

"We are forced to take these dangerous paths because there are no jobs for young people in the country. If jobs are provided, we will never leave for another country," said Khan Agha, a resident of Farah province.

In response, local officials in Nimroz urge citizens to avoid illegal travel and human smuggling.

"I call on the citizens of the country to obtain passports and travel legally, avoiding illegal travel. The local government of Nimroz has made extensive efforts to prevent human smuggling in this province. Many families have asked us to stop their family members from illegally traveling to Iran," said Sayed Sulaiman Agha Baheer, the deputy governor of Nimroz.

Local officials in Nimroz confirm that hundreds of citizens cross the province's border into Iran illegally every day.

## IE announces approval of 30 standards



KABUL (BNA): The High Council for Standards, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, held its second session today at the Marmarin Palace, approving 30 standards across various sectors.

According to the press office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Office, the session was attended by

Mullah Faizullah Tamim, Director General of the National Standards Authority, permanent members of the council, and private sector representatives.

During the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister stressed the critical need for developing and enforcing standards to ensure the availability of high-quality

domestic and imported products for citizens. He highlighted that implementing these standards would help prevent the production and import of sub-standard goods, thereby safeguarding consumer interests.

Additionally, the Deputy Prime Minister urged all relevant institutions to strictly enforce the newly approved standards and

monitor their application.

The session reviewed and approved standards in key areas, including construction materials, food and beverages, medical supplies, mining, petroleum, textiles, environmental protection, and electronic devices.

Following a detailed discussion, all 30 proposed standards were formally adopted.

## Jalalabad residents say run out of space to bury deceased

JALALABAD (Pajhwok): Residents of Jalalabad city, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, have asked the municipality to allocate land for a new cemetery.

They say one of the largest cemeteries, Maqam Khan, is also full in addition to others and it is currently difficult to find a place to bury the dead.

Maqam Khan cemetery is situated in Hada Farm area northeast of Jalalabad city.

On the other hand, Jalalabad municipality officials say they have allocated several places for general cemeteries in the provin-

cial capital and after approval from the provincial administration and the centre, more land would be allocated.

Aftabuddin, who attended the burial ceremony of a relative at Maqam Khan cemetery in Jalalabad city, said there was no more place in the cemetery and urged the municipality to allocate land for a general-cemetery.

He explained: "There is no place for us to bring the dead to this cemetery. People have built graves here and sell them for 25,000 to 20,000 afghanis, the deceased family is

obliged to pay."

Basir Ahmad, whose relative died and they was buried at the Maqam Khan cemetery, said first they strived to dig out a grave in one place, but the edge of another grave appeared there, so they were forced to buy a grave for their relative.

On the other hand, local council chiefs also acknowledge that there are no cemeteries in many areas of the provincial capital and people have to take their dead to Maqam Khan cemetery, but this cemetery is currently also full.

Ahmdd Kamin Hilal,

local representative of fourth police district, said residents of Jalalabad city have been facing a number of problems due to lack of cemeteries and they had shared the problem with the municipality several times.

Meanwhile, municipality officials also acknowledge the problem being faced by residents of the provincial capital.

Bakhti Jan Murad, spokesman for the municipality, told Pajhwok Afghan News in order to address the problem, 20,000 acres of land would be allocated for a new general-cemetery.

## National Procurement Commission saves 3 billion afn

KABUL (BNA): The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs reported that the National Procurement Commission has saved approximately 3 billion Afghanis through efficiency measures in project contracts.

According to the statement, the Islamic Emirate is prioritizing reconstruction and infrastructure development across various sectors. The commission, during its regular meetings, has approved 317 projects with a total budget of about 85 billion Afghanis, achieving significant savings through cost-effective procurement practices.

The approved projects include urban infrastructure, rural development, health, transportation, water management, electricity, agricul-



ture, telecommunications, drinking water, railway construction, and rehabilitation. These projects are being implemented across the country, including Kabul and other provinces.

The projects are expected

to stimulate national progress and create thousands of employment opportunities. The National Procurement Commission emphasizes transparency, economic efficiency, and timely execution in its

processes.

Additionally, the commission prioritizes the use of domestic products, ensuring balanced development across provinces and meeting the needs of citizens effectively.

## WFP aids 10.5m in Afghanistan amid growing humanitarian crisis

KABUL (Khaama Press): The World Food Programme (WFP) has reported that it provided cash and food assistance to 10.5 million people in Afghanistan this year. This aid has been distributed across various regions of the country to address the growing humanitarian needs.

The WFP stated on Saturday, November 30, that the main goals of this assistance are to nourish children, support local economies, and empower communities. These efforts are crucial as Afghanistan continues to face severe socio-economic challenges.

The aid operations were carried out with the support of Sweden and Germany. These countries have been instrumental in providing

the necessary resources to alleviate some of the suffering in Afghanistan.

Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan over three years ago, the country's economic situation has become increasingly fragile. Despite claims from the Taliban leadership that the economy would improve, many Afghans face worsening hunger and rising unemployment.

As the political situation remains unstable, more and more people in Afghanistan are experiencing hunger and joblessness.

The humanitarian crisis continues to escalate, with many unable to meet their basic needs due to a lack of resources and opportunities.

The United Nations had

previously announced that it was seeking \$3.06 billion in humanitarian aid for Afghanistan.

However, only six percent of this funding goal has been met, highlighting the gap between the country's urgent needs and the available international assistance.

With the severe winter months approaching, the situation in Afghanistan is set to worsen. Cold weather exacerbates existing challenges, and many people are at risk of life-threatening conditions due to a lack of shelter, food, and basic healthcare.

Adding to the suffering of Afghans, many have been forcibly deported from neighboring countries, including Pakistan

and Iran. These refugees face dire conditions as they are sent back to a country already struggling with widespread poverty and violence.

The forced return of refugees only deepens the strain on Afghanistan's already fragile infrastructure. As more people return, there is less available support, creating further instability and intensifying the humanitarian crisis. The influx of returnees adds to the challenges faced by families already suffering from economic hardships.

Without enhanced global support, Afghanistan's people, particularly the most vulnerable, will continue to suffer from extreme hunger, displacement, and economic collapse.

## IEA ambassador meets UAE president — prisoners and visas discussed



KABUL (Ariana News): Badruddin Haqqani, ambassador of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) in Abu Dhabi, met with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, discussing prisoners and visas.

The two sides discussed the general situation in Afghanistan, recent developments and existing opportunities, the Afghan

Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

The ambassador of the Islamic Emirate asked the UAE president to facilitate the transfer of Afghan prisoners to their country and the issuance of visas to Afghans. He also recalled the problems of Afghans living in the UAE.

According to the Foreign Ministry, during the meeting, Sheikh Mohammed bin

Zayed Al Nahyan called Afghanistan a "brother" country and promised cooperation and facilitation in the mentioned matters.

It is worth mentioning that on Wednesday last week, the ambassador of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi presented his credentials to the president of the host country during an official ceremony.

## Chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan: Ex-German FM blames lack of US coordination

KABUL (Ariana News): Former German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas blamed Germany's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 on the unilateral decision of then-US President Donald Trump.

Maas told a German parliamentary inquiry committee, that the then US government did not coordinate the withdrawal date with the then Afghan government, Deutsche Welle reported.

He said the Islamic Emirate clearly gained

more confidence after the Doha agreement, increasing its number of attacks on former Afghan government troops.

The former German foreign minister said that there was no analyzing of the situation with NATO members, and the United States implemented the withdrawal plan, ignoring concerns at the NATO or EU.

Maas said that if Germany had known earlier when the United States would begin the evacuation process, it could have taken

preparations earlier.

He referred to his trip to Kabul in April 2021, saying he did not think that "the government was collapsing."

Meanwhile, former German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller also answered questions at the committee on Thursday.

He noted that despite the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan, no local Afghan staff of German development partners were killed and no one was imprisoned.

## NCC reports 381m afn revenue increase in 2Q



KABUL (BNA): Officials from the Northern Coal Company (NCC) of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan reported an increase of 381 million Afghanis in their revenues for the second quarter of the current solar year.

According to the spokesman for the company, Izzatullah Hamaas, the company generated a total of 1 billion Afghanis in the first quarter and 1 billion 381 million Afghanis in the second quarter, reflecting

the reported increase. These revenues have been deposited into the state treasury.

Mawlawi Abdullah Hamid, head of the Northern Coal Company, stated that the number of coal mines in both public and private sectors has increased to over 5,000, compared to 1,028 mines prior to the establishment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

Additionally, engineers from the Shorabak mine,

Engineer Hashmatullah, and Engineer Aimal from the coal company, mentioned that special attention is now being given to worker safety during mining operations, with improved safety measures and well-regulated mine shafts.

Residents of Baghlan province have called for more transparency in the collection of revenues and for the implementation of development projects in their areas by the Northern Coal Company.



# Sharjeel: BB bravely fight against Zia's dictatorship

F.P. Report

MIRPURKHAS: Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, while addressing the 57th Foundation Day ceremony of the Pakistan Peoples Party in Mirpurkhas, said that on this day, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto founded the party in Lahore and granted the farmers, laborers, women, and youth of Pakistan their rightful rights.

Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that Pakistan holds a unique identity on the global stage due to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who gifted the nation its greatest asset—nuclear power—ensuring that no one can now threaten the country.

He further emphasized that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto established the first women's bank and women's police station, becoming the country's first female Prime Minister to champion women's empowerment. He added that she played an unparalleled role in the struggle for the country's survival. Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the Bhutto family has always stood by the people in times of hardship, never hesitating to risk their lives. By sacrificing her life on December 27, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto proved she could never distance herself from the people.

Senior Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon further noted that Asif Ali Zardari, after becoming President, unconditionally apologized to the people of Balochistan and initiated the Huqooq Balochistan program. He also launched



the Thar Coal project, which is now transforming the country's destiny. He stated that although Bilawal Bhutto Zardari served as Foreign Minister for a short time, he demonstrated remarkable courage by challenging Indian Prime Minister Modi, calling him the "butcher of Gujarat and Kashmir." Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also announced the construction of 2.1 million houses for those affected by the floods—an initiative that stands as the largest ongoing housing project in the world, unmatched globally.

Sharjeel Inam Memon added that despite conspiracies against the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in every era, the people of Sindh continue to vote for the PPP in elections. He stated that those who engage in media trials and conspiracies against the PPP fail in every era because the PPP operates with a spirit of public service. Sharjeel Inam Memon highlighted that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto bravely fought against Zia's dictatorship, and Begum Nusrat Bhutto also played a pivotal role despite facing severe hardships.

He further noted that few families in the world have sacrificed as much for the people and democracy

as the Bhutto family. He praised Asif Ali Zardari, who endured 11 years of imprisonment without resorting to calls for protests or the destruction of national property, exemplifying true leadership. Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that after becoming President, Asif Ali Zardari transferred his powers back to the Parliament through the 18th Constitutional Amendment, restoring the rights of the provinces.

He added that Zardari also launched the Benazir Income Support Program, emphasizing that the PPP works solely for the welfare of the people. As a result, the mayors of Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur, Larkana, and other cities have been elected from the People's Party. Sharjeel Inam Memon further remarked that the PPP stands with its people in both sorrow and joy. He highlighted that the Sindh government, under the PPP, has provided excellent healthcare facilities, attracting people from across the country for free treatment. He stated that the PPP's Sindh government invested \$1 billion to extract coal from Thar, and today the entire country is benefiting from the electricity generated by Thar coal.

## Thailand, Malaysia floods deaths risen to 12

BANGKOK (APP): The death toll from the worst floods in decades in southern Thailand and northern Malaysia climbed to at least 12 on Saturday, authorities said, as tens of thousands of people were evacuated due to rising water levels in the past three days.

In southern Thailand, the floods have impacted nearly 534,000 households, with the death toll climbing to nine from four reported on Friday and leaving thousands in 200 temporary shelters that have been set up in affected areas, the department of disaster prevention and mitigation said.

The Chana district of Songkhla province suffered the worst floods in 50 years, with video footage showing people being carried out to trucks from their homes inundated by a torrent of flood water. Another video footage showed rescuers in Sateng Nok District of Yala province carrying a baby out from the roof of a home hit by the floods on Saturday.

In neighbouring Malaysia, the floods have impacted nearly 139,000 people in nine states, leaving three dead since Friday, according to the National Disaster Command Centre. Thailand's meteorological department said that several areas in southern Thailand can expect more heavy rain on Saturday and warn of more flash floods in affected areas. Neighbouring Philippines was hit by six typhoons in just month in November, causing widespread devastation.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday expressed deepest sympathies on behalf of the Pakistani people for the brotherly people of Malaysia over the loss of lives and property caused by recent floods due to torrential rains in several states of the country. The prime minister in his telephone conversation with his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim, assured that the people of Pakistan stood in solidarity with their Malaysian brothers and sisters during this challenging time.

He also appreciated the swift and effective measures taken by the Malaysian government to address this natural calamity. The prime minister offered all possible assistance to Malaysia and announced the immediate dispatch of humanitarian aid as a gesture of Pakistan's support for its Malaysian brothers and sisters.

## PTI founder responsible for May 9 riots: ATC

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Lahore on Saturday issued the written verdict of denying bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in eight cases related to May 9 riots.

The ATC held the former premier responsible for masterminding May 9 riots. Justice Manzar Ali Gill of the ATC Lahore issued a six-page long written verdict. It was said in the verdict that statements of those police officers who masqueraded as the PTI workers during meetings held in Zaman Park to conspire May 9 vandalism were recorded, adding that audio evidences of Khan were also part of the record where he could be heard inciting people to resort to violence in case of his arrest.

Highlighting the PTI workers' participation in May 9 vandalism, the court order said workers alongside party leadership couldn't stifle the PTI founder's worst impulses by following all instructions given by Khan to seed chaos and cause disruption on May 9 by attacking military installations, adding that inciting people to violence wasn't an ordinary matter. According to the prosecution, the decision to storm military installations was taken in Zaman Park on May 7 and 9.

The court order also declared the PTI founder's counsel argument that Khan was under arrest at the time of May 9 vandalism unsatisfactory saying he had hatched the conspiracy prior to his arrest.



KUALA LUMPUR: Women pushing their belongings in a plastic box as they wade through flood waters in Malaysia's Kelantan state.

# Future of banking will be driven by innovation: SBP

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Mr. Jameel Ahmad, advised financial institutions to continue striving for excellence and collaborate to foster a more inclusive, dynamic, and future-ready financial ecosystem. He emphasized banks should pursue excellence and contribute to the betterment of our economy and people. He was addressing the financial sector fraternity at Pakistan Banking Award ceremony.

The 9th Pakistan Banking Awards ceremony 2024 was held on Friday 29th November, 2024 at a local hotel in Karachi. The event was attended by senior executives and distinguished professionals from Pakistan's banking and finance industry. Governor SBP Mr. Jameel Ahmad graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mr. Ahmad, who is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of NIBAF Pakistan, commended the participating banks for their active involvement in the awards and their ongoing efforts to lead in innovation, transformation, and sustainability.

Ahmad highlighted that Pakistan's banking industry has played an important role in the country's economic development and supported the economy in its challenging times through

uninterrupted provision of financial services. He added that key financial performance indicators of our banks have remained stronger than many regional peers. However, he also pointed out that there is still considerable ground to be covered in improving financial deepening and inclusion, particularly in agriculture and SMEs.

The Governor SBP identified five core areas that banks must focus on. He advised banks to rethink their business models to play a more active role in financial intermediation, leverage technology to enhance the access, usage, and quality of financial services, make more active participation in improving financial literacy, partner with Fintechs to provide innovative products for customers, and work on improving user experience and customer service.

In his welcome address, Mr. Riaz Nazarali Chunara, Chief Executive Officer of NIBAF Pakistan, commended the organizing partners for their unwavering support, which has made this event possible for the ninth consecutive year. He also acknowledged the contributions of the participating banks and financial institutions, recognizing their commitment and efforts in striving for leadership within their respective sectors. Organized by the National Institute of Banking and Finance Pakistan, in collaboration with the

Dawn Media and A.F. Ferguson & Co. (a member firm of the PwC Network) the Pakistan Banking Awards, the first of their kind, were launched in 2016. These awards are considered the industry's definitive benchmark for excellence in banking and encompass participation from Microfinance, Islamic Banks in addition to the main stream Commercial Banks.

Awards for 2024 were distributed to various banks, financial institutions for their best performance in 8 different categories. A new award category for Woman Inclusion was introduced this year. The details of the awards are as follows:

"Meezan Bank Limited" received the Best Bank Award; the Best Bank for Women Inclusion & Best Bank for Agriculture went to "Bank of Punjab"; Best Microfinance Bank Award went to "Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited"; the Award for Best Bank for SMEs went to "HBL"; "Bank Alfalah Limited" bagged the Best Bank for Digital Excellence and Best Bank for Customer Engagement. The winners were selected by a distinguished jury consisting of six experts from the corporate, banking and financial sectors. As always a neutral, transparent and impartial evaluation process was adopted to determine the best performers for these awards.

# Sindh CM reaffirms commitment to PPP legacy

F.P. Report

KOTRI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah addressed party workers and leaders during the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Foundation Day, emphasizing its historic achievements and unwavering commitment to democracy and public service.

The Chief Minister paid tribute to the PPP's founding leader, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who established the party on November 30, 1967. Shah praised Bhutto's visionary leadership, highlighting his iconic slogan "Roti, Kapra aur Makaan" (Bread, Clothing, and Shelter), his struggle against dictatorships, and his efforts to elevate Pakistan to nuclear power. "Shaheed Bhutto gave a voice to the people and empowered them through the power of their vote," Shah remarked.

Shah criticized the judicial verdict that led to Bhutto's execution, labeling it a "judicial murder," while welcoming the recent recognition of this injustice by the Supreme Court. Regarding Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Murad Shah commended her resilience in leading the



party after her father's martyrdom. He recalled her struggles against another dictator, Zia-ul-Haq, and her historic role as Pakistan's first female Prime Minister. "The public stood by Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, and with their strength, she brought change to the country," he added.

The Chief Minister highlighted development efforts in Jamshoro, describing it as a PPP stronghold and crediting the party for the progress in the area. "Jamshoro has set records in supporting the PPP, and we will continue this tradition," he stated. Murad Shah paid homage to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, lamenting her assassination in 2007. He praised President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for their leadership in maintaining party unity.

Underlining the achievements of the PPP government, Shah mentioned the 18th Amendment, introduced by President Zardari, which restored provincial autonomy and ensured rights for the provinces. In concluding his speech, Shah reaffirmed his commitment to serving the people of Sindh under the guidance of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. "The Pakistan People's Party has always been the voice of the people, and we will continue to uphold this legacy," he stated.

The event was attended by MNA Malik Asad Sikandar, MPAs Sikandar Shoro, Malik Sikandar, Gianchand, Mohan Lala, as well as party workers, leaders, and supporters who gathered to celebrate the PPP's rich history and ongoing contributions to Pakistan's political landscape.

# Kundi opposes Governor rule in KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, stated that if the federal government decides to impose Governor's Rule in the province, he would not stand in their way. While addressing the media, Kundi remarked, "If the federal government believes that Governor's Rule should be implemented, I won't oppose it."

He also mentioned that Ali Amin Gandapur had claimed to prevent the imposition of Governor's Rule, adding, "I always tell them that I alone am enough for all of them, but they just talk without taking action." Kundi also took a pun at Gandapur by highlighting his broken promise to bring back the founder of PTI Imran Khan, explaining that while Gandapur himself returned home, he did not fulfil his promise of

bringing the PTI founder along.

Additionally, Kundi expressed his discontent over the behaviour of the KP's CM, saying that whenever the central government holds meetings, the Chief Minister pretends to be a good child, but the real drama unfolds behind closed doors, with a different narrative spun in public. He also criticised the misuse of funds, claiming that teachers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were not receiving their salaries, while the money was being spent on protests.

Meanwhile, the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, visited Mufti Mahmood Markaz here on Saturday to extend invitation to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUIF) for All Parties Conference scheduled for December 5, at the Governor House regarding law and order situation and

rights of the province with federal government.

During his visit, he met with JUIF's Provincial General Secretary Maulana Ata-ul-Haq Darwish, Provincial Spokesman Maulana Abdul Jalil Jan, and other party officials. The discussions focused on the ongoing issues faced by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially the merged tribal and southern districts, and the dire situation in Kurram.

They also addressed concerns over the misuse of funds provided by the federal government to the provincial authorities, which has exacerbated the province's difficulties. Governor Kundi emphasized the importance of political unity in the province, saying that cooperation among political parties is crucial for securing the province's rights and addressing its challenges.



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